QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER

Fall 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,

A year has flown by since the last fall edition of the Queen's Park Insider, and a new group of interns is now settling into their MPP placements. In the past three months, we have met with several distinguished people and learned about their unique relationships to OLIP and the Legislative Assembly.

Every cohort has its own experiences that define their time at Queen's Park. This year, we had the privilege of working in various branches of the Assembly before starting our first MPP placements. We are very grateful for the incredible opportunities we've had since the start of the programme, and this edition is a recollection of some of the experiences we've shared.

The legacy of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme dates back to 1975, when the first group of interns navigated the hallways of the Legislature. Today we are proud to have a community of over 300 alumni, dedicated sponsors, legislative staff, and a wide range of stakeholders and other organizations. With their combined knowledge and support, OLIP interns begin their journeys standing on the shoulders of giants.

We cannot forget the tremendous impact that our administrative team also has on our professional growth throughout the programme. As new interns, we rely heavily on the guidance that this team has to offer, and we are grateful for the time and energy that they put into making it all possible.

Every day we spend at Queen's Park witnessing Ontario's democratic process is a privilege we do not take lightly. For all of those who have contributed to the programme and the opportunities it offers—however large or small—we extend a sincere thank you on behalf of the 2019-2020 OLIP cohort.

Yours truly,

Angela Butron Gutierrez & Vanessa Groves
Co-Editors of the Queen's Park Insider
2019-2020

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PROGRAMME COORDINATORS
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MICHAEL VIDONI

PROGRAMME MANAGER
ELISA NATARELLI

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RICHARD SAGE

LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



As the Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Program (OLIP), I am proud to introduce our 44th cohort. Since its inception, OLIP has provided a unique opportunity for recent university graduates to gain first-hand experience learning about the work of Members in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The programme and the rewarding experience it provides 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 also sincerely thank our numerous sponsors—some of whom are featured in this issue—for their support, generosity and the variety of amazing opportunities they provide the interns. Further, the programme extends a big thank you to our administrative team Jocelyn McCauley, Elisa Natarelli and Michael Vidoni. Their hard work, dedication, and support of the programme help make OLIP what is today.

This year's cohort hails from a wide range of backgrounds, lived experiences and academic disciplines, and they all share a passion for Ontario government and politics. 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 at the CPSA's annual conference. I have no doubt that this new cohort will make a great contribution to the programme, and will continue the legacy of excellence for which OLIP is known. They will carry with them the knowledge and experience they have gained here into their future careers.

Integral to the success of the programme are our extraordinary alumni and sponsors, and I would encourage them to stay involved with OLIP. To learn how, please turn to page 18.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of Queen's Park Insider. On behalf of the whole administrative team, I wish this year's cohort success in their endeavours, and for the programme to continue its important work in the years to come!

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 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.

MEET THE

ANGELA BUTRON GUTIERREZ



My interest in government and the public service comes from a desire to understand how services can address the needs of marginalized populations. As an immigrant, I've had to navigate complex social systems from a young age, which has shaped my understanding of how public policy impacts people's lives. Prior to OLIP, I had the privilege of attending the University of Waterloo, where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Social Development Studies and a Master of Public Service. I pride myself in the campus advocacy I led during my university experience, from organizing a Gender Equity Fair to leading speakers' panels for LGBTQ+ awareness workshops. I am excited for the coming months in OLIP, where I will experience first hand how the legislative process impacts policy decision-making. In my downtime, I like to read, journal, and watch Leafs' games with my partner.

ANGELA BY VANESSA

Angela has the ability to both quiet a room with her thoughtful questions, and to light up a room with her infectious laugh! Her passion for equity, social policy, and mental health highlights her caring and open personality. Working with Angela has been a pleasure and I hope to pick up some of her Spanish-speaking skills throughout the rest of OLIP.

VANESSA BY ANGELA

I admire Vanessa's confidence and candid nature. With her creativity and "go-getter" attitude, I have no doubt that she will continue to succeed in OLIP and in her pursuits afterward. Whether that be law school or anything else that comes her way, she will be bold and brilliant. It is truly a privilege to work alongside her.

VANESSA GROVES



From a very young age, I expressed an interest in law and politics. The nightly news and debates around the dinner table ignited an insatiable passion within me. A combination of my unrelenting drive and love of knowledge motivated me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Political Studies and Global Development at Queen's University. Intent on engaging in endeavours that reflect my passions, I have worked for the Ministry of the Attorney General and on student committees, which have helped me carefully reflect upon my purpose in the world. Through OLIP, I intend to explore governance, and I look forward to deepening my understanding of politics and strategic communications before applying to law school. On a personal note, I enjoy theatre, film and writing.

INTERNS

MARION DAVIES



My first few months with OLIP have been an amazing learning experience and a great addition to my formal education in environmental topics. I am completing a Master of Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University, and I hold a B.A. in Geography from the University of Guelph. My particular interest in agricultural sustainability has led me to work for several summers as a research assistant, interviewing farmers throughout Ontario. I have also worked with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs as a Livestock Sustainability Assistant. Dedicated to supporting our communities, I have been a long-time volunteer for local food security programs and literacy tutoring. I spend my spare time hiking, gardening, and pursuing my love of art through painting, ceramics, and fibre arts.

MARION BY CLARE

Marion is kind, considerate, and thoughtful. When working with her, I appreciate the care she takes in choosing her words, and in making sure others feel comfortable in any given situation. She is also crafty and outdoorsy, which I admire. Should you ever need any farm facts, Marion is the intern to go to!

CLARE BY MARION

Clare's warmth of character instantly helped me feel welcomed and a part of this team. Her articulate questions foster dynamic meetings and her critical thinking inspires us all to think deeply about what we are learning. Clare's thoughtfulness strengthens our team dynamic and I am so glad to have her as a friend!

CLARE MACDONALD



My interest in government, politics, and the public service was shaped by my Master's of Public Policy at the University of Toronto and my Bachelor of Arts & Science from McMaster University. I am open to a wide range of policy areas and I am especially keen to learn more about environmental and social policy while at Queen's Park. In the past, I have really enjoyed learning from my public service roles working for the federal and municipal governments. Currently, I am very interested in learning about the work of stakeholder groups and how they influence politics and policy. In addition, I would love to expand my understanding of how different levels of government interact across Canada. In my spare time, I love to read, cook, and explore city parks.

MEET THE INTERNS

JENNIFER HAN



I was born and raised in the Greater Toronto Area, but left the suburbs for the city to attend the University of Toronto, where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Peace, Conflict and Justice. In the first year of my undergraduate studies, I enrolled in a specialized ethics class where we grappled with the complexities of moral issues. While initially enthused with the topics covered in class, I was itching to find a way to move these ethical discussions from a circular loop of theory into one that also considers brainstorming and applying solutions. From my experience in student leadership positions as well as my academic experience abroad in Israel and South Korea, I've recognized the strength that comes from including a diverse set of voices into the arena of ideas. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that OLIP has afforded me in working alongside Members.

JENNIFER BY KIERAN

Jenn is our Instagram Queen who keeps our social media feeds filled with great content. Even though we did not know each other before OLIP, we recently learned that we actually have quite a few mutual friends! Jenn is a smart and funny person with an easygoing demeanour that makes her a pleasure to work with!

KIERAN BY JENNIFER

Kieran first started at Queen's Park as a Legislative Page, which I think is telling of the passion he has for politics! He brings a calmness to the group with his relaxed personality, is consistently sharp with his political knowledge, and has an incredibly clever sense of humour. Our cohort wouldn't be the same without him!

KIERAN LAWLOR



Born and raised in Toronto, I am a resident of the great riding of Toronto—Danforth. In 2010, I had my first interaction with Queen's Park, serving as a Legislative Page. Since then I have been fascinated by the work of the provincial government, and I am so excited to have the chance to return to the Pink Palace. I am a recent graduate from Western University with an Honours BA in Political Science and Criminology. I was highly involved in the Western community, serving as a Councillor on the University Students Council for one year, and volunteering for three years as an Orientation Leader. Through OLIP I hope to build on the skills I have learned, and gain a greater understanding of the process of policy development.

MISHA APEL



I was born in Dundas, Ontario to a family of immigrants, which sparked my interest in global issues. I recently graduated from the School for Advanced Studies at Western University, double majoring in Arts and Humanities, and English Language and Literature, with a minor in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction. I was fortunate to study abroad in Rwanda, Switzerland, and Israel for my degree. In 2019, I became a teaching assistant to examine Rwanda's post-conflict reconstruction efforts. I was also very involved in my faculty's students' council, and sat as its president in my final year, which ignited my interest in politics. My degree, my extracurriculars, and my family history have inspired my interest in law, specifically international humanitarian law. In fact, I have deferred my acceptance to Western Law to pursue OLIP in order to couple my interests in law, politics and advocacy.

MISHA BY ERIC

The first thing you notice about Misha is her persona: no matter the situation, she is always upbeat and smiling. Misha is not only ambitious, she also truly knows what it means to be a team player. She has a great quirky sense of humour and keeps me on my "A" game. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with my new friend Misha.

ERIC BY MISHA

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with Eric. He is funny, down to earth, and caring. Our work styles complement one another, which creates a very fun work dynamic. From sharing highlights in the daily news to late night sponsorship phone calls, there's no one I'd rather be committee partners with!

ERIC OSBORNE



Growing up in Courtice, Ontario, I had always been interested in history, but not specifically politics. A big fan of sports and classic rock, I thought maybe I wanted my future to be in a spotlight of some sort. My interest in politics came naturally as I watched countless documentaries and became engaged in my school and community. After switching my major to Political Science during my first year at the University of Guelph, my first real taste of work in the public sector came as an analyst with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. The rest, as they say, is history. I am thrilled to experience all that Queen's Park has to offer. I am really looking forward to learning about what it takes to represent constituents and all the work involved in being a leader in one's community. I am so excited to share the coming months with this fantastic group of interns!

MEET THE INTERNS

JEREMY ISTEAD



I have long had considerable interest in politics and government. I was raised in Peterborough, Ontario in a civically engaged family, and I can remember participating in political debates around the kitchen table from a young age. Throughout the course of my undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph, I studied Canadian Political History, and Social and Political Philosophy, both of which strengthened my commitment to social justice and reinforced the importance of good public policy. After completing my degree, I pursued a Master's in History and researched the history of sexual harassment in Ontario universities, examining the institutional policies and procedures developed to address it. I am thrilled to participate in OLIP and deepen my understanding of the political process in Ontario.

JEREMY BY MEAGHAN

While not the loudest member of our cohort, it is Jeremy's ability to make every intern feel recognized and included that truly speaks volumes! From listening to his intuitive questions in meetings to working together on recruitment strategies, I can see Jeremy's passion for learning and ensuring a diversity of thought in all aspects of OLIP.

MEAGHAN BY JEREMY

Meaghan combines a warm and fun personality with exceptional organizational skills and natural leadership abilities. She is reliable, terrifically smart, and has a talent for asking insightful questions. I've greatly enjoyed getting to know Meaghan, and I'm looking forward to working with her on the Recruitment Committee this year!

MEAGHAN IRONS



From a young age, I have been fascinated by the complex issues that governments must address in creating policies. My love of watching the nightly news to learn and question what was happening around me in Toronto and the province solidified my decision to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Western University. My undergraduate courses and work experience with the Ontario Public Service developed my interest in social policy, and led me to pursue a Master's degree in Applied Politics at Wilfrid Laurier University. There, I explored my research interests in poverty alleviation and the effects of media framing on policy making. I also developed an interest in the connection between post-secondary education and labour market participation, which I would like to research further in the future. I am excited to have the opportunity to be immersed in the place of provincial policy-making and debate, and to learn even more about Ontario politics through OLIP.

ASSEMBLY PLACEMENTS

For our first placements this year, we had the opportunity to work in different branches of the Legislative Assembly. This unique privilege was offered to us for four weeks until the House returned in October.



MISHA APEL was placed jointly with Financial Services and Purchasing & Operations
ANGELA BUTRON GUTIERREZ was placed with the Legislative Research Service
MARION DAVIES was placed with Precinct Properties
VANESSA GROVES was placed with Information Services
JENNIFER HAN was placed with Procedural Services
MEAGHAN IRONS and **JEREMY ISTEAD** were placed with the Table Research Office
KIERAN LAWLOR was placed with the Legislative Protective Service
CLARE MACDONALD was placed with the Legislative Library
ERIC OSBORNE was placed with Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations

We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the inner functions of the Assembly, and look forward to using our new knowledge in our MPP placements. Our extended gratitude goes out to all of the directors, managers, and colleagues who welcomed us into their offices for these four weeks. It was a pleasure getting familiar with some of the services of the Assembly and how they help Queen's Park run so smoothly!

FALL MPP

MISHA APEL IS PLACED WITH **MPP LINDSEY PARK**

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



I am very excited to work with MPP Lindsey Park for my fall placement. MPP Park represents the riding of Durham and is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General. She is also a Member of the Standing Committee on Estimates. I look forward to being exposed to local and provincial issues that affect her riding such as transit, hospital expansion, and balancing urban, suburban, and rural needs. As a future law student, I am looking forward to working with a young lawyer who can act as a mentor and bridge my interests in politics and law. In particular, I am excited to assist in Ms. Park's work with the Attorney General. Thank you MPP Lindsey Park and her Executive Assistant, Kristen Cucan, for welcoming me into your office!

ANGELA BUTRON GUTIERREZ IS PLACED WITH **MPP SUZE MORRISON**

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I am honoured to be with MPP Suze Morrison for my fall placement. Ms. Morrison is one of three MPPs of Indigenous heritage currently serving at the Legislature. She represents the riding of Toronto Centre and is a Member of the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. I look forward to learning about the issues that concern her queer and trans constituents, and in supporting her committee work. MPP Morrison has three critic portfolios: Urban Indigenous Issues, Tenant Rights, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Response. As someone who is personally interested in social equity and housing policy, it is truly a privilege to work in her office! I would like to extend a sincere thank you to MPP Morrison and her Executive Assistant, Nadine Tkatchevskaia, for welcoming me onto the team!



PLACEMENTS

MARION DAVIES IS PLACED WITH **MPP ANDREA KHANJIN**

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

I am really excited to spend my first placement working with MPP Andrea Khanjin, who represents the riding of Barrie—Innisfil. MPP Khanjin is a Member of the Standing Committee on Estimates and is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. Following my education in geography and environmental studies, I am looking forward to learning about environmental policy-making in a Ministry setting. I am also interested in learning about governance in the riding of Barrie—Innisfil, with its mixture of rural and urban communities and their diverse policy concerns. In particular, I hope to learn more about the challenges that affect this riding, including supporting small businesses and improving transit and healthcare. I am grateful to have been so warmly welcomed to this office and I am looking forward to my placement.



VANESSA GROVES IS PLACED WITH **MPP TOM RAKOCEVIC**

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



For my fall placement, I am excited to be placed with MPP Tom Rakocevic, who represents the riding of Humber River—Black Creek. MPP Rakocevic is the NDP Critic for Auto Insurance and the Critic for Government Services and Consumer Protection. A life-long community advocate, Mr. Rakocevic has been involved in political activity since his early teen years—his passion for politics and zest for his riding is inspiring to say the least! With his experience as a political staffer and his critic portfolio, it is an honour to work alongside MPP Rakocevic, David Ros his Legislative Assistant, and the rest of the team. I look forward to learning about urban planning and the diverse interests of Humber River—Black Creek.

FALL MPP PLACEMENTS

JENNIFER HAN IS PLACED WITH MPP LAURA MAE LINDO

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



I am thrilled to begin the OLIP placement season with Laura Mae Lindo, MPP for Kitchener Centre. I have been warmly welcomed by MPP Lindo, her Legislative Assistant Jasmine Aili Marie Attfield, and her Outreach Coordinator Carly Pettinger! Before being elected, MPP Lindo was the Director of Diversity and Equity at Wilfrid Laurier University, which led to her current roles as Critic of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Critic of Anti-Racism. In addition to serving her constituents in Kitchener Centre, she is the Chair of Ontario's first ever Black Caucus. I am looking forward to conducting research for her upcoming Private Members' Bills, assisting her with question pitches, and being involved with her work on the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.

MEAGHAN IRONS IS PLACED WITH MPP RUDY CUZZETTO

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

I am very excited to be in the office of MPP Rudy Cuzzetto for my fall placement. MPP Cuzzetto represents the waterfront riding of Mississauga—Lakeshore. He is the Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board (Internal Audit) and a Member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. MPP Cuzzetto brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role, as he was formerly an auditor for the Ford Motor Company, where he worked for over 30 years. He advocates on behalf of his constituents to help them access health care services, for new infrastructure to meet the demands of a growing community, and for the preservation of the Mississauga waterfront. I am thrilled to be MPP Cuzzetto's first OLIP intern and to have the opportunity to work with his team, Michael Smith and Mona Ali!



JEREMY ISTEAD IS PLACED WITH **MPP KATHLEEN WYNNE**

LIBERAL



I am honoured to be working with MPP Kathleen Wynne for my fall placement. As a former premier, Minister of various portfolios, and school board trustee, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that I am eager to learn from. I am excited to work on tasks related to MPP Wynne's role as the Liberal Critic for Education, and to participate in all aspects of her busy office. MPP Wynne represents Don Valley West, an economically diverse riding. I am looking forward to learning about her fascinating riding, and having the opportunity to work with her staff Aafaaq Shaikh, Afie Mardukhi, Shohreh Pooyan, and Wendy Weston. I am certain that the next few months will be a phenomenal experience!

KIERAN LAWLOR IS PLACED WITH **MPP MARIT STILES**

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



I am very excited to be working with MPP Marit Stiles for my fall placement. MPP Stiles represents the riding of Davenport and serves as the NDP Critic for Education. She brings a wide range of experience and knowledge to Queen's Park. She previously served as President of the federal NDP, as National Director of Public Policy and Research for ACTRA (the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists), and as a Toronto District School Board Trustee. Elected in 2018, MPP Stiles focuses on issues in both her portfolio and in her constituency, such as affordable housing, tenant rights, and transit. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be joining MPP Stiles and her Executive Assistant, Greg Denton, in their office.

FALL MPP PLACEMENTS

CLARE MACDONALD IS PLACED WITH **MPP KALEED RASHEED**

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



My fall placement is with MPP Kaleed Rasheed, who represents the riding of Mississauga East—Cooksville. I am excited to learn about the concerns of his constituents, and to see how his community work helps to address the common problems that people face in their everyday lives. MPP Rasheed has an interest in cybercrime in Ontario, among many other issues that interest me as well. I look forward to learning more about public policy research, speechwriting, and stakeholder engagement while in his office. I'm also excited to learn about his position as Deputy Government Whip, his role with the Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, and his chairship of the Committee on the Legislative Assembly. Thank you to MPP Rasheed and his staff for welcoming me so warmly onto their team!

ERIC OSBORNE IS PLACED WITH **MPP GOLDIE GHAMARI**

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

For my fall term, I am thrilled to be working with MPP Goldie Ghamari, who represents the riding of Carleton. As an international trade lawyer, Ms. Ghamari brings a wealth of professional and community experience into her second year as a Member of Provincial Parliament. Along with her constituency work, MPP Ghamari is also actively involved at Queen's Park as the Chair of the Standing Committee on General Government and as a Member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. MPP Ghamari has expressed an interest in mentorship and an enriching internship experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to assist her with her diverse and interesting roles at Queen's Park.



ONTARIO'S PREMIERS
PAST & PRESENT

Earlier this year, we had the privilege of meeting with the Honourable **DOUG FORD**, Premier of Ontario. He greeted us with enthusiasm and spoke about his journey as a small business owner, his service as a city councillor, and his transition into provincial politics. He spoke about what inspired him to become involved in politics and his first year's experience in the Legislature. We sincerely appreciate that Premier Ford generously offered his time to meet with us and answer our questions. We would also like to extend him a warm thank you for his kind words about OLIP and his ongoing support of the programme.





Former premier **KATHLEEN WYNNE** captivated us with her candidness. She discussed her love of community activism, the importance of education, and the breadth of her knowledge from both a professional and personal sense. Ms. Wynne shared her memories of serving in various posts, including her role as the 25th premier of Ontario and Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party from 2013 to 2018, as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and as a Public School Trustee. We were grateful for this meeting, and thank Kathleen Wynne for her practical advice to those of us interested in entering the realms of policy and politics. As well, we are thankful for her continual support of OLIP and look forward to seeing her around Queen's Park.

In October, we had the pleasure of visiting Brampton to meet with **BILL DAVIS**, premier of Ontario from 1971 to 1985. Mr. Davis spoke to us about the value of voting, and what he hopes to see in Ontario's future. We were also keen to learn about Mr. Davis' experiences as a former Minister of Education and the evolution of Ontario's education system—especially his role in establishing three Ontario universities! Mr. Davis left us with an important piece of advice: "Don't just earn a living, do good, and have some fun!" We hope to do just that. We are honoured to have had the opportunity to hear about Mr. Davis' experiences in politics first hand, and especially his dreams for Ontario's future. We thank him immensely for taking the time to sit down with us.



ONTARIO'S PARLIAMENTARY



We had an excellent conversation with the Ontario Ombudsman, **PAUL DUBÉ**, and the Deputy Ombudsman Barbara Finlay. Mr. Dubé discussed his important role as Ontario's Watchdog in ensuring public sector accountability. Notably, he talked about the office's use of moral suasion to guide action towards fairness. We are grateful to Mr. Dubé and Ms. Finlay for welcoming us to their office.

We had the pleasure of meeting with **MR. GREG ESSENSA**, the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario. The Chief Electoral Officer ensures that all Ontarians can participate in fair and free provincial elections. We left the meeting feeling inspired by the creative approaches underway to modernize the voting process in Ontario. While these approaches are keeping up to date with the current demands of Ontario, the office remains committed to the essential principle of integrity.





The Honourable **J. DAVID WAKE** is Ontario's Integrity Commissioner, whose office works to uphold standards of professional integrity in the Legislature. In our meeting with Commissioner Wake, we appreciated his insights about how the role of his office has expanded under different legislative mandates. Thank you so much to Commissioner Wake for having us!

OFFICERS



The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario examines the public accounts and reports to the Legislature to ensure that taxpayer funds are spent prudently and sound business practices are followed. In our meeting, we discussed how the office conducts value for money audits, and the importance of ensuring independence and confidentiality throughout this process. Thank you Auditor General **BONNIE LYSYK** and former OLIP intern Kristy May for teaching us about the important role of your office in ensuring accountability and transparency in Ontario.

We had the pleasure of meeting with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, **MR. BRIAN BEAMISH**. We discussed the acts that govern the IPC's mandate, and the processes that safeguard the public's right to information and privacy. It was illuminating to hear Mr. Beamish share his thoughts on Open Data in government and the Smart Cities project to show us where the future of privacy and access to information is heading in Ontario. We are grateful for our time spent.



THE CLERK



The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario is an important figure for Members and the Legislature. At the same time as being a legislative procedural expert and assisting the Speaker, **MR. TODD DECKER** is also responsible for the administration of all Assembly services. He gave us wonderful insights on the various parliamentary rules and procedures that are used in the House, such as the Committee of the Whole House. It was a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the procedures of the House, and we want to thank Mr. Decker for taking the time to share his wisdom with us!

THE SPEAKER



One of our first meetings was with the Honourable **TED ARNOTT**, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Arnott has extensive experience in the House, both in government and opposition, which has prepared him to assume his current impartial role. We were fascinated to learn how he balances his responsibilities as Speaker while still advocating for his constituents. We look forward to seeing him around Queen's Park this year!

THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



As the Legislature's Sergeant-At-Arms, **JACKIE GORDON** is tasked with maintaining the safety and security of the Chamber, the Legislative Assembly, and of the legislative precinct. She brings over 35 years of experience in the Halton police force as well as knowledge from her time at the Ministry of Education building schools, both of which allow her to fulfill the challenging work of keeping the Legislature safe and in a state of good repair. Thank you Jackie Gordon for your time and for graciously giving us a close-up view of the mace!

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH AS AN ALUMNUS



The 2019-2020 OLIP Interns with Linda Bui (left) and Braelyn Guppy (right) alumni of the 2018-2019

There are many ways you can get involved as an alumnus! Please email our Alumni Committee Chair **CLARE** at cmacdonald@olipinterns.ca to be added to our private alumni social media pages, and to provide OLIP with your most up-to-date contact information. You may also complete our online form at www.olipinterns.ca/alumni-survey to update your contact information!

Stay connected by joining our private alumni group pages on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Attend our receptions and alumni meet-ups throughout the year. Notices for meetups are sent through email and our alumni group pages.

Participate in our mid-career mentorship program with the current cohort of OLIP interns. More details to be launched later this year!

OLIVIA LABONTÉ

2015 - 2016



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR WORK SINCE OLIP. WHAT YOU DO NOW?

I am a trained economist with a focus on public sector innovation. I currently work for the City of Toronto, where I support and lead cross-functional initiatives that digitize and improve processes. Governments at all levels are increasingly leveraging technology to create public value for residents. As a young professional with a passion for public service, it is exciting to be working within this space.

I also lead a non-profit called Young Diplomats of Canada (YDC). YDC is a national, non-partisan, youth-led non-profit organization that aims to break down barriers of decision-making at the highest levels of global diplomacy. Through these efforts, YDC hopes to mainstream youth engagement in big policy discussions within spaces such as the G20 and G7 meetings.

WHICH MPPs WERE YOU PLACED WITH AS AN INTERN, AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR TIME IN THEIR OFFICES?

As an intern, I was placed with NDP MPP France Gélinas (Nickel Belt) and Liberal MPP Yvan Baker (Etobicoke Centre). The biggest lessons I learned from my time working with both MPP Gélinas and MPP Baker is the importance of being nimble and listening to communities. Both MPPs are community leaders, which was made very apparent during my time spent in their constituency offices. These lessons have influenced my career in many ways. As someone who works in the realm of change management, listening and engaging, I am aware of how the decisions one makes are of the utmost importance. Being nimble and adaptable also allows you to accomplish more with less. OLIP in many ways is a bit like stakeholder engagement 101. I am still thankful to this day for the mentorship and guidance of both France and Yvan during my time working in their offices.

HOW DID OLIP AND YOUR TIME AT QUEEN'S PARK INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER AND YOUR LIFE?

Beyond learning the importance of effective community engagement, OLIP fostered my commitment to public service. Seeing how decision-makers, community and advocacy groups interacted and would come together on a regular basis to advance policy in Ontario started me on my path to becoming a public sector innovator.

The opportunity to engage in the political sphere in a non-partisan capacity is tremendously unique and provided an opportunity to be challenged by one's own view points. Being exposed to different political platforms and approaches taught me the importance of challenging ideas based on their individual merit. OLIP develops political acuity, creates a sense of community and is truly an unforgettable experience. Not to mention it also teaches you how to take a great group photo!

SPOTLIGHT

REBECCA SCIARRA

2004 - 2005



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR WORK SINCE OLIP. WHAT YOU DO NOW?

Since OLIP, I have worked in private consulting and for the provincial government in the heritage conservation and infrastructure planning sectors. I am a part owner and Director at ASI, the province's largest cultural heritage consulting firm. I specialize in assessing heritage buildings and landscapes.

I also provide private and public sector clients with advice about how to manage heritage resources as part of large-scale infrastructure development projects under various pieces of legislation including the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Planning Act*.

I also work closely with municipal and provincial governments to develop policies, plans and tools they can use to safeguard their cultural history and protect those buildings, places, and assets that make their communities unique and attractive. I work all across Ontario and a large part of my practice involves community consultation and facilitation. I provide expert witness testimony regarding cultural heritage matters heard before the Conservation Review Board and the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

WHICH MPPs WERE YOU PLACED WITH AS AN INTERN, AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR TIME IN THEIR OFFICES?

I worked with MPP Laurie Scott, Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock (PC) and MPP Richard Patten, Ottawa Centre (Liberal). They both showed me that effective politics starts with understanding and connecting with your local community, and continues when you build strong stakeholder networks to advance policy and legislative frameworks. They both also showed me what integrity and courage look like.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANY CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE INTERNS?

Relax and enjoy your time. It is important to take this opportunity very seriously and to always do your best while working with Members of the Legislature and working with your OLIP colleagues. However, you will never be in this type of role again so savour every day and experience. Also, go to receptions and learn the art of socializing with strangers! It can be daunting and uncomfortable at first. However, it is a skill that will help you wherever you go next.

TO OUR

OLIP Purple Trillium Sponsor, the **INSURANCE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO** (IBAO), advocates on behalf of Ontario brokers and offers a variety of educational courses for licensing as a broker. We had the privilege of meeting with IBAO's Chief Operating Officer Brett Boadway, Director of Marketing and Communications Norah Black, President Jeff Gatcke and President-elect Joseph Carnevale. The interns gained many fascinating insights, including how climate change is having an impact on the insurance industry. We thank them for their time and hope to see them around Queen's Park!





We had the pleasure of meeting Howard Brown of **BROWN AND COHEN** Communications and Public Affairs Inc., and Jim Coyle, a seasoned Queen's Park journalist with the Toronto Star. We learned about how the role of the media has changed in the last 20 years and about the importance of preserving places for debate outside of the internet. Thank you Brown and Cohen for your continued support of OLIP, and to Mr. Brown and Mr. Coyle for sharing your experiences with us!

We enjoyed visiting **ESTÉE LAUDER**'s Canadian manufacturing plant in Markham. We met with Executive Director of Global Regulatory Affairs and Government Relations, Kathleen Ljubisic, and Executive Director of Manufacturing, Campbell Piper. We discussed how the company is evolving its waste management and worker safety practices. We also learned that Canada is the largest producer of Estée Lauder products in the world, with a significant manufacturing base in Ontario. Director of Manufacturing Karim Singh finished our visit with a thorough tour of their lipstick facility, and we were excited to be sent home with samples. Thank you Estée Lauder!



SPONSORS



We had the pleasure of meeting with Director Pat Dalzell and Strategist Andrew Thiele of **BRUCE POWER**'s Government and Stakeholder Relations department. In our meeting, we learned about the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, which is one of the largest nuclear facilities in the world. The station is crucial for powering the province as it generates almost 30% of Ontario's electricity, with no carbon emissions. We also learned about Bruce's important role in producing medical isotopes, some of which are critical in treating certain types of cancers. As one of our Purple Trillium Sponsors, we would like to thank Bruce Power for their generous support!

We met with Ryan Clarke, President and Founder of **ADVOCACY SOLUTIONS**, who shared how his previous positions in law and pharmacy inspired his desire to empower individuals to advocate for themselves. With Queen's Park being an arena for a variety of important issues, Advocacy Solutions provides individuals with the tools to distill large amounts of information into a political advocacy strategy. Thank you Mr. Clarke for your continued support of the programme and for inspiring us to be change-makers!





We enjoyed our afternoon with **LOBLAW COMPANIES LIMITED**, and it was especially fun to spend it with OLIP alumna Vanessa Dupuis, Manager of Government Relations, and Alain Brandon, Vice President of Government Relations. We began the afternoon with a tour of Loblaw's flagship store at Maple Leaf Gardens, where we learned about Loblaw's commitments to environmental sustainability and supporting local Ontario farmers. We are so grateful for the opportunity to ask questions and learn from Canada's biggest food retailer!

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