

Queen's Park Fall 2015 Insider

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



Queen's Park Insider

Intern Committee Chairs

Advancement

Olivia Labonté

Alumni

Sara O'Sullivan

Churchill Society Rep

Isa Topbas

Meetings

Sydney Oakes

OLIP at 40

Brittany Davis

Receptions

Matt Banninga

Recruitment

Alison Brown

Records

Eric Zinn

Travel

Justyna Zegarmistrz

Magazine Editors

Julia Redmond &
Brittany Davis

Contact OLIP
1303A Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
Tel: 416-325-0040
Web: olipinterns.ca
@olipinterns
#OLIP

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in 1975. The programme is administered by the Canadian Political Science Association and is supported by a substantial grant from the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The Programme is not associated with the Government of Ontario or with any political party. OLIP is designed to provide backbench members of the Legislative Assembly with highly qualified assistants, while at the same time giving interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

A word from our editors:

Welcome to the Fall 2015 edition of *Queen's Park Insider*! Over the course of the following pages, you'll get a glimpse of what this programme is really all about. You'll get to know the interns better, find out a bit more about what it means to work for an MPP, and get a better sense of the immense amount of work and dedication from the people at the Legislative Assembly and beyond that makes OLIP possible. We're excited to present all of this with a fresh new look, and to share it with you online and in print. Thanks to all involved in making this magazine a reality, and we hope you enjoy it!

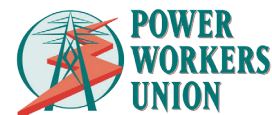
– Brittany and Julia

OLIP is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. Our full list of sponsors is available on the back cover. More about their role in the programme is available on pages 22–23.

LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



Director's Report

The 2015/2016 Legislative calendar marks an important milestone, as OLIP turns 40 years old! OLIP is a very special partnership between the Ontario Legislative Assembly and the Canadian Political Science Association. Many thanks go to both the Hon. Dave Levac, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Deborah Deller, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, along with the Board of Internal Economy for their enthusiastic support of the program.

This year is an opportunity to look back to celebrate the past and look forward to embrace the future. And what better way to do that than with the newest group of amazing and smart young people that make up this year's interns. In the spirit of the OLIP tradition, a rigorous nation-wide competition has resulted in a wonderful group of accomplished and ambitious interns, who, after an extensive orientation session, are ready to go on to their placements with government and opposition members.

This is also a year of transitions and change. Dr. Henry Jacek decided after 11 years at the helm of the program it was time to retire. Dr. Jacek demonstrated endless enthusiasm and energy for all aspects of the program and was instrumental at building on the strengths of the program. With his retirement, we also mark the end of Eithne Whaley's tenure as well. Eithne has been a fixture as part of the program for even longer than Dr. Jacek, and shares with him great pride in all that has been accomplished. Both have served the program well and are a big part of the success that OLIP continues to be. And both have provided endless information and advice and have committed to continue to be involved in providing counsel

to me as I take on the responsibilities of Academic Director. Also new to the program is Kimberley Judd who takes on the role of Programme Assistant. Kimberley has embraced the opportunity and is already demonstrating great leadership in managing many aspects of the program.

Also too, William Short has taken on new responsibilities as Senior Clerk, and while he is still around and very active in providing advice, Valerie Quioc Lim has taken over his role as part of the Administration team. William has been a great asset to the interns and the Academic Directors, and his contributions have been significant over the years. News was also received that Rick Sage, Library Services will be retiring next year. Rick's history with the program runs deep and his support and advice to the interns has been invaluable over the years, and he will be missed. Luckily Rick is working with Susan Viets, of Legislative Research, who will take over from him when he retires. So we thank William and Rick for their dedicated service, and welcome Kimberley, Valerie and Susan to the administrative team.

Despite the generous support of the Legislative Assembly, the academic and educational study components of the programme would not be as enriching without the support of our sponsors. Their support allows us to augment what the interns learn and experience. The study tours to other parliaments and legislatures bring depth and breadth to their learning, and for this we thank all our sponsors. We work hard to acknowledge their generosity at every opportunity, and I encourage you to view the sponsor pages of the magazine (22-24).

As we work to continue the fine traditions of OLIP, we will be developing some new ones. This year will



celebrate OLIP@40, and there will be numerous opportunities for past administrators, alumni, sponsors, and MPPs, along with our current interns to look back into history and forward towards the future. Please enjoy reading all about what our interns are up to, and do check out our website for new material and news. And please do not forget to follow this bunch of interns on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and on their blog. With such a great group of interns and supporters, the best is yet to come!

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou

Dr. Constantinou assumed the directorship of the Programme in August 2015. Read more about him on our website.

My time with OLIP

Dr. Henry Jacek was director of OLIP from July 2004 to August 2015. He reflects on eleven years of running the program.

This is the 40th year of OLIP interns, 346 interns in total, 190 females and 156 males. I have been fortunate to have had 102 of these interns over my time as director. Some may think they benefited from my direction but I know that I have learned a great deal from them. They came from different parts of Canada and arrived at Queen's Park with different backgrounds. They kindly shared those varying experiences with me.

The interns also educated me in another important way. When they first arrived in September they knew relatively little about the legislative process at Queen's Park. However as they worked in their members' offices there came a point when they were now educating me about the Legislative Assembly.

I am very grateful to the programme coordinators who helped me in my administrative tasks. Of course, coordinators Tonia Grannum and Ray McLellan in my early years were especially important. They were followed by Anne Stokes, the dynamic wife and husband team of former intern Lorraine Luski and Rick Sage and finally Will Short.

Finally what can I say about programme assistant Eithne Whaley? Without her, I would have left the

director's position after my first three year term. Eithne did what I could not do and just as important she did what I wouldn't do but what was necessary.

I was supported in my role as director by the MPPs who spent many hours mentoring the interns, the help of four Speakers, and the Board of Internal Economy which provided OLIP a generous grant each year for the financial support of the interns and for our administrative expenses. The clerks and other Legislative Assembly staff as well as the Canadian Political Science Association's officers, directors and staff, especially Michelle Hopkins went out of their way to make my work load manageable. I also continued to receive excellent advice from four past directors.

Over and over again I received help from the OLIP alumni, especially those who served with me since 2004. The alumni counselled the interns during orientation, at pub nights throughout the year, and watched over the interns, reporting to me any behaviour that needed correcting. And as the interns finished their year, they helped with career advice and brought opportunities to the interns' attention.

Over half my time was taken up with sponsor relations. It is our sponsors who make possible the intern study trips which are such a unique aspect of our Programme and distinguishes us from the other provincial internship programmes. Sponsor support allowed the interns to present their research at the annual meetings



of the Canadian Political Science Association no matter where the CPSA's annual Meeting was held. In addition sponsors made possible the visits to provincial legislatures in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, and Saskatchewan as well to the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa and the territorial government in Yellowknife. Visits to American state legislatures included Alabama, California, Colorado, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington. Finally there was the grand nine day visit, normally at the end of the intern year to the mother of all parliaments, Westminster in London.

All in all, it was one of the happiest periods in my life.

Dr. Henry Jacek

Celebrate with us!

Back in 1975 the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was birthed into existence and it has since become a staple of the Ontario Legislature. Over forty years, OLIP has provided scores of young people with an invaluable experience in provincial government and many MPPs with helpful staff. Interns from the programme have written papers about the introduction of new standing orders in the legislation; experienced minority and majority governments led by Liberals, Progressive Conservatives and NDPs; and been in the chamber as history was made. It is our pleasure to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this great programme and our hope is that this programme will go on strong for another forty years and beyond.

OLIP by the numbers

In its 40 years, the programme has had a total of **346 interns** made up of **190 women** and **156 men**

OLIP has seen **8 premiers** (including the province's first female premier!)

There have been **12 elections** resulting in **4 minority** and **8 majority** governments

1975–2015 has seen **4 Progressive Conservative**, **3 Liberal**, and **1 NDP** government



Meet the interns

Matthew Banninga was born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario. He is a recent graduate of Carleton University where he completed both a Masters in Political Economy and a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management. Although Matthew has a wide range of interests, his research has focused on the policing of Aboriginal protests and occupations. While studying, Matthew was fortunate to live and work in Peru, India, and Cameroon. In the final year of his master's degree, he also worked at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development as a Policy Officer with the G7/G20 Summits Division. Matthew is humbled by the opportunity to participate in OLIP and looks forward to learning more about Ontario politics and the province's relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.

Sydney on Matt

As soon as I met Matt, I knew we would become fast friends. He is funny, charming and has a really cool sock collection. Matt is also a city-boy at heart, so he immediately fit into the "Big Smoke" upon his arrival; I have a lot to learn from him in this regard! Furthermore, we both share a passion for First Nations political movements, he in particular with the surveillance of First Nations protests. I look forward to what else I can learn from him over the next year; politically, academically, and personally.

Hometown: Sarnia (Sarnia-Lambton)

Favorite Place: On the St. Clair river, beneath the Blue-water Bridge, within sight of one of Sarnia's famous "bridge-fry" trucks.

Dream job at the legislature: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Favorite historical/political figure: Eric Arthur Blair (who used the pen name George Orwell)

Guilty pleasure: Star Wars fan fiction

Would you rather go over Niagara Falls in a barrel or tight-walk over downtown Toronto blind?

I would rather go over Niagara Falls in a barrel (Btw why do both of my options involve almost certain death?

While Alison gets to chose between cheese and syrup?
– So not fair!)

Sydney Oakes was born and raised in Caledonia, Ontario. She recently graduated from the collaborative Masters of Public Policy and Administration program (Guelph University and McMaster University).

Sydney received an Honours BA (Trent University) in Political Studies with a minor in Indigenous Studies. During her time at Trent, Sydney completed a study abroad programme in rural Mexico researching Indigenous eco-tourism models. Concurrent with her education, Sydney has achieved success as a Junior Policy Analyst with Six Nations Elected Council, an Election Assistant to the Haldimand County Clerk, and as a consultant to various government organizations. Sydney's research interests include Indigenous political mobilization, multilevel governance and environmental politics. Sydney is ecstatic about participating in OLIP and cannot wait to incorporate her experiences into her future career.

Matt on Sydney

Sydney is fun, caring, and a real go-getter! Driven in part by a desire to understand the history of her hometown, her community's relationship with Indigenous peoples, and the rest of Ontario, Sydney brings unparalleled passion and energy to the 2015-2016 OLIP team!

Hometown: Caledonia

Favorite Place: Peterborough, Ontario. I love how it is a mix of cottage country, really trendy independent restaurants, and an amazing up-and-coming music scene.

Dream job at the legislature: Official Receptions Food and Drink Taste-Tester

Favorite historical/political figure: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Guilty pleasure: whenever I am cooking alone, I like to pretend I have my own cooking show. I discuss the process out loud and with the "magic of television", voilà! My beautiful dish is served!

Would you rather fight a mother moose protecting her young, or fight a sleepy polar bear?

Definitely a sleepy polar bear! If TV commercials are correct, it would be absolutely adorable and end with the two of us sharing a refreshing Coca-Cola.



Meet the interns

Alison Brown is proud to call Ottawa home. She's enjoyed a life-long passion for Canadian history, and recently completed an M.A. in history at the University of Western Ontario. Her thesis analyzed the development of North America's maple syrup industry, touching on themes of Canada's cultural heritage, economic history, and identity politics. Concurrent with her education, Alison taught piano and English to underprivileged children, and served as Vice-President for Queen's Education Student Society and Conference Chair for Western's History Graduate Student Association. Between academic terms, Alison cemented her love for public education and history while guiding at Rideau Hall, the Vimy Ridge and Beaumont-Hamel War Memorials, and the Parliament of Canada. Alison is immensely enjoying the internship so far, and looks forward to its joys and challenges in the upcoming months!



Sara on Alison

Alison is a certified teacher and our resident history buff, schooling the other interns in facts about Canada's history. Alison's deep knowledge of all things Canadian extends to her impeccable taste in craft beers. In addition to teaching us about the history of maple syrup, Alison's delightful personality brightens up the OLIP office even early in the morning.

Hometown: Ottawa

Favorite Place: Christie Lake (near Perth, Ontario)

Dream job at the legislature: Legislative historian

Favorite historical/political figure: Angela Merkel

Guilty pleasure: Starbucks' salted caramel mochas with extra whip

Would you rather chug a gallon of maple syrup, or eat a 2-pound block of aged Ontario cheddar cheese in under 20 minutes?

Cheese, melted over fresh baked bread and red-wine jelly....And a comfy couch to nurse my post-cheese food coma.

Sara O'Sullivan is originally from Oakville, Ontario. She attended Queen's University where she earned a BA (Honours) in Global Development. During her undergraduate studies, Sara participated in a semester abroad program at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. At Fudan, Sara studied and worked as an intern in a local township prompting an interest in governance and community development. She recently completed a Master's degree at Ryerson University in Public Policy & Administration. Through this program Sara completed a co-op placement as a policy advisor with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Her research interests include immigration policy, gender issues and labour relations. Outside of politics, Sara enjoys traveling and exploring Toronto's restaurant and live music scenes.

Alison on Sara

Sara brings energy to any room she enters. Whether she's telling a story from her weekend, laughing at a joke, or dishing about the latest Pinterest craze, Sara entertains her audience and inspires conversation. She is our go-to informant about Queen's University, the Ontario Public Service, most media technologies, Toronto life, and Italian food. It's great to have Sara as a partner in crime in the programme!

Hometown: Oakville

Favorite Place: watching the sun set over Lake Huron in Southampton

Dream job at the legislature: Speaker of the House

Favorite historical/political figure: Agnes Macphail

Guilty pleasure: marathons of Hockey Wives

Would you rather only wear beaver coats for the rest of your life, or eat an (Ottawa) beaver tail once a week for the rest of your life?

Eat a beaver tail! I would eat one with Nutella every day if I could

Meet the interns

Brittany Davis is originally from Mississauga, Ontario. She recently graduated from McGill University with a BA (Honours) in English Literature and a minor in French Language and Literature. While studying at McGill, Brittany was involved in many extracurricular activities. Most notably, she was the Director of Interviews and Features at a small online magazine publication and an executive member of a local anti-human trafficking task force that works with Love146, an organization which helps prevent child trafficking. Through her work with the task force and her previous summer positions at a law firm, Brittany developed a keen interest in law and politics and has researched national and international laws relating to trafficking in persons. Brittany is excited to be a part of OLIP and learn more about the legislative process.

Olivia on Brittany

Even though Brittany is the youngest member of this year's cohort she is wise beyond her years. Her passion for both English lit (do not mention you enjoyed reading *Twilight* in front of her!) and justice policy is infectious. Not to mention her incredible fashion sense. She is a welcome breath of fresh air and we can certainly expect great things from this future lawyer!



Olivia Labonté is an aspiring economist with a passion for urban development. She has advised and worked with a number of local and international institutions, including the OECD and the IMF. She was recently appointed by the United Nations to sit on the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board. This past year, she was the Program Director of Young Diplomats of Canada – a non-profit organization that advocates for youth-inspired public policies. In 2014, Olivia represented Canada at the Y20 Summit, analogous to the G20. Her work at the Summit led her to present youth unemployment related findings at the 2014 World Bank and IMF Annual Meet-

ings. Olivia completed her undergraduate degree in economics with distinction at the University of Ottawa, and is now completing her master's degree in applied economics at the Université de Montréal. Olivia looks forward to gaining hands-on experience within the realm of Ontario policy and acquiring in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of the Legislative Assembly.

Brittany on Olivia

What can be said about Olivia Labonté. She is smart and very well-versed in economics and architecture – she definitely can teach us all a thing or two about those topics. A Montréalais by birth, she is bilingual, fashionable, artsy and knows the value of a good bagel. On top of it all, she is also one of our funniest OLIPers!

Hometown: Mississauga

Favourite place in Ontario: I love all of Ontario but hanging out on the Lakeshore is great.

Dream job at the legislature: Attorney General or Premier

Dream vacation in Canada: an adventure through the rockies and through all the different BC ecosystems

Favourite historical/political figure: Josephine Butler

Guilty pleasure: terrible pop/rap songs

Would you rather go winter camping in Yukon for a week, or replicate Mackenzie's exploration of the West (in a canoe, of course)?

Tough decision, but I would have to go with Mackenzie's exploration of the west.

Hometown: Montreal

Favourite place in Ontario: Port Credit

Dream job at the legislature: Financial Accountability Officer

Dream vacation in Canada: Canoe camping around Lake Louise in the summertime

Favourite historical/political figure: Nellie McClung

Guilty pleasure: a spoon and a jar of Nutella

Would you rather star in *Anne of Green Gables the Musical*, or kiss William Shatner during one of his starring roles?

Star in *Anne of Green Gables the Musical*!!! Hands down. I love *Anne of Green Gables* SO much!

Meet the interns

Eric Zinn grew up on his family's farm outside of Lucknow, Ontario. After first earning an Ontario College Diploma in Police Foundations from Conestoga College, Eric attended the University of Guelph where he earned a BA (Honours), with a major in Criminal Justice & Public Policy and a minor in both History and Sociology. Eric's field of studies at Guelph focused on the dynamics of Canadian federalism, criminal justice in Canada, and the historical political developments which shaped government in Ontario and Canada at-large. While at the University of Guelph, Eric served as chairperson of the Criminal Justice & Public Policy Society where he acted in an advocacy role representing students studying in this area. Eric is greatly honoured and thrilled to be part of OLIP and is looking forward to an exciting year.

Isa on Eric

Eric is a genuine, down-to-earth, and warmhearted individual. His small town stories are always amusing. He adds a certain charm to our cohort that cannot be explained but needs to be experienced. I don't think I'll be exaggerating when I say that I already know I've made a life-long friend.



Isa Topbas is a Turkish-Canadian and was raised in Toronto. He holds a BA (Honours) from the University of Toronto (Political Science & International Relations) and an MA in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies from the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. During his undergraduate and graduate studies, Isa was active in student affairs, serving as the president of a number of student organizations, including the Intercultural Dialogue Institute's U of T Chapter, as well as participating in different academic projects with various roles during his time at the university. Isa's research interests include human rights, migration policy,

responsibility to protect (R2P), conflict resolution and civil society strengthening. Isa aspires to work as an international civil servant in the field of migrant integration.

Eric on Isa

Bringing excitement and enthusiasm with him everyday to our adventures, Isa is a strong addition to the OLIP team! He combines a fascinating background in global affairs with a great interest in learning more about Ontario politics, a combination that surely will take him places in the future. I know Isa is going to enjoy his MPP placements especially, and the OLIP trips both within and beyond the province that we both call home.

Hometown: Lucknow

Favorite Place: Muskoka

Dream job at the legislature: Speaker

Dream vacation in Canada: travelling through the Rocky Mountains

Favorite historical/political figure: Winston S. Churchill

Guilty pleasure: eating pies, too many pies

Would you rather devote your entire life to discovering dinosaur bones in Northern Alberta, or monitor the tidal shifts at the Bay of Fundy?

Dinosaur bones, that one.

Hometown: Aydin, Turkey

Favorite Place: North Beach Provincial Park, Prince Edward County

Dream job at the legislature: Speaker

Dream vacation in Canada: the Canadian Rockies

Favorite historical/political figure: Sultan Abdulhamid II

Guilty pleasure: occasional reality TV

Would you rather ride a unicycle around the perimeter of Stanley Park, or participate in an IronMan winter triathlon in Quebec City (skate, ski, run)?

IronMan winter triathlon in Quebec City OF COURSE!

Meet the interns

Julia Redmond is a proud Maritimer, born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She attended McMaster University, graduating with a BAsC (Honours) from the interdisciplinary Arts and Science program. True to her program, her research work has ranged from chemistry to pedagogy, and she has a particular interest in the intersection of public policy and science, especially with regards to climate change. In her third year, she studied at the Amsterdam University College in the Netherlands. She worked as news editor and later as managing editor of The Silhouette, McMaster's student newspaper. When she's pretending not to be a political junkie, Julia enjoys biking up unnecessarily steep hills and running. She has also worked at the Parliament of Canada as a tour guide, and has been lucky to move from one legislature to another to work at Queen's Park.



Justyna on Julia

Julia is our resident Maritimer at OLIP; even the Nova Scotian Premier gave her a shout out in his speech! She's definitely travelled the most across Canada, spending a summer in Saskatoon, working as a guide on Parliament Hill and even biking from Ottawa to Toronto. Her athletic skill is unmatched, however, by her dry wit and humour. Julia is always full of energy due to her snazzy travel mug and I can't wait to be spending the next year with her.

Hometown: Halifax

Favourite place in Ontario: hiking through the Dundas Valley to Webster's and Tew's Falls

Dream job at the legislature: Environmental Commissioner

Favourite historical/political figure: Jeanne Sauvé

Guilty pleasure: excessive amounts of coffee

Would you rather walk the route of the Canadian Pacific Railway, or use any mode of transportation to cross Canada from its most Northern to Southern tips?

Can I choose both? But I think I'd go north to south to see a part of Canada I'm less familiar with. I've never been to the Territories!

Justyna Zegarmistrz was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. She is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto, Trinity College where she completed a BA (Honours) in International Relations, History, and French Language. In her third year of studies Justyna attended the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Living in the home of Scottish Parliament, Justyna recognized the unique nature of both Ontario's and Canada's institutions and cannot wait for the opportunity to gain further hands-on experience at the Ontario legislature. In tandem with her studies, Justyna interned at the Polish Consulate General in Edinburgh and most recently at the U.S. Consulate General in Toronto. Working on Ontario Issues in the Political-Economic Section at the U.S. Consulate further sparked Justyna's interest in provincial politics, and she is looking forward to exploring the topic in more depth.

Julia on Justyna

Justyna is a ray of sunshine, and her irresistible charm means she makes friends wherever she goes, be it Queen's Park, Toronto's consulates, or her adopted homeland of Scotland. This multi-talented intern has so much enthusiasm for everything from learning Russian to the British royal family (seriously, ask her how she feels about the Queen). Between her charm and jet-setting ways, she will no doubt soon be swept away from Toronto for a fabulous career in international politics.

Hometown: Etobicoke

Favourite place in Ontario: camping in any Ontario Provincial Park

Dream job at the legislature: Lieutenant Governor

Dream vacation in Canada: an adventure through the Rockies and through all the different BC ecosystems

Favourite historical/political figure: Queen Elizabeth II

Guilty pleasure: S'MORES

Would you rather participate in a poutine eating contest against the world's poutine eating champion, or eat cod tongues for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?

Poutine eating contest hands down! I was deprived of all the poutine goodness when I lived Scotland for a year, so I have some catching up to do!

MPP Placements

Alison is placed with John Fraser (Liberal)

For my first placement, I am thrilled to be working with John Fraser, the MPP for Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. John and his Executive Assistant, Elise Roiron, welcomed me warmly into their office, and have been stellar mentors from day one. John encourages me to participate in any activity that catches my interest, and to acquaint myself with as many aspects of the legislative process as possible. So far, I've conducted research on key issues, written briefing notes about pending legislation, attended several Stakeholder Meetings, revised Private Members' Statements, and even practiced my French translation skills! As an unexpected bonus, the office is always full of laughter thanks to the comedic talents of John and Elise. I've enjoyed every aspect of my placement so far, and am excited for the months ahead!



Matt is placed with Cheri DiNovo (NDP)

My time with MPP Cheri DiNovo and Andrea, her executive assistant, has been fantastic! After just a few short days, we were already sharing a lot of laughs, stories, and a mutual appreciation for horror movies and Golden Girls re-runs. In the weeks since, I've learned a lot about the issues that matter most to MPP DiNovo's constituents in Parkdale – High Park, her role as the Chair for the Standing Committee on Estimates, and about her work as a Critic for LGBTQ Issues, Greater Toronto Area Issues, and Urban Transportation. From listening in on Cheri's radio talk show "3 Women," doing research on her many Private Member's Bills, to participating in meetings with community stakeholders, I never know what new adventures each day will hold. I can't wait to see what the next few months have in store!

MPP Placements



Sara is placed with Han Dong (Liberal)

My first placement is with Han Dong, MPP for Trinity-Spadina and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. Although he was elected more recently in 2014, Mr. Dong has a wealth of experience at Queen's Park as a staffer that I am fortunate to learn from over the next few months. I have already had the opportunity to work on drafting a press release and Member Statement and I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. Despite their packed schedules, Mr. Dong and his Executive Assistant Shawn have been great mentors and I eagerly anticipate the next few months

Sydney is placed with Eleanor McMahon (Liberal)

I am absolutely thrilled to have my Government Placement with MPP Eleanor McMahon (Burlington). The title of "Backbench MPP" is quite misleading in this case – MPP McMahon is a front and centre member of the Liberal Party. She is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, which comes with an important workload. She is also an active member of several Committees including The Select Committee on Sexual Violence and Harassment, The Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly and The Standing Committee on General Government. Not to mention her roles as the Co-Creator and Co-Chair of the All Parties Cycling Caucus, member of the Women's Caucus, Lung Caucus, French Caucus and the 905 Caucus. Only someone with such an impressive CV (Press Secretary for PM Jean Chretien in addition to success in the private sector) and work ethic, such as herself, would be able to handle this workload. I love my role on this team in researching, writing, briefing, organizing, and attending events to ensure she has the support system she needs. I am truly grateful of the mentorship I have received thus far from everyone on Team McMahon. Looking forward to what is in store next!



MPP Placements

Isa is placed with Vic Fedeli (PC)

It has been a whirlwind first week with MPP Vic Fedeli. Although I was expecting a busy and exciting office, I did not think it would happen right away. I knew right away that this was going to be a fast-paced and exciting internship when I walked in and took part in question period preparation. Mr. Fedeli, a friendly and candid person, made me feel as if I had been on his team for years. With a number of projects already placed on my lap, I feel excited to dive right in to Mr. Fedeli's policy files!



Julia is placed with Marie-France Lalonde (Liberal)

My first placement is with Marie-France Lalonde, MPP for Ottawa–Orleans. As Chief Government Whip, Marie-France is at the centre of the action in the Legislature, and I've been privileged to witness all that this entails. Upon starting in my placement I immediately felt welcomed to the team both by Marie-France and her legislative assistant Kyle. So far I've done research, written member's statements, attended stakeholder meetings, and participated in public consultations. In addition to her Whip duties, Marie-France serves as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Employment, and Infrastructure which has been an absolutely fascinating file. J'apprécie aussi l'opportunité de travailler dans un bureau bilingue! Marie-France holds another important role as PA to the Minister of Francophone Affairs, and for good reason; she is incredibly passionate about la francophonie en Ontario. I look forward to what I expect to be an exciting few months ahead!

MPP Placements

Brittany is placed with Laurie Scott (PC)

I am overjoyed to be in my first placement with MPP Laurie Scott of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. MPP Scott is the Progressive Conservative member who was first elected in 2003 and has a wealth of experience in the Legislature. As Critic for Women's Issues as well as Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, MPP Scott works on very interesting portfolios that I am excited to dig into in the coming months. In particular, I am very happy to do research for MPP Scott on anti-human trafficking issues, in which MPP Scott has a keen interest, as I had worked with anti-human trafficking groups during my undergraduate degree. Even in these first few days MPP Scott has kept me very busy in her office, as I have followed her to meetings, written her questions for Question Period, and drafted her speeches for the House, amongst other things. I am overly excited to work with MPP Scott and her Legislative Assistant Jason for the next few months!



Olivia is placed with France G  linas (NDP)



I am thrilled to be working with France G  linas for my first OLIP placement. She is an experienced MPP, having worked in the Ontario Legislature for over 7 years now representing the Nickel Belt riding. Since she was first elected in 2007, she has certainly made her mark in Queen's Park. She is currently the NDP critic for health, aboriginal affairs and Francophone affairs. Needless to say, she is one busy MPP. Though I have only been working with her for two weeks, I am amazed at how well she balances her constituents' concerns with her many critic portfolios. Her passion is contagious and I am excited to learn more about her work here at Queen's Park. Both France and her Legislative Assistant Damien have been very welcoming and I am looking forward to working with them both these next upcoming months!

MPP Placements

Eric is placed with Kathryn McGarry (Liberal)

My first placement is with Kathryn McGarry, Liberal MPP for Cambridge and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation. So far into my placement, I have helped draft member's statements and responses for MPP McGarry that she has presented in the House, which has been an incredible experience! Among MPP McGarry's responsibilities in her Parliamentary Assistant role is the regulation of autonomous vehicles. I had quite the introduction to her portfolio with a ride in a partially-self-driving car! MPP McGarry has a great passion for health and justice issues, both of which I am eager to learn more about during my placement. I also greatly enjoy working with her staff Leo Lehman and Cassandra McKenna whom I have already learned a great deal from. Her riding of Cambridge in the Region of Waterloo is one I will be happy to see once again when I have the opportunity to visit it during the December constituency week. I look forward to the next few months spent with MPP McGarry, her staff, and the great experiences I will have!



Justyna is placed with Todd Smith (PC)

I am delighted that for my first term placement I am with Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith. Despite only being in the office for a short amount of time, I have been warmly welcomed and received by MPP Smith and his EA Mitch. As PC critic for Hydro One, the office is proving to be a hot bed for exciting discussion. Having had the opportunity to already work on a members' statement, participate in stakeholder meetings, research for a private member's bill and visit a media studio for a live interview, the high energy and dynamism of the work is sure to continue presenting exciting opportunities for me over the coming months. Having persuaded MPP Smith to join Instagram within the first week (be sure to follow @44toddsmith!) you can trace our adventures as I prepare to visit his beautiful riding and learning more about rural Ontario!

Orientation

Before ever getting placed in MPPs' offices, all interns must first go through an in-depth orientation over the course of several weeks. The sessions are designed to make us familiar with the Legislature and all it has to offer, from the architectural history of the Queen's Park building to how best to use the library's research services. While it's nearly impossible to capture everything, here are some of the things we've been up to.

Besides getting lost in the hallways of Whitney Block, we spent the first couple of days getting acquainted with our role as interns and life at Queen's Park. This included learning about the structure of the program, attending Question Period and receiving our committee placements. These committees become our projects for the year. (Everyone's assignments are listed on page 2.)

Left: To cap off our first week, we got an incredible tour of the leg with resident history buff David Bogart.

Below: Look, we're on TV! Speaker Levac introduced us in the Chamber a few days into our orientation.



One major element of our orientation early on was finding out how information gets from inside the Legislature to the public at large. We had the pleasure of meeting with some of the people responsible for the services that keep Ontario connected with Queen's Park, including Mr. Arleigh Holder of the Legislature's Broadcast and Recording Service, Ms. Peggy Brooks of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services, and the team from the Legislative Library and Research Services branch.

Below: we take matters into our own hands and with the help of Mr. Holder, we get to see how broadcasting works.

We also spent eight memorable days interviewing MPPs who expressed interest in hosting an OLIP intern. We were warmly welcomed by each MPP and their staff, and given the privileged opportunity of candidly conversing with them. No two interviews were identical, but each revealed something unique about the MPP. We were often impressed by the thoughtfulness and comprehensiveness of MPPs' responses, and felt like we better understood MPPs' motivations for entering politics, and aspirations in the political arena by the end of the interview. It was another reminder of how fortunate we are to participate in this programme, and benefit from 39 years of OLIP's institutional memory.



Assembly staff



Our meeting with Speaker of the Legislative Assembly the Honourable Dave Levac was unforgettable, not only because of the candid conversation we had with the Honourable Speaker, but we were also able to draw from his personal experiences during his career in politics. In this meeting, we realized that behind the stern voice lies a passionate man who is dedicated to uphold his duty to the highest standards. As OLIP interns, one of our most important duties is to remain non-partisan, and Speaker Levac's advice on how to remain so in such a politicized environment was very useful to the interns.

We had a fantastic time meeting with Deborah Deller, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. She told us of her unlikely journey to becoming Clerk, starting out as a guide at Queen's Park and working her way up the ranks over the years. As a result, she has incredible institutional knowledge about the legislature; this, coupled with her expertise on parliamentary procedure, meant that we learned an immense amount even in our short time with Ms. Deller. She even told us that "being the Clerk is hard work, but it is great and really rewarding. If you ever get the chance, you should really try it!"



One of our first meetings of the whole OLIP programme was with Dennis Clark, Sergeant-at-Arms. His frank conversation about his life experiences made us feel very welcomed in his office. He not only discussed his role in the Legislature, but also how it has evolved over time. Having implemented the new security systems for the Legislature, and learning about that process was revealing. After this visit, we realized that the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms encompasses much more than the ceremonial position of the mace-bearer.



These were just a few of the meetings we had with staff of the Legislative Assembly. We want to give a big thanks to all those who took the time to meet with us but whom we weren't able to feature here: Todd Decker, Deputy Clerk; Tonia Grannum, Clerk of Procedural Services; William Short, Senior Clerk, House Documents; Peggy Brooks, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services; Bradley Warden, Legislative Counsel; Library Client and Research Services

Independent Officers

Meeting with the Independent Offices of the Ontario Legislature offered unparalleled insights into the unique checks and balances in place in Ontario's political system. We'd like to thank each Officer for meeting with us, and for the thoughtfulness of their answers to our (seemingly never ending) questions! Our knowledge of the Legislature was hugely enriched by this experience, and helped make us feel more prepared for the challenges ahead.



Ontario's **Auditor General Bonnie Lysk** impressed us with her meticulous explanation of the AG's role in Ontario, and her dedication to keeping Ontario's finances secure. The interns were particularly inspired by Lysk's interpretation the *Government Advertising Act* (2014), which modifies how political parties can advertise in Ontario. We left our meeting with a renewed appreciation for the AG's role in Canada's political framework, and an (perhaps unusual) interest in Ontario's budget.



Given the novel nature of his position, we were particularly intrigued before meeting with **Financial Accountability Officer Stephen LeClair**. We thoroughly enjoyed Mr. LeClair's candid explanation about the challenges and rewards he has experienced during the first eight months of his mandate, and his vision for the future of this important position.

For our first "Road Trip" of the year, we journeyed to Scarborough to meet **Greg Essensa, The Province of Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer**. We were captivated by Mr. Essensa's enthusiast explanations about the logistics of running elections in Ontario, and his "2025" vision for a more accessible and transparent electoral system. We ended our adventure with a tour of the building's warehouse, where all of Ontario's electoral materials are stored.



We discovered how the IPC Office balances both transparency and privacy In our frank discussion with Ontario's **Information and Privacy Commissioner, Brian Beamish**. The IPC works as an independent entity to review the decisions and practices of government organizations concerning access and privacy, and helps informs Ontarians on their rights and laws regarding privacy.





During our meeting with **Ellen Schwartzel**, Ontario's acting **Environmental Commissioner (ECO)**, we learnt about the development of Ontario's Bill of Environment Rights (1993) and the ECO's unique powers as Ontario's "environmental watchdog." We felt empowered after learning that any Ontarian can submit an on-line application for an environmental review – a unique privilege! Our scientifically inclined interns were particularly inspired by Ms. Schwartzel's discussion, and the unique opportunities her position offers for engaging the public about environmental concerns.

During our rendez-vous with **François Boileau**, Ontario's **Commissaire aux services en français**, we learnt about Ontario's burgeoning francophone population and their unique linguistic needs. By narrating a moving story of the challenges an Ottawa family faced while attempting to access French languages services, M. Boileau exemplified how Ontarians are impacted by restricted linguistic services on a daily basis. We were captivated by M. Boileau's engaging stories, et nous avons apprécié l'opportunité de pratiquer notre français!



Most recently, we met with **Barbara Finlay**, the **Acting Ombudsman of Ontario**. Ms. Finlay brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position, and we were fascinated by the range and depth of her office's investigations. It was equally interesting to hear about upcoming shifts in the office as the Ombudsman's scope of responsibilities increases. We will harbor particularly warm feelings about our meeting with Ms. Finlay thanks to the 40th anniversary celebratory tuques that the office generously donated to us!



Meeting with Ontario's **Integrity Commissioner** proved to be a stimulating experience thanks to Ms. Morrison's sharp wit and pointed remarks. Commissioner **Lynn Morrison** articulated the challenges of maintaining high standards of integrity and accountability as her office assumes new responsibilities. It is clear that Ms. Morrison's strong moral compass guides her work in ensuring that all government staff, elected representatives, lobbyists, and others act ethically around the Pink Palace.



Beyond the “leg”

One of the perks of OLIP is that our experiences and our meetings are not limited to Queen's Park itself. Over the course of our first several weeks, we've had the chance to meet many people who've brought perspectives and experiences in a range of fields and from around the world.

Some are certainly familiar with our environment here at the Legislature. For example, we met with **Joseph Ragusa** (top left), Principal of Sussex Strategy Group, a public affairs consulting firm that represents some interest groups at Queen's Park. We talked about what government relations really involves, which is to say more than just organizing lobby days.

Wendy Feldman (top right) also understands our role here as OLIP interns. While not an alumna of OLIP, she did complete our sister program in Ottawa, the Parliamentary Internship Program. She's since ended up working on the Machinery of Government here in Toronto, but

this came after years in the foreign service. With certainly some aspiring diplomats among us, we were keen to hear what she had to say.

Bringing even more of an international perspective was **Antony Green**, an elections expert who has become known as the face of election coverage in Australia, where he has worked for the Australian Broadcasting Company. He told us about the differences in our electoral systems, and some of the complications that creates, like the giant ballot you see below (bottom right).

Finally, **Dr. Patrice Dutil** (bottom left) of Ryerson University's Department of Politics and Public Administration gave us a fresh look at the area where we work by taking us on a walking tour about the life of Sir John A. Macdonald. He lived here only briefly, but there are still lots of stories to be told about Canada's first Prime Minister here in Toronto.



Past and present

As it is OLIP's 40th Anniversary, we are making an extra effort to stay in touch with our amazing community of OLIP alumni. Our alumni have a variety of impressive careers including public servants, lawyers, academics and government relations specialists.

To kick off our year of connections with past OLIPers, during our orientation we had the pleasure first of meeting with Vanessa Dupuis (2013–2014). Since leaving OLIP she's worked for the Auditor-General (a job made possible by her time in the program!) and so really understands the goings-on at Queen's Park. In the midst of a whirlwind of meetings around the Legislature, our time with Vanessa was a breath of fresh air. She was able to give us advice on everything from our interviews with MPPs to reception etiquette, and a million things in between.

Emma Ferrone and Chelsea Peet (2008–2009) continued our series of alumni meetings. The two, who both now work for the OPS, took us through their journeys of life after OLIP and how they got there. They gave tips on how to get the most out of this year—which, we were assured, will fly by. Among other things they definitely helped us make up our minds on the all-important decision of where to travel for our comparative legislative study trips.

Changing venues from the boardroom, we also met with several of the 2014–2015 cohort at a pub to chat. Having just finished their time with the program, they understood exactly what we were experiencing during our orientation, and were keen to give us advice on all aspects of the program.

One would think that many OLIP interns would be become elected officials, however there are only a few that have taken the plunge into public office! The OLIP interns were able to meet one of those who did, Tim Murphy.

Tim Murphy was elected as a Member of Provincial Parliament in 1993 and served as MPP for two years.



Among other roles in the political realm, Mr. Murphy worked as chief of staff for Prime Minister Paul Martin. Currently, Tim Murphy is a lawyer at the law firm McMillan. Because of his vast experience, Mr. Murphy was able to give both OLIP and career advice to the interns in a late Friday afternoon meeting that ended with nachos and beer.

In our roles as interns, Mr. Murphy encouraged us to volunteer for as many events as possible. As well, he stressed the importance of building a trusting relationship with your MPP. For our careers as a whole, Mr. Murphy encouraged us to focus on standing up for what is right whenever possible even though at times it may be difficult! Finally, we learned it is worthwhile to do a regular “job test” to see if you are in the right role. He suggests to see how often you wake up in the morning excited to go into work. If it is more than 50 percent of the time, then you are on the correct path.

Thanks to all of our alumni who have taken the time to meet with us, both formally and informally, over our time in the programme so far. We look forward to many other meetings with our alumni, wherever they may be, in the months to come!

Are you an OLIP alum? We want to hear from you! Send our Alumni chair an email at sosullivan@olipinterns.ca to let us know what you're up to. Tell us if you've moved, or gotten a new job, or just want to give some advice to our current interns. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information about our spring magazine and reception, when we'll be celebrating our 40th anniversary.

Our sponsors

OLIP would not be the same without its generous sponsors. Over the course of our orientation OLIP interns have had the opportunity to meet with representatives from several of our supporters. We have had the pleasure of meeting so far with The Co-operators, the Law Society of Upper Canada, AMAP-CEO, LawPRO, Ontario Power Generation. We look forward to meeting with many more of our sponsors over the next few months, as we are assisted not only from their financial contributions, but also from the insight and advice shared in these meetings. Thank you to our sponsors for their commitment to the programme – we are sincerely grateful for your support throughout our time here at Queen's Park.



Above: Sheena Weir of LSUC told us about the rich history of the organization.
Left: The Co-operators hosted us for lunch on co-op lobby day at Queen's Park.
Below: AMAPCEO welcomed us to their office for a great discussion on the role of unions in Ontario, and how the organization works.



We're thrilled to introduce Ontario Power Generation as our newest lead sponsor of OLIP this year. We've been lucky to have their support for several years now and appreciate their ongoing involvement. Ontario Power Generation is owned by the province and has plants and staff from Kenora to Cornwall and everywhere in between. The company produces more than half the power used in most homes, schools, hospitals and businesses in Ontario and is OPG committed to ensuring their energy production is reliable, safe and environmentally sustainable for Ontarians today and for the future. In 2014, OPG burned its last piece of coal to make electricity. This was the largest single action to combat climate change in North America to date. Their two northwestern coal stations were converted to renewable biomass. Now, together with a diverse fleet that includes 65 hydroelectric stations and two nuclear stations, OPG's power is 99.7 per cent free of smog and greenhouse gas emissions. And they produce this power at about half the cost of other generators.

ONTARIO **POWER**
GENERATION

Our sponsors

The Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) has developed a unique working relationship with the OLIP interns over the past 20 years, most recently, becoming a lead sponsor in 2012. OREA is one of Ontario's most respected professional associations. Founded in 1922 by a handful of real estate professionals, today, OREA represents over 56 000 REALTORS® and 40 local real estate boards and associations. It serves its members through a variety of publications, educational programs and brings a united voice to the Ontario Legislature on behalf of REALTORS®.



The association is committed to promoting high industry standards, protecting consumers and promoting home ownership. OREA is the only authorized provider of real estate licensing courses in the province. Committed to education and professionalism, OREA takes special pride in helping nurture young people's interest in politics and create tomorrow's leaders. OREA is a proud sponsor of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, and boasts two former interns as part of their government relations staff.

The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario became OLIP's first Lead Sponsor in 2010, and we would like to thank them for their continued support over the years. Since 1996, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO) has been a proud sponsor of OLIP, and in 2010 the association took on the role of lead sponsor. The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 11,500 independent insurance brokers across the province. The organization is a politically active group that represents their members at the Ontario



Legislature, regulatory bodies, as well as industry commissions and associations. The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario member brokers play an active role in their communities with strong vested interest in serving consumers across the province. They volunteer at many local events and participate in many career fairs at high schools, colleges and universities, supporting and encouraging young Ontarians to build solid futures in this province.

LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



SPONSORS

