

QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER



FALL 2020

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



OLIP IS A PROGRAMME OF THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

As the holidays fast approach, OLIP's 46th cohort is virtually navigating the halls of Queen's Park. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the internship programme looks very different this year. Instead of rushing from meeting to meeting and travelling across the province, this cohort is taking advantage of virtual technologies to connect with the world. Everything we do this year—from the people we speak with, to the questions we ask, to the topics we will research for our papers—will be done against the backdrop of COVID-19. We face important questions about how Ontario will rebuild after this pandemic.

We are not the first cohort to be affected by events happening in the world around us. After all, OLIP does not operate in a vacuum, but is affected by political and economic events occurring provincially, nationally, and internationally. While the OLIP experience varies from year to year, one thing that remains consistent is the way in which the programme challenges people to look past differences and "hear the other side."

For OLIP's 45th anniversary, we will be celebrating how the programme encourages interns to seek out perspectives on all sides of issues. Keep an eye out throughout the year for 45th anniversary materials, including a weekly feature of archival photographs on our social media accounts, monthly blog posts celebrating OLIP's particular cohorts, and an "OLIP at 45" speaker series. These initiatives will celebrate the open-minded way in which 45 cohorts of interns have navigated Queen's Park and the world beyond.

In this issue of the *Queen's Park Insider*, you will find a timeline of the history of OLIP and read about how it overlapped with Ontario's political landscape. You will also learn more about the interns and some of the wonderful meetings our cohort has had so far.

This magazine is also a celebration of the amazing sponsors, alumni, legislative staff, and other supporters of the programme, without whom there would be no OLIP. We would also like to thank our administrative team for all of their work in helping to bring this issue of the magazine to life.

We are grateful for each day we spend in this programme, learning about the legislative processes that lie at the heart of our province's democratic institutions. We hope you enjoy this inside look into our first few months.

Sincerely,

Amelia Boughn & Gurkamal Dhahan
Co-Chairs of the *Queen's Park Insider*
2020-2021

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Meriem Mezdoor

Magazine

Amelia Boughn
Gurkamal Dhahan

Virtual Meetings

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Ritika Gupta

Recruitment

Ritika Gupta
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Social Media

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Monica Mann

Virtual Study Tours

Alexander Stover
Chelsea Tao

THE ADMIN TEAM

Academic Director

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou

Programme Coordinators

Meghan Stenson
Michael Vidoni

Programme Manager

Elisa Ntarelli

Archivist

Richard Sage

LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



As the Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP), I am proud to introduce our 45th cohort. It is a special year for the programme as we celebrate 45 years of shared intern experiences. Since 1975, OLIP has provided unique first-hand opportunities for recent university graduates to learn about the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the work of Members of Provincial Parliament.

The programme and the rich experience it provides would not be possible without the continued support of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as well as the dedicated commitment of the Speaker, Hon. Ted Arnott, and the Clerk, Todd Decker. We also extend thanks for the generosity and support of our numerous sponsors, some of whom are featured in this magazine. Year after year, these sponsors add to the wealth of the interns' experience. In addition, I'd like to thank our administrative team, composed of Elisa Ntarelli, Meghan Stenson, and Michael Vidoni. Richard Sage, a previous coordinator, continues to provide invaluable archival assistance to the programme. These individuals have worked tirelessly to ensure that the programme is what it is today. Lastly, our thanks go out to our incredible alumni who are an integral part of the OLIP network and success story.

The 2020-2021 cohort unites a diverse mix of backgrounds, academic disciplines, and professional experiences with a shared love for Ontario politics. Throughout the year, the interns will work closely with MPPs, participate in virtual study tours of other legislatures, and present academic papers at the CPSA's annual conference. They began their year with placements in offices of the Legislative Assembly, aiding legislative staff while learning about all the resources available to them. I am confident that this new cohort will make an excellent contribution to the programme, while gaining knowledge and experience they will carry with them after their year ends.

This year, OLIP has experienced rapid changes due to a global pandemic. This has been marked by a shift to virtual media with the interns working remotely to support their Members. Despite the changes, this cohort has demonstrated resilience, overcoming challenges and supporting each other as a team.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of the *Queen's Park Insider*. On behalf of the entire administrative team, I look forward to guiding this cohort through their endeavours this year, and I am confident that the programme will continue defining excellence for 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



AMELIA BOUGHN

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in History (University of British Columbia); Master of Science in Global Health (McMaster University)

Work-from-home tip(s): Find a puppy-free workspace to minimize distractions.

Fun fact about you: I have read the Harry Potter series more than ten times and my favourite character is Neville Longbottom.

What drew you to OLIP: Last summer, I biked by Queen's Park every day on my way to work as a research student at Mount Sinai Hospital. It made me wonder how the decisions and processes happening inside of the Legislature impact the healthcare system and the lives of the patients I saw at work each day. This led me to apply to OLIP, where I hope to learn more about our political decision-making processes and how they affect the lives of individuals, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GURKAMAL BY AMELIA

Gurkamal has an infectious smile and witty sense of humour that gets the whole group smiling, even during the sixth Zoom meeting of the day. In a few short weeks, he has become a Photoshop and InDesign whiz. I'm looking forward to seeing his design skills in action as Co-Editor on the magazine this year.



AMELIA BY GURKAMAL

Amelia and I instantly connected when I learned about her experiences in hockey, perhaps the only sport more demanding than wrestling! She is an insightful and critical thinker, eager to add dimension to discussions with her background in health studies. I am sure we are witnessing a senior medical officer in the making.



GURKAMAL SINGH DHAHAN

Hometown: Brampton, Ontario

Field of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Public Administration, Specialized Honours in Management (York University)

Work-from-home tip(s): Keep your snacks (healthy options only) and a water bottle nearby! Also, try to stand up and walk around your place at least once every hour to keep from turning into stone.

Fun fact about you: This summer I racked up well over 1000 kilometers on my bike—enough for a round trip from the GTA to Sudbury. As a proponent of health and fitness, I always say that a little bit every day goes a long way.

What drew you to OLIP: Primarily, an appetite to learn! I worked at the Ministry of Transportation as a safety policy analyst before OLIP. I was fascinated by the interplay between public service and politics. This interest drew me to Queen's Park, the heart of political decision making in Ontario.

INTERNS



MACKENZIE BONNETT

Hometown: Goderich, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Ethics, Society, and Law (University of Toronto); Master of Public Policy (Sciences Po); Master of Global Affairs (Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy)

Work-from-home tip(s): Be sure to take care of your Zoom background—tidy up and do some decorating!

Fun fact about you: I spent a gap year between high school and university on a Rotary Youth Exchange in a small town in Normandy, France.

What drew you to OLIP: I heard a lot about OLIP as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, but it was not until I met a recent alumnus of the programme that I decided to apply. He had so many fantastic stories to tell of his experience with OLIP, from meeting former and current elected officials, to traveling around Canada and the UK, and experiencing the inner workings of Queen's Park.

RITIKA BY MACKENZIE

Ritika is both hardworking and easygoing, and she always does everything to the best of her abilities. As the Recruitment Committee Chair, she is the Google Calendar Queen, keeping us organized and laser-focused. I look forward to spending the year alongside her, encouraging students from across Canada to apply to OLIP!



MACKENZIE BY RITIKA

Mac is considerate, reliable, and wickedly smart. His thoughtful commentaries and questions convey his passion for politics and public affairs. It has been a pleasure working with Mac on the Recruitment Committee. His unique ideas are only second to his tireless work ethic. I am very happy to call Mac my friend!



RITIKA GUPTA

Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario.

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in History (University of Guelph)

Work-from-home tip(s): Separate your workspace from your living space.

Fun fact about you: I love to cook and my favourite cuisine to make is Thai food.

What drew you to OLIP: Three guiding forces led me to OLIP. The first is my love for politics. Through OLIP, I am excited to learn about how to address our most pressing issues through our political system. The second is my desire to pursue a career in public policy, which OLIP will prepare me for. The last is my dedication to public service. I can think of no better way to serve my community than by working in the offices of MPPs, who have dedicated their lives to serving others. I am excited to seize every opportunity that OLIP presents, and I look forward to learning and growing in this role.

MEET THE

ALEXANDER STOVER



Hometown: Oakville, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science (University of King's College); Master of Arts in Political Science (McMaster University)

Work-from-home tip(s): Find the golden ratio of coffee to water consumed and do not stray from it.

Fun fact about you: I have climbed Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states.

What drew you to OLIP: I spent a year working with the election team at the Town of Oakville. Each day, we worked with both candidates and municipal staff. The job gave me an appreciation for the hard work that the civil service does to ensure a fair election while also staying on top of the day-to-day affairs of governance. OLIP offers another chance to work with a professional team of administrative staff and an opportunity to gain insight into how they interact with elected officials.

CHELSEA BY ALEXANDER

Chelsea is a skilled photographer with a keen eye for aesthetics. With in-person travel suspended, Chelsea has come up with creative digital travel alternatives for our cohort. From Alaska to Australia, she has explored some of the most incredible parts of the planet. She's a perfect fit for a Study Tours Committee Chair.



ALEXANDER BY CHELSEA

Alex carries an exceptional energy and enthusiasm. His deep curiosity for the world is reflected in the stories he shares about his travel and work experiences, and I have learned that we have a mutual appreciation for Canada's great outdoors. I look forward to working with and learning from Alex this year!

CHELSEA TAO



Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in Ethics, Society & Law and Criminology (University of Toronto)

Work-from-home tip(s): I've added greenery to my workspace (a few plants and flowers can make a big difference!) and I always have water or tea within arm's reach.

Fun Fact about you: I play six different instruments!

What drew you to OLIP: As a first-generation Canadian, my interest in global governance and international affairs began with dinner table conversations about news and politics. I discovered OLIP while working as a Legislative Usher, where I first experienced the fast-paced, exciting environment of the Legislative Assembly. After working in various policy research roles, I realized that I wanted to come back to Queen's Park to learn more about the legislative process. I knew that OLIP was the perfect way to combine my interests in research, policy, and politics.

INTERNS



ELIZABETH HAIG

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (McGill University); Master of Arts in European and Russian Affairs (University of Toronto)

Work-from-home tip(s): Stretch often, build in time for walks outside, and drink lots of tea. Also, keep your phone in a drawer so you don't get distracted by it.

Fun fact about you: In 2019, while doing research for my Master's thesis, I travelled to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago about 1500km south of the North Pole. I saw reindeer, puffins, walruses, and even a polar bear in the wild. It's one of the most interesting places in the world.

What drew you to OLIP: Some OLIP alumni encouraged me to apply! After years of conducting research in an academic silo, I was excited to learn more about how legislation and policy are researched and developed to benefit Ontarians.

MERIEM BY ELIZABETH

It's a pleasure working with Meriem. She is passionate about her Franco-Ontarian identity, and I love how she challenges us to include more French content in OLIP's online presence. She has an infectious enthusiasm for the work, and she is always ready to share stories about life in Montreal and her travels in West Africa.



ELIZABETH BY MERIEM

I have the pleasure of working with Elizabeth on the Social Media Committee; as the Vice-Chair, she has excellent ideas for our work plans! As our Meetings Chair, Elizabeth has demonstrated outstanding organizational skills from our first week. She is well-spoken and introduces our guests eloquently. Elizabeth is a talented embroiderer, which exemplifies her creativity and patience!



MERIEM MEZDOUR

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Honours Bachelor of Social Science in International Development and Globalization (University of Ottawa); Master of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in International Development Studies (McGill University)

Work from home tip(s): Stand up and stretch between meetings. It sounds basic, but it makes such a difference! Also, I like to change my workstation from time to time.

Fun fact about you: I love making DIY projects, like natural hand creams and candles!

What drew you to OLIP: I first heard about OLIP through a recruitment email; I remember that it immediately captured my attention, despite my full inbox. What drew me to OLIP is the opportunity to expand my knowledge on provincial policy-making and learn more about the Ontario Legislature. I'm drawn to the non-partisan aspect of the Programme—working with different political parties will be an eye-opening experience!

MEET THE INTERNS



MONICA MANN

Hometown: Lakefield, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in Economics (McGill University); Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (York University)

Work-from-home tip(s): Try to get up and walk around or stretch, take breaks, and find a counter where you can work comfortably standing up.

A fun fact about you: I helped build a water filtration system in north-western Thailand.

What drew you to OLIP: When I applied to OLIP, I was doing my Master's and working full-time with the federal public service. I was looking for something different, something other than the typical roles you find in the public service. I enjoy learning about the functions of government, and I believe that OLIP will be the best way to get a behind-the-scenes look at how policy decisions are made in Ontario.

DAVID BY MONICA

David is a great listener. He is always looking to make things better, and strives for excellence in everything he does. He has taught me to slow down and properly analyze situations before making decisions. We always seem to be on the same page, which makes working together really great!



MONICA BY DAVID

Monica, my partner-in-crime on the Sponsorship Committee, is very organized and always prepared. When there are tasks to do, she gets down to business right away and accomplishes them at lightning speed. Her warm demeanour makes her easy to talk to, and allows us to collaborate well. She is a pleasure to work with!



DAVID NIGHTINGALE

Hometown: Kitchener, Ontario

Field(s) of study and alma mater(s): Bachelor of Arts in French, Political Science, and Business (University of Waterloo); Bilingual Master of Public and International Affairs (Glendon College at York University)

Work-from-home tip(s): Hide your self-view in virtual meetings so that you feel more like you are in a real meeting.

Fun fact about you: I have an identical twin brother.

What drew you to OLIP: Having worked as an intern at Environment and Climate Change Canada, I already had a bit of an understanding of what a career in the public service might be like, but I had never had an inside look at the political side of government. OLIP was an opportunity to gain such a perspective, allowing me to take a behind-the-scenes look at the practical work of MPPs in Ontario.

KEEP CALM, MASK ON



OLIP 2020: BUSINESS AS USUAL

September	October	November	December
Orientation, Assembly Placements Begin	Assembly Placements End, MPP Interviews Begin	Fall MPP Placements Begin	CPSA Board Meeting, Virtual Ottawa/Quebec Study Tour
January	February	March	April
Paper Presentations Due, OLIP 2021-2022 Applications Due	Fall MPP Placements End, Virtual Yellowknife Study Tour	Spring MPP Placements Begin	Paper Drafts Due
	May	June	
	Paper Posters Due	CPSA Conference, Papers Due	

ASSEMBLY

MACKENZIE BONNETT

Legislative Research

I was placed with Legislative Research for my Assembly placement. Legislative Research provides non-partisan research support to the Legislature on a variety of policy topics. I updated Provincial Affairs Briefings, especially those related to COVID-19, and provided research support to the Research Officers. Thank you to Legislative Research for a great start to my year with OLIP!

AMELIA BOUGHN

OLIP

I had the pleasure of working with OLIP for my placement, where I developed a commemorative strategy for OLIP's 45th anniversary. I collected archival photographs, conducted interviews with past OLIP academic directors, and studied the history of OLIP's relationship with the Legislature. Thanks to the OLIP admin team and Rick Sage for overseeing this placement!

MONICA MANN

Table Research Office

I was fortunate to be placed with the Table Research Office. This small but mighty group provides procedural research to the Speaker, the Clerk of the House, and MPPs. I documented various changes to the procedures and practices of the House, the Precinct, and Committees since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you Table Research Office for the wonderful experience!

MERIEM MEZDOUR

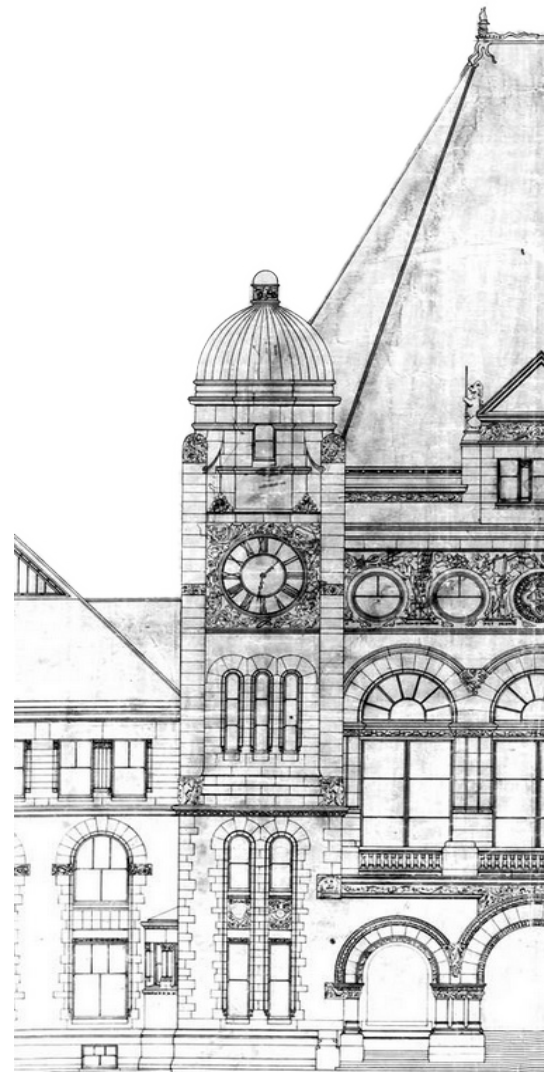
House Publications & Language Services

For my Assembly placement, I had the pleasure of working with House Publications and Language Services, where I assisted the Index and Reference team. I helped develop a user experience survey to analyze how Hansard indexes are currently being used by Ontario Legislative Assembly staff. I would like to thank the Index and Reference team for their warm welcome!

ALEXANDER STOVER

Procedural Services Branch

I was placed with the Procedural Services Branch for my Assembly placement. While there, I compiled a review of best practices for social media accounts run by provincial legislatures, and cataloged the changes made to committees during the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank the Committee Clerks for educating me about their roles at the Assembly—it was much appreciated!



We kick-started our year after orientation with month-long placements in offices of the Legislative Assembly. The many divisions of the Assembly provide non-partisan support and services to MPPs, and include Administrative Services, Information and Technology Services, and Legislative Services.

PLACEMENTS

GURKAMAL DHAHAN

Information Services

I had the privilege of working with the Legislature's Information Services branch. My work revolved around improving the Assembly's digital infrastructure for staff, Members, and public use. It has been captivating to explore linkages between digital parliamentary tools. I am grateful for the warm reception and learning opportunities that Information Services provided!

RITIKA GUPTA

Parliamentary Counsel

I was placed with Parliamentary Counsel, where I conducted a cross-jurisdictional scan of the policies governing Members' use of social media in other legislatures. I dove into the world of parliamentary privilege and defamation, which was fascinating. I would like to thank Parliamentary Counsel for this opportunity, and for the warm reception I received.

ELIZABETH HAIG

Canadian Parliamentary Review

I greatly enjoyed my Assembly placement with the Canadian Parliamentary Review. I researched and wrote several articles, including a short piece on how the "Spanish" influenza pandemic of 1918-19 affected parliamentary business across Canada. It was fun to highlight some of the lesser known aspects of Canadian history! Thank you to the editorial team at the Review for giving me this opportunity!

DAVID NIGHTINGALE

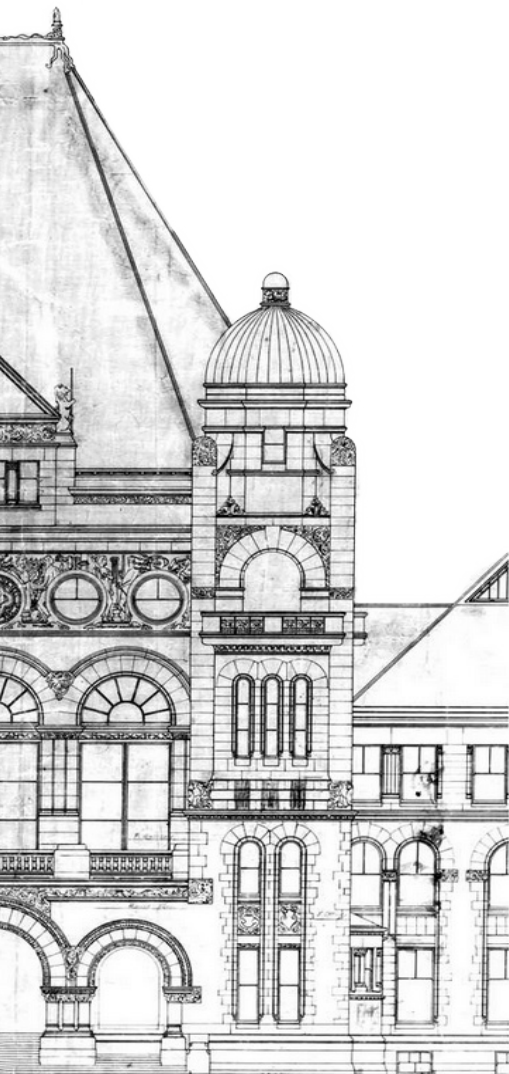
Parliamentary Protocol & Public Relations

My Assembly placement was with Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations (PPPR). I had the opportunity to sit in on several inter-parliamentary association meetings. I saw first-hand how Ontario's MPPs use these international forums to gather information, discuss important issues, and collaborate with other parliamentarians from around the world. Thank you PPPR for including me on the team!

CHELSEA TAO

Legislative Library

My Assembly placement was with the Legislative Library, which provides research and information services to MPPs, their office staff, and legislative staff. I wrote a Provincial Affairs Briefing about the impact of COVID-19 on racialized communities, which was published online for MPPs and staff to refer to. Thank you to the Legislative Library staff and my supervisor Brenna for the warm reception!



Before selecting our placements, we met with various directors and staff of Legislative Assembly offices, all of whom gave us valuable insight into their work. We are grateful for the opportunity to have discovered this integral and non-partisan aspect of the Legislature!

FALL MPP

RITIKA IS PLACED WITH MPP SOL MAMAKWA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



I am very excited to be working in the office of **MPP SOL MAMAKWA**, the New Democratic Party representative of Kiiwetinoong. A Kingfisher Lake band member, MPP Mamakwa is the Official Opposition Critic for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. He is also a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. It has been a tremendous privilege learning about Indigenous and Northern issues from both MPP Mamakwa and his Executive Assistant, Athena Bedassigae-Pheasant. Recently, MPP Mamakwa's team has been working on securing clean water for Neskantaga First Nation. So far, I have had the opportunity to hear constituents' concerns, draft letters, and organize stakeholder meetings. I am very grateful for the kind welcome I have received, and look forward to learning and growing in this role. Thank you to MPP Mamakwa, and his staff, for having me.

MACKENZIE IS PLACED WITH MPP PEGGY SATTLER NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

For my first placement, I am working with **MPP PEGGY SATTLER** of the NDP, who represents the riding of London West. MPP Sattler is the Deputy Opposition House Leader and is the critic for Democratic Reform, Pay Equity, and Employment Standards for the Official Opposition. Prior to her election to the Legislature in 2013, MPP Sattler served as a school board trustee and chair of Thames Valley District School Board. She was also the director of policy at a research firm where she led a project to connect employers with job seekers in London. MPP Sattler's office has been operating entirely remotely during the pandemic. With all staff based in London, the office has been able to enhance their focus on issues at the constituency level. I would like to thank MPP Sattler and her staff, Amanda, Brad, and Leah, for welcoming me into their office!



PLACEMENTS

GURKAMAL IS PLACED WITH MPP DEEPAK ANAND PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

For my fall placement, I am privileged to work alongside **MPP DEEPAK ANAND**. MPP Anand represents the incredibly diverse riding of Mississauga—Malton, and serves as a special advisor to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade. He is Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills, and a Member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Before being elected in 2018, MPP Anand was actively involved in the community, and has directed various social agencies like Telecare Brampton and Indus Community Services; this wealth of experience has materialized into several local projects. I am excited to learn more about issues important to MPP Anand while working on projects like his Private Member's Bill on gas station safety and mentoring a local youth council. I am also inspired by his commitment to community building, youth empowerment, local employment, and education. I am grateful to be joining MPP Anand and his fantastic team, who have given me a heartfelt welcome.



AMELIA IS PLACED WITH MPP FRANCE GÉLINAS NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



I am thrilled to be working in the office of **MPP FRANCE GÉLINAS**, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Nickel Belt. Nickel Belt is a Northern riding surrounding the City of Greater Sudbury, and also includes the municipality of French River, the municipality of Killarney, and small Northern communities such as Gogama and Foleyet. 43% of the riding is bilingual, and I am looking forward to improving my French and learning more about Ontario's Francophone population! MPP Gélinas is the NDP Health Critic, and also serves as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Since her election in 2007, she has been an advocate for her community and for healthcare improvements in Ontario. It has been a pleasure working with MPP Gélinas and her Legislative Assistant Damien, as well as her constituency staff Adele, Jasmine, and Monique. I am so grateful for the time they've spent welcoming me onto their team!

FALL MPP

ELIZABETH IS PLACED WITH MPP NORM MILLER PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



I am very excited to be working with **MPP NORM MILLER** for my first placement! He represents the riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka, in the heart of Ontario's beautiful cottage country. This riding is unique because, due to its large summer tourism industry, its population doubles in the summertime. Mr. Miller has served as MPP for this riding since 2001, so he brings a wealth of knowledge about politics and local issues to Queen's Park. On my first day in the (virtual) office, I hit the ground running by drafting a 15 minute speech for MPP Miller about one of his Private Member's Bills (PMB) for a committee hearing the following week! I am eager to learn more about how PMBs are developed and debated. Thanks to Mr. Miller and his staff — Lesley, the Executive Assistant, and Jess, Karen, Jessie and Christina at the constituency offices — for welcoming me to the team.

MONICA IS PLACED WITH MPP KALEED RASHEED PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

MPP KALEED RASHEED is the Member of Provincial Parliament for Mississauga East—Cooksville. The riding is a suburban mix of residences and small businesses, and is representative of the great diversity found throughout Ontario. MPP Rasheed's background is in business, but as a father of four, he entered politics to help realize a better future for his children and the next generations. The office works hard to support the community. As Deputy Whip, MPP Rasheed's Queen's Park office works closely with the Whip's office to fulfil their House duties, which include ensuring that Members are present for recorded votes. I am so thankful for MPP Rasheed and the rest of the team, who have been so welcoming and kind to me, and I am excited to work with such a great group of people.



PLACEMENTS

MERIEM IS PLACED WITH MPP LAURA MAE LINDO NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I am thrilled to be starting my OLIP fall placement with **MPP LAURA MAE LINDO**, Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener Centre. MPP Lindo is the Official Opposition Critic for Anti-Racism, and for Citizenship and Immigration. She is Chair of the Official Opposition's first Black Caucus, and is a member of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. MPP Lindo is committed to building inclusive communities and fighting systemic racism by putting anti-oppression theories into practice. So far, I have helped her office prepare news round-ups for Kitchener by gathering daily local news articles. I have also worked on briefing notes related to her parliamentary roles. MPP Lindo and her staff, Zahra and Julie, have already made me feel like a part of their team despite my short time spent working with them. Thank you for your warm welcome—I look forward to spending the next few months in your office!



DAVID IS PLACED WITH MPP LUCILLE COLLARD LIBERAL



For my first MPP placement, I have the pleasure of working with **MPP LUCILLE COLLARD**, representative for Ottawa—Vanier. Made up of a section of downtown Ottawa and the eastern suburbs of the city, the riding is diverse both ethnically and socio-economically. It also has a large Francophone population, which is exciting for me as a student of the French language. Part of the 8-Member Liberal caucus, MPP Collard has four critic portfolios: Women's Issues, Attorney General, Solicitor General, and Environment, Conservation, and Parks. Before running for office, MPP Collard worked as a lawyer in various positions within the federal public service, and has also served as a school trustee. The team in MPP Collard's office has been extremely welcoming, and has already included me in a number of interesting projects, including writing questions for the Standing Committee on Justice Policy and analyzing the 2020 provincial budget. Thank you to the whole office for the warm welcome!

FALL MPP PLACEMENTS

ALEXANDER IS PLACED WITH MPP DAVID PICCINI PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



I am placed with **MPP DAVID PICCINI**, Member of Provincial Parliament for Northumberland—Peterborough South. The riding stretches from south of Peterborough across Rice Lake, down to Lake Ontario, and includes beautiful Presqu'ile Provincial Park. It is home to various agricultural businesses and craft industries. MPP Piccini is Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. He is currently working to expand broadband service to rural constituents in his riding and getting financial relief to agricultural businesses that have faced extra costs during the pandemic. He is also currently attending a number of constituency outreach meetings with the budget release to hear thoughts and concerns on changes to Ontario's fiscal policy. Thank you to MPP Piccini, Paige, Bonnie, Mateline, and all the other staff at the constituency office for being so welcoming. I am looking forward to our next few months together.

CHELSEA IS PLACED WITH MPP STAN CHO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

I'm very excited to be working with **MPP STAN CHO** for my fall placement! MPP Cho represents the riding of Willowdale, a bustling community in north Toronto that includes an eclectic mix of quiet residential spaces as well as the busy North York downtown strip. As a second-generation Korean-Canadian and owner of a small business, MPP Cho joined politics to help create opportunities for people to support their families and establish better futures for their children. As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, MPP Cho is responsible for various files related to fiscal and economic policy. Most recently, the office has been busy preparing and announcing the 2020 Ontario Budget. Thank you MPP Cho, Ryan, Ashley, David, and Christina for your warm welcome to the team! I'm looking forward to working with all of you over the next few months.



LEADERS: PAST & PRESENT

RIGHT HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN



In November, we had the honour of meeting with the **RIGHT HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN**, former prime minister of Canada. Mr. Martin served as prime minister from 2003 to 2006 and prior to that, was the minister of Finance for almost ten years. Mr. Martin discussed with us the importance of parliamentary committees as forums for cross-party debate and discussion about legislation. He talked candidly about his experiences as Finance Minister, and about the need for a healthy exchange of differing ideas and perspectives within Cabinet. He also spoke passionately about the issues that he considers to be the most important today: supporting Indigenous peoples in Canada and addressing climate change. We enjoyed hearing his insight into such a wide variety of issues. Thank you Mr. Martin for such an engaging discussion!

We had the pleasure of meeting **CHIEF ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD**, the Ontario Regional Chief. Elected for a three-year term, Chief Archibald is the first woman to hold this position. Chief Archibald described the importance of creating space for other leaders, finding common ground, and encouraging dialogue to solve pressing issues. In an eye-opening conversation, we discussed some of the issues Indigenous people face today. These include poor access to clean drinking water, systemic racism, and discrimination in the healthcare system. When asked how to overcome some of these difficulties, Chief Archibald emphasized the importance of having women and Indigenous youth in decision-making roles, and changing the system from the inside. We learned a tremendous amount from Chief Archibald, and we thank her and her team for their time.

CHIEF ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD



MR. DALTON MCGUINITY



We had the privilege of meeting with **DALTON MCGUINITY**, premier of Ontario for almost ten years, from 2003 to 2013. He became leader of the Ontario Liberal Party in 1995, and served ten years as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition before becoming premier. Mr. McGuinty is the first Liberal premier to secure three consecutive terms since Oliver Mowat (1872-1896). We discussed with him the importance of personal relationships in politics. Mr. McGuinty shared with us how he had to learn to also forge relationships across party lines, a sometimes challenging but important task for a leader. Mr. McGuinty highlighted the importance of always striving to make a difference, be it through politics, public service, or something else. We are so grateful for the time and insights he shared with us!

MINISTERS

THE HONOURABLE CHRISTINE ELLIOTT



We were thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet with the **HONOURABLE CHRISTINE ELLIOTT**, Ontario's **DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF HEALTH**. November is a dynamic and busy time for her portfolio with flu season approaching, and the added pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Elliott spoke to us about the importance of an integrated healthcare system where various sectors do not compete for funding but instead come together to serve the needs of the patient. She also shared her thoughts about some of the challenges she anticipates in the upcoming months, such as developing a system for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Finally, we heard about Minister Elliott's hopes for a post-COVID-19 healthcare system where services are made more accessible and convenient by technology, such as virtual consultations, which have become widely accepted during the pandemic. Thank you Minister Elliott for taking some time out of your busy schedule to chat with us!

THE HONOURABLE ROD PHILLIPS



In November, we had the pleasure of meeting with the **MINISTER OF FINANCE**, the **HONOURABLE ROD PHILLIPS**. As the 2020 Ontario budget was released just a few weeks earlier, we appreciated Minister Phillips taking the time to discuss with us the challenges and rewards of managing the province's finances through the pandemic. Minister Phillips also spoke to us about his career before being elected, when he was variously a political staffer, business executive, and community leader. We appreciated hearing Minister Phillips' perspective on the future of Ontario's economy; he spoke not only about how Ontario will survive this current crisis, but also about how it will thrive in the global economy. Thank you Minister Phillips for taking the time to speak to us about your career and role as a minister!

AND MORE!

TERRY FALLIS



We were thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet with **TERRY FALLIS**, award-winning novelist and public relations consultant. Mr. Fallis spoke to us about his unique path to writing; he studied engineering in university and spent many years as a political staffer before venturing into the world of novel writing. He shared with us his thoughts on the benefits and shortcomings of partisan politics, and his visions for the future of politics and democracy in Canada. Mr. Fallis walked us through his writing process, from the moment he has his first idea for a book through the months he spends creating detailed plans, to the moment when he finally sits down to put pen to paper. Thank you, Mr. Fallis, for sharing your experiences and insights with us!

In November, we had the pleasure of meeting **STEVE PAIKIN**, host of Ontario's flagship current affairs television program, *The Agenda*. Since 2006, *The Agenda* has provided Ontarians with in-depth discussions about political, cultural, and social issues in Ontario, Canada, and beyond. During our meeting, Mr. Paikin shared stories and experiences from both within and outside the TVO studio that inspired him to explore political life through journalism. We spoke about social media's impact on journalism, the importance of creating robust conditions for good debate, the crucial role of non-partisanship in journalism, and the responsibility to ask questions he believes Ontarians want answered. Mr. Paikin even imparted a few invaluable interviewing tips we'll be sure to keep in mind in the future. Thank you, Mr. Paikin, for taking the time to meet with us!

STEVE PAIKIN



RICHARD BRENNAN



We met with **RICHARD BRENNAN**, a retired journalist who, throughout his more than 40 year career, worked for the *Toronto Star* and the *Record* in Waterloo, and served on the Ontario Press Council. Mr. Brennan kept the interns engaged with personal stories about his time at Queen's Park which cut through the formality of political life and revealed a more human side of the politicians he had met over the course of his career. Despite the technological changes he witnessed during his time as a journalist, Mr. Brennan believes that the core of good journalism is still found in the persistence of the press to ask tough questions of politicians. We are grateful to Mr. Brennan for taking time to share some of his career highlights!

ONTARIO'S PARLIAMENTARY

THE AUDITOR GENERAL



We had the pleasure of meeting with **BONNIE LYSYK**, the 13th Auditor General of Ontario. As the Auditor General, Ms. Lysyk is responsible for completing value-for-money and financial audits of provincial agencies and programs, as well as other public sector organizations. We appreciated hearing Ms. Lysyk's insights into the unique challenges she has faced in managing the media attention that comes with her position. We also enjoyed learning about the audit selection process, and how she and her team select the most pressing topics from a broad field of possible audits each year. We are grateful to Ms. Lysyk for sharing her time and experiences with us!

THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER



In October, we had the pleasure of virtually meeting the **HONOURABLE J. DAVID WAKE**, Ontario's Integrity Commissioner. We learned about the role his office plays in promoting and enforcing standards of ethical conduct in the governance of Ontario. We were particularly interested to hear about how this role has evolved since its establishment in the 1980s with the advent of social media. We talked about the legislation that guides government ethics, and learned about the types of consultations and investigations the Integrity Commissioner oversees. Commissioner Wake offered thoughtful answers to our questions about the work of his office, including some interesting insight into how his role has changed because of the pandemic. Thank you Commissioner Wake for taking the time to meet with us, for the interesting discussion, and for the work that you do for Ontarians!

OFFICERS

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER



We met with **GREG ESSENSA**, the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario. Mr. Essensa is responsible for the organization and administration of all scheduled and snap provincial elections in Ontario. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Essensa has worked to modernize Ontario's elections, making them more accessible to all Ontarians by implementing electronic voting systems. Mr. Essensa gave us a virtual tour of the Elections Ontario warehouse, which is used to store voting materials prior to election day. Mr. Essensa also highlighted the importance of preparation and flexibility when organizing elections. Our meeting left us with an appreciation for the challenges associated with administering an election and serving 10.2 million electors in Ontario. We are thankful to Mr. Essensa for sharing his time and experiences with us!

THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER



We had the opportunity to meet with Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC), **PATRICIA KOSSEIM**. We learned about the role of the Commissioner in ensuring that Ontario's public institutions adhere to provincial legislation governing how personal information is collected, used, and disclosed. Ms. Kosseim discussed with us the IPC's intake and mediation processes, and the IPC's ability—unique among Canadian provinces—to issue binding orders to public entities. Ms. Kosseim began her term as IPC in July, and she shared with us her goals and vision for her term, as well as some of the challenges posed by the growing role of technology in our society. We are grateful for her valuable insights!

ONTARIO'S HOUSE OFFICERS

THE CLERK



We had the pleasure of meeting with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, **MR. TODD DECKER**. The Clerk has the equivalent rank and status of a Deputy Minister, overseeing all divisions and branches of the Office of the Assembly. With over 30 years of experience working in the Legislature, Mr. Decker was able to discuss some of the changes that he has seen at Queen's Park over the years, such as the dawn of television in the House and committees. He also explained to us the role of the Committee of the Whole House, and made a case for the importance of committees in a parliamentary democracy. Mr. Decker's passion for the Legislature is inspiring, and we enjoyed learning from his wealth of experience at Queen's Park.

THE SPEAKER



On our first day at Queen's Park, we had the pleasure of meeting with the **HONOURABLE TED ARNOTT**, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. He has served at the Legislature for 30 years, representing the riding of Wellington—Halton Hills. We learned about the unique experiences and challenges he faces as the Speaker. Speaker Arnott also emphasized how critical the next six months will be for those in public service, and for Ontarians more generally, as we confront the challenges posed by COVID-19, and come together to rebuild our society. We appreciate his advice on the importance of being hardworking and honest, and in maintaining integrity. We are grateful for the welcome we received, and for Speaker Arnott's strong support of our Programme!

THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



As the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, **JACKIE GORDON** is responsible for ensuring the security and safety of the Chamber and Legislature, and upholding the traditions of Parliament within the House. She also oversees the maintenance and operations of the Legislative Precinct. During our meeting, Ms. Gordon shared with us her experiences in transitioning from 34 years of service with the Halton Regional Police Service to her role as Ontario's first female Sergeant-at-Arms, and she underscored the importance of competence, integrity, and effective communication in her role. Thank you so much Ms. Gordon for sharing your experiences and insights with us!

CALLING ALL ALUMNI: KEEP IN TOUCH!



The 2020-2021 OLIP Interns with **Waqas Iqbal**, alumnus of the 2008-2009 cohort

Our alumni are an integral part of the OLIP success story. We have had many meetings with alumni who candidly discussed life during OLIP and their professional trajectories after finishing the Programme. Their advice and insight enriches our OLIP experience, and offers exciting prospects for the future after OLIP. We look forward to the many alumni meetings to come!

There are many ways for alumni to stay in touch. We invite you to follow us on social media; we are **@olipinterns** on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Throughout the year, we will send invitations via email and social media for virtual events, including our 45th anniversary Speaker Series. If you need to update your contact information with us, please complete our online form at www.olipinterns.ca/alumni-survey.

We invite you to complete a short form in which you can tell the interns a bit more about yourself, as well as directly provide us with advice and suggestions for the year at bit.ly/olipalumni.

Lastly, you may always email our Alumni Engagement Committee Chair, **Mackenzie**, at mbonnett@olipinterns.ca with any inquiries or suggestions you have.

Keep rocking, OLIP alumni!

Complete the alumni feedback form!



KASSANDRA LOEWEN 2017-2018

OLIP was a pivotal moment in my professional trajectory. Fresh out of a Master's degree in political science, my head was full of theories of how politics "works." A year after being immersed in life at Queen's Park, I had a much greater appreciation for the messiness, complexity, unpredictability, and—ultimately—the very human reality of governance.

As an intern, I became accustomed to being discreet about my political opinions; however, I quickly realized that I wanted a career in which I could openly advocate for causes that I am passionate about—especially health equity. Unable to see myself as a civil servant or political staffer, I returned to school and earned a Master of Public Health from the University of Toronto.

I currently work for the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC), a new organization that represents the Indigenous-governed primary health care sector in Ontario. As the IPHCC's Quality Decision Support Specialist, my role largely consists of using data to tell the story of our

sector, including documenting the experiences and needs of our member organizations during the current pandemic.

The most exciting thing that happened during my internship was definitely the 2018 election—and all the unpredictable developments leading up to it. Shortly before our Ottawa-Quebec City trip, a few of us interns attended the Progressive Conservative (PC) convention, where Patrick Brown unveiled his "People's Guarantee" platform. Just a few weeks later, the PC party was embroiled in a leadership race. I've never experienced anything like the atmosphere at Queen's Park during those days—it truly was an unpredictable roller coaster, with nobody knowing what was going to happen next.

During the election itself I was fortunate enough to have a mini placement at Elections Ontario (EO). Based out of their Scarborough command centre, I was astounded by the nearly overwhelming complexity of administering an election. The 2018 election was the first time vote tabulators were used for an Ontario election and, after 6 weeks of working at nearly breakneck speed, I must confess it was somewhat anticlimactic for the election to be called mere minutes after the polls closed. Working at EO gave me a newfound respect for the thousands of people required to make democracy work.

My advice for current interns is threefold:

- 1. Have each other's backs.** OLIP is a unique experience. It is so very important to be there for each other. You sink or swim as a team. It is common to use OLIP as a jumping-off point for one's career—but that should never come at the expense of your loyalty to the programme or each other.
- 2. Keep an open mind.** Go outside your comfort zone. As an intern I had the pleasure of meeting, working with—and in a number of cases befriending—wonderful people who were Conservative, Liberal, and NDP. It isn't always easy, especially in this hyper-polarized world, but try to avoid putting people into boxes based on the colour of their badge.
- 3. Start your essay early.** That is all.

SPOTLIGHT

PETER REKAI

1976-1977

1976. Year One of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Age 21, I was the “baby” of our inaugural group of 7 interns.

Backbench MPPs were excited, but wary that their intern would later cross the floor to the “dark side.” My first placement was with a young NDP firebrand from Thunder Bay, Iain Angus. I wrote scorching socialist speeches and acquired a brown corduroy suit like that worn by our golden-tongued NDP Leader, Stephen Lewis. Then, off to the Tories, to the no-nonsense, laconic, sod farmer from Dufferin-Simcoe, George McCague, for whom I wrote more succinct speeches which inevitably began with: “To my way of thinkin’...”

Our interns’ trip to Parliament Hill featured a memorable audience with the Rt. Hon John George Diefenbaker, who regaled us with political anecdotes.

After OLIP, I was off to Queen’s Law School and back to Toronto to article and get called to the Bar. Then, it was back to Queen’s Park, spending over 2 years as Legislative Assistant to the late Hon. Robert Elgie, a Crimson Tory, Davis cabinet minister, lawyer, and neurosurgeon, recently appointed Minister of (then) Consumer and Commercial Relations. Elgie’s omnibus ministry regulated the securities and insurance industries, rent controls, horse racing, the LCBO and the Ontario Censor Board (essentially, profiteering, gambling, drinking and sex). The Censor Board chief was the stern and formidable Mrs. Mary Brown, who eagerly provided us with details of the naughty bits she had cut from the latest film destined for the recently launched Festival of Festivals (later known as TIFF).

On the bright side, we amended the liquor laws to allow for “beer in the ball park”

I took time off from Queen’s Park in 1984 to stand as the federal PC candidate in the Liberal immigrant bastion of Trinity in west Toronto, referred to as a “landing strip.” My campaign office was situated on working class Ossington Avenue, the scene of today’s trendiest restaurants and coolest neighborhoods. The riding would remain safely Liberal for decades to come.

I left Queen’s Park to start a law practice in a third-floor walk-up on Prince Arthur Ave. My early clientele, many from Trinity riding, came to me with immigration problems, which I knew nothing about. Immigration eventually took over the practice, providing a range of colourful clients including Afghan warriors, Irish terrorists, sushi chefs, construction workers and exotic dancers. Alas, the practice has gentrified, with 24 employees serving a mostly corporate clientele.

I recently became reacquainted with Queen’s Park, while serving as Board Chair of a non-profit corporation operating two downtown, long-term care homes. We negotiated permission to proceed with building a new, innovative post-pandemic home at the Waterfront. My Intern experience on both sides of the aisle taught me to deal respectfully (and patiently) with legislators and public servants of varying political hues.

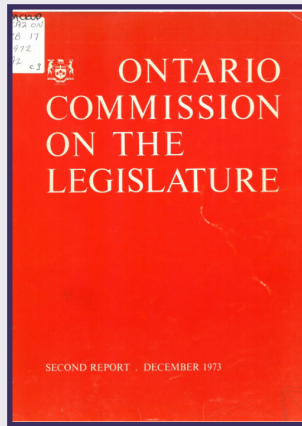
An OLIP lesson well learned.



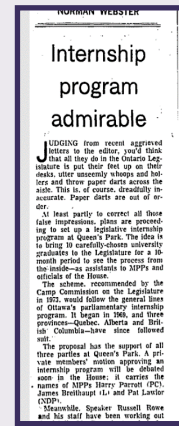
OLIP CELEBRATES

The (Dalton) Camp Commission on the Legislature recommends the creation of an internship programme for the Ontario Legislature.

The Legislature's budding internship programme receives a write-up in Canada's national newspaper, The Globe and Mail.



The OLIP programme is formally established.



OLIP's first cohort begins their time at Queen's Park.

1973

1975

1976

"As a relatively young professor at York, I was invited to have lunch with Dalton Camp, chair of the Camp Commission—aka the Ontario Commission on the Legislature—which recommended that Ontario establish an internship programme modeled on the Parliamentary Internship Programme."
—Dr. Fred Fletcher, OLIP Academic Director 1981-1988



"In 1976-77, the MPPs had only one or two staff and they had a lot of use for the interns to help them prepare, so the interns became well established. Something that was established quite early was that the MPPs shouldn't choose the interns, the interns choose the MPPs. The coordinators made sure the interns considered people they might not have otherwise considered and, often, these ended up being the most successful pairings."

—Dr. Graham White, OLIP intern 1976-77; Academic Director 1988-94

45 YEARS...

Stephen Lewis steps down as leader of the NDP and as MPP.



CC Image courtesy of AID-Free World

"In 1982-83, there had been 40 years of Conservative rule. Bill Davis was premier. You look at a lot of what Bill Davis did, it was in the centre. There's a lot of commonality in the issues between now and then...The key portfolios were finance, health, education, and the attorney general. These are and were the areas that will shape your government."
—Mr. Tim Murphy, OLIP Intern

David Peterson is elected as the first Liberal premier in 42 years.

OLIP alumnus Bob Speller is elected as MP for Haldimand—Norfolk. He would go on to become federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in 2003.

1978

1981

1985

1988

"Something that stands out in my memory is the opportunity to watch and listen to Stephen Lewis. He was an amazing activist and the best public speaker I've ever seen. If he was going to speak, the place would fill up. I remember there was a debate about national unity; it was a critical moment and Lewis just transcended it. I loved having the privilege to watch and listen to Stephen Lewis."

—Dr. Graham White, OLIP intern 1976-77; Academic Director 1988-94

Frank Miller wins his bid for leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party and becomes Ontario's 19th Premier.

"In 1985, the Liberals and NDP made an agreement that brought the Liberals to power, and a whole bunch of new ministers came into their positions. We had a chance to meet with Bob Nixon (the new Treasurer), Ian Scott (the Attorney General and Solicitor General), and Bob Rae. They had some great stories."

—Dr. Graham White, OLIP Intern 1976-77; OLIP Academic Director 1988-94

...WITH A LESSON

Bob Rae becomes Ontario's first and (to date) only NDP premier.

June of 1990 saw the collapse of the Meech Lake Accord and a resurgence of the Quebec sovereignty movement.

The 1989-90 OLIP cohort becomes the first group to travel to the Northwest Territories.



OLIP alumnus Tim Murphy is elected as MPP for St. George—St. David.

Mike Harris is elected premier on his Common Sense Revolution platform.

9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre.

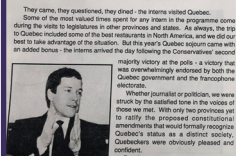
1990

1993

1995

2001

'La Belle Province, An Interesting Time to Pay a Visit...



They came, they questioned, they died - the interns visited Quebec. Some of the most valued time spent for any intern in the programme came during the visits to legislatures in other provinces and states. As always, the trip to Quebec involved some of the best restaurants in North America, and we did our best to take advantage of the situation. But this year's Quebec equine came with an added bonus - the interns arrived the day following the Conservative second majority victory at the polls - a victory that was overwhelmingly endorsed by both the Quebec government and the francophone electorate.

Whether journalist or politician, we were struck by the national tone in the voices of those we met. With only two provinces set to ratify the proposed constitutional amendments that would formally recognize Quebec's status as a distinct society, Quebecers were obviously pleased and confident.

For francophones the results of the federal election campaign meant the inevitability of free trade and the expected subsequent growth of Quebec's economy. But with Premier Robert Bourassa's case of the notwithstanding clause to override the Charter of Rights of Freedom in an effort to rewrite Quebec's controversial language law, the future of the Meech Lake accord is uncertain at best.

What we learned in Quebec now seems most valuable to understanding the role of the province.

"If there is one lesson which still has the power to radically change Quebec's politics," Robert Williams, Quebec intern, told the "Toronto Star," last audience of interns in November.

The central role played by language in Quebec politics and culture was echoed all those we spoke with: Guy Chevrette, Parti Quebecois House Leader; Gilles Gauthier, journalist with LeDevoir; Michel Bouchard, constitutional expert and adjunct professor of planning and research; and Michel Grignon, Government House.



The interns in Quebec. From left to right: Fred Fletcher, Robert Williams, Lynn Forsyth, Chris Adams, Emma Zerkow, Adrienne Cull, Rosemary Hestick, Mark Langdon and Rosemary Hestick.

Leader, to name a few.

"The government realizes the controversy of using the notwithstanding clause to defend Bill 101, but also understands what the left represents to most Quebecers, the protection of their language," Grignon told us at the time.

"Meech Lake is not ratified, Canada will not be a possibility of including Quebec in constitutional talks," said Bouchard unequivocally. Bouchard was pessimistic about the future of Quebec in Canada if Meech Lake falls through the cracks of Canadian regionalism.

The feeling among francophones, that Quebec is still misunderstood in constitutionally isolated, was apparent throughout our visit. It was learned, anyway, at all, we learned that the members of the Quiet Revolution continue to burn in belle province."

Rosemary Hestick
Legislative Intern

Every time separatism flared up, our trip to Quebec became more important. We had an annual meeting with the Quebec interns, and they got on well with the OLIP interns. We tried to have at least one intern and preferably more who spoke French. This was important for the programme."

—Dr. Fred Fletcher

OLIP Academic Director 1981-1988

"Through the programme, I saw that politicians were human beings, and it made it seem possible for me. At the end of the day, the people elected were representative of the people. That representation is imperfect, but in the broadest sense it is there."

—Mr. Tim Murphy
OLIP intern 1982-83

"I expect the growth of security grew from [9/11]. It was just part of the general mood. By the end [of my time with OLIP], I needed to have a photo ID. Gradually reducing access to the building for the general public changed the general feel for the building. Before, people could wander as they wanted and go watch a debate. It was the beginning of a change in the ways the building had been used."

—Dr. Robert Williams

OLIP Academic Director 1994-2003

IN HISTORY

OLIP alumna
Annamie Paul is
elected leader of the
federal Green Party.



Dalton McGuinty is
elected as the 24th
Premier of Ontario.

Kathleen Wynne
becomes
Ontario's first
female and openly
gay premier.



CC Image courtesy of Annamie Paul

Doug Ford becomes
Ontario's 26th premier.

2003

2006

2013

2018

2020

"There always came a point in the year where I no longer knew more about the Legislature than the interns did. They were in the offices and interacting with the players. People would tell the interns stuff that I probably would never hear. Thus, as the legislative year progressed, the interns enriched my experience more and more."

-Dr. Henry Jacek
OLIP Academic Director, 2004-2016

OLIP alumna
Chris
Charlton
is elected
as MP for
Hamilton
Mountain.

"My favourite part of OLIP happens ten times a year when each intern has an ah-ha moment. Something clicks inside their minds and a new depth of understanding and wisdom arises from that reflection. Everybody walks away with some kind of spark in them, a light that was ignited here, and they go out into the world and do good."

—Dr. Peter Constantinou
OLIP Academic Director
2015-Present

OLIP's 45th
cohort begins
their orientation
in the midst of
the COVID-19
pandemic.

THE INTERNS:



Amelia in Tofino, British Columbia



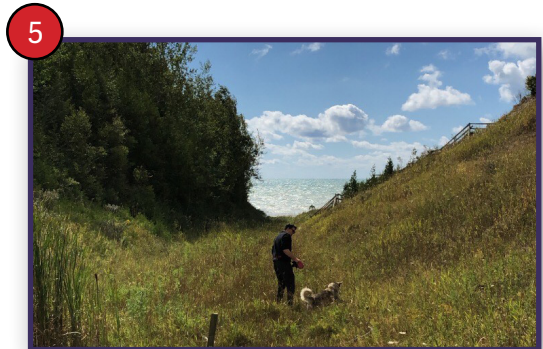
Elizabeth at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Alberta



Alexander at Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan



Ritika at Point Pelee, Ontario



Mackenzie at Lake Huron, Huron County, Ontario

FROM SEA TO SEA

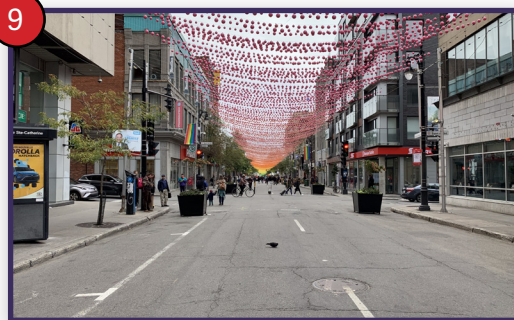


10



Meriem at Fundy National Park, New Brunswick

9



Gurkamal in Montreal's Gay Village, Quebec

8



Monica at Lac Mercier, Quebec

6



Chelsea at Killbear Provincial Park, Ontario

7



David kayaking the Ottawa River, Ontario

THANKING OUR

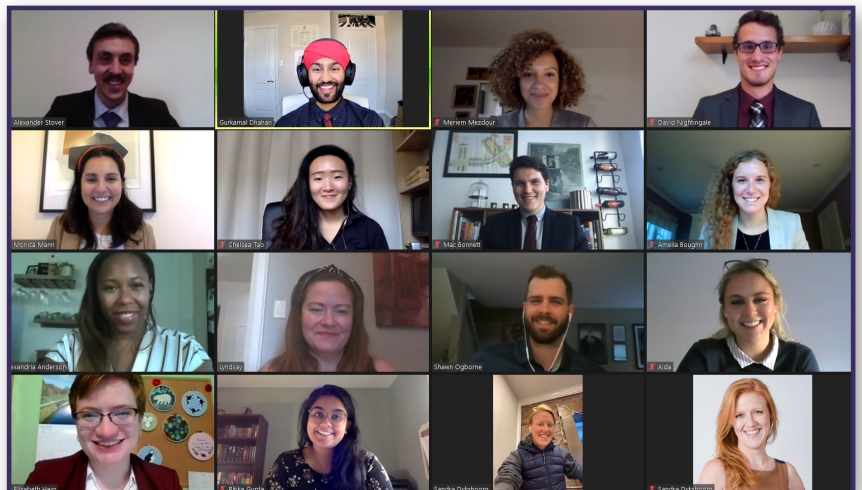
BRUCE POWER



We met with representatives from **BRUCE POWER**, Ontario's only private nuclear power generation company. From their site on the shores of Lake Huron, Bruce Power provides approximately 30% of Ontario's electricity supply. The facility is also responsible for the production of the medical isotopes used to sterilize medical equipment and treat prostate cancer. Pat Dalzell, Andrew Thiele, Clint Litster, and other representatives at Bruce Power spoke about the role of nuclear energy in Ontario's economy, in pushing the frontiers of research, and assisting in the creation of lifesaving medical components. They also outlined the plan to keep the facility operational through the 2060s, and the safety protocols for the storage of radioactive waste. The OLIP interns are grateful to Pat, Andrew, Clint, Taylor, Wendy and everyone else at Bruce Power for their support of the programme. Their generosity allows OLIP to continue having educational meetings with important contributors to Ontario's society.

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION (OPG) is the province's largest clean power generator, owned wholly by the Government of Ontario. OPG operates a diverse portfolio of nuclear, natural gas, hydroelectric, thermal, and solar power facilities. We were grateful to meet with Sandra Dykxhoorn, Director of Provincial Relations, Alexandria Anderson, Stakeholder Relations Officer, and a few of their colleagues who discussed with us OPG's current projects and opportunities. In addition to the interesting discussion on power generation, we learned about the impact that OPG has on Ontario's jobs and economy. OPG employs thousands of people across Ontario, with even more people employed in supply chains and associated sectors. Every year, OPG returns net income to the Province, helping to fund essential programs and economic growth. OPG has become a leader of innovation in spheres such as transportation electrification, medicinal isotope production, and small modular reactor technology. Lastly, we learned about OPG's commitment to creating diverse and inclusive workplaces through initiatives like the Indigenous Circle program. Thank you OPG for the brilliant learning experience and for your continued support of OLIP!

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION



SPONSORS

TD BANK

We had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Gary Clement, Director of Government Relations at **TD BANK**, one of OLIP's Major Sponsors. Mr. Clement's time working in the Premier's Office between 1999 and 2003 was the source of a number of interesting stories highlighting the organizational, critical thinking, and crisis management skills that one can gain while working in the political realm. Thank you very much Mr. Clement for taking the time to talk with us and for sharing your experiences and insights!



CIBC



CIBC has been a long-standing sponsor of OLIP, and we had the opportunity to speak with Elisabeth Laratta and Meredith Taylor from the company's government relations team. Using the analogy of "translation," Ms. Laratta and Ms. Taylor described how they facilitate effective communication between the banking sector and the government by helping each side understand the "language" of the other. As interns, we are becoming fluent in this "language" of government, which will be a valuable skill as we start our careers. Thank you CIBC for sharing your insights, and for your continued support of OLIP!

We had the pleasure of meeting with Howard Brown, the founder and president of **BROWN & COHEN COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS INC.**, a company that provides both government relations and marketing services. Mr. Brown demonstrated why he has seen so much success in his life, connecting with each intern individually and drawing us in with his enthusiasm and storytelling abilities. He taught us about the importance of taking an interest in others in order to network and build long-lasting relationships. We also discussed the need for everyone to come out of their silos and engage in respectful discussion with those whose opinions are different from one's own. Thank you Brown & Cohen for your continued support of OLIP!

BROWN & COHEN



PURPLE TRILLIUM SPONSORS



LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



SPONSORS



SPONSORS IN-KIND

