

Queen's Park Insider

Fall 2017

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



Intern Committee Chairs

Alumni

Ana Qarri

Magazine

Dani Prapavessis &
Ana Qarri

Meetings

Kassandra Loewen

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Mackenzie Taylor

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Study Tours

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It has been a pleasure to create the Fall 2017 Queen's Park Insider. The magazine is a longstanding tradition, and we're honoured to join the ranks of its editors. Queen's Park Insider has taken different creative directions over the last 42 years, from super hero themes, to popular movie parodies, to designs that could only have been popular in the 90s.

As we took design inspiration from past magazines and began to document our own journey at Queen's Park, we spent a lot of time reflecting on our experience in OLIP so far. Over the past two and a half months, the ten of us have become a family.

We hope that the following pages give you a telling introduction to each intern, and our unique backgrounds and hopes for the year. We also hope that when you finish reading the magazine, you have a better understanding of the workings of the programme and what makes it unlike any other internship.

We the editors bring different perspectives to the magazine. Ana brings a strong background in journalism and publishing, and Dani, a passion for storytelling and design.

We also want to highlight the importance of our generous sponsors. We are incredibly grateful to them for all the opportunities that are made possible because of their contributions.

Our warmest thanks go to the administrative team for their guidance and support throughout this process.

Without further ado, we invite you to dive into the 2017 Fall Issue of Queen's Park Insider!

Cheers,

Dani Prapavessis & Ana Qarri
Magazine Editors

Director's Report

Welcome to the 2017 fall issue of the **Queen's Park Insider!**

We are glad that you have found a copy of our magazine and have an interest in this unique program for our interns. The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is made possible by a wonderful partnership between the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association.

The programme is incredibly enriched by our generous sponsors, whom you will find showcased throughout the pages of this issue. Key elements of this programme could not operate without the support of our sponsors and we are very grateful they continue to be our partners. OLIP is further strengthened by the unfailing commitment of the Speaker, Hon. Dave Levac, the Clerk, Todd Decker, our MPPs and the dedication of our administrative team, specifically Susan Viets, Valerie Quioc Lim, Elisa Ntarelli, and Rick Sage.

We are pleased to introduce you to our newest cohort. They bring unique perspectives to the program and have demonstrated a keen interest in the workings of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We are honoured to provide them with an opportunity to learn and explore the legislative process through educational placements with Members of Provincial Parliament, study tours and meetings with key individuals and stakeholders that make our government function and flourish.

At this time, the interns have just started their first placements. After six weeks of orientation, they are eager to put their learning into action, and to build relation-



ships with their Members and the staff in their offices.

We hope you will stay tuned in to their adventures this year, whether it's through social media or by speaking with them in person.

I look forward to continue to work together to make OLIP even better!

Best wishes,

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou
OLIP Director

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 provides opposition and government Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with highly qualified assistants, while simultaneous giving interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

Meet the Interns

Shireen Salti

My commitment to social justice was solidified early on in my life. Growing up in Palestine, moving to Toronto at the age of 15, and experiencing the Canadian education system as an immigrant has given me a unique outlook on social policy, law and society. I recently completed a Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) degree at York University, during which I studied education and immigration issues in Canadian society and held a Summer Student position at the Education Quality and Accountability Office. Following my time at the EQAO, I worked at the Inclusive Education Branch of the Ministry of Education. Having experienced first hand the role of education policies on immigrants, this opportunity was invaluable to me. I have also volunteered for Lifeline Syria as an interpreter, and was the Social Convenor for my department's Graduate Students' Association. These experiences have fuelled my passion for provincial politics and inspired me to become an effective leader in the public sector. I am honoured to be selected as one of the ten OLIP interns and very excited to be part of this unique programme.



Kassandra Loewen

I am from Southwestern Ontario, broadly speaking, having lived in Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener, London, and Woodstock. Now living in Toronto, I am busy discovering the delights of big city life. After completing my undergraduate degree – an Honours Double Major in Political Science and Biology at Huron University College at Western University – I moved to Sioux Lookout, a small town in Northwestern Ontario, where I worked as a research assistant for a team of physicians studying the health of remote First Nations communities. We ultimately co-authored several articles on the prevalence of rare infectious diseases in the region. While up north, I also developed a taste for fresh-caught fish and a love of curling. I most recently completed a Master of Arts degree in Political Science at McMaster University. I am looking forward to learning about how legislative actors work to meet the unique health and social needs of peripheral regions and marginalized populations.

Kassandra on Shireen:

Shireen's energy and her enthusiasm for our work here at Queen's Park is unmatched. I've enjoyed learning about her experiences growing up in Jerusalem, as well as her passion for making education inclusive and accessible, especially for new Canadians. She asks insightful questions and generously shares knowledge gained from her Master's degree.

Shireen on Kassandra:

Kassandra has visited my hometown Jerusalem, so we had an instant connection, and had lots to share about our lived experiences. She is a kind soul, critical thinker, and remarkably insightful. It has been inspiring to witness her commitment to social justice issues, and more specifically, to northwestern Ontario and Indigenous issues.

Meet the Interns

Dani Prapavessis

Food. Community. Sustainability. Science. I have been involved with many programs and projects that complement my academic background, having earned a B.Sc. degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of Ottawa. I first became interested in politics during an 8,000-kilometer cycling tour across Canada where I delivered workshops and presentations to schools about food security on behalf of an organization I founded, Seed by Seed. I am particularly interested in how our food system intrinsically links the environment to politics, health and community. I have also worked at leading community food centres and youth empowerment organizations in Canada and internationally. I believe that people can have a positive impact on the world when they make decisions that align with their values and utilize their strengths. I look forward to learning more about the legislative process and provincial politics to see how our government is working to meet the diverse needs of our vast and gorgeous province.



Daryl Gonsalves

I immigrated to Ontario, Canada in 2002 from the Middle Eastern country of Kuwait. In April 2017, I completed an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Business at McMaster University. My undergraduate research touched on many public policy areas, such as post-secondary education, public private partnerships, employment equity and child care. Through these projects, I realized that

I enjoyed tackling public policy issues that Ontario faces. During university, I worked for McMaster student services, connecting students to leadership and community engagement experiences. Prior to OLIP, this past summer, I worked for the Ontario Public Service, in the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, focusing on consumer protection policy and programs. I am really excited to continue my professional journey with

an insider's view of Queen's Park and to help to create positive change for Ontario.

Daryl on Dani:

Dani is a natural leader and an amazing active listener. Whether we're looking for directions to our next meeting or making a difficult internal decision, Dani is quick to take a leadership role with her signature "ok team!" catchphrase. She is also an eloquent speaker, able to communicate complex topics in accessible ways. Dani can easily connect with others and genuinely understands how to engage with them.

Dani on Daryl:

To have someone as thoughtful, hardworking, and kind on our team is an invaluable treat! Daryl is the first to make people feel welcome by asking attentive questions in his caring tone. He is also extremely observant and although he may not always be vocal, he makes the most of any meeting. I have no doubt that he will find his place in a leadership role where his staff, team, and the public will place their wholehearted trust in his decisions.

Meet the Interns

Ana Qarri

I was born and raised in Albania, and moved to Canada with my family in 2007. In 2016, I graduated with an Honours B.A.Sc. degree from the Arts and Science program at McMaster University, where I focused my studies on the emerging technologies, politics and law. Some of my favourite research projects have been on the social implications of Internet of Things devices, and the geopolitics of cyberspace in elections in South-east Asia. In the future, I want to work in the public interest to advance digital rights and our understanding of the socio-legal impacts of emerging technologies. While at McMaster, I was also involved in social justice advocacy through the Queens Students Community Centre, developed a keen interest in political theory, and found a second home at The Silhouette, the university newspaper. The combination of my interests led me to realize that the workings of our political system lie at the heart of every issue I encountered. I'm enjoying learning more about research and innovation policies in Ontario!



Matthew on Ana:

Ana has a great sense of humour. Apart from sharing terrible puns, we enjoy discussing the impacts of tech change on our governance systems. Ana brings an interdisciplinary lens and the critical eye of a former student journalist to our cohort. She also balances a fierce passion for specific policy issues with disarming kindness and candor.

Matthew Klassen

I was born and raised in the small southwestern Ontario town of Mitchell. For my undergraduate degree, I studied in the Honours Bachelor of Knowledge Integration program at the University of Waterloo, an interdisciplinary degree that uses collaborative projects and human-centred design to train 21st century problem solvers. I also completed a MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics. Learning alongside the international students and professors, and living in the heart of London, provided a great springboard for pursuing public policy. My primary interests are at the nexus of global forces and technological change: climate change, the international relations of subnational entities, food and health systems, and the growth of cities. In other words, there are no shortage of challenges and issues to be passionate about. I believe OLIP will be a unique learning experience with incredible exposure to the nonpartisan and partisan dimensions of Ontario politics. In my free time, I enjoy basketballing, canoeing and travelling.

Ana on Matthew:

Matthew is the funniest of us all. But his contributions to our group go beyond his humour -- Matthew brings a calm energy to our team that is much needed after long days of meetings and work. We can always rely on him to help us find diplomatic solutions to our intergroup dynamics. Over the last two months, we have also bonded over our shared interest in tech policy.

Meet the Interns

Harmeet Sandhu

I was born and raised in the northwest end of Toronto. I have both my Honors B.A. and my M.A. degrees in Sociology from Western University. During my studies, I was a Teaching Assistant and a guest lecturer for undergraduate courses. In my M.A. thesis, I theoretically analyzed the ideology of nationalism, and considered the significance attributed to diasporic politics by first and second-generation immigrants who are physically separated, but still emotionally tied to their countries of origin. Outside of academia, I'm passionate about social justice and poverty alleviation. I volunteer at a local food bank that serves the needs of Canadians who are struggling with hunger, poverty, and homelessness by providing access to fresh food. In my free time, I also enjoy bodybuilding, cooking, and reading. I'm honoured, and incredibly excited, to be a part of the 42nd cohort of OLIP interns. I hope to use the learning and networking opportunities afforded through the programme to develop the core competencies required to be an effective civil servant in Canada.



Mackenzie Taylor

I am from a small town in Woodstock, New Brunswick. I have always been interested in politics and government, so I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Thomas University and certificates from HBX Core, Laval University and Université du Québec à Montréal. As a strong believer in experiential learning, I have always been involved in non-academic pursuits. At St. Thomas, I was President of the Political Science Student Society, Canadian Ambassador of the International Student Society, a member of John Peter's Humphrey Model United Nations, and Student Representative of the New Brunswick Teachers Association (NBTA). My interest in government also motivated me to become involved with the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick as a Legislative Library Assistant, a Legislative Page, and Legal Research Assistant for the New Brunswick Commission of Human Rights. I am immensely enjoying OLIP and learning about Queen's Park.

Mackenzie on Harmeet:

Three adjectives define my first impression of Harmeet: courteous, intuitive, and reliable. Harmeet is academically and socially intelligent, but most importantly, he is incredibly humble and always willing to learn. His self-awareness fosters a healthy group dynamic, and his humility breeds more humility within our group.

Harmeet on Mackenzie:

Mackenzie never ceases to amaze me with her ability to thrive in professional and social settings alike. She can shift from casually conversing about the latest fashion and style trends to critically debating Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*. I am certain that these past two months have only been the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

Meet the Interns

Josef Méthot

I was born in Montréal, raised in Calgary, and fell in love with Victoria, BC, where I attended the University of Victoria. As a child, I wanted to be a knight, but chivalric jobs are hard to come by, so being a medieval historian had to do. I received an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Medieval Studies and French from the University of Victoria, where I tutored students and served as President of the departmental student association. Most recently, I earned a Master of Arts degree at the University of Toronto's Center for Medieval Studies where I studied medieval religious identity and heresy as a Canada Graduate Scholar. Beyond Latin and liturgy, I'm passionate about language policy, diaspora identities, and disability accommodation.

In Victoria, I co-founded an advocacy organization for disabled students. During my studies, I was proud to represent British Columbia as an interpreter at Victoria's Parliament Buildings, an experience which deepened my interest in the legislative process. I am excited and honoured to be part of the OLIP cohort for 2017-2018.



Jaskiran Shoker

I was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. I attended McMaster University, where I graduated with both an Honours B.A. and M.A. in Political Science. I also had the privilege of representing my graduating class as valedictorian. During university, I was involved in

various student initiatives, serving as the Student Union's Advocacy Coordinator and as the Vice-President of the McMaster Pre-Law Society. Through my volunteer work, I have been focused on empowering young women to take on leadership roles across their community and was very grateful to be nominated as a Young Woman of Distinction for Hamilton's YWCA Women of Distinction awards in 2016. I recently completed an intern-

ship with McMaster's Public Affairs team, focusing on the exciting world of government relations. As a result of these experiences, my research interests include higher education policies, women's engagement in politics, and community outreach. I'm excited to be a part of OLIP's 42nd cohort and am looking forward to the learning experience the programme offers.

Jaskiran on Josef:

Josef's curiosity, witty puns and enthusiasm make him a great addition to our cohort. He is quick to ask thoughtful questions and provide a unique perspective in team discussions. Like myself, Josef was involved with student union initiatives during his studies – his advocacy work for students with disabilities is especially admirable. Unofficially dubbed our cohort's 'Medieval History Whiz', Josef has an abundance of knowledge and I look forward to learning more from him!

Josef on Jaskiran:

With a shared love of literature, we first bonded over our book collections. I admire Jaskiran's past experiences, especially her dedication to supporting young women, and her work with McMaster's government relations team. Jaskiran's thoughtful questions bring a youthful, education-oriented approach to our meetings. I also admire that she is a morning person and is always ready to start the day as soon as we all arrive at the office.

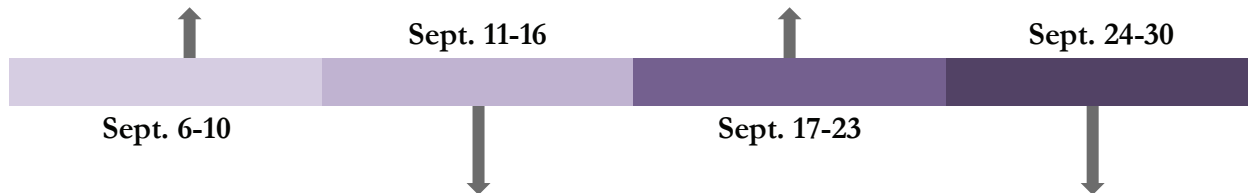
Orientation Timeline

Day/ Week One:

Nervously arrived at the main building, met the team, got our security badges and began the OLIP journey

First (of many) official group photos:

The Speaker individually introduced us to the House.



Week Two:

Met the Deputy Clerk Trevor Day and the Auditor General, and attended our first reception at Queen's Park.

Week Three:

We met the Environmental Commissioner, the Ombudsman of Ontario, the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Services and our OLIP Committee work was well under way.

Ongoing in Orientation Period:

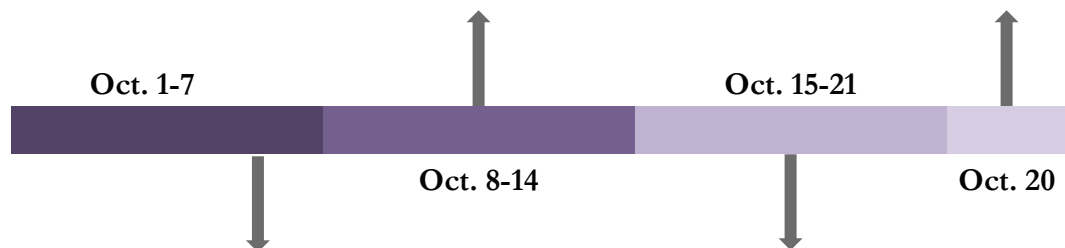
Met with legislative staff at Queen's Park, greeted and thanked our generous sponsors

Week Five:

Volunteered at the First Nations Economic Advancement Conference and toured CBC where we watched a live taping of The National! We finished the week with Rick's Annual Chili Party (featuring 3 types of chili, trivia, and a competitive game of charades).

Interns reunite:

We had the first of many OLIP meetings where we can catch up and debrief about the exciting work in our placements.



Week Four:

Ran around the Pink Palace conducting MPP placement interviews, found our best angles in group photos, and our social media hit 1000 followers! @olipinterns

Week Six:

We arrived on Monday morning and went to our new MPP placement offices to start the new chapter in our internship.

Fall MPP Placements



Harmeet is placed with MPP Han Dong (Liberal).

I am thrilled to be working with Liberal MPP Han Dong for my government placement. MPP Dong represents the Trinity-Spadina riding and he is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy and to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. During my first week, I prepared briefing notes for stakeholder meetings, reviewed constituent correspondence, and familiarized myself with MPP Dong's work on the *Reliable Elevators Act*. I feel privileged to have been welcomed wholeheartedly by MPP Dong, his Executive Assistant Peter Maragos, and his Communications Advisor Conner Coles. I look forward to learning from them over the course of my placement and I am optimistic that the next four months will be highly rewarding.



Jaskiran is placed with MPP John Fraser (Liberal).

I am delighted to be working with MPP John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, representing the riding of Ottawa South. Elected in 2013, MPP Fraser brings a wealth of political and community-oriented experience to Queen's Park. Prior to becoming an MPP, he served Ottawa South alongside former Premier Dalton McGuinty for 14 years, and continues to be extremely active in his engagement with constituents. MPP Fraser also handles important mandates on palliative and end-of-life care as well as chronic disease prevention in Ontario. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to MPP Fraser's work on his PA portfolio and other community health and wellness initiatives. Thank you to MPP Fraser and his Executive Assistant Grace Johnson for the warm welcome. I am looking forward to the next few months!

Fall MPP Placements

Dani is placed with MPP Lisa Thompson (Progressive Conservative).

With a shared passion for education and youth empowerment, agriculture and the gorgeous sunsets in her riding, I am excited to start my first placement with MPP Lisa Thompson. MPP Thompson was first elected in 2011 in her riding of Huron-Bruce and is the PC critic for both International Trade and Indigenous Relations. It is evident that she is interested in community capacity building and is invested in both the success of her riding and the broader state of Ontario. Since the first day, I was welcomed warmly by her entire team. I look forward to MPP Thompson's ongoing mentorship as well as learning about her portfolios and the diverse needs of rural communities in Ontario.



Ana is placed with MPP Catherine Fife (New Democratic Party).

For my opposition placement, I am working with MPP Catherine Fife. MPP Fife represents the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo, and is the NDP critic for Early Years and Childcare, Economic Development, Employment, and Research and Innovation. I have already learned a tremendous amount about her critic roles, and have had the opportunity to work on a wide range of topics, from long term care to consumer protection. Her team, which includes her Legislative Assistant Emily Trudeau, and the constituency assistants, Ben and Carly, has been incredibly welcoming and supportive. MPP Fife is a very active member, and a strong advocate for her constituents, so there are no slow days in the office. I have no doubt that the next few months will continue to be as interesting and rewarding as these first few weeks.



Fall MPP Placements



Josef is placed with MPP France Gélinas (New Democratic Party).

My first placement is with MPP France Gélinas, who represents the riding of Nickel Belt. I have felt tremendously welcomed by MPP Gélinas and her legislative assistant Damien Waddell. MPP Gélinas has been NDP critic for Health and Long-term Care for ten years and for Francophone Affairs for nine years, so her knowledge on these files is comprehensive and detailed. Attending stakeholder meetings has been a great learning experience to appreciate the diversity and complexity of Ontario's healthcare system. Finally, I am excited to work for a Northern Ontario member representing a riding with a large francophone population. It is a pleasure to work in a bilingual office and *penser en deux langues en même temps*, and I look forward to visiting Nickel Belt to learn more about the experiences of northern Ontarians.



Matthew is placed with MPP Soo Wong (Liberal).

Working with MPP Wong, who represents the riding of Scarborough-Agincourt, and her staff has been fantastic. MPP Wong is Deputy Speaker, and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. I have enjoyed getting to know the ins and outs of Queen's Park, and witnessing the full array of events that MPPs attend, from press conferences to school visits to Members' Statements in the House. My favourite tasks so far have been speech writing and sitting in on stakeholder meetings. These meetings have given me valuable insight into the multiplicity of "asks" and policy prescriptions adopted by each stakeholder, as well as the different approaches to engaging with MPPs. The remainder of this placement will really help me to hone my time management, writing, and networking skills. I know there is a lot of work ahead, but it promises to be an exciting and fast-paced placement.

Fall MPP Placements

Kassandra is placed with MPP Norm Miller (Progressive Conservative).

I am pleased to have my first placement with MPP Norm Miller, who represents the beautiful riding of Parry Sound - Muskoka. Since he was elected in 2001, MPP Miller has been Parliamentary Assistant for Northern Development and Mines, Chief Opposition Whip, and critic for Aboriginal Affairs. He is currently the PC critic for both Northern Development and Mines, and Natural Resources and Forestry. Public service runs in the family, as his father is former Premier Frank Miller. I am looking forward to visiting Parry Sound - Muskoka and learning about the unique economic needs of northern communities. I would very much like to thank MPP Miller and Lesley, his Executive Assistant, for their warm welcome and encouragement.



Daryl is placed with MPP Yvan Baker (Liberal).

My government placement is with MPP Yvan Baker. His office has been very welcoming and quick to familiarize me with their projects. Cynthia, the Legislative Assistant, has been a great mentor, giving me the opportunity to choose my work and teach me more about the political process. It has been great having causal policy conversations with Jordan, the Executive Assistant, across a range of issues. Travelling with MPP Baker to constituency events in his riding of Etobicoke Centre, I have met a diverse range of people and observed MPP Baker's incredible ability to connect with his constituents. I look forward to working more with MPP Baker and his team.



Fall MPP Placements



Mackenzie is placed with MPP Todd Smith (Progressive Conservative).

I am fortunate to be working with MPP Todd Smith. MPP Smith is the Progressive Conservative critic for Energy. Although I was very unfamiliar with the portfolio, I have already learned a lot by attending stakeholder meetings. MPP Smith and Mitch, his Executive Assistant, have been very supportive and welcoming. On my third day, they asked me to write a Member's Statement and to read questions during the PC Caucus' Question Period preparation. As fellow New Brunswickers, MPP Smith and I share that similar Maritime humour. I look forward to spearheading a Private Member's bill, and learning more about his constituents in Prince Edward-Hastings.



Shireen is placed with MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers (Liberal).

I am thrilled to be placed with MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers for my government placement. MPP Des Rosiers has been the elected representative for Ottawa-Vanier since 2016. She is currently the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Prior to her election, MPP Des Rosiers served as the General Counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Dean of Civil Law at the University of Ottawa, President of the Law Commission of Canada, and a Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission, amongst many other great accomplishments. I am honoured to have MPP Des Rosiers as my mentor and I look forward to learning from her vast experiences and leadership as a lawyer, academic and politician.

Officers of the House

During our orientation period, we had the privilege of meeting with the Officers of the House. We learned about their mandate, their staff, and their personal experiences. These meetings were incredibly enlightening, and we left them inspired to learn more about the inner workings of the legislature.

The Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the House

Apart from speaking about the procedural aspect of his job, the Speaker spoke about his personal experience in navigating politics, which he described as “waltzing gracefully on a moving carpet.” The Hon. Dave Levac also discussed the idea of truth in the Canadian context, and the need for relationship-building with Indigenous peoples. We left the Speaker’s office with some inside jokes, new knowledge and most importantly a strong understanding of the role and duties of his office.



Jackie Gordon, Sergeant-at-Arms

Sergeant Jackie Gordon has climbed six-foot high walls and shattered glass ceilings. She is a trailblazer, a role model, and force to be reckoned with. Sergeant Gordon oversees the security of staff and MPPs at Queen’s Park, in addition to the maintenance of precinct properties. Sergeant Gordon also ensures decorum in the Chamber, having the responsibility to escort Members who have been named by the Speaker, and being the guardian of the Mace, a symbol of the authority of the Speaker in the House. We left our meeting with Sergeant Gordon feeling motivated to make the most of our internship.



Todd Decker, House Clerk

As Clerk, Mr. Decker is both the procedural expert for the legislature as well as the Secretary of the Board of Internal Economy. Drawing on thirty-four years of experience, Clerk Decker spoke to the nuances of his role and the changes at Queen’s Park during his tenure. Learning about the evolution and mandate of the Board of Internal Economy has been crucial to our understanding of the legislature. We look forward to following Clerk Decker’s work in the legislature!



Ontario's Independent Officers

We spent a significant part of our orientation learning about the complexity and structure of the legislature. The meetings with the Independent Officers opened our eyes to the magnitude and scope of their mandates. Thank you to the Independent Officers for inviting us to their offices and taking the time to speak with us!

We had fascinating discussions with **Mr. Brian Beamish, the Information and Privacy Commissioner**, and Assistant Commissioner Mr. David Goodies. We discussed the Acts that govern the IPC's mandate, and the processes that have been developed to safeguard the public's right to information and privacy. We were especially keen to learn about how the IPC worked to manage the impact of information technologies and Big Data analytics in the public sector. Mr. Beamish and Mr. Goodies spoke candidly about their experiences in the office and where they saw the future of privacy and access to information heading in Ontario.



We were humbled to meet **Mr. Irwin Elman, the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth**, and Laura Arndt, the Director of Strategic Development. Their office, which exuded openness and fun, was designed in collaboration with youth. We spoke about Mr. Elman's mandate, his experience managing a new commission in its first years, and his office's relationship with government. Mr. Elman and his team have done several listening tours around the province, collecting stories to report back to the Legislature. We look forward to following Mr. Elman's work as continues to be the champion of youth voices in Ontario.

We had the pleasure of speaking with **Ontario's Auditor General, Ms. Bonnie Lysyk**, and several Directors in her office, about their work and mandate. The Auditor General holds the government accountable for its spending and accounting, under its value-for-money mandate. We discussed the Office's process for choosing and exploring specific topics annually, the scope and interdisciplinary nature of its staff, as well as the difficulty posed by public-private partnerships.





We had the great opportunity to meet with “Ontario’s Watchdog,” the **Ombudsman of Ontario, Mr. Paul Dubé**, whose role is mandated by the **Ombudsman Act**. The Office of the Ombudsman handles more than 20,000 complaints a year related to Ontario government services, as well as municipalities, universities and school boards. Mr. Dubé emphasized in our meeting that communication and building relationships are key to the position, reflected in his office’s outreach efforts and online presence.

It was a pleasure to meet **Ontario’s Integrity Commissioner, the Honourable J. David Wake**, whose office is governed by the *Members’ Integrity Act, 1994*. His responsibilities are wide-ranging, pertaining to the integrity of MPPs, ministry staff, expense reviews, the Ontario Public Service, and lobbyists. We also learned about education and training initiatives for partisan and non-partisan staff. It was an honour to speak with the Hon. J. David Wake about his experiences and knowledge.



Meeting **Dr. Diane Saxe, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**, provided the opportunity to truly think outside the walls of Queen’s Park. Beyond upholding the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*, Ms. Saxe reports on the government’s compliance with environmental responsibilities. We spoke about the difficulty of developing environmental policy across jurisdictions, the lack of awareness surrounding the EBR, and economic considerations in environmental work. We appreciated Ms. Saxe’s honesty and humility and her office’s commitment to uphold its mandate.



We had a fun and educational meeting with **Mr. Boileau, the French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario** in his office, which overlooks the bustling intersection of College and Bay. Mr. Boileau spoke with passion about his mandate to protect the French language and the heritage of the Franco-Ontarian community. He also introduced us to the *Inclusive Definition of Francophone (IDF)* that includes allophones who speak French fluently or as a second language. We left his office with a deeper understanding on the importance of the French language in the life and identity of Ontarians.



Meet our Guests

We would like to thank everyone who has met with us so far. Featured here are only a few of the many guests we've had the pleasure of speaking with. They have been instrumental in our understanding of the working of the legislature and the interaction of provincial politics with the outside world. OLIP wouldn't be the same without them.



We were honoured to meet with Barbara Hall, former Mayor of Toronto (1994-1997) and Ontario Human Rights Commissioner between 2005 and 2015.



Thank you to Ms. Peggy Brooks, Director of Hansard and Reporting Services, for speaking to us about your branch's essential role in the legislature!



Thanks to Mr. Mark Bulgutch, a former producer at the CBC, we had the once in a lifetime opportunity to watching a live taping of *The National*.



Many of us prepared for OLIP by reading Mr. Regg Cohn's column. We're thankful to have spoken to him about his career and opinions that reach beyond Queen's Park.



Mr. Fausto Natarelli is the Director of the Yonge Subway Extension project. We loved his stories about his more than 30 years of experience in the public service.



It was a privilege to meet with Mr. Andrew Coyne. We spoke about the evolution of his work, political culture in Canada, and youth engagement in Canadian media.

Ontario: Yours to discover

KASSANDRA: Sioux Lookout — I loved the clean air, all the opportunities to do outdoor activities (hiking, swimming, kayaking, fishing, snowmobiling), as well as the warm hospitality of those who call northern Ontario their home.

DANI: I have many fond memories of cycling the farmland outside Ottawa in great company at sunset, feeling invincible.

MATTHEW: Algonquin Provincial Park is a great place to experience nature, canoe, and spend time with family.

JOSEF: While pursuing my Master's degree, I spent many hours in the gorgeous Emmanuel College Library at the University of Toronto.

DARYL: Manitoulin — the biggest island in Ontario. How can it not be my favourite place?

SHIREEN: I am a true girl from #TheSix — Toronto is my home!

HARMEET: The vibrant historic downtown Brampton area is my favourite. Like many residents of the Flower City, I can't get enough of the weekly arts, culture, and entertainment events held in the Garden Square.

ANA: Dundas Peak holds a special place in my heart. You can take in the natural beauty of the region while overlooking Hamilton and its urban chaos.

JASKIRAN: Hamilton, also known as the City of Waterfalls, is best suited for this title. Albion Falls is a personal favourite — its scenic water cascade is mesmerizing to watch from the viewing platforms.

MACKENZIE: Being new to Ontario, I am excited to explore more. So far, Niagara Falls has blown me away!



Alumni Spotlight



Olga Szkabarnicki

Intern Year: 1992/1993

For 20 years, Olga practiced Aboriginal Law at the Department of Justice in Ontario. Recently, she shifted careers to pursue an artistic practice in BC. Some of her work was featured in the Parallel Art Show, part of the Salt Spring National Art Prize competition.

Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I come from a small-town farming community in Ontario and got my BA in Soviet and Eastern European Studies and MA in Political Science as a SSHRC scholar from Carleton University. After OLIP, I attended Osgoode Hall Law School. Upon graduating, I clerked for Justice Cullen at the Federal Court of Canada, and later started practicing at the Department of Justice, negotiating Aboriginal land and treaty-related claims for almost 20 years. Currently I am an artist, living on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

What was your biggest learning experience in OLIP?

I was in the programme with a group of well-educated, thoughtful, and progressive-thinking interns. Women's issues were at the forefront of public discourse, and it was wonderful having access to so many female politicians. We were particularly excited to go to Yellowknife, where we met Nellie Cournoyea, then Premier of the Northwest Territories, and the second female premier in Canadian history. Thinking we could cover the salient points concerning patriarchy, colonialism, racism, and the political process all at once, one of us asked

what it was like to be a white, female political leader in a Northern territory. After a brief silence, Ms. Cournoyea patiently explained that she was Inuk, and what that meant. It was a deeply humbling experience, and I have little recollection of the rest of the interview. But I carry with me the lesson of my own susceptibility to pre-judgment, and remember to always do my homework first.

How did your time at Queen's Park influence your life after the program?

I had an intensive, rich and varied intern experience during my term with David Winninger, Parliamentary Assistant to both the Attorney General and the Native Affairs Secretariat. What I learned during OLIP has also influenced my approach to the settlement of Aboriginal land claims: an understanding of how political work is crucial if you want to create a deal that goes beyond the simple exchange of money for a release of liability; a deal that can be meaningfully implemented in the true spirit of reconciliation.

Alumni Spotlight

Waqas (Wes) Iqbal *Intern Year: 2008/2009*

Wes is a Senior Business Advisor at the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Before his career in public service, Wes articulated for Alberta Health Services and the Chief Negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations.



Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I am a public servant at heart, and I've always been certain that that's what I want to do with my life. After OLIP, I worked at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto for a year doing policy work on AODA. Then, I attended law school in Alberta to expand my skillset. After jointly articling with Alberta Health Services, and the former Chief Negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations, I was called to the Bar in 2015. I returned to Toronto to be with my now wife — the best decision I ever made. Soon after, I started working for the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS). Currently, I am the Ministry's Staff Lead for our Freedom of Information and Open Government programs. In other words, I use my policy and legal training to execute both our statutory and principled obligations to be open, accessible, and transparent to Ontarians.

What was your biggest learning experience in OLIP?

Political acuity is an invaluable skill, especially in the public service, which interfaces so closely with our elected representatives. A strong awareness of the pressures that govern the trade-offs our MPPs have to make

is critical when contemplating the advice and recommendations we provide. "Evidence-based" policy-making may be a buzzword in the halls of our Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs, but ultimately all good policy must also be democratically literate and responsive. Working with MPPs allowed me to learn a great deal that today helps me shape my policy objectives as a civil servant.

How did your time at Queen's Park influence your life after the program?

Even though I had just finished my M.A. in 2007, I was ultimately still a kid from Jane and Finch with no connections and no stand-out credentials that could justify someone serious giving me a chance. What saved me from peddling widgets was OLIP, which showed employers that I had something valuable to offer, and that some place very special — the legislature — had taken a chance on me. Since then, I've worked with St. Michael's, TVO, the City of Calgary, Alberta Health Services, and now the OPS. It all started with OLIP, and I will forever be grateful to the program for putting me on a completely different professional, and life, trajectory.

Celebrating our Sponsors

The opportunities the OLIP interns have would not be possible without the programme's wonderful sponsors. This year we are pleased to feature those who have generously sponsored us for more than ten years. Their contributions make unparalleled experiences, such as our study tours, possible. Thank you to all of our sponsors for your commitment to the programme – we are sincerely grateful for your support throughout our time at Queen's Park.

Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy

The Programme enjoys a close working relationship with the Churchill Society For the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, an organization that fosters a variety of initiatives focused on education, discussion, and debate about Canada's parliamentary democracy. The Churchill Society has been an OLIP sponsor since 1998, and its Annual Churchill Society Dinner is always a highlight for interns.



The 2008-2009 interns with Robert O'Brien from the Churchill Society.

The Co-operators

The Co-operators has been a proud sponsor of OLIP since 1996. The Co-operators is a leading Canadian-owned, multi-product insurance and financial services organization with three core areas of operation — Property and Casualty insurance, Life insurance, and institutional investments.

Ontario Community Newspaper Association

An OLIP sponsor since 2006, OCNA is a non-profit industry association comprising more than 300 member newspapers throughout the province. The Association is a hub for stakeholders that want to connect with community newspapers and offers 13 different small-member service programs.

Labatt Brewing Company

The Labatt Brewing Company Limited has been shaped by nearly 170 years of brewing excellence and commitment to the communities where it operates. It has kindly sponsored OLIP since 2005 and has generously sponsored many of our receptions at Queen's Park.

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

OECTA represents 45,000 teachers who work in publicly funded English Catholic schools in Ontario. OECTA is committed to the advancement of Catholic education. As teacher advocates, OECTA provides professional services, support, protection and leadership. It has been a proud sponsor of OLIP since 2004.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

OCUFA is the voice of 17,000 university faculty and academic librarians across Ontario. An OLIP sponsor since 2001, OCUFA represents its 28 member faculty associations through on-campus support and public advocacy. OCUFA takes the needs and concerns of its members directly to government, other higher education stakeholders, the media, and the citizens of Ontario.



The 2015-2016 interns with Mark Rosenfeld, Graeme Stewart and Erica Rayment from OCUFA.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

We are proud to present the OSSTF as our sponsor since 1998. The OSSTF has a membership of over 60,000 education professionals. The OSSTF promotes and advances the cause of public education and the rights of students, educators and educational workers.

Insurance Bureau of Canada

An OLIP sponsor since 2004, IBC is the national industry association representing Canada's private home, car and business insurers. Its member companies represent 90 percent of the property and casualty insurance market in Canada.

Toronto-Dominion Bank

An OLIP sponsor since 2001, The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its subsidiaries (known as TD Bank Group) have more than 85,000 employees around the world. They offer a full range of financial products and services to approximately 22 million customers worldwide.

Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association

OPFFA has been an OLIP sponsor since 2005. OPFFA represents over 11,000 professional fire fighters in Ontario. It provides career firefighters with the highest level of service expertise in all aspects of their professional lives.

Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario

IBAO has been a proud sponsor of OLIP since 1988, and became OLIP's first leading sponsor in 2010. The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 11,500 independent insurance brokers across the province.



The 2016-2017 interns with Brett Boadway from the IBAO.

Advocacy Solutions

Established by OLIP alumnus Ryan Clarke in 2003, Advocacy Solutions has been a sponsor since 2005. Advocacy Solutions is the culmination of over ten years of experience in legal practice, government, and business. Advocacy Solutions provides advocacy services and training to a diverse array of clients. Since 2005, OLIP interns have benefitted from Ryan's insights on effective advocacy.



This year's cohort with Ryan Clarke from Advocacy Solutions.

The Law Society of Upper Canada

LSUC governs Ontario's legal professionals in the public interest by ensuring that the people of Ontario are served by lawyers and paralegals who meet high standards of learning, competence, and professional conduct. The Law Society of Upper Canada has been an OLIP sponsor since 2004.

Ontario Real Estate Association

OREA has developed a unique working relationship with the OLIP interns since 1988. 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.

Central One Credit Union

Central One Credit Union has been our sponsor since 2002. It represents a consumer-oriented, full-service retail financial network of 133 credit unions, serving upwards of three million members. The organization acts on behalf of its member credit unions in B.C. and Ontario through its relationships with governments and its ties to provincial centrals and affiliated organizations.

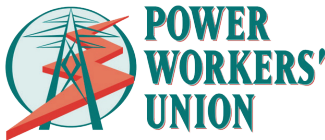
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