

Queen's Park Insider

Fall 2018

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



OLIP is a Programme of the Canadian Political Science Association

Letter from the Editors

Director's Report

Dear Readers,

As the leaves change colours and the Assembly gears up for the holidays, we are excited to present to you the 2018 fall edition of the Queen's Park Insider!

Almost three months ago, ten strangers gathered in Room 1303 of the Whitney Block. The photos and words in this magazine represent the story of how this group of strangers became a family.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme finds its strength in its people. Whether alumni, sponsors, administration, or one of the many at Queen's Park who have welcomed us warmly, behind the ten of us stand hundreds of people who have made this opportunity possible. This year, we look forward to reinvigorating our Alumni community of over 300 individuals. Please turn to page 19 to see how you can continue to be a part of this network that we are lucky to have.

The greatest of thanks go to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association for their unwavering support of our programme. As well, our generous sponsors have worked endlessly towards making this experience everything that it is. Hear more about their work on pages 22 and 23!

What do you have when a Clerk, a curator, a researcher, and a professor walk into a room? The wonderfully supportive and knowledgeable OLIP administrative team. Without their guidance and expertise, we would not be able to take full advantage of the amazing experiences that this year will surely continue to bring.

Queen's Park is a place like no other. There are over a hundred years of history in the walls of the Pink Palace, and some who walk the halls carry a seemingly equivalent institutional memory. With this year's election and change in government, new staffers have inundated the building, and the energy is one of the beginning of a new chapter. We, as the 2018-2019 cohort of OLIP Interns, are incredibly humbled to be a part of the history of this year, and of this programme.

Sincerely,

Linda Bui
Deputy Editor

Nish Chankar
Editor-in-Chief

Intern Committee Chairs

Alumni

Linda Bui

Magazine

Nish Chankar &
Linda Bui

Meetings

Clara Pasieka

Receptions

Peter Supierz-Szczyglowski

Records

Hudson Manning

Recruitment

Braelyn Guppy

Social Media

Janessa Duran

Sponsorship

Munisha Basiram &
Nikki Romano

Study Tours

Jad El Tal

Contact OLIP

1303A Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
Tel: 416-325-0040
www.olipinterns.ca



@olipinterns

Welcome to the 2018 fall edition of the Queen's Park Insider!

As the Academic Director for the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP), I am proud to provide introductory greetings in this wonderful magazine. For the past 43 years, OLIP has provided a unique opportunity for recent university graduates to gain firsthand experience and learn about the work of the Members in the Legislative Assembly.

The programme would not be possible without the continued strong partnership between the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as well as the dedicated support of the Speaker, Hon. Ted Arnott and the Clerk, Todd Decker. We must also thank our numerous sponsors, some of whom are featured in this issue, for their unwavering support of the programme and the opportunities they provide the interns. We could not deliver the programme without the tireless effort of our administrative team. A big thank you to Valerie Quioc Lim, Michael Vidoni, Elisa Ntarelli, and our volunteer archivist Rick Sage.

This year, OLIP welcomes the 43rd cohort of enthusiastic interns. They come from a diversity of backgrounds and academic disciplines, but all share an interest in and passion for Ontario government and politics. I have no doubt that this new cohort will make a great contribution to the programme and continue the legacy of excellence OLIP has been known for. Throughout their time



in the programme, the interns will have the opportunity to work closely with elected Members of Provincial Parliament, participate in study tours to other legislatures, and present academic papers to the CPSA's annual conference.

Integral to the success of the programme is our alumni. This year, I am pleased to introduce a new way alumni can stay involved with OLIP [see page 19].

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of Queen's Park Insider. I am looking forward to seeing the continued growth of OLIP this year, and beyond!

Best wishes,

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou
OLIP Academic 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 nor with any political party. OLIP provides backbench opposition and government members of the Legislative Assembly with highly qualified assistants, while simultaneously giving interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

Peter Supierz-Szczyglowski Clara Pasieka

Not long ago, politics was barely on my radar of interests. In fact, it was once my dream to become an English teacher, an endeavour which led me on a journey of self-exploration to Poland, where not only was I able to trace my ancestral roots, but also where I taught at a private school for a summer. A series of international events that unfolded during that period shifted my curiosity to pursuing a career in foreign affairs. The following summer, through York University International, I secured an internship to work abroad in Croatia with the children's rights organization Brave Phone. Having caught the travel bug, a year later I found myself in Vietnam working for the Canadian Embassy. Upon my return I was able to complete my undergraduate degree, and subsequently my Masters in Political Science at York University. I am now thrilled to be working in the heart of provincial politics alongside some truly fantastic friends.



I have always straddled the creative and political fields. While I completed York's Professional Masters in Public Policy, Law and Public Administration part-time, I was gifted with the job of playing or creating Canadian characters on screen who were impacted by politics or policies every day. As I played them, I learned about Ontarians, how to listen to them, to find the argument, debate, research, to write and re-write. I grew braver and more articulate like the strong women I got to play and more and more I wanted to be those women in all my work. Through the other jobs I held, I shared our stories in forums for small business owners, for employees, on boards of financial institutions, with non-profits, at colleges, as the Vice President of an organization, in classrooms, at academic conferences or with youth groups. I never could have imagined how my dozens of jobs, both real and fictional, could have prepared me for this work I get to do now, piecing all the parts of me together.

Clara on Peter:

It's no surprise Peter has multiple degrees under his belt given his clear love of research. The political theory expert of the group, he is the most likely to get excited if you drop a Hobbes reference. He loves to be a gracious host and a gracious guest. His vast curiosity will leave us all guessing where he'll land when OLIP is through!

Peter on Clara:

Upon speaking to Clara, one comes away with the impression that she draws on many life experiences. In all sincerity, it is a pleasure to listen to her stories. Perhaps one of the qualities that really sets her apart from the rest is her concern for others, as she prioritizes the well-being of our group above all else.

Janessa Duran

I am the daughter of two immigrant parents — one from the Philippines, one from Chile — who left their respective countries in search of opportunity. We moved to California when I was four years old, and in 2012 at age 18, I moved Toronto on my own. I never thought I would go to university, but I soon realized education could open doors to a fulfilling career. I chose to major in Diaspora & Transnational Studies and Peace, Conflict, & Justice Studies at the University of Toronto. During my undergrad, I interned with the United States Consulate General in Toronto, and with the Ontario Ministry of Energy in the Deputy Minister's Office. Further, I am the recipient of Fulbright Canada's Killam Fellowship, which allowed me to study at Smith College in Massachusetts. Now, I am interested in poverty alleviation issues and solutions. I hope to create positive change by supporting public sector initiatives that tackle systemic barriers for marginalized communities, specifically in education.



Nikki on Janessa:

From the moment I met Janessa, we instantly clicked. Janessa never fails to put a smile on everyone's face, while balancing professional seriousness, and her ability to get along with everyone is a testament to her friendliness. I foresee Janessa not leaving Queen's Park anytime soon and maybe even running for office one day!

Janessa on Nikki:

Don't let Nikki's soft disposition fool you - she is wise and skilled in her communication. You won't find her yelling to have her voice heard, but she will grab the attention of the room in a perfectly timed manner. She's smart and incredibly confident in the most inspiring way. Lastly, Nikki is a fun person and a good friend!

Nikki Romano

Throughout my life, I have always exerted a passion for learning. My commitment to social justice grew through my undergraduate studies where I earned an Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Studies from the University of Guelph, along with a Diploma in Community and Justice Services. During my undergrad, I volunteered with organizations to help empower my community. I first became interested in government after completing an internship at the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Recently, I completed a Master of Arts in Political Science, specializing in Canadian Politics and Public Policy, from McMaster University, where I also balanced my time as a teaching assistant. My academic and professional experiences have served as a muse

for my intellectual curiosity, and have nurtured my concern for self-improvement and serving others. I am deeply humbled to be a part of OLIP's 43rd cohort, and am looking forward to the unique learning experience this programme offers.

Hudson Manning

I was born, raised and still stubbornly reside in the lovely riding of Davenport in west Toronto. From school trips to Queen's Park in 6th grade (during which I got to play the Speaker!) to being a sleep-deprived undergraduate student working early mornings as a news technician with the Legislative Library's Press Clippings Service, Queen's Park has had a marked and defining presence in my life. While producing the Toronto Press Today and Provincial Press Plus news briefings (which everyone should subscribe to!) with the wonderful Press Clippings Service staff, I was a full-time student at the University of Toronto where I majored in history and ethics, society and law. I'm incredibly excited to be fully immersed in the practical functionality of a parliamentary institution with roots tracing back to the medieval parliamentary tradition, and to continue learning about the process by which constituent concerns shape law and policy through the mechanism of the Legislature!



Linda on Hudson:

Hudson has been dubbed the nicest OLIPer for his easygoing and collaborative personality. This is evident in his respect towards others and his approach to asking insightful questions. Hudson is also our human Google Map, helping our team navigate the terrain of Queen's Park, and I am excited to have him on the team!

Hudson on Linda:

Linda's claim that I am the nicest OLIPer is untrue, and only serves to further underline the reality that this title belongs with her. Linda is one of the most genuinely kind and thoughtful people I have had the pleasure of meeting, and I am continually impressed by the friendliness and insightfulness she brings to the programme!

Linda Bui

My interest in community and global issues began early. I was born in Toronto and grew up in Brampton within a first-generation Vietnamese-Canadian working class household. Through my lived experience, and those around me, I observed how policies deeply impact our daily lives. My passion for community-informed policy changes led me to complete a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough. During this time, I completed a co-op placement in Sri Lanka, and conducted fieldwork in programs to prevent violence against women. As well, I have had the immense privilege of serving as a Student Trustee, co-founding groups and initiatives in areas of sports, health, and gender, and have worked with the Ontario Lung Association and the Syrian Canadian Foundation. I am looking forward to this journey ahead, and to learning how I may continue to make a difference in my community. I am deeply humbled to be a part of the 43rd cohort!

Nish Chankar

Unionville, Ontario has been home for me since birth. That said, with family across the world, from Trinidad to New York to India, my purpose has always been with people rather than one place. As a loud kid with lots of opinions, being 'grounded' meant having my books confiscated by my parents. In University, I got involved with student politics early on, and quickly realized that the best way to solve a problem is to get it at its root. Whether this means advocating for the re-writing of student union bylaws, or helping research for the debate of a bill in the House, policy work effects systemic change. This was reinforced by an exposure to diverse governing structures, gained while studying abroad in Shanghai and Beijing, and while working at the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin. I'm super excited to explore new parts of my province and country throughout this year with OLIP, and to continue to learn of ways I can use my background in economics to address and analyze issues of public policy!



Jad on Nish:

It is difficult to describe Nish in a few words because of how dynamic she is. She has the ability to light up the room, and I am fortunate enough to be on a team with her. She's someone anyone can count on for being there as a colleague, but more importantly as a friend. I can't wait to see where this year takes our friendship!

Nish on Jad:

Jad is what you'd call a triple threat. He has a relentless curiosity that leaves him asking the best questions, functions as the big-hearted glue that keeps us together, and sings! Jad is equal parts supporter and comedic relief for those of us who are lucky enough to call him our colleague. This year wouldn't be the same without him!

Jad El Tal

One of the hardest questions I've had to answer in life is "where's home for you?" Although it is a cliché to say it, I am a citizen of the world. I was born in Dubai, and in 2001, my family and I immigrated to Mississauga and lived there for another 5 years. I moved to Lebanon in 2006 in order to learn Arabic and get closer to my cultural roots. I studied at an international school in Beirut, and learned a lot about myself, about my family, and made some amazing friends. At 18, I moved to Montreal to study at McGill University, where I became more engaged in Canadian politics. I still spent my summers in Lebanon working in various NGOs and for the UN. Most prominently, I worked at the United Nations Development Programme in 2017, working on projects aimed at fostering positive relations between Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees in Lebanese villages. This eye-opening experience showed me the importance of how governments and education can impact people's lives.

Meet the Interns

OLIP '18 - '19 Snapshots

Braelyn Guppy

Growing up in Belleville, my spur of spontaneous passions and unwillingness to specialize in one thing kept me involved in sports, performing arts, and volunteering initiatives within my community. When I moved to Toronto to start my BA in Professional Communication at Ryerson University, I was overwhelmed by the diversity of experiences around me. I quickly got involved, including as President of the Ryerson Communication and Design Society which helped students from creative programs collaborate. I am also a musical theatre enthusiast, debuting with the Ryerson Musical Theatre Company as a director in 2017. I am fascinated by the disruption of technology in creative sectors, as well as in public institutions. This year, I hope to explore our Provincial Legislature and leverage this privileged experience to learn how to better provoke changemaking. I am constantly humbled by my inspiring OLIPers and am thrilled to be participating in this amazing opportunity!



Munisha Basiram

As a Guyanese-born Canadian, I have always been interested in global and international politics, which is reflected in my involvement with various organizations. I grew to realize that the best avenue to achieve substantial and lasting change is through policy. This understanding compelled me to pursue a Bachelor of Public Administration from York University's School of Public Policy where I held various leadership roles with the Public Policy and Administration Student Association. Prior to OLIP, I worked for the Ontario Public Service at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. My role as a Program Coordinator strengthened my understanding of the stages of the policy-making process. While it is still a long-term goal to improve the circumstances of my Guyanese neighbours, my OPS experience solidified the importance of advocating within Ontario. I believe that OLIP will undoubtedly provide me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on the political implications of public policy.

Munisha on Braelyn:

When I first met Braelyn I was intrigued by her unique style and anything-but-the-GTA hometown. Braelyn's sense of humour and bold personality are my favourite things about her. After OLIP, I am certain that we will be seeing a lot more of Braelyn publicly, if not in the political world, then definitely on Broadway!

Braelyn on Munisha:

Munisha naturally exudes passion and a genuine eagerness to learn. She leaves space for everyone's ideas, thoughtfully engages in discussions, and leaves her mind open to her environment and peers. She constantly raises the bar for critical thinking and photogenic-ness, and I can't wait to continue learning alongside her this year!



Waiting for the TTC? Let's take a selfie!



Some of these interns are looking scarier than usual ...



Taking a break from all the serious posing!



Interns hard at work during Orientation!



Travelling in style to our meetings with Sponsors!



Hi Mom! Yes, that's us being introduced in the Speaker's Gallery!



Linda is placed with MPP Laura Mae Lindo (New Democratic Party).

I am thrilled to begin my first OLIP placement in MPP Laura Mae Lindo's office. MPP Lindo is a Member of Ontario's Official Opposition, serving as the NDP Critic for Anti-Racism as well as for Citizenship and Immigration Services. She is the first New Democrat to represent her riding of Kitchener Centre, a growing tech and innovation hub in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. MPP Lindo brings to her new role as an elected official and critic portfolios a wealth of knowledge and unique experience, having previously been the Director of Diversity and Equity at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her team consists of several community office staffers and her Legislative Assistant, Carly Pettinger, all of whom I am looking forward to working alongside and learning from immensely in my tenure as a legislative intern!

Janessa is placed with MPP Ross Romano (Progressive Conservative).

This term, I have the pleasure of being placed with MPP Ross Romano, who represents the riding of Sault Ste. Marie. MPP Romano is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, as well as to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs. In my short time in this office, MPP Romano has taught me how to keep my game face on in the House, and how to stay professional under pressure. MPP Romano is ardently passionate about his riding of Sault Ste. Marie. I began my placement in MPP Romano's office at a very hectic time, and I am grateful to him, his Executive Assistant Scott Ramsay, and his Legislative Assistant Anisha Vohora for welcoming me into their office and guiding me through my internship.



Jad is placed with MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria (Progressive Conservative).

For my fall OLIP term, I have the privilege of being placed with MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria, who represents the riding of Brampton South. MPP Sarkaria is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. One of the youngest Members in the House, MPP Sarkaria is energetic and passionate about his riding. He currently chairs the Select Committee on Financial Transparency, and with his career in law, brings a wealth of legislative knowledge to Queen's Park. MPP Sarkaria maintains a positive office environment, and the Ministry staff have contributed greatly to my placement experience thus far. From the policy analysts to office managers, everyone has been so welcoming. I am excited to be working in such a new environment, and am incredibly thankful for this opportunity!



Nikki is placed with MPP Marit Stiles (New Democratic Party).

I am beyond thrilled to be working with MPP Marit Stiles for my opposition placement. MPP Stiles represents the riding of Davenport, and is the NDP Critic for Education. As a new MPP she delivers a wealth of knowledge from her former positions as President of Canada's NDP, and as a school board trustee. In a few short weeks, I have learned a tremendous amount about MPP Stiles' portfolio and the role of the Official Opposition. My role in her office has consisted of preparing briefing notes for stakeholder consultations, conducting research, drafting questions, and writing petitions. I am most excited about leading the work on her Private Member's Bill. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to MPP Stiles and her Legislative Assistant, Greg Denton, for kindly welcoming me into their office, and for being such great mentors.



Peter is placed with MPP Kathleen Wynne (Liberal).

It is a great honour to be doing my opposition placement with MPP Kathleen Wynne, who represents the riding of Don Valley West. From day one, MPP Wynne has made me feel included in the work of her office. Activities include everything from attending events with her as former premier, to sitting in on stakeholder conversations and briefing her on Committee meetings, to assisting with putting together a Private Member's Bill. As the Liberal Critic for Education, she has not hesitated to take advantage of my own experience in the Ministry of Education. Of primary concern is the work of her constituency office, staffed by Aafaaq, Afie, and her Executive Assistant Wendy, who have each welcomed me warmly. I have no doubt that the coming months with MPP Wynne will pass by all too quickly.

Hudson is placed with MPP Goldie Ghamari (Progressive Conservative).

I am both honoured and incredibly excited to be working with Carleton MPP Goldie Ghamari for my government placement. Recently elected to Queen's Park, MPP Ghamari genuinely seems to never stop working. MPP Ghamari has been excellent at providing mentorship, while also granting me the latitude and responsibility to take on advanced and substantial work in her office. Her high expectations, coupled with her commitment to ensuring this placement is a unique and positive learning experience, have made her office a fantastic opportunity for learning and professional growth. I very much look forward to spending the next several months working with MPP Ghamari and I am certain that I will fondly look back at my experience in her office as an incredibly formative time in my career development.



Clara is placed with MPP Doug Downey (Progressive Conservative).

I am honoured to be working with the Member for Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, MPP Doug Downey. MPP Downey, James Nicol, and everyone at the Ministry of Finance have fully welcomed me by giving me plenty of autonomy with the tasks I am interested in. In addition, they are always available to connect me with others, in order to ensure that everything we write is nuanced and well-researched. It is a true gift to work in an office where I can contribute, and where I feel that my curiosity about everything is encouraged. I enjoy coming into an office where I can challenge and be challenged so often. I look forward to "riding the bus" with MPP Downey, to the people we will meet, and to the things yet unknown that we will get to experience along the way.



Nish is placed with MPP Bhutla Karpoche (New Democratic Party).

This fall, I am working with MPP Bhutla Karpoche, who represents the vibrant riding of Parkdale—High Park in the west end of Toronto. As a new member, MPP Karpoche brings to the table eight years of experience as a political staffer. With a background in grassroots community organizing, and as the Official Opposition Critic for Mental Health and Addictions, she approaches each and every task with an incredible energy. Through her diverse experience in stakeholder relations, I have already learned so much about the necessity of listening to voices and stories when making policy decisions. The beginning of my placement has been off to a busy start, and I am lucky to work closely with the Legislative Assistant Lisa, and to have the wonderfully helpful constituency staff Carly, Charlotte, and Spencer, just a TTC ride away!





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

I am excited to be placed with MPP Norm Miller, Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka, and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Whenever I share that I am working with MPP Miller, the response from both sides of the aisle is consistently “Norm is a great guy.” MPP Miller has been the incumbent for Parry Sound—Muskoka for the past seventeen years, preceded by past premiers Ernie Eves and Frank Miller, his father. MPP Miller’s Executive Assistant Lesley has worked with five different MPPs during her time at Queen’s Park, and has been a wealth of institutional knowledge. I am overwhelmingly grateful for their kindness. I have been thrilled to learn about this diverse and fascinating riding, and look forward to visiting the riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka.

Munisha is placed with MPP Michael Mantha (New Democratic Party).

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with MPP Michael Mantha and his Legislative Assistant Thomas Forget, while learning about their beautiful riding of Algoma—Manitoulin. This Northern Ontario riding is characterized by the forestry, mining and aquaculture industries. As the Critic for Northern Development and Mines, MPP Mantha is able to draw upon his experience in the forestry industry to communicate with businesses and residents. MPP Mantha’s enthusiasm for his constituents is evident from the moment you step into the office. From artwork on the walls, to sculptures and geological trinkets, every piece holds a story and connection for MPP Mantha. I look forward to gaining a deeper understanding of the unique issues of the North, while sharing my excitement for calling Ontario home.



The Honourable Doug Ford 26th Premier of Ontario, 2018 - present

We had the honour and privilege of meeting with Premier Doug Ford early on in the OLIP year. We sat down with him in the Executive Council boardroom, where he welcomed us with enthusiasm. Premier Ford began by opening the floor to us, seeking our opinions on topics of contemporary interest such as freedom of speech. Afterwards, he entertained our many questions, and spoke frankly about his journey into politics. We ended our visit with a personal tour of the Premier’s Office, complete with meeting his key staff. We would like to thank Premier Ford for being generous with his time, and for supporting us with his belief that youth engagement in politics is important and makes a difference.



Kathleen Wynne 25th Premier of Ontario, 2013 - 2018

MPP Kathleen Wynne, the 25th premier of Ontario, is the first former premier our cohort has had the pleasure of meeting. During our hour together, MPP Wynne spoke about her leadership style, and the journey she took towards the premiership, noting the challenges she faced when seeking re-election in 2018. Our meeting with MPP Wynne brought to light the difficult task that defines the job of any premier, past or present: balancing listening to Ontarians while acting on their behalf. Ms. Wynne reminded us that all leaders of Ontario, regardless of partisanship, share a simple goal: to make Ontario better. We would like to thank former Premier Wynne for warmly welcoming us to Queen’s Park.



The Honourable Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

The Speaker is one of the longest sitting MPPs, with over 28 years of experience in the House. We were delighted to hear the Speaker's goal of making the relationship between government and Opposition Members more congenial through means such as out-of-House luncheons. We were also interested in hearing of Mr. Arnott's plans for his balancing act: remaining active within his constituency while taking on such an important role at the OLA. We are excited to get to know him better as the year unfolds!



Todd Decker, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

The Clerk is in an interesting position as a nonpartisan actor from whom all Members can seek advice about legislative procedure. Mr. Decker shared a really important accessibility initiative with us: making the often intimidating Standing Orders easier to understand. We look forward to a more digestible version of the rules that govern the Legislative Assembly, and are already envious of the interns who get to take full advantage of this future endeavour!



Jacquelyn Gordon, Sergeant-at-Arms

Entrusted with maintaining order and security in the Legislative Assembly, Jacquelyn Gordon is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Pink Palace. With more than thirty years of experience in policing services, Ms. Gordon brings a wealth of experience and security improvement ideas to Queen's Park. Not one to boast, Ms. Gordon modestly played down the fact she is the first woman to have held the position. She chose instead to emphasize the need to always strive for excellence at one's work, despite any adversity one may face!



Trevor Day, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Day's division is responsible for Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services, Broadcast and Recording Service, Parliamentary Protocol & Public Relations, the Procedural Services Branch, and the Table Research Office. Wearing multiple hats means that Mr. Day plays an integral role in the House, and also fills in for the Clerk when needed. His institutional memory was evident with the depth of his answers to our questions. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from his considerable experience!



Tonia Grannum, Clerk of Procedural Services

Drawing on thirty years of experience at the Legislature, Ms. Grannum kindly provided a candid discussion about what it is like to work here. With her wealth of knowledge, Ms. Grannum provided an in-depth overview of Committees of the House, Procedural Services, and the legislative process. As a previous OLIP coordinator, Ms. Grannum is not only a friendly face but also a huge supporter of the programme. Overall, the insights she provided to us will be useful to our work within and outside of OLIP.



William Short, Senior Clerk — House Documents

Mr. Short was keen to impart a trove of knowledge on how to prepare for the challenges that lay ahead of us, with regards to choosing our placements and working together as a team. Memorably, Mr. Short shared his successful initiative to significantly reduce the use of paper in the Assembly, thus saving on costs and reducing waste. His reminder to "dress for the job you want, not the one you have," is a takeaway we remind ourselves of daily!



Ontario's Independent Officers



The **Auditor General, Bonnie Lysyk**, and her team were in the midst of assisting the Legislature in the creation of the Select Committee on Financial Transparency. Ms. Lysyk explained the ins and outs of the Province's auditing process, all the while sharing with us important lessons on financial accountability within the government.

When meeting with the **French Language Services Commissioner, François Boileau**, the interns were blown away by his kindness and generosity. Mr. Boileau is passionate about fulfilling the office's mandate to ensure French language services are available to francophones across the province, so that more Ontarians gain access to necessary goods and services.



The **Information and Privacy Commissioner, Brian Beamish**, is tasked with resolving thousands of information appeals and privacy complaints every year. As young people living in the era of social media, we were left with wise nuggets of advice on how to stay safe online and ensure our right to privacy is respected as we continue on in our careers.

Ontario's **Ombudsman, Paul Dubé**, is perhaps more endearingly known as Ontario's Watchdog. The Ombudsman has a focus of proactive communication, and his welcoming attitude and genuine concern for the wellbeing of Ontarians is apparent in his interactions with his team. We stand by our comments at the end of the presentation - the Ombudsman is cool!



How do I stay in touch as an Alumnus?

There are many ways you can get involved as an alumnus including:

- (1) Staying connected by joining our private alumni group pages on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- (2) Attending our receptions and alumni meet-ups throughout the year. Notices for meet-ups are sent by email and are posted to our alumni group pages.
- (3) Participating in our mid-career mentorship programme with the current cohort of OLIP interns. More details to follow later this year!

Please email our **Alumni Committee Chair** Linda Bui at lbui@olipinterns.ca to be added to our private alumni social media pages or to provide OLIP with your most up-to-date contact information.

You may also complete our google survey at <https://tinyurl.com/OLIPAlumniUpdate> to update your contact information.



A photo from our most recent Alumni meet-up in October, 2018!
Connect with us via email to join us at our next one.



Christine Tovee, OLIP '93 - '94



Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I graduated from the University of Toronto as an aerospace engineer before I joined OLIP. I believe I am still the only engineer that has ever been an intern. After doing my graduate studies at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), I moved to Europe and worked in the aerospace and defence industry for over 15 years. I am currently a member of Canada's Space Advisory Board reporting to the federal Minister for Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and of the Independent Review Panel for Defence Acquisition in the Department of National Defence. Through my company, CATx Technology, I consult with small and medium-sized enterprises to accelerate their technology development and sustain innovation.

How has OLIP and your time at Queen's Park influenced your career or life?

At the time of my graduation from engineering school, there was little discussion about the social aspects of engineering and technology especially in terms of how technology shapes social challenges and how political and social engagement are key elements to a successful engineering project. After OLIP, I took a number of courses on technology and policy at MIT to expand my awareness of influences. The aerospace sector is highly political and receives a lot of government interest and support. Today, I am pleased that engineers are so much more engaged in public debate and problem solving.

What piece of advice do you have for this year's interns?

I think the biggest lesson from my time as an OLIP intern was that most people involved in any public or political sphere of activities are doing what they believe is their best. That does not mean that I do not get frustrated by sloppy reasoning or advocate for an evidence-based approach to policy-making looking at the long term effects: however, few individuals act out of malicious intent. Coming from this perspective, I think you can approach a dialogue differently. My advice to the current interns is to take every opportunity to ask questions. Learning the art of a good question will take you far.



David Donovan, OLIP '08 - '09



Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I grew up in a small town in Oxford County in the heart of Ontario's dairy and tobacco country, but always had a keen interest in public policy, politics and our parliamentary system. After OLIP, I spent a year abroad before returning to work at the Ontario Legislature in opposition with MPP Bob Bailey (Sarnia-Lambton) and the Progressive Conservatives. Following this I joined Enbridge's government relations team, which provided me an opportunity to further my interests in energy and environmental policy. At Enbridge I advocated for a wide-range of projects in Ontario including renewable natural gas, energy conservation, liquid pipelines, geothermal, wind and solar energy. Since returning to Queen's Park, I lead the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' team on key files such as climate change; waste and recycling; air and water quality; and provincial parks.

How has OLIP and your time at Queen's Park influenced your career or life?

OLIP was an amazing opportunity, and has a strong alumni network. My year was full of countless highlights and learning experiences that was shared with a tight-knit cohort of interns, and I remain very good friends with many of them. The programme further solidified my interest in our parliamentary system and public policy. OLIP builds political acuity, and teaches you what actually shapes public policy, beyond what you would learn in the classroom.



What was your greatest lesson from your time as an OLIP intern?

Politics from within an elected member's office immerses you into an environment where you are required to navigate often competing stakeholder interests, while balancing the needs of a constituency and programme. Piloting through this setting is often fast-paced and full of processes that are rigorous and sometimes quite complex. But the challenging environment provides you with the toolset and personal and professional network that is helpful in any professional role.

We want to express our sincerest appreciation for the contributions made by our sponsors. Without their continuous support, our programme experience—which includes study tours and constituency visits—would not be possible. This fall term, we had the opportunity to meet with a number of sponsors to learn about their work, and the world of government relations in particular. The following are a few of our reflections from the discussions.

To all of our sponsors, we want to extend a warm thank you and we look forward to meeting with you during our time at Queen's Park.



We enjoyed meeting with the government relations team at **Enbridge Canada**, which has been a supporter of the programme for several years. Our partnership with Enbridge has allowed us to learn about the complexities of the energy sector, including how it translates into the world of governance. Tim Smitheman, Enbridge's Senior Government Affairs Advisor, shared with us that the business of government relations only works when there is a network of trust amongst colleagues, and this sometimes includes making connections across party lines.

As a sponsor since 1998, the **Churchill Society For the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy** (or Churchill Society) has a long-standing relationship with OLIP. We were grateful to meet with Board members Corrine Murray and John L. Parker. The Churchill Society graciously allows one OLIP intern to serve on its Board of Directors, and all interns look forward to attending the Annual Churchill Society Dinner.



Established in 1922, **Professional Engineers Ontario** (PEO) is the licensing and regulating body for professional engineering in the province. We had the opportunity to meet their team during their evening reception at Queen's Park. David Brown, President of PEO, shared with us the significance of cultivating our professional network. Mr. Brown reminded us that face-to-face conversations are central to creating lasting impressions with potential employers.



The **Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada** (CHF Canada) aims to inspire, represent, and serve their members in a united co-operative housing movement. We had the opportunity to meet Frank Wheeler, President of CHF Canada, during its Advocacy Day at Queen's Park. Mr. Wheeler highlighted the importance of creating an "elevator pitch" for the issue and its proposed solutions, so that when there is an opportunity to connect with decision makers, one is well prepared.

Advocacy Solutions, a sponsor since 2005, was established by OLIP alumnus Ryan Clarke and is the culmination of over ten years of experience in legal practice, government relations, and business. We had the privilege of hearing Mr. Clarke's reflections on advocacy, and on how learning to personalize a policy or political issue can improve decision makers' understanding of concerns and potential solutions, in order to inform policy changes.



We appreciate having had the opportunity to meet with government relations team members of the **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** (CIBC), Elisabeth Laratta and Meredith Taylor, who shared reflections on their work in federal and territorial-level government, respectively. They advised us to become well-versed in current affairs by reading news from multiple sources — in government relations, knowledge is everything!



The **Toronto-Dominion Bank** (TD), an OLIP sponsor since 2001, serves 22 million customers worldwide. We visited their headquarters in Toronto to meet Gary Clement, Director of Government Relations. Mr. Clement drew on his wealth of experiences to remind us that, because the world of politics is small, maintaining positive working relationships is necessary. Teamwork is everything, and colleagues are one's support in finding effective solutions to challenging problems.

Purple Trillium Sponsors



Lead Sponsors

ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION

Major Sponsors



Sponsors

