

Queen's Park Insider

Spring 2019

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



OLIP is a Programme of the Canadian Political Science Association

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Just like that, nine of the ten months of our time with the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme have passed by in the blink of an eye. In this issue of the *Queen's Park Insider*, you will find pages filled with incredible meetings, moments, and reflections from our time in the Programme.

From visiting with past premiers and Speakers and hearing first-hand accounts of the days we used to only read about in books, to engaging with the movers and shakers who have a stake in the decisions of the House, this year with OLIP surpassed the expectations of our wildest imaginations including participating in study tours. So far, this cohort of OLIP interns has visited the legislatures in Ottawa and Yellowknife. In June, the interns will travel to Vancouver for the Canadian Political Science Association's (CPSA) annual conference to present their original research on legislative affairs. Finally, we will depart for Belfast, Northern Ireland, and will end our tenure as OLIP interns in London, United Kingdom, while learning about the parliamentary systems across the Atlantic. These study tours stand out as special memories that our cohort will cherish deeply.

These opportunities for growth and discovery are made possible by the support of our sponsors, whom you can learn more about on the last few pages of the magazine. We are incredibly honoured by the encouragement of the CPSA and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Their support is demonstrated by providing recent graduates an unparalleled opportunity to understand and study our country's political institutions from the inside. We hope to continue to promote youth interest and engagement in our democratic institutions, long after we finish our time with OLIP.

Finally, we would also like to extend our gratitude to the OLIP administrative team, comprised of Academic Director Dr. Peter P. Constantinou, Programme Coordinators Valerie Quioc Lim, Jocelyn McCauley, and Michael Vidoni, and Programme Assistant Elisa Natarelli.

Sincerely,

Linda Bui
Deputy Editor

Nish Chankar
Editor-in-Chief

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 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.

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Director's Address

Welcome to the 2019 spring edition of the *Queen's Park Insider*!

As we near the end of another year of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP), it is my honour as the Academic Director to extend my appreciation to the individuals and organizations that have contributed to growing the capacity of this tremendous programme.

OLIP would not be possible without the strong partnership between the Canadian Political Science Association and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and the committed support of the Speaker, the Honourable Ted Arnott, and Todd Decker, the Clerk of the House. We must also thank our entire administrative team for their dedicated support. A sincere thank you to Programme Assistant Elisa Ntarelli, Programme Coordinator Michael Vidoni, and our volunteer archivist Rick Sage. This year we welcomed Jocelyn McCauley to our team, and in June, we will bid farewell and thank you to Coordinator Valerie Quioc Lim for her hard work over the past three years.

The Programme is generously supported by many sponsors, as you can tell by the logos on the back cover of this issue. Sponsors not only take the time to meet with the interns to share their invaluable insights about their respective industries and work, but they also contribute financially to the study tours, allowing interns to learn about other legislatures outside of Ontario.

This 43rd year of OLIP was also marked by a number of exciting highlights for the interns. For instance, the interns hosted visits from two other legislative internship programmes including the federal Parliamentary Internship Programme, and the Manitoba Legislature Internship Programme, which you can read about on page 19.



This year we introduced new ways to support OLIP, and alumni and friends of the programme are encouraged to give back to the programme directly by visiting our newly updated website at www.olipinterns.ca/donate-now. I encourage you to consider OLIP as part of your charitable giving. Indeed, it is a rewarding experience to invest in building capacity in our future leaders.

As I look forward to the successful conclusion of the 43rd year of OLIP and welcoming the new 44th cohort of interns this September, I want to thank you for supporting the programme by reading this issue of *Queen's Park Insider*!

Best wishes,

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou
OLIP Academic Director

Spring MPP Placements

Braelyn is placed with MPP Jamie West (New Democratic Party).

I am thrilled to be working with Sudbury MPP and Official Opposition Critic for Labour Jamie West. I always say that I work in the 'smiliest office' in Queen's Park because MPP West greets every experience with a sense of humour and kindness. MPP West brings his immense passion for his community to the forefront of this work. His background as President of the Sudbury and District Labour Council, advocacy with the United Steelworkers, and work in health and safety allows him to take a well-rounded approach to labour relations. I have learned much from MPP West about the complexities and history of the labour movement in Canada. Thank you also to his fantastic Legislative Assistant Alison for her patience and unwavering positivity, and to Nick in the constituency office for helping make my experience so meaningful thus far!



Peter is placed with MPP Natalia Kusendova (Progressive Conservative).

It is with much excitement that I am completing my government placement with MPP Natalia Kusendova, who represents the riding of Mississauga Centre. More than 100 languages are spoken in her riding, of which she herself speaks five, which makes for an interestingly diverse number of communities to represent. Bringing to the table a background in nursing, it has been inspiring to witness MPP Kusendova's resolve as a new Member, and to be a part of a team that takes on so many challenges. There is never a dull moment in MPP Kusendova's office, and I am lucky to have the support of her Legislative staff members Kasia, Ania, and Jared, who have all welcomed me graciously. If the short time I've been in her office gives any indication, the next few months promise countless opportunities for professional growth and lasting memories.

Munisha is placed with MPP Stephen Lecce (Progressive Conservative).

This term, I have the opportunity to learn from MPP Stephen Lecce, the Member for King—Vaughan, alongside his staff consisting of Jeff, Sebastian, Josie, and Anna. The riding encompasses metropolitan areas like the City of Vaughan and various unincorporated communities within King Township. As the Deputy House Leader, as well as Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and the Minister of Infrastructure, this millennial MPP brings a unique perspective to Queen's Park, drawing upon years of student government and federal government experience. I look forward to being a part of MPP Lecce's office by assisting the internal administration of a ministry, and contributing work of value to serve the citizens of his riding and the province. I am thankful to MPP Lecce and his team for welcoming me into their office.



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

I am honoured to be spending my second placement in the office of MPP France Gélinas, who represents the riding of Nickel Belt. One of my favourite things to work on with MPP Gélinas is engaging with the media, whether to whip off a press release, or engage in scrums. Her Legislative Assistant Damien has helped to write even more efficiently, and at the same time, maintain the nuances of stories within this writing. MPP Gélinas has helped me make connections between my observations in meetings and in the House, in order to contribute ideas to our team. It is humbling to have been able to receive the types of stories that come through the office of the Official Opposition Critic for Health, and I'm glad to have been able to bear witness and suggest pathways. I am also excited to visit the northern riding of Nickel Belt during this placement!

Spring MPP Placements

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

I have the honour of being placed with a long-time OLIP mentor and MPP Catherine Fife of Waterloo. I am MPP Fife's sixth OLIP intern, so her familiarity with incorporating an intern into the workings of her office has been demonstrated since the very beginning of my placement. From writing statements, to questions, to letters, to correspondence, I hit the ground running with a busy and gratifying start. MPP Fife is strongly connected to her riding, and is a passionate advocate for everything that is Kitchener—Waterloo related. As a mentor, she has taught me tips and tricks of writing, research and public speaking. I would be remiss to not mention the support, guidance and friendship that I have received from Legislative Assistant and former OLIP Intern (2016-2017) Emily, and constituency assistants Suzie and Sydney.



Linda is placed with MPP Belinda Karahalios (Progressive Conservative).

In the latter part of OLIP, I have the immense pleasure of working with MPP Belinda Karahalios, who represents the beautiful riding of Cambridge. In my short time in her office, I have already witnessed firsthand the meaning of balancing priorities between multiple portfolios and roles. Not only is MPP Karahalios on the Standing Committee on Social Policy, but she also serves as a Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. MPP Karahalios brings to her role a broad range of knowledge, having worked for various national organizations in healthcare including the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Thank you to MPP Karahalios for her mentorship, and thank you to her executive assistants, Victoria and Lisa, for the warm welcome thus far! I am thrilled to complete the remainder of the programme in her office.

Nikki is placed with MPP Paul Calandra (Progressive Conservative).

This term, I have the pleasure of being placed with MPP Paul Calandra, who represents the riding of Markham—Stouffville, and is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. As a former federal Member of Parliament, MPP Calandra served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper. MPP Calandra brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Legislature, and I am grateful for the chance to learn from him. From day one, MPP Calandra has included me in the work of his office. For instance, I had the opportunity to take the lead on preparing his Private Member's Bill. I am excited for the months to come and would like to thank MPP Calandra and his wonderful staffers, Owen and Ali, for welcoming me to their office.



Nish is placed with MPP Mitzie Hunter (Liberal).

I am honoured to be placed with MPP Mitzie Hunter, the Member for Scarborough—Guildwood, for my second and final term of OLIP. It has been fascinating to learn from MPP Hunter's vast array of experiences, from the non-profit sector as former CEO of CivicAction, to her time as Vice-President of Goodwill Industries, and also from her former role as Ontario's Minister of Education. Each day in this office provides me with a chance for learning and growth, whether it be through media opportunities, or last-minute House speeches. It has been lovely working with the constituency staff, Julianna, Michele, and Sidrah. As well, my utmost thanks go to MPP Hunter's Legislative Assistant, Kaidie, for her constant compassion and patience in the face of all the problem-solving and learning our dynamic work leads us into!

Spring MPP Placements

Janessa is placed with MPP Rima Berns-McGowan (New Democratic Party).

I am incredibly grateful to be placed with MPP Rima Berns-McGowan, who represents the riding of Beaches—East York and is the NDP Critic for Poverty and Homelessness. MPP Berns-McGowan has an immense passion for the community she serves and is incredibly motivated to make changes when it comes to the issues related to her critic portfolio. In the office, I work closely with MPP Berns-McGowan's Executive Assistant Laura, who brings to the office an extensive history of community organizing. Both MPP Berns-McGowan and Laura have quickly become mentors to me, which has allowed me to turn to them for advice for my work here at the Legislature. I know my time here is running out quickly, and I will do my best to leave my mark in her office!



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

I have the privilege of being placed with Ottawa—Vanier MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers. First elected in 2016, MPP Des Rosiers has used her expertise in constitutional and human rights law to inform her work in the Legislature. Having six portfolios and too few hours in the day has proven to be the only limitation on the amount of meaningful, substantive work that I've been able to take on in her office. It has been incredibly exciting and professionally fulfilling to be able to work closely with MPP Des Rosiers on issues of justice policy, and I'm very grateful that both she and her Legislative Assistant Mary-Liz have formed an incredibly welcoming and accessible team to join. I'm very much looking forward to the next several months working alongside them both!

Honorary Intern

Susan Viets is this year's honorary OLIP intern, a distinction awarded to an individual who has made a significant positive contribution to the Programme. Susan served as a Programme Coordinator with OLIP from 2015-2018.

Can you describe your background and history with OLIP?

I've worked at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for more than 12 years, initially as a Research Officer in the Legislative Research Service and more recently as a manager of the unit.

In the summer of 2015, I began shadowing Rick Sage to take over as one of the two Legislative Assembly coordinators on the OLIP Administrative team comprising of Dr. Peter Constantinou, Academic Director; Valerie Quioc Lim, Coordinator; and Elisa Ntarelli, Programme Assistant. I served as one of the coordinators until the summer of 2018.

Why did you decide to be a part of the OLIP Administrative team, and what did you hope to gain while being a part of the programme?

Before joining OLIP, I had been part of the Legislative Assembly's mentoring programme and found the experience of getting to know mentees, and helping them explore options for career development to be very rewarding.

Joining the OLIP Administrative team was an opportunity to continue with mentoring, this time with smart, recent graduates just beginning their careers. What I did not initially know was that I would be joining such a great team. I loved the time I spent with Peter, Val, Rick, Elisa and all the interns. It was fun seeing life through the eyes of 20 year olds again, and a good feeling to be part of the Administrative team helping to solve problems and contributing to making the programme as excellent as it is.



What was a rewarding or highlight-worthy moment for you while being an active part of the programme?

One highlight-worthy event was the 40th OLIP anniversary in 2015. It was quite something to watch interns from decades past and from different parts of Canada come back to celebrate at a fall reception. It was a big fun reunion that no one wanted to leave. I remember having to pluck glasses from people's hands so the caterers patiently waiting to drop the last ones in packing crates could go home.

I'm looking forward to finding out how the interns whom I've come to know build their own careers. I wish them well in their present and future endeavours, and hope their experiences with OLIP help to build both lasting friendships and success.

Interns on the Hill

The **Honourable Geoff Regan** has been the Speaker of the House of Commons since 2015, and a Nova Scotia Liberal MP since 1993. In our meeting, Speaker Regan memorably acted out a scene from the British House of Commons in 1621, when Speaker Lenthall famously defended Parliament against King Charles. The Speaker of any House has the tough job of maintaining order during proceedings, and we are incredibly thankful that Speaker Regan took time out of his day to sit down with us.



One of our first meetings in Ottawa was with **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**, the Liberal Member of Parliament for Beaches—East York. Since his election in 2015, MP Erskine-Smith has been a strong advocate for youth engagement in politics. We thank Mr. Erskine-Smith for reminding us to think outside the box in how we picture ourselves contributing to the political process.

We met with federal Green Party Leader **Elizabeth May**, Member of Parliament for Saanich—Gulf Islands in British Columbia. MP May is passionate about advancing the environmental agenda, and sharing the Green Party's message on sustainability. Prior to being the first Green Party Member to be elected to parliament, she was a lawyer, activist, organizer, and writer. Ms. May imparted to us a sense of urgency on addressing climate change issues through policy decisions.



Erin O'Toole is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Durham. In the previous Conservative majority government, MP O'Toole served as the Minister of Veterans Affairs, ran for party leadership, and is now serving as the critic for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. MP O'Toole provided valuable insights to us, offering his perspective on the value of the Official Opposition in holding the government accountable.

Senator **Peter Boehm** has many tales of adventure, acquired during his extensive career in public and foreign service. Senator Boehm shared with us the ways in which he thinks groups and individuals interact differently with the Senate, as a result of the emergence of independent senators. We learned that surprise interactions in life, such as the ones he has had in his varied career, prepare one well for any of life's more challenging events.



We were thrilled to meet with the **Honourable William (Bill) Blair**, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction. Minister Blair brings years of experience as a police officer, notably as Chief of the Toronto Police Service, to his work. He imparted to us that Members of the Opposition in the House bring their own valuable insight, stating that in order to be respectful to the electorate, one must also be respectful to the Opposition.

It was a memorable experience to meet with the **Honourable Bardish Chagger**, the Member of Parliament for Waterloo, and the first female ever to be appointed Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. Ms. Chagger told us that with her job, she has accepted that the day and agenda may never go as planned, and that one can only hope for the best while preparing for the worst.



Meeting **Justice Andromache Karakatsanis** of the Supreme Court of Canada was the icing on top of our Ottawa trip cake, as a few individuals in our cohort hope to immerse themselves in law at some point in their careers. Queen's Park is not unfamiliar to the Justice, as she served there as a civil servant, acting at times as Secretary of the Cabinet and head of the Ontario Public Service. She believes that as law is an instrument of social policy, increased diversity is needed in the judiciary.

Meeting Past Premiers and a Former Speaker

The man, the premier, the legend – former **Premier William Grenville “Bill” Davis**! We were blown away by Mr. Davis’s energy and sense of humour. He is 89 going on 90 years old and is impeccably sharp. It warmed our hearts to hear how passionate he was, and still is, about education and the city of Brampton, and how he is always championing both. We are grateful for our candid discussion with Mr. Davis on his premiership during a transformative period in Ontario.



Former **Premier Dalton McGuinty Jr.**, in addition to being a leader, is a passionate speaker. We were delighted and surprised when he recited quotes or lines of poetry from memory. During our meeting, Mr. McGuinty shared the lessons he learned during his time as premier, and spoke to some of the challenges he faced. Mr. McGuinty reminded us to stay optimistic in times of cynicism, and from this meeting we left feeling inspired about the possibility of dedicating our lives to public service.





It was an honour to meet former **Premier David Peterson**, who was the first Liberal premier after 43 years of Progressive Conservative governance at Queen's Park. Mr. Peterson captivated the interns right from the start of the conversation, and we thoroughly enjoyed his candidness. He had a piece of advice that deeply resonated with those of us thinking about one day running for office: we must first develop our careers and experience outside of politics in order to be able to contribute something truly unique to the political process.



Former **Speaker David Warner** graciously invited us to the office of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians, which he currently serves in his capacity as Chair. Mr. Warner was the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to ever be elected rather than appointed, and he acted as Speaker from 1990 to 1995. Mr. Warner spoke fondly of the congenial dynamic within the Legislature between 1977 - 1981, during which he noted how the three party leaders, Premier Bill Davis, Stephen Lewis, and Dr. Stuart Smith frequently sat down for dinner together. Thank you Mr. Warner for this trip down memory lane.

Interns in the North

We had the amazing opportunity to sit down with the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections Northwest Territories, **Nicole Latour**. Ms. Latour is interested in implementing innovations in the electoral process to ensure equitable access to the ballot, and to empower youth participation in elections. Ms. Latour passed along that “luck favours the brave,” reinforcing that the best way for us to build a better future is by acting with courage.



Her Worship, **Rebecca Alty**, was elected as Mayor of Yellowknife in October 2018, and is only the second woman to have ever held this position. Ms. Alty's election came at an exciting time for the territory, as we heard throughout the week from stakeholders about ongoing initiatives to increase female participation in politics. We were honoured to spend time with a mayor who was so forthcoming about community involvement, and who made us feel so welcome!



We were lucky to be able to sit down with **Shaleen Woodward**, the Deputy Secretary for Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Northwest Territories. Ms. Woodward provided her invaluable insight into Crown-Indigenous relations, and helped us better understand the complex relationships between structures of Indigenous governance and government agencies across the territory.



It was a delight to hear from members of the **Northwest Territories Literacy Council** regarding the innovative programs they offer to improve literacy across the territory. They spoke about the unique challenges of having a literacy program in a territory with eleven different languages. We were filled with gratitude when gifted with children's books by authors from Canada's North, to share with the children in our lives here in Ontario.





Scott McQueen is a storyteller who has travelled across the country, sharing his experiences of growing up and living off the land in the Northwest Territories. We enjoyed an afternoon with his company Tugáh Northern Experiences, going on a traditional dog sled ride. Following our sled ride, Mr. McQueen told us several of his favorite stories over bannock and fish stew. We were grateful for the unique experience to gain a further understanding of Indigenous storytelling practices.



We were able to spend one of our first of many meetings in Yellowknife with the **Honourable Jackson Lafferty**, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, who spoke to us about the territory's governance structure. Speaker Lafferty communicated to us the importance of Indigenous customs and told us that he initially ran for office after an Elder encouraged him. Speaker Lafferty believes in showcasing Indigenous parliamentarians to the world, and it was inspiring to learn that he often speaks his community's language in the House.



Tim Mercer has been the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories for the last 16 years. On one of the first days of our study tour, Mr. Mercer gave us a fascinating academic presentation on the way government functions in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Mercer kindly hosted us for dinner at Bullock's Bistro, where we discussed provincial/territorial issues and international relations over some of the best fish and chips we have ever had. We are thankful to Mr. Mercer for making us feel at home for our week in Yellowknife!



*Special thanks go to
Haylee Carlson and **Cynthia James** for
scheduling such an amazing week for us!*

LG Suite Meetings

We were fortunate to be hosted by the **Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in her suite at Queen's Park for conversation over tea. We were interested to learn about Her Honour's focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through her office's public engagement activities across the province. This includes an educational art exhibition showcasing artists' interpretations of current environmental challenges and the SDGs, which is featured inside the LG suite. Thank you, Your Honour for taking time to meet with us.



We had the pleasure of meeting **Anthony Hylton**, Chief of Staff in the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's office. Mr. Hylton chronicled his personal journey of growing up in Toronto to working for multiple Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, including Mr. David Onley. We learned from Mr. Hylton that drawing on personal stories and developing one's 'people skills' is helpful in a role such as Chief of Cabinet, which entails interacting with people from different walks of life on a daily basis. Thank you Mr. Hylton for your candid conversation with us!

In celebration of International Women's Day 2019, a number of us had the opportunity to attend a screening of *Women Should Vote: A Short History of How Women Won the Franchise in Ontario*, which includes milestones from Ontario's women's suffrage movement. This was the first film produced by the Broadcast and Recording Service of the Legislative Assembly, and was directed by staff member **Louise Lebeau**. In our meeting with the director, she instilled in us the importance of self-motivation, which allowed her own film idea to come to fruition. We are thankful to have met Ms. Lebeau during this historic film screening event.



Meeting Highlights

We were honoured to meet with **Michal Hay**, the founding Board Member and Executive Director of Progress Toronto, and Campaign Director for NDP MP Jagmeet Singh's leadership campaign. Ms. Hay spoke to us about the different types of power that an individual or group can have, and can learn to mobilize, in order to create change. The interns are grateful for the candor Ms. Hay offered as we look to make our own impact.



We were thankful to meet the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) **Jamie McGarvey**, during its Annual General Meeting in Toronto. Mr. McGarvey wears many hats, as he not only oversees AMO's board, but also serves as mayor of Parry Sound. It was fascinating to learn from Mayor McGarvey about opportunities in the municipal sector, including employment prospects for young people in Ontario.



We were grateful to have met with **Robert Benzie** as he shared his journey to, and coverage of, Queen's Park. Becoming Queen's Park Bureau Chief for the Toronto Star is no easy task. We learned that in the world of political journalism, relationships are like currency. Thus, Mr. Benzie shared how he has spent his 25+ years as a journalist cultivating relationships with both sitting and retired elected officials, and with political staffers.



Councillor **Rowena Santos** may be a first-time and recently elected councillor in the City of Brampton, but she is no stranger to the political world, having been immersed in it for the past 12 years with the Ontario NDP. We were happy to learn how Councillor Santos applied her knowledge from the private and public sectors to be able to successfully manage political campaigns, including her own.



Trips to the Ridings

Clara visits Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte

The constituency week spent with MPP Doug Downey and his team was transformative. I experienced the best that Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte had to offer in terms of winter tourism during my evenings. By day, we travelled throughout the province conducting pre-budget consultations. It was an honour to hear the stories, challenges and ideas of Ontarians. MPP Downey and his staff member James encouraged me to share my reflections between consultations. The experience shaped my thinking, writing, and career path. Following this process, I was inspired to visit all 124 ridings in Ontario.



Jad visits Brampton South

During my time in OLIP, I had the opportunity to visit a metropolis west of Toronto—the beautiful riding of Brampton South. With MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria, I visited Brampton a dozen times and learned more about the socio-economic importance of Ontario's 'Flower City'. Although it is one of the fastest growing cities in North America, Brampton still has an old-school touch to it with its historic downtown located in Brampton South. I am thankful to MPP Sarkaria for welcoming me to his riding during my several visits!



Linda visits Kitchener Centre

Kitchener Centre is home to a booming tech industry and growing food scene, as well as a population of just over 100,000 residents. I had the opportunity to visit MPP Laura Mae Lindo's riding during the fall constituency week. A professional highlight from my visit was being able to support the grand opening for MPP Lindo's constituency office. The day brought together a diversity of community members, with catered refreshments like samosas and Caribbean cuisine from local establishments. I am thankful to MPP Lindo, and her staff members, Carly and Julie, for welcoming me to the riding of Kitchener Centre!



Nish visits Parkdale—High Park

MPP Bhutla Karpoche is the first Tibetan elected to public office in North America, and she represents an incredibly diverse riding, which includes Toronto's Little Tibet. Over the course of my first placement, I was able to discover the west end of Toronto through the eyes of constituents. MPP Karpoche is a young, energetic Member with a robust social media presence, and it was therefore no surprise that the students from The Student School were so excited to make her acquaintance during our visit. Thank you, Parkdale—High Park for a week well spent!



Braelyn visits Parry Sound—Muskoka

I completed my government placement with MPP Norman Miller of Parry Sound—Muskoka. I had the opportunity to spend three days visiting his constituency office and attending events such as the small business roundtable. All members of the community were extremely welcoming and kind throughout the visit. One of the major highlights of the experience was going for the traditional MPP Norm Miller plane ride over the riding. I cannot wait to plan my next visit—perhaps when it is a little warmer than it was this past winter!



Munisha visits Algoma—Manitoulin

I had the opportunity to visit Algoma—Manitoulin with MPP Michael Mantha. Covering over 100,000 square kilometres, this geographically diverse riding is characterized by the exposed igneous rock of the Canadian Shield, vast forests home to diverse wildlife, and countless lakes dotting the northern landscape. Historically built on the industries of mining, forestry, and aquaculture, the riding is now home to nearly 70,000 people living in numerous rural, northern, and Indigenous communities. In between waterfall chasing, deer watching and ATVing, we met with constituents to learn about the rich history of the land and discuss opportunities for future growth.



The Ottawa & Manitoba Interns Visit

This was the first time in several years that the federal **Parliamentary Internship Program (PIP) Interns** visited Queen's Park, and we were honoured to host them. PIP is the CPSA's federal sister programme to OLIP, and both of our cohorts are privileged to be part of these amazing learning opportunities for recent university graduates. They began their visit with a joint OLIP-PIP intern breakfast. Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General

Caroline Mulroney, and former Premier Kathleen Wynne, among others, generously met with the interns during their visit. The PIP interns also hosted their own alumni meet-up, as there are many PIP alumni who live or work in Toronto. We enjoyed hosting the PIP interns, and we thank them for their gracious hosting during our own study tour to Ottawa in December! Read more about it on pages 10 and 11.



The PIP and OLIP Interns at our welcome breakfast

The Manitoba Interns with the Lieutenant-Governor



For the last few years, we have had the pleasure of hosting the **Manitoba Legislative Interns** at Queen's Park. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdsdeswell, Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Sylvia Jones, and the leaders of both the provincial Liberal Party and the Green Party, MPP John Fraser and MPP Mike Sch-

reiner, respectively. Outside of Queen's Park, the interns were able to visit the CBC, VICE Media, and Amnesty International. One of their highlights was meeting the Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdsdeswell, and asking her questions regarding climate change, given Her Honour's extensive experience as Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi, Kenya.

OLIP Firsts

This year of OLIP brought a number of novel meeting opportunities. We broadened our knowledge of stakeholders in Ontario, in a wide range of fields, by thinking 'outside the box' when it came to organizing our meetings. We are thankful for our meetings with leaders in politics, media, and sports for their positive contribution to our programme experience.

We appreciated meeting **BuzzFeed Canada's** Jane Lytvynenko, who welcomed us into the company's unique shared co-working space in Toronto. It was fascinating to learn about BuzzFeed's corporate structure, which is a global company that has both a news side and an entertainment side. In our meeting, we learned about the Toronto team's strategic focus on debunking misinformation with various creative uses of multimedia, including educational quizzes and online videos.



We were fortunate to be able to tour the **Canadian Olympic Committee's** Toronto office, where we met with Jennifer Dwyer, Manager of Public Affairs and International Relations. Ms. Dwyer explained the importance of connecting one's personal and professional interests, which she has been able to do in her current role, through her love of both sports and government relations. Our conversation covered the intersections of global sporting events, career development in the non-profit sector, and the work that goes into a city's successful Olympic bid.



The interns were invited to a luncheon hosted by the **Economic Club of Canada**. In attendance was the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Canada's Minister for Women & Gender Equality, who represents the riding of Peterborough—Kawartha. Minister Monsef warmly greeted us herself before giving her keynote address, during which we were able to learn about the steps the federal government is taking to achieve greater gender balance across all levels of society, which includes striving for economic equality between genders. We are grateful to gain these insights from Minister Monsef.



Our cohort had the goal of visiting ridings outside of Toronto. In addition to meeting former and current elected officials in the **City of Brampton**, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn more about current City projects and initiatives. Our meetings with the Brampton Entrepreneurship Centre, as well as the City's Environmental Planning team and Community Innovation and Resilience project team gave us a deeper appreciation for engagement from cross-sectors to successfully organize and plan a municipality's development.



The Churchill Society

The Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy continues to be an important supporter of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Founded in 1982, the Society prides itself on its non-partisan commitment to enhancing public debate about parliamentary democracy throughout Canada. Aside from a regular speaker series and lectures, the Society provides generous grants to organizations deemed to make valuable contributions to education on the role and value of parliamentary democracy.

The Society has long partnered with OLIP to sponsor interns in visiting Canadian and international legislatures to appreciate the breadth and diversity of parliamentary systems established in the Westminster tradition. The relationship between the Society and OLIP has remained close over the years. This year, Hudson has the pleasure of representing OLIP on the Churchill Society's Board of Directors.



The interns at the 35th annual Churchill Society Award Dinner

Each year, the Churchill Society hosts the interns at their annual gala. We had the pleasure of attending the 2018 gala, where distinguished former parliamentarian Sheila Copps was given the Society's Award for Excellence in the Cause of Parliamentary Democracy for her outspoken feminism, and commitment to holding government to account. We thank Ms. Copps for taking the time to speak to us following her acceptance speech; the wisdom and encouragement she passed on remains to us a standout of the night.

Working at the Legislature provides us with regular lessons in day-to-day politics. Building upon this foundation, the Churchill Society helps us to develop a greater appreciation of the institutions and values on which Canadian parliamentary democracy is founded.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks once again for our continued partnership with the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy!

OLIP Class of 2019 Awards, 43rd Cohort

In recognition of another exciting year for OLIP, we are pleased to present the graduation awards to the outgoing cohort. Upon completion of the Programme, we look forward to expanding our horizons and becoming the newest additions to OLIP's alumni network!

Munisha Basiram

Voted most likely to make it onto the Forbes 30 Under 30



Braelyn Guppy

Voted most likely to move to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories



Peter Supierz-Szczyglowski

Voted most likely to become a professor



Clara Pasieka

Voted most likely to be the next Steve Paikin



Nikki Romano

Voted most likely to be the CEO of her own company



Nish Chankar

Voted most likely to win Canada's Next Top Economist



Janessa Duran

Voted most likely take over the @QPFashun account on Twitter



Linda Bui

Voted most likely to have her own TEDTalk



Jad El Tal

Voted most likely to be the future Minister of Foreign Affairs



Hudson Manning

Voted most likely to hold the record for coffees consumed by an OLIP intern



Alumni Spotlight & Mentorship Programme

*The Alumni Spotlight is an opportunity for former OLIP interns to reflect on how the programme has played a role in their professional lives. We are honoured to feature **Nicola Hepburn (2005)**, an incredible alumnus, in this edition of Queen's Park Insider!*



Tell us about yourself, your career trajectory, and what you do now.

Over the past 15 years, I've worked in the public, private and non-profit sectors, across several policy areas including higher education, financial services, public finance, economic development, and research and innovation. Along the way I've picked up transferable skills that are useful for navigating a changing workplace, and are complementary to my academic qualifications. I have a Bachelor's in Political Science and Sociology (McMaster University), a Master's in Public Policy and Administration (McMaster University) and a PhD in Political Science (University of Toronto).

Currently, I'm a Senior Policy Advisor at the Ontario Ministry of Finance in the Program Policy and Analytics Branch. I also serve as a board member for a non-profit that helps adult education organizations across the province use technology to enhance learner outcomes in digital literacy.

Who were your MPP placements, and what was your biggest lesson learned from your time as an OLIP intern?

My MPP placements were Liberal MPP Linda Jeffrey (Brampton—Springdale) and Progressive Conservative MPP Norm Miller (Parry Sound—Muskoka). My biggest lesson is to always be ready and willing to quickly shift between different priorities throughout the day; mental agility is an asset. Case in point, while working in MPP Miller's office, I spent many mornings drafting a question or statement for his Executive Assistant's (EA) review, working on an article for a community newspaper, or conducting research

at my desk, fully engrossed in the tasks in front of me. Then MPP Miller speedily walks in, and we're off to the races! Some days I provided feedback on a Question Period session, told him about a conversation I had with his EA, or briefed him on an upcoming stakeholder meeting. Several times it was none of the above. Rather, it was me nodding my head to his comment, "I have [insert responsibility] to do. Would you like to come?"

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

Hands down, OLIP solidified my interest in Ontario politics and public policy. In terms of how it influenced my career, I landed my first policy job very shortly after the internship with a long-time OLIP sponsor, The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). I enjoyed working at OCUFA as a policy analyst for a number of reasons: the work was challenging; my colleagues were smart and collaborative; and I had the opportunity to sharpen my research and communication skills. In brief, OLIP

was an exceptional springboard for me into the higher education policy sector. More broadly, as an intern I enhanced my political acuity and improved my ability to navigate certain political, policy, and social circles. I expanded and deepened my professional network, thanks to the support of a number of people including past OLIP Director Dr. Henry Jacek. Moreover, OLIP helped me identify my comfort level threshold... and then I transcended it.

Alumni Everywhere

While at an Economic Club of Canada event, the interns were lucky to run into Franca Gucciardi (1995), who is the CEO of the McCall MacBain Foundation. It's nice to see alumni of the Programme wherever we go!

Interns with Franca Gucciardi (far left)



Alumni Mentorship Programme Pairings 2018-2019

This year we welcomed the following mentor and mentee pairings:

Munisha is paired with David Donovan (2009)
Linda is paired with Julie Lavertu (2003)
Nish is paired with Chelsea Peet (2009)
Janessa is paired with Meghan Buckham (2009)
Jad is paired with Chelsea Peet (2009)
Braelyn is paired with Justyna Zegarmistrz (2016)
Hudson is paired with Leanna Katz (2013)
Clara is paired with Karim Bardeesy (2002)
Nikki is paired with Leanna Katz (2013)

The purpose of the OLIP Alumni Mid-Career Mentorship Programme is to connect the current OLIP cohort with mid-career alumni. For OLIP mentors, it serves as an opportunity to share candid advice about their professional experiences gained since participating in the internship programme. For OLIP mentees, it is an opportunity to build their professional network and career by connecting with like-minded individuals. We sincerely thank our alumni for giving back to OLIP through their participation in the mentorship programme.

Visiting our Sponsors

With hard hats, lab coats, goggles and more, we went behind the scenes this term to tour our sponsors' facilities and learn about their front line operations. We left with an appreciation for the goods and services our sponsors produce. Thank you so much to our generous sponsors for this unique opportunity, and for their continued support of the Programme.



The team sat down with Kathleen Ljubisic, Executive Director of Global Regulatory Affairs & Government Relations, and Campbell Piper, Executive Director of Manufacturing, to learn about **Estée Lauder Companies'** international operation. We were happy to gear up to see the production cycle for a tube of iconic red 'Ruby Woo' MAC lipstick.



We had a very informative lunch-and-learn session with the **Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario (AMAPCEO)** which represents over 14,000 public sector professionals. We were grateful for the opportunity to sit down with President Dave Blumer and his team to discuss their unique approach to advocacy for their members.



The ten of us met with Alain Brandon, Vice President, Government Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility of **Loblaw Companies Limited** at the home of their fashion chain, Joe Fresh, to take a sneak peak at their new spring clothing line. We also learned a lot about the grocery store supply chain, and how as Canada's largest food distributor, Loblaw's operations are affected by government policies.



Our team visited both the Sportsnet studio and the set of Tim and Sid at **Rogers Communications**, where sports analysts were hard at work. After the tour, we discussed the world of telecommunications and the vast scope of operations with the company's Manager of Government Relations, Provincial and Municipal, Jodi Parps.

We toured **Bombardier Aerospace's** manufacturing facility with Global Business Aircraft Deliveries lead, Pasha Pirouzi, who gave us a historical overview of each model's development and a tour of the central hangar. The visit concluded with a presentation from the government relations team including Alice Trudelle, Helen Medeiros, Sandra Buckler and Yana Lukashev. They shared insights into Bombardier's range of activities, including in transportation, aviation and financial services.



We had the opportunity to meet with the **Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA)** to learn about their strategies and priorities for the upcoming year to serve their members. Outgoing and incoming Executive Directors Mark Rosenfeld and Michael Conlon shared with us insights on post-secondary institutions including the ways in which staff, faculty, and students work together to improve the student experience.



At the invitation of the **Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA)**, the interns visited Metroland Media Group hosted by Caroline Medwell, Executive Director and Kelly Gerven, Member Services Coordinator. The facility produces and distributes local newspapers and flyers to municipalities across the province. We followed reams of paper through the print shop and warehouse where they are printed and packaged.



Lastly, our group met with Shawn Ogborne, Sandra Dykxhoorn, and Alexandria Anderson of **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)**. They hosted our tour of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, which produces about 15% of Ontario's power. The visit included an overview of the station's history and the process of nuclear fission for energy production, and a full facility tour.



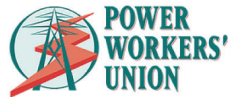
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