



QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the past nine months, we are filled with many emotions. Despite the adversity and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we had no shortage of extraordinary meetings, opportunities, and insights. Our cohort will forever remember this unique year, when we had a centre seat at the heart of Ontario's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

From working alongside government and opposition MPPs with their dedicated teams of staff, learning about the intricacies of the field of government relations, to meeting with scholars and academics, each moment has been eye-opening and informative.

Our virtual study tours brought us to Yellowknife, Manitoba, Ottawa, Quebec City, Washington, and Colorado. By the time our ten months are up, we will have virtually traversed the Atlantic to visit the birthplace of our Westminster parliamentary system in London, England. We have also had the opportunity to meet with former premiers, prime ministers, and many others whom, until now, we would only have seen in conferences, or read about in the news. Many of these moments and more are featured in this edition of the *Queen's Park Insider*.

This magazine also continues OLIP's 45th anniversary celebration. Throughout the year, we have been featuring archival photos, monthly blog posts, and an "OLIP at 45" speaker series to celebrate the 45 cohorts that have had the privilege to explore the halls of Queen's Park. One of OLIP's greatest strengths is its alumni, whom we thank for providing us with ongoing mentorship, guidance, and fascinating conversations.

We're tremendously grateful for the opportunities and experiences that OLIP has provided to us, and we want to extend our thanks to all those who make it possible. This includes our generous sponsors, as well as the Clerk, Todd Decker, the Speaker, Hon. Ted Arnott, and all of the amazing staff at the Assembly. Thank you also to the Canadian Political Science Association for their endless support, and to our administrative team for all of their hard work and engagement.

We hope you enjoy this look into our final months as OLIP interns.

Sincerely,

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

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LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



Every year when writing this letter for the Spring Edition of the *Queen's Park Insider*, I am struck by how quickly the ten months between September and June fly by. This year, we have navigated a very different world, and our 45th cohort has met all the inherent challenges head on. I continue to be impressed with the innovation and positive energy our interns bring to the programme. They have increased engagement and cooperation between legislative and parliamentary internship programs, enhanced global study tours that build relationships with Colorado and Washington State, public symposia that brought people together, and record numbers of applications, to name a few. This year we have also celebrated OLIP's 45th Anniversary by reflecting on the past through alumni spotlights and archival features online. All of our interns have enjoyed connecting with past cohorts to celebrate the programme's rich history.

While we have missed working in person, our interns have virtually "explored" the legislatures in Quebec City, Ottawa, Yellowknife, Colorado, Washington, and Winnipeg. They have provided invaluable services to their MPPs' offices, met virtually with interesting and exciting people from around the world, and worked diligently on their research papers. OLIP works to create a platform for our interns to lead, and they have indeed embraced this opportunity and done marvelously.

I want to thank the incredible OLIP administrative team—Elisa Natarelli, Meghan Stenson, and Michael Vidoni—and our OLIP alumni and sponsors. All of them continue to make this the very best experience possible. Also, extra special thanks to the Speaker, the Hon. Ted Arnott, and the Clerk, Todd Decker, who have supported the programme and improved the intern experience during the pandemic. And, of course, my thanks go to the Canadian Political Science Association. This special partnership with the Ontario Legislative Assembly makes for a unique experience for ten bright and enthusiastic interns each year.

I've said before that one of my favourite things about this programme is watching our interns experience "lightbulb moments" throughout the internship, whether through their placements or in a meeting that shifts their perspective and worldview. This year, there were plenty of such moments, and as always, I've delighted in watching this group of interns grow from Queen's Park rookies to experienced veterans and insiders. This cohort has forged through adversity to seize every opportunity offered to them, and it has been a pleasure to accompany them on the journey.

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.

SPRING MPP

RITIKA IS PLACED WITH MPP NINA TANGRI PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



For my spring placement, I am fortunate to be working in the office of **MPP Nina Tangri**, Progressive Conservative representative for Mississauga—Streetsville and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. Mississauga—Streetsville is an incredibly diverse riding filled with many small businesses and restaurants. One of the office's primary focuses is supporting these businesses, which have felt the pandemic's impacts. MPP Tangri's passion for making life more affordable for Ontarians pushed her to go into provincial politics. As a business owner herself, she remains an advocate for small businesses. I would like to thank MPP Tangri for the opportunity to learn from her and Kosta, Keith, Saroj, and Jaspreet, who have all provided me with a warm welcome.

MACKENZIE IS PLACED WITH MPP CHRISTINA MITAS PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

I am placed in the office of **MPP Christina Mitas**. MPP Mitas is a member of the Progressive Conservative Party, and has represented the riding of Scarborough Centre since 2018. Scarborough Centre is an ethnically diverse and urban riding in the east end of Toronto. MPP Mitas serves as a member of the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly. Before being elected, MPP Mitas worked as a teacher in Scarborough, and has always been passionate about increasing female participation in politics. I have really enjoyed getting started in MPP Mitas' office by working on upcoming Private Member's Bills and constituency outreach. I would like to thank MPP Mitas and her staff, Amanda, Marceau, and Tara for welcoming me to their team and helping me to get oriented in the first few weeks!



PLACEMENTS

GURKAMAL IS PLACED WITH MPP JOHN FRASER LIBERAL

I am excited to be working with Liberal **MPP John Fraser** for my spring placement. MPP Fraser has represented the riding of Ottawa South since 2013, and has worked on many portfolios throughout his three terms. Today, he is the House Leader and Critic for Health and Long-term Care, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Seniors Affairs and Accessibility. Just after the 2018 election, he also served as the interim party leader for the Liberal Party of Ontario, and continues serving as the party's parliamentary leader. With a strong interest in health and palliative care, he served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-term Care in Kathleen Wynne's government. Before this, he also served as a Constituency Assistant for former premier Dalton McGuinty. I look forward to the remainder of this term working alongside his Queen's Park staff, Grace and Eric. Thank you for the warm welcome into your office!



AMELIA IS PLACED WITH MPP LOGAN KANAPATHI PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

For my second placement, I am working in the office of **MPP Logan Kanapathi**. MPP Kanapathi came to Queen's Park after serving as a Markham city councillor for twelve years. He first became involved in activism while he was a student in Sri Lanka, where he advocated for Tamil people's rights during that country's civil war. He continued his human rights activism in Canada after fleeing Sri Lanka as a refugee, which brought him into Canadian politics. MPP Kanapathi represents the riding of Markham—Thornhill, one of the most diverse communities in Canada. It is also one of the most populous ridings, with a population of over 100,000 constituents. I have enjoyed virtually joining the office, and have been helping MPP Kanapathi with research, answering constituent questions, and sitting in on stakeholder meetings. Thank you to MPP Kanapathi and to his staff Lavanya, Maisy, and Mary for showing me the ropes and welcoming me to the team!



SPRING MPP

ELIZABETH IS PLACED WITH MPP MIKE SCHREINER GREEN PARTY



I am very excited to be working with **MPP Mike Schreiner** for my opposition placement. MPP Schreiner has been the leader of Ontario's Green Party since 2009, and represents the riding of Guelph. Guelph is an interesting riding as it is a small, tightly knit, innovative city with a large agricultural sector. In 2018, MPP Schreiner was the first member of the party to be elected to the Ontario Legislature. Being a caucus of one means that MPP Schreiner is the Green "critic for everything," so I've had the opportunity to work on a wide range of portfolios. Thank you to MPP Schreiner and his staff for welcoming me to the team: Jackie and Bianca, the Executive Assistants, Sam, the Legislative Assistant, and Shelley, Ran, Candice, and Brandy at the Constituency Office. It is such a pleasure to work on this team, and I am excited to learn more about independent Members' roles at Queen's Park.

MONICA IS PLACED WITH MPP MARIT STILES NEW DEMOCRAT

For my second placement, I am working with **MPP Marit Stiles**, the NDP Member for Davenport and the Critic for Education. Davenport is home to a diverse mix of people from different backgrounds, including a large Portuguese population. Although a first term MPP, Ms. Stiles is not new to politics and advocacy. Before being elected as MPP, she served as a trustee for the Toronto District School Board. She has also had roles with Canada's New Democratic Party and has served as the National Director of Public Policy and Research at the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA). I have had a very busy few months with the office, and I am so grateful to Team Stiles for the work they have put into making my placement memorable. Thank you to MPP Stiles, Ashley, Greg, Peter, and Dan!



PLACEMENTS

MERIEM IS PLACED WITH MPP MICHAEL PARSA PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



I am very excited to be working in **MPP Michael Parsa's** office. MPP Parsa represents Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill, a culturally diverse riding in the heart of York Region. MPP Parsa got involved in politics when he was only 15 years old and has never looked back. He is the Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board, a member of the Standing Committee on Estimates, and a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. So far, I have had the opportunity to work on briefing notes, Member's statements and speeches. I was also involved in drafting preambles for his most recent Private Member's Bills. MPP Parsa's staff—Shaida, Kimiya, Kai, Kristine, and Cristian—all welcomed me with (virtual) open arms. Thank you for making me feel like a part of your team; I look forward to spending the next few months in your office!

DAVID IS PLACED WITH MPP NATALIA KUSEDOVA PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



I am placed with **MPP Natalia Kusendova**, who was first elected in 2018 as the representative for the riding of Mississauga—Centre. As a Registered Nurse, MPP Kusendova is passionate about health care. She became interested in politics after experiencing first-hand in her work issues related to the health care system. She continues to take nursing shifts to keep her skills and qualifications up-to-date and stay connected with the health care sector's challenges. MPP Kusendova is also the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs, and is committed to supporting the Francophone community across the province. She also advocates for more healthcare services offered in French, thereby combining her two passions. I have really enjoyed seeing Queen's Park from a new perspective. Thank you to everyone at the office for making me feel like part of the team!

SPRING MPP PLACEMENTS

ALEXANDER IS PLACED WITH MPP JUDITH MONTEITH-FARRELL NEW DEMOCRAT



For my second placement, I am working in the office of NDP **MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell**, who represents the riding of Thunder Bay—Atikokan. She was elected to the Legislature for the first time in 2018, and serves as the critic for Natural Resources, Forestry and Mines. Before her election, MPP Monteith-Farrell had a career advocating for workers across the province. She has also served as a volunteer for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Friends of Quetico Park, and the United Way. MPP Monteith-Farrell and Tim, her Executive Assistant, have welcomed me in and allowed me to take on a variety of different projects. From writing speeches, to researching relevant issues, to handling constituency business, the work keeps me constantly engaged. I want to thank MPP Monteith-Farrell, her constituency staff Karli and Micaela, and Tim, who have made a considerable effort to get me involved in the office's work.

CHELSEA IS PLACED WITH MPP BHUTILA KARPOCHE NEW DEMOCRAT

For my second placement, I am working with **MPP Bhutila Karpoche**, the NDP Member for Parkdale—High Park and the Critic for Early Learning and Childcare. MPP Karpoche is a former Queen's Park staffer, and is the first person of Tibetan origin to be elected to public office in North America. So far, I have worked on various projects related to the provincial COVID-19 vaccine rollout, including responding to constituent questions, organizing a virtual vaccine information panel event, and keeping constituents updated through social media and newsletters. I have also helped prepare MPP Karpoche for House duties and have met several stakeholders related to her critic portfolio. I will be assisting with outreach and communications related to MPP Karpoche's Private Member's Bill once it goes to Second Reading. Thank you, MPP Karpoche, Jeremy (a former OLIP intern!), Carly, Dechen, Spencer Julien, and Spencer Hidgon-McGreal, for your warm welcome to the office!



OUR TRIP TO THE SOUTH

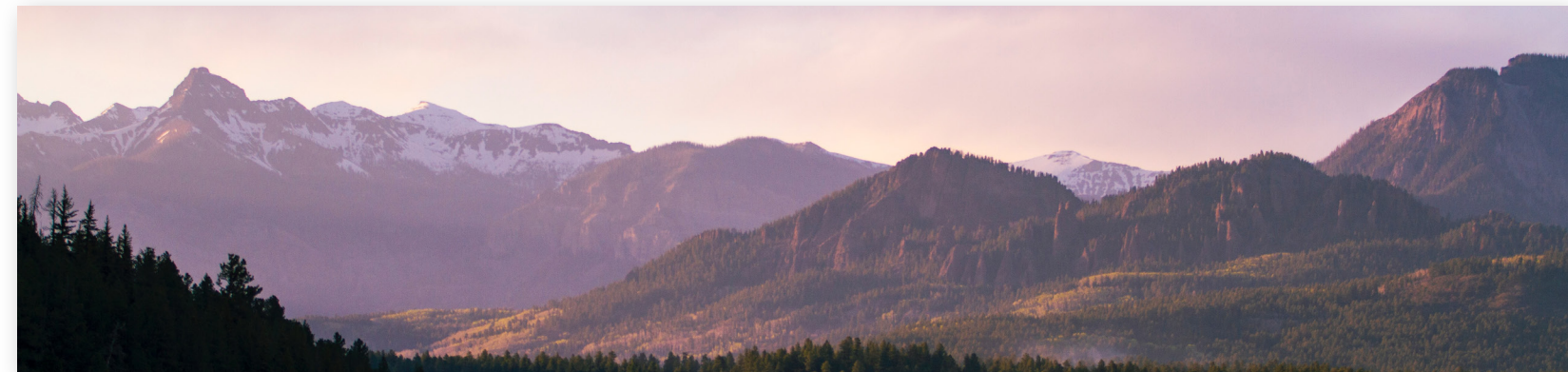


Photo by reymark_franke on Unsplash

JUSTICE WILLIAM HOOD



We were also very fortunate to visit Colorado this year as part of our virtual American study tour.

Our first meeting was with **Ms. Kathy Nesbitt**, former Vice President of Administration at the University of Colorado and former Executive Director of the State of Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA). We were fascinated to learn about the challenges she faced at the DPA in securing bi-partisan support for amending Colorado's constitution to modernize outdated administrative and personnel rules.

Colorado Supreme Court **Justice Hood** was our next stop. Justice Hood provided us with an overview of how the justice system works in the United States and Colorado, and outlined how judges are appointed. He praised the non-partisan nature of the Colorado justice system, arguing that even though judges can be Republicans, Democrats, or Independents, there is an emphasis on the role being a non-political one.

We ended our day by speaking with **Senator Julie Gonzales**, who described the difficulties of governing at a citizen legislature. The Colorado Legislature only meets 120 days out of the year, and can have a maximum of 800 bills to consider in that time. Many senators have other employment, meaning that they cannot dedicate their off-time to their senatorial duties.

In March, we joined the British Columbia Legislature interns for a study tour of Washington State. Interns from the Washington State Legislative Internship Program led us through an in-depth presentation about American politics. We learned about the division of powers, the roles of the three government branches, and the two-party system's intricacies. Before this, most of us had known about American politics primarily through the media, so we were excited to get a fulsome understanding of how the system works. We also learned about some of the differences between the American and Canadian systems. For example, one long-serving Washington State senator chooses to caucus with the Republican Party, despite maintaining his position in the Democratic Party. Many of us found this surprising because of the much stricter party discipline we've grown accustomed to in Canada's Westminster system.

SENATOR JULIE GONZALES



Sen. Julie Gonzales (she/her/ella)

OTTAWA

Photo by shubhamsharan on Unsplash



DEFENCE MINISTER HARJIT SAJJAN



MP JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD



Although this year's virtual Ottawa study tour looked a bit different than in years past, we still had a fantastic (and busy) week connecting and speaking with incredible people on Parliament Hill!

The COVID-19 response was a recurring theme throughout our meetings. For instance, we explored the politics and logistics of pandemic management with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, as well as with policy and data analysts from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Minister of Defence, Harjit Sajjan, spoke to us about the military's role in COVID-19 response, and provided us with thoughtful career advice to take with us as we complete our first round of placements.

We also had the opportunity to learn about Canada's place on the global stage through conversations with MP Arif Virani, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice, and MP Rob Oliphant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We discussed parliamentary procedure with Charles Robert, the Clerk of the House of Commons. Senator Dennis Glen Patterson spoke in great detail about the Senate's role, as well as the unique challenges and opportunities facing Nunavut. We had fascinating discussions about Indigenous governance with Jody Wilson-Raybould, the Independent MP for Vancouver Granville, and Dakota Kochie, the Chief of Staff to National Chief Perry Bellegarde. Thanks to the virtual platform, we even had the opportunity to "visit" the UN headquarters in New York and participate in an online briefing about social and economic development with Hamid Rashid, Chief of the UN's Global Economic Monitoring Branch.

We extend a huge thank you to the Parliamentary Internship Program interns for their excellent work organizing our study tour, and for filming video tours of key areas around Ottawa to set the stage for our week of meetings!



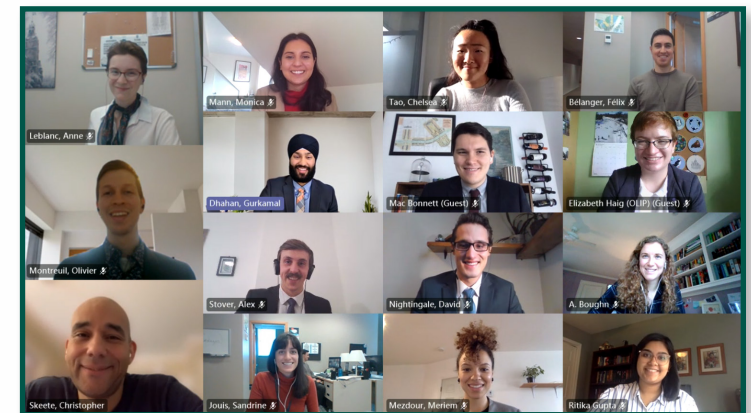
"The Ottawa study tour was an excellent opportunity for us to have fascinating discussions with current federal ministers and Members of Parliament, and to see the Supreme Court and other Ottawa sites—virtually, of course."

QUEBEC

Photo by shawn99lee on Unsplash



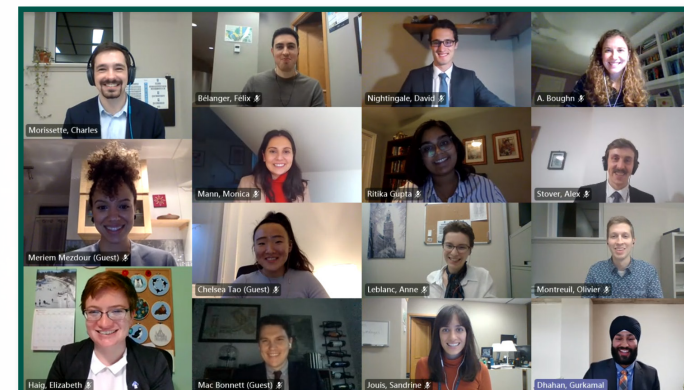
MNA CHRISTOPHER SKEETE



On December 7th, we virtually visited the National Assembly of Quebec for a week of meetings with people involved in all aspects of Quebec politics. While the study tour looked very different this year, the content was informative and equivalent to an in-person meeting in no small part because of the charisma and knowledge of our speakers.

On Monday, we were introduced to the procedures of the National Assembly by clerk **Alexandre Régimbal**. Tuesday we had a meeting with education minister **Jean-François Roberge**, who outlined his government's plan for dealing with COVID-19 while prioritizing student learning. On Wednesday, we met with co-spokesperson of Québec Solidaire, **Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois**, who explained his views on the relationship between activism and politics. We also met with Independent Member of the National Assembly (MNA) **Catherine Fournier**, who articulated a vision of Quebec sovereignty that borrows inspiration from the European Union, and which aligns itself with a younger demographic. On Thursday, Vice-President of the Assembly, **Maryse Gaudreault**, met with us to talk about her tenure at the National Assembly and her role in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie. In the afternoon, **David Birnbaum** spoke to us about his perception of Quebec-Ontario relations and his views on the linguistic divide still simmering in Assembly politics. This was a theme that **MNA Christopher Skeete**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, expanded on during our meeting on Friday morning. Mr. Skeete shone a light on historic tensions that he feels often get in the way of the development of a new French Canadian identity.

THE OLIP & QUEBEC INTERNS!



The differing views of sovereigntists and those who support a federated Quebec are steeped in a rich history that is inextricably linked with the province's history, and it was fascinating to hear so many different visions for Quebec's future. Having the opportunity to discuss these issues with such candour made the trip memorable to each of us. Thank you to the Quebec interns for organizing this amazing virtual adventure!



"Our virtual study tour to Quebec was an exceptional and eye-opening experience. It was fascinating to learn about Quebec politics, and to compare it to our experience at Queen's Park. A highlight was learning about the lasting impacts of the sovereigntist movement in Quebec."

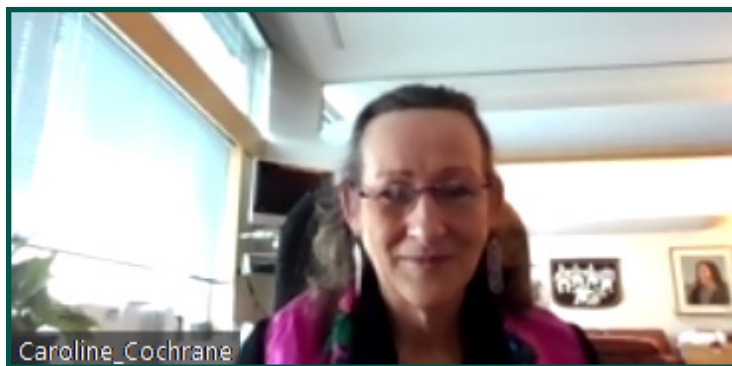
NWT

Photo by lightscape on Unsplash



PREMIER CAROLINE COCHRANE

In February, we travelled virtually to the Northwest Territories for our annual trip to Yellowknife. During our visit, we learned about consensus government, the distinctive style of democratic governance used by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. On our first day, after a crash course on some of the key aspects of consensus government, we toured the Legislative Assembly. We even heard the story of the Assembly's famous polar bear skin rug, a symbol of cooperation between elected representatives. We closed out the day meeting with **Dr. Courtney Howard**, an expert on planetary health, and with **Shawn McCann**, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs. They provided us with insights into the human cost of climate change.



On day two, we were honoured to meet with **Rebecca Alty**, Mayor of Yellowknife, and **Kerry Penney**, Director of Economic Development and Strategy for Yellowknife. We learned about some of the city's unique financial challenges, especially as tourism has waned during COVID-19. We also had the chance to watch consensus governance in action as we observed the Legislature's proceedings. Finally, we attended meetings with Minister of the Environment, **Shane Thompson**, and **Major Conrad Schubert** of Joint Task Force North.



Floor of the NWT Legislature

During the morning of our third day, we attended a breakfast meeting with **Premier Cochrane** and heard about her journey into politics. We were also treated to a meeting with **Steve Loutitt**, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Infrastructure, and a session with the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, where we learned about the "nuts and bolts" of consensus governance. In the afternoon, we discussed Indigenous sovereignty in the Arctic with **Chief Edward Sangris** of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We also met with Devlin Fernandes from the Gwich'in Council. The Council is an organization that represents Northern Indigenous groups on the Arctic Council, an international forum for national representatives and NGOs to discuss Arctic policy.

The last day of the tour included visits with **Nicole Latour**, the Chief Electoral Officer, and **Colette Langlois**, the territorial Ombud. Later, we met **Myranda Bolstad** with the Giant Mine Remediation Project, who explained the process of decommissioning a mining operation. Finally, we met **Toby Kruger**, a law clerk at the Assembly of the Northwest Territories, who helped us better understand the legislation that governs the relationship between the territory and the Federal government.

MANITOBA

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OPPOSITION LEADER WAB KINEW



At the end of our week in Yellowknife, we spent a day virtually visiting Winnipeg to learn more about our neighbours to the west.

We started with a meeting with **Dr. Roland Bohr**, the Director of Research at the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Bohr told us about his research on the traditional weaponry of Indigenous peoples of the North American prairies. We then headed to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where we had an in-depth virtual tour with two guides who graciously showed us their exhibits. We learned about the history of human rights in Canada and around the world, and all of us are eager to visit the museum in person to learn more once it is safe to travel again!

SPEAKER MYRNA DRIEDGER



In the afternoon, we had the pleasure of sitting down with **MLA Myrna Driedger**, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. She shared many stories and reflections from her long career in politics and her work with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians.

We finished our visit to Winnipeg with a meeting with the Official Opposition leader, **Wab Kinew** of the NDP. He shared fascinating stories of his journey into politics, his vision for the NDP, and his media and journalism background.

We had a great time visiting Winnipeg from the comfort of our own homes, and we hope to revisit Manitoba soon—in person next time! We want to give a big thanks to the Manitoba Interns for helping us coordinate this fantastic day.



Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Photo by richmccue on Unsplash

OH THE PEOPLE

THE RT. HON. BEVERLY MCLACHLIN



We had the privilege of meeting former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the **Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin**. Justice McLachlin was Canada's first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and she spent much of her career in Canada's courthouses from the local to the national level. The former Chief Justice shared reflections from her life as a jurist, and provided insights into legal philosophy. She explained that Canada's laws are part of a "living tree," continually subject to changing societal pressures that shift and grow as Canadians' lived realities change. She also spoke about the difficulties in recognizing one's own biases, acknowledging them in oneself and others, and then trying to pass a judgement free from individual prejudice or preference. This advice particularly resonated with us as we embody the value of non-partisanship in the programme. We are so grateful for the former Chief Justice's time and insights!

In December, we had the opportunity to meet with **Erin O'Toole**, leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. Mr. O'Toole has been a Member of Parliament since 2012. Before becoming party leader, he served as the Official Opposition Critic for Foreign Affairs and, in the Stephen Harper government, as Minister of Veterans Affairs. Mr. O'Toole spoke with us about his role as leader of a major federal party and of the challenges in taking over party leadership amid a global pandemic. He also spoke with us about his priorities as party leader, including addressing climate change and expanding the Conservative "big blue tent" to welcome people from all walks of life to the party. Finding success as a party, Mr. O'Toole told us, will mean addressing challenging issues in Canadian society such as climate change and Indigenous reconciliation. Thank you, Mr. O'Toole, for taking the time to meet with us!

MP ERIN O' TOOLE



MPP MIKE SCHREINER



In October, the interns met with **Mike Schreiner**, MPP for Guelph, and Leader of the Ontario Green Party. As the only Green Member in the House, we discussed how he carries out his duties as an independent member and "Green critic for everything." We had a fascinating conversation about how he works across party lines to serve his constituents and his party. We also discussed more generally the role that independents play in the legislative process, and how party discipline and partisanship affects the business of politics. Thank you Mr. Schreiner for your candid and thoughtful answers to our questions!

YOU WILL MEET

We had the distinct pleasure of meeting **Dr. David Williams**, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario. Dr. Williams is responsible for leading the public health system as a whole, including advising the government on province-wide public health measures to help stop the virus's spread. Dr. Williams gave us an insightful presentation on Ontario's public health system, noting its uniqueness in that it shares authority between the Province and municipalities. Dr. Williams also commented on the COVID-19 virus and the daunting challenge of bringing the pandemic to an end. He noted that virus is continually evolving, making it challenging to stay ahead of it. Additionally, he described the challenges of keeping the public engaged and motivated to fight the virus, more than one year into the pandemic. Our conversation with Dr. Williams was fascinating and timely, and we sincerely thank him for taking the time to meet with us. We appreciate his dedication in leading Ontario's public health system.

DR. DAVID WILLIAMS



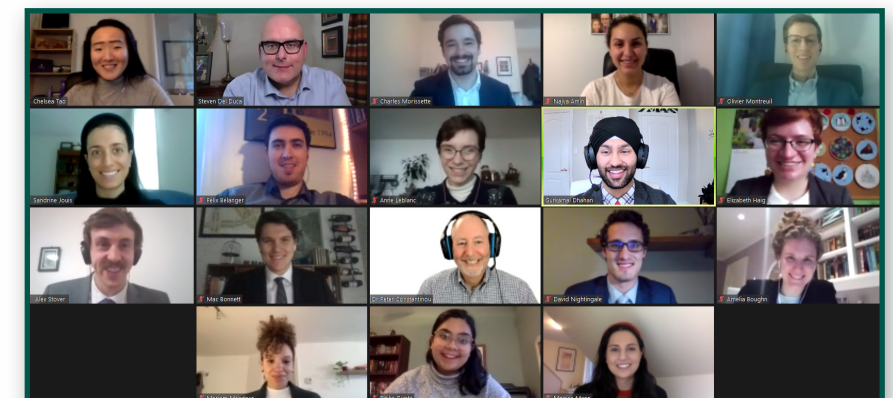
DR. JANE PHILPOTT



We had the opportunity to meet with **Dr. Jane Philpott**, a former federal Minister of Health, Minister of Indigenous Services, and President of the Treasury Board. She is currently the Dean of Health Sciences at Queen's University. We had a fascinating conversation with Dr. Philpott about the similarities and differences between the fields of medicine and politics. We also discussed some of today's most pressing issues, including Canada's role in the global vaccine rollout, our aging population and elder care system, and the role of party discipline in Canadian politics. Dr. Philpott had much insight into the current state of Canadian healthcare and how best to move forward in a post-pandemic world. Thank you, Dr. Philpott, for sharing your experiences and thoughts with us!

We had the privilege of meeting with **Steven Del Duca**, leader of the Ontario Liberal Party. He was first elected as MPP for Vaughan in 2012, and served as the Minister of Transportation, then as Minister of Economic Development and Growth. After losing his seat in the 2018 election, he successfully bid for the party leadership in March 2020. He highlighted how his previous political and leadership experience has prepared him to rebuild his party after it was reduced to only seven seats in the Legislature in 2018. For example, the "30 under 30" plan outlines the party's goal of having at least 30 well-skilled candidates under the age of 30 to connect with the younger voting base in the 2022 election. Thank you, Mr. Del Duca, for taking the time to meet with us, and for your continued support of the programme!

MR. STEVEN DEL DUCA



FORMER PREMIERS,

MR. MIKE HARRIS



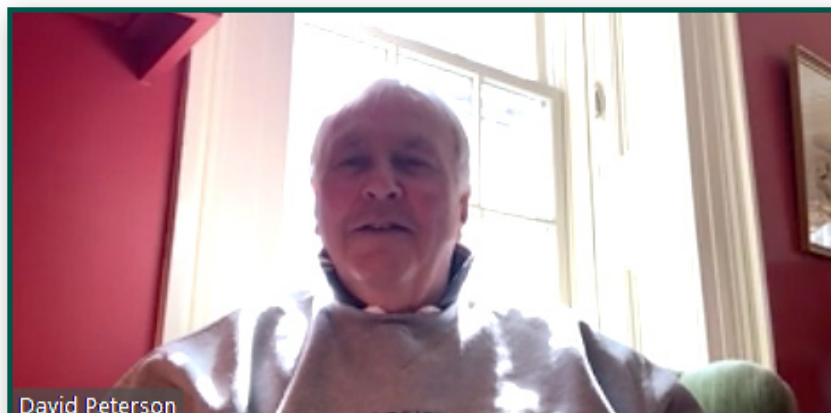
In January, we had the honour of meeting with **Mr. Mike Harris**, former premier of Ontario. Mr. Harris spoke to us about his belief in the free market as a means for providing the most opportunity to the largest number of people. We also had the chance to discuss the long-term care sector with Mr. Harris. He told us that the sector does not necessarily need increased regulation, as the *Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007* is, in his opinion, one of the most thorough pieces of legislation of its kind in Canada. Rather, he felt that the existing regulations should be better enforced. Finally, we discussed Mr. Harris's perspectives on leadership. He spoke about the challenges of leadership: specifically, having short timelines to make what are often very tough decisions. We are so grateful to Mr. Harris for taking time out of his schedule to meet with us!

AMBASSADOR BOB RAE



In February, we had the privilege of meeting with Canada's ambassador to the United Nations and former premier of Ontario, the **Honourable Bob Rae**. Ambassador Rae drew on experiences from his long career in Canadian politics to offer us insights into the changes he has seen in the role of partisanship at Queen's Park and on Parliament Hill. We also discussed some of the policies he championed over the years, before, during, and after his time as premier. Mr. Rae provided us with some insights into his current role at the UN, where he represents Canada's interests and champions human rights issues globally, as well as his reflections on holding the job his father once held. Ambassador Rae has met with every OLIP cohort since 1982, no matter where in the world he is. Thank you so much for your generosity and commitment to OLIP over the years!

THE HON. DAVID PETERSON



In March, we had the privilege of meeting with the 20th premier of Ontario, the **Honourable David Peterson**. Mr. Peterson was premier from 1985-90, a period he described as one of Ontario's busiest, and which saw reforms in physician billing, pensions, Catholic school funding, and labour negotiation laws. Mr. Peterson talked to us about his proudest accomplishments as premier, namely increasing diversity at Queen's Park, and creating a collaborative and positive relationship with the Ontario civil service. We discussed health care, and he argued that much of our current health care systems focus on treating illness after it has already occurred. He suggested that a more cost-effective strategy would be to focus on prevention and limiting the incidence of chronic disease, especially as our population ages. Thank you, Mr. Peterson, for taking the time to meet with us!

CABINET AND MORE

MINISTER PETER BETHLENFALVY



We were privileged to have had the chance to meet with the **Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy**, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. We learned about how Minister Bethlenfalvy's personal family story—his parents came to Canada as refugees from Eastern Europe—guides his work as Minister of Finance. Minister Bethlenfalvy discussed his two intersecting portfolios, namely the challenges of creating budget priorities, facilitating communication between and across ministries, and how his work before politics informs his work in Cabinet. He also shared some thoughts on his role in leading Ontario's new digital government strategy. His biggest priority in this role, he told us, is expanding broadband internet services so that everybody can benefit from a digital government. Thank you, Minister Bethlenfalvy, for your support of OLIP and for taking time out of your schedule to meet with us!

In March, we had the opportunity to meet with the **Honourable Doug Downey**, Attorney General (AG) of Ontario and MPP for Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte. We had a fascinating conversation with Mr. Downey about his career in politics and on the AG's key roles and responsibilities. Mr. Downey highlighted that one of his priorities as AG is to modernize Ontario's court system to improve access to justice and optimize services. While digitizing the justice system has been a long-standing project for the Province, the pandemic has accelerated the push for the virtual administration of justice. We discussed a few recent modernization initiatives, including virtual bail and remand hearings for Northern and remote communities, and the creation of digital access points to reduce geographical barriers to justice. Thank you, Mr. Downey, for taking the time to speak with us!

ATTORNEY GENERAL DOUG DOWNEY



MINISTER SYLVIA JONES



In January, we had the honour of meeting with the **Honourable Sylvia Jones**, Ontario's Solicitor General and MPP for Dufferin—Caledon. Solicitor General Jones spoke to us about the wide range of responsibilities in her portfolio, including law, policing and corrections, fire and emergency services, and anti-racism initiatives. She offered candid and thoughtful answers to questions about justice reform, and also shared insight into her long career as an MPP in both opposition and government. Solicitor General Jones also shared with us some of the challenges and successes she has experienced while overseeing Ontario's challenging rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us!

MEETINGS

In January, we had the opportunity to meet with the **Honourable Caroline Mulroney**, Minister of Transportation and Francophone Affairs. Minister Mulroney offered us some insights gained from her experiences in law, business, and politics. While she described herself as a “jack of all trades,” she argued that having expert knowledge in particular areas is advantageous because people will always have to rely on that knowledge. We also had a fascinating discussion on how she receives feedback from opposition parties. She noted that one of her main methods for “hearing the other side” is listening carefully to the questions posed to her during Question Period to better understand where some of the most pressing issues lie. Thank you, Minister Mulroney, for taking the time to meet with us!

MINISTER CAROLINE MULRONEY



MR. PAUL DUBÉ



We had the pleasure of meeting with Ontario's Ombudsman, **Mr. Paul Dubé**. The Ombudsman is an independent officer of the Legislature who investigates complaints about the public sector's administrative and policy processes. During our conversation, Mr. Dubé explained his role as a “guardian of citizen rights.” Under his purview are provincial organizations, municipalities, public universities, school boards, and other entities. When complaints are made to the Ombudsman, the office helps people and public sector entities resolve disputes in a ladder approach. It was particularly fascinating to learn that the Ombudsman can also call for broader institutional reforms and conduct systemic investigations at his or her own prerogative. Thank you, Ombudsman Dubé, for taking the time to meet with us!

DR. MARGARET MCMILLAN



In January, we had the pleasure of sitting down virtually with renowned University of Toronto and Oxford University historian **Dr. Margaret MacMillan**. Dr. MacMillan is a celebrated author whose books on European and world history have become iconic bestsellers. Macmillan offered insight into her writing process and discussed her latest book, *War: How Conflict Changed Us*, while offering us her analysis of a range of current events. The discussion was particularly relevant as we met just two days after the insurrection at the US Capitol; Dr. MacMillan shared her thoughts on what history can teach us about the resilience of democracies. Thank you for sharing your insights and encouraging us to always continue learning!

Check out our blog - OLIP Unplugged - for more!

OLIP PAPERS

A SELECTION OF THIS YEAR'S TOPICS...



Managing Misinformation:
An Analysis of how the Independent Officers of the Ontario Legislative Assembly Identify, Filter, and Regulate Misinformation.



First, Do No Harm: Regulated Health Professional Interest Groups and Opposition MPPs



Digital Witnesses: Analyzing the Impact of the COVID-19 Protocols on Committees at the Ontario Legislature



Collaboration between Backbench Legislators: A Case Study of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario



We Are Not 'Trained Seals': A Perspective on Party Discipline



The Forgotten Branch: Ontario's International Engagement and the Role of the Legislative Assembly



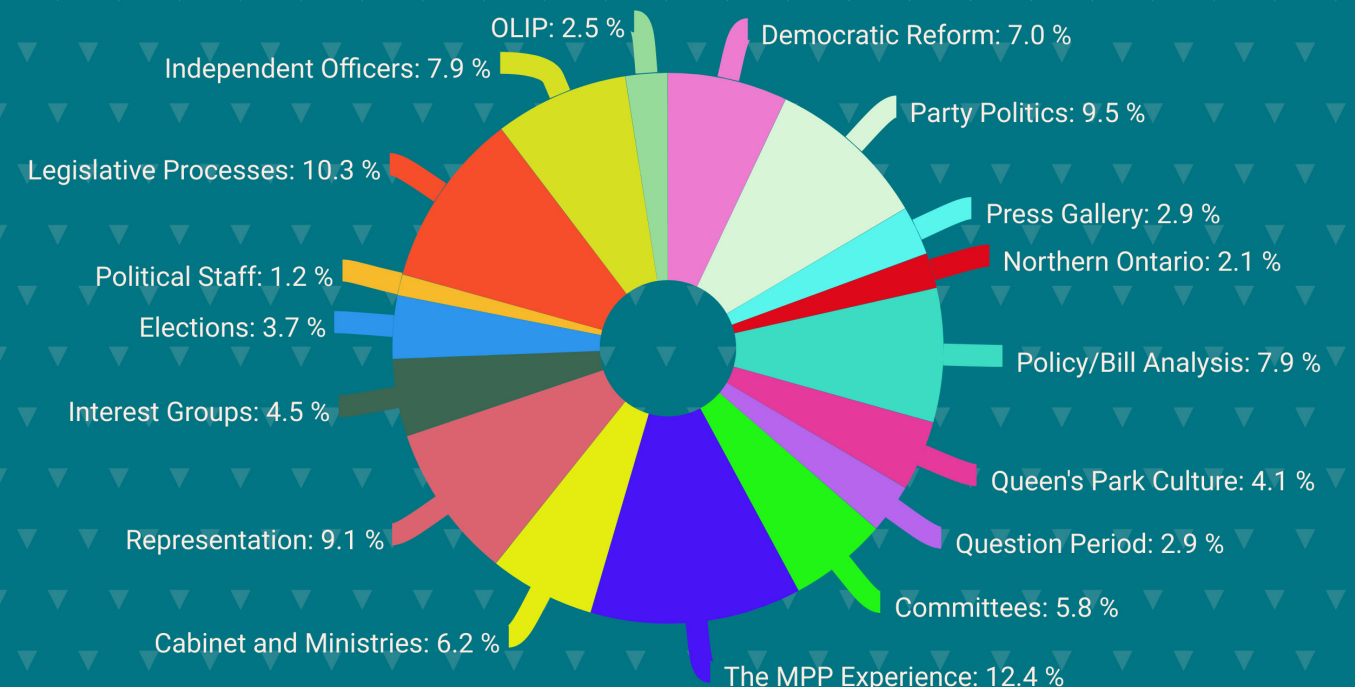
The Effect of COVID-19 on Representation in Ontario



Constituency Representation and Relationship-Building Among Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario

What do interns write about?

OLIP Paper Topics: 1976-2019



CALLING ALL ALUMNI

OLIP ALUM & LEADER OF THE GREEN PARTY, MS. ANNAMIE PAUL



We had the pleasure of meeting with OLIP alumna and the leader of the Green Party of Canada, Annamie Paul. Ms. Paul spoke about her internship during the Mike Harris government, and how the fundamentals she learnt in the programme have served her well throughout her career. We also discussed her early work in promoting diversity in Canadian politics. She told us that, although there have been improvements in this area, much work is left to be done, especially when considering senior leadership and cabinet positions. The meeting ended with her thoughts on the future, which included addressing the many policy challenges facing Canada. We are grateful to Ms. Paul for taking the time to meet with us, and we look forward to catching up with her in the future at one of our alumni events!

Our alumni are a 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!

We invite you to follow us on social media; we are [@olipinterns](#) on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Throughout the year, we send invitations via email and social media for events. 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!

TRIBUTE: MS. CATHY FOOKS



The OLIP community was incredibly saddened by the tragic passing of alumna Cathy Fooks in December 2020. Cathy was a part of the 1984-1985 OLIP cohort and had forged an incredible career dedicated to improving healthcare and advocating for patients in Ontario. Over her career, Cathy served as Executive Director of the Health Council of Canada, and held senior positions with the Canadian Policy Research Network and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Cathy also led and transformed the Change Foundation as its CEO before stepping down in June 2020 to become Ontario's second Patient Ombudsman, a role dedicated to protecting patients and championing fairness in the health care sector.

The current OLIP cohort had the great pleasure of meeting Cathy in December to hear about her experience with OLIP and her career afterwards. Cathy spoke of her time working at Queen's Park while Bill Davis was premier, including the challenges she faced as a young woman in politics. She also gave the current cohort a unique perspective on what a career after OLIP can look like.

Dr. David Docherty, a fellow member of the 1984-1985 cohort, said of Cathy that she "was a combination of consummate professional and someone who was deeply committed to her values. As the daughter of a nurse practitioner and a doctor, her passion was health care and the need for quality and accessible health care for all." He remembers that in her first placement, "there was a private member's bill to allow for midwives to be regulated under OHIP, and provide services in hospitals and homes. Cathy had the unenviable task to write a speech for her MPP against the bill. She was nearly crying as we sat in the Gallery and listened to the speech she wrote. But she did write it, and it was a darn good speech. . . . Ontario has come a long way in health care provision since 1984 and Cathy was a big part of the many positive strides made."

The OLIP community will greatly miss Cathy. Her incredible legacy will not soon be forgotten.

ALUMNI

ELIZABETH KELLER 1995-1996

I remember staring down at the Premier's socks, as they did not match. He noticed my gaze and embarrassingly muttered that he had left home in the early hours of the day to get to work and, not wanting to wake his wife, he got dressed in the dark. This same man ran our province. We were briefing him as protesters were attempting to break down the front doors of the Legislature.

That admission of thoughtfulness, and so many other unforgettable examples I witnessed as an intern at Queen's Park, changed my impression of politics and politicians forever. The incredible opportunity to work with government and opposition Members, and to watch as they worked together to change policy and help their constituents, impressed me. Like Mike Harris and Dalton McGuinty, Bob Rae took the time to talk to us in the halls. Frances Lankin worked so tirelessly we had to force her to take breaks. Countless other well-known politicians challenged my cynical view that all politicians were either shallow or selfish. While I quickly learned over that year that political life was not where I wanted to grow my young career, I took the example of "Servant Leadership" with me.



Queen's Park led me to a job with Environics Research, where I learned how to decipher themes from mountains of data and piece together meaning for clients. I worked with teenagers and chain smokers to help design the warning labels for cigarette packages, and developed programs for street youth based on my interviews with squeegee kids in the streets of Toronto.

Data analytics led me to the global consulting world, where I joined PwC and, later, IBM. I worked with some of the largest private and public sector clients to solve big world problems, and was exposed to the world of supercomputers that enabled a faster cure for AIDS. The application of technology to health care fascinated me. So, I joined OntarioMD, the technology subsidiary of the OMA, developing new award-winning digital healthcare solutions for doctors that helped speed up care for patients in Ontario. COVID-19 has placed even more pressure on health care, and my most recent career opportunity has just started with Amazon Web Services (AWS), where I will work with leaders in the public sector to apply the latest health care innovations for my fellow Canadians.

Volunteering and mentoring others has also given me incredible development and leadership opportunities that complement my "day jobs" and keep me curious; I have helped chart and promote new directions for patient safety, virtual healthcare, and improved global digital health standards so we can exchange data globally.

So, yes—this notion of giving back, and maybe even a future life in politics, remains.

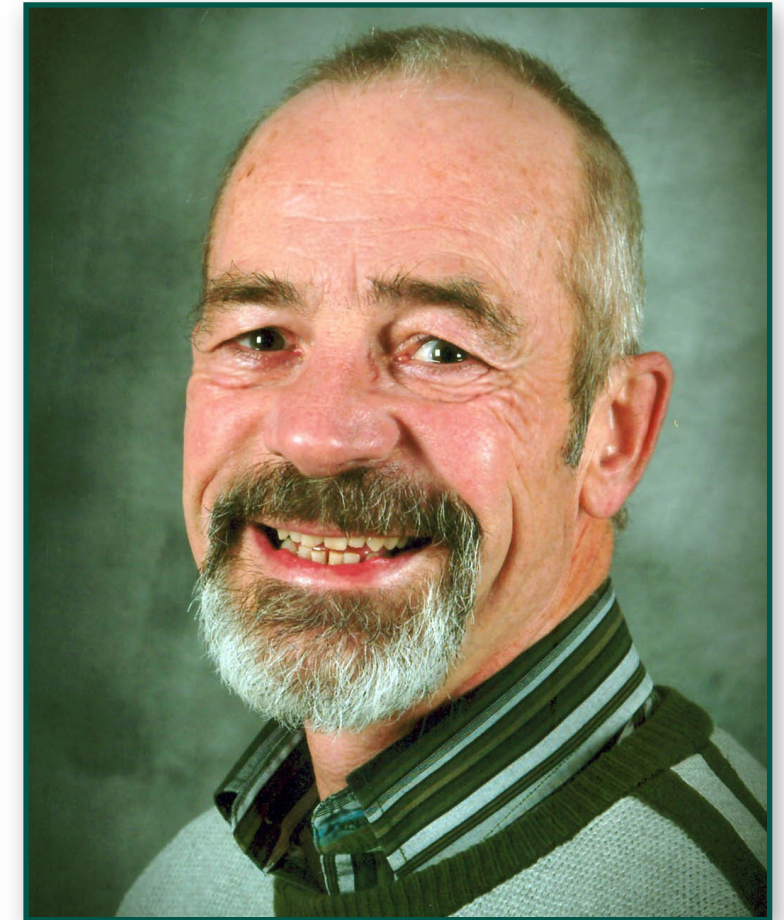
In closing, thank you, OLIP, for an incredible year at Queen's Park that helped shape my career—and remember, interns, stay curious and give back. And no matter who you are or where you go, your socks don't have to match!

SPOTLIGHT

JONATHAN LOMAS 1978-1979

I recently had the pleasure of participating in a career panel with this year's interns. What a lively group with fire in their bellies and not a hint of the accumulated cynicism (whoops, I mean "experience-based scepticism") of such old farts as myself. Being a member of one of the early cohorts, I was shocked at how today's interns are much more accomplished, globally experienced, and aware than we, primarily recent graduates, were back in the late '70s.

I always looked back on my time as an intern fondly. It was a unique opportunity to be a eunuch in the political harem, a non-partisan amid partisans. Working with NDP health critic Mike Breagh I contributed to banning physician extra-billing, and debated the *Canada Health Act*, right in my wheelhouse of health policy. I witnessed the tail-end of Stephen Lewis' term as NDP leader, the reign of Premier Bill Davis and, most memorably, the friendships that blossomed across party lines. I particularly recall that of NDPer Elie Martel (representing trade unionists and miners of Sudbury East) and Conservative Minister of Labour (neurosurgeon and lawyer) Bob Elgie. It taught me that no matter the difference in ideologies or views, mutual respect ultimately advances the human condition—a view all-too-often lost in today's more partisan environment.



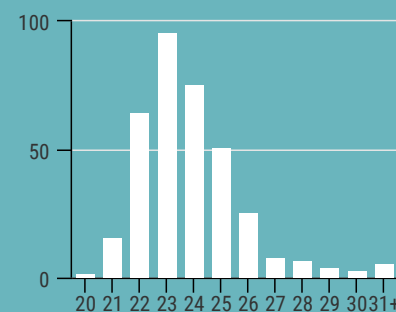
One motivation to be an intern was finding and understanding how to manipulate the seat(s) of power, particularly in health policy. My initial career was in neuropsychology, working in a hospital. I discovered that the health system was largely organized for the benefit of providers, not patients. I wanted to change that. I saw the internship as one possible route. Indeed, I was so committed to understanding the political process that I ran for the NDP in Don Valley West at the internship's conclusion!

Eventually, I turned to the world of evidence and ideas as the route to change. First, I became an academic in health policy at McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences. For fifteen years, I purposely avoided the Webster's Dictionary definition of academic—"of no practical value"—choosing instead to be an applied researcher and public intellectual. It was not difficult, therefore, to say yes to the opportunity to become the inaugural CEO of a foundation dedicated to transferring the results of research in universities into the day-to-day work in healthcare. It was there that I truly learned the wisdom of the adage, "It's amazing what you can get done when you don't care who gets the credit."

However, I knew it was time to quit when awards like honorary doctorates, fellowships, and the Order of Canada came along. They were just trying to squeeze that last bit of juice out of my increasingly desiccated rind! Now in retirement, I enjoy dabbling in creative writing, paddling in my kayak, and dipping into hives as my bees gather honey.

OLIP INTERNS THROUGH THE AGES

Interns have ranged in age from 20-39 when beginning the program



388

people have been OLIP interns



55%
are women

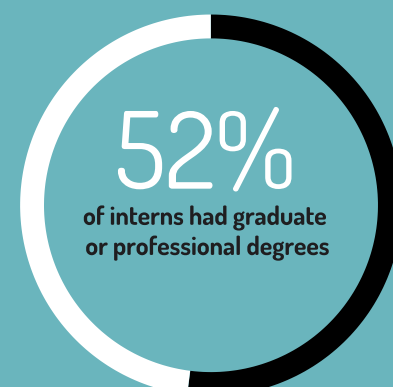


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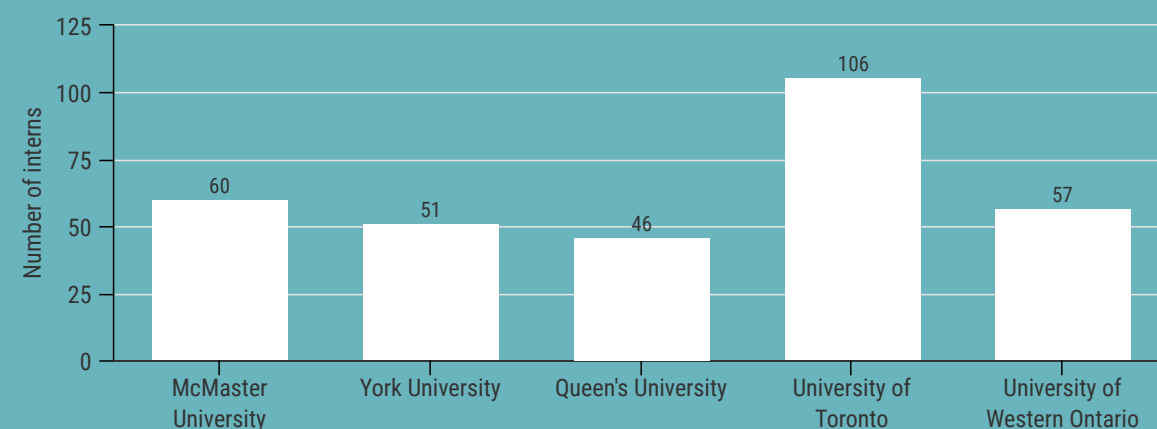
interns were born outside of Ontario (from available data)

The most common areas of recent study for OLIP interns are:

Philosophy Law English French
Political Science
Economics History Public Policy
International Relations Public Administration
Canadian Studies



Most common alma maters



Study Tour Locations (1976-2021)

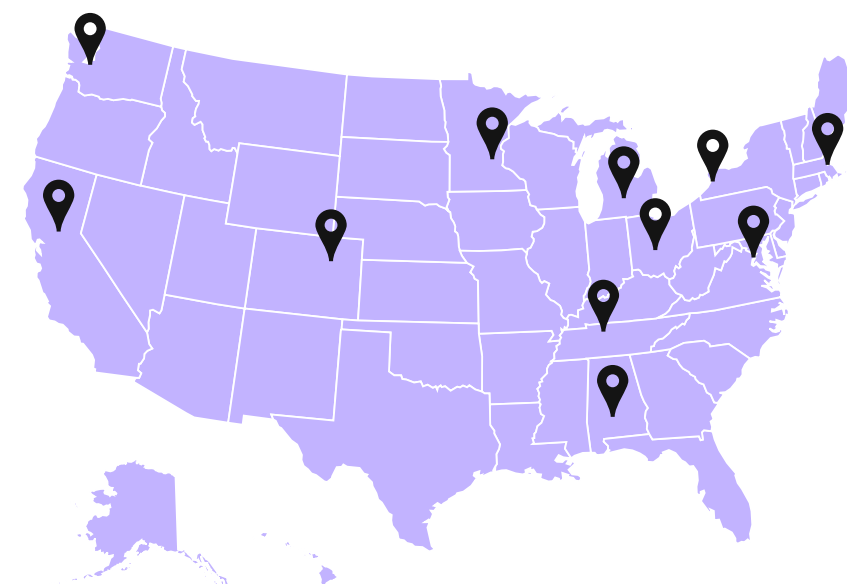
Canada



United Kingdom



United States



3

countries

8

provinces

2

territories

11

states

24

cities

REFLECTING ON

AMELIA

I learned that it is possible for citizens to use the democratic process as a means for achieving change. Before OLIP, I didn't understand what went on inside Queen's Park. But this year, I had the opportunity to help develop a Private Member's Bill from an idea in the mind of a constituent to a piece of potential legislation, tabled in the House. The Legislature is just one arena to advocate for ideas, but it is an important one. This is a lesson I will take with me into a career in health care.



GURKAMAL

Something I've learned this year is that our political system is much more than just machinery. It's made up of a dynamic interplay of people, ideas, and communities. And, much like all living things, its ongoing evolution requires our tenacious stewardship.

CHELSEA

A significant lesson from this year is learning how fast things can move in politics. The landscape of needs, interests, and asks from the public is constantly shifting, and MPPs always need to be prepared to adapt and respond to their communities.



ALEX

I have learned about the importance of cooperation and coordination to achieve successful outcomes at the Legislature. There are so many moving parts at Queen's Park that a disagreement or misunderstanding between stakeholders can stall or undermine both political and non-partisan initiatives.

MERIEM

What really stood out to me this year is the behind-the-scenes of politics; every political decision, press release, or even social media post, involves a team and tremendous amount of thought and hard work. This year also allowed me to reflect on the importance of relationship-building and the effort it takes to maintain bonds with stakeholders and constituents during a global pandemic.



ELIZABETH

One of my biggest takeaways has been how much of a role involved constituents can play in making and changing policies. Going into OLIP, I had assumed that all policies were written in backrooms by party officials. I was surprised to see how often constituent concerns became Member's statements, questions in Question Period, letters to Ministers, and even the backbone of Private Members' Bills.

TEN MONTHS

MACKENIZE

In Canadian politics, we often identify our elected officials only by their party affiliation. Through OLIP however, I have learned that each MPP brings something unique to the Legislature by drawing on their experiences, expertise, and constituencies. In addition, MPPs often look beyond their parties for input on and solutions to the issues facing Ontario.



RITIKA

This year I learned about the importance of acknowledging that I don't always have the answers. While it can be tempting to position oneself as being knowledgeable about everything, I've found that the greatest amount of learning comes when I've recognized the limits of my own knowledge. Setting the intention to absorb as much information as possible has served me well in this role.

DAVID

As an OLIP intern, I've seen first-hand the passion and dedication that individual backbench MPPs bring to their work. They truly care about their constituents, truly want to make Ontario a better place, and work long hours in order to serve us.



MONICA

We've heard from people from across the political spectrum that being partisan and having a strong ideology can only get you so far in politics. When it comes to solving big policy issues, you have to move beyond partisanship and ideology to create effective and durable policy.



OUR FIRST EVER

This year, we hosted our inaugural Speaker Series to virtually engage the OLIP community in a year when our usual receptions were not possible. Generously sponsored by AMAPCEO—one of our long-standing sponsors—the Speaker Series was a set of five panel discussions, each on a different topic of interest.



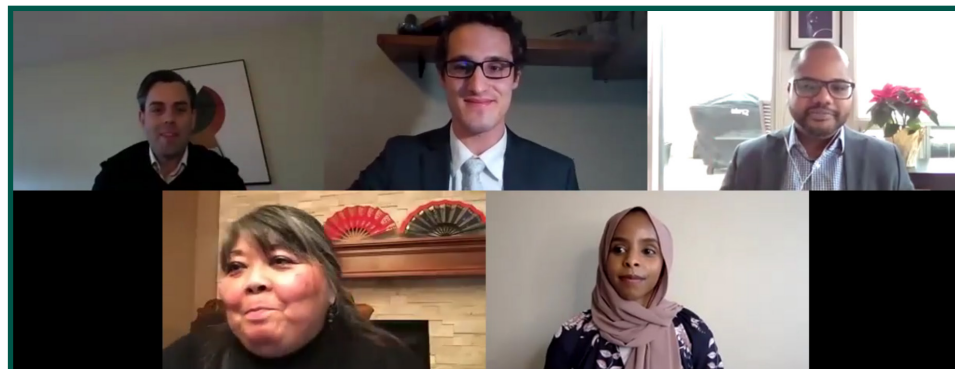
COVERING QUEEN'S PARK THROUGH THE AGES



We held the kick-off event, *Covering Queen's Park Through the Ages*, in December. Moderated by TVO's Steve Paikin, the discussion brought together two long-time journalists, Robert Fisher and Richard Brennan, with current Queen's Park journalist, Allison Smith, to discuss the ins and outs of being a reporter at Queen's Park over the past few decades. Comparing and contrasting the experiences of Fisher and Brennan during the 80s and 90s with that of Smith in the current decade was fascinating, particularly considering the proliferation of social media.

THE FUTURE OF CITIES

The second event took on a more technical topic: *The Future of Cities*. Moderated by the City of Toronto's Scott Barrett, the event fostered a fascinating discussion between landscape architect Christine Abe and urban planners Eldon Theodore and Habon Ali. They discussed what cities might look like after the pandemic, how cities can help tackle climate change, and how we can make our urban environments greener and more livable.



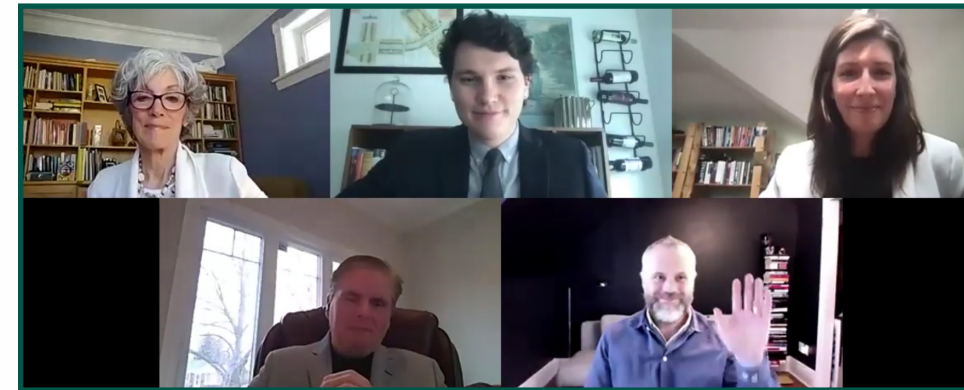
SPEAKER SERIES

WOMEN IN POLITICS



Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, and former Ontario Minister of Finance Janet Ecker were the stars of the third event of the Speaker Series, *Women in Politics*. Moderated by Dr. Kate Graham, the 2022 Ontario Liberal candidate for the riding of London North Centre, the discussion brought to light the unique challenges that women face in politics. Ecker and Atwin were full of inspiring stories and encouragement for women considering getting involved in politics.

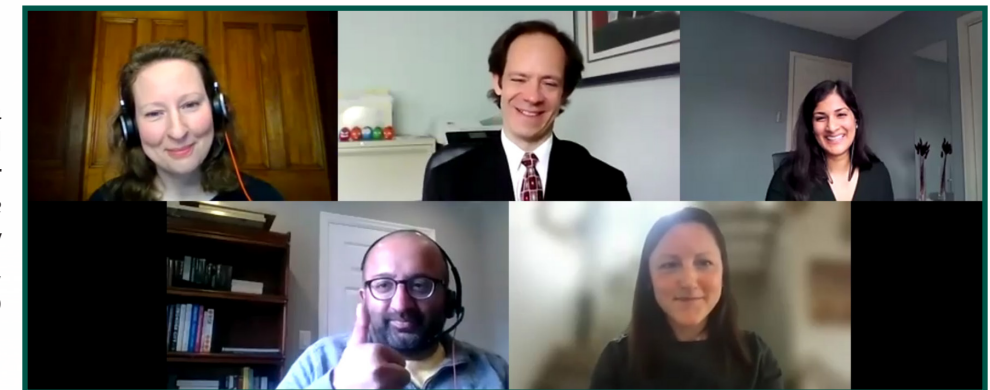
TRUST IN ELECTIONS & ELECTED OFFICIALS



Moderated by professor Dr. Peter Loewen, the fourth event was called *Trust in Elections & Elected Officials*. Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario Greg Essensa, Samara Centre for Democracy Director Janet Yale, and professor Dr. Anna Esselment all had fascinating contributions to make. They covered a wide range of topics, including the responsibility of political parties to build confidence in our democracy, the challenges of holding elections during a pandemic, and how social media and freedom of speech interact in the context of elections.

THE FUTURE OF WORK & WELLBEING

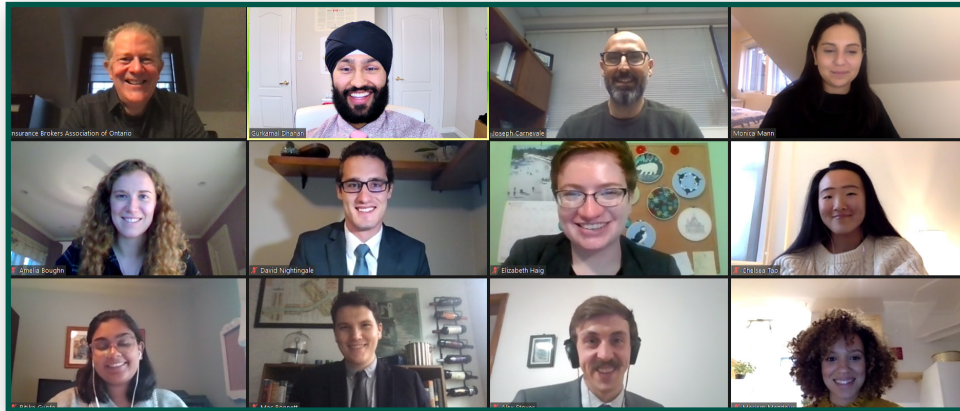
Lastly, we had the privilege of being joined by Malika Asthana from D2L, Amanda Clarke from Carleton University, and Sunil Johal of the Public Policy Forum for our final Speaker Series event. *The Future of Work & Wellbeing* was moderated by Public Technology Advocate Bianca Wylie, and touched on various topics related to the use of technology in our lives.



We are so grateful to **AMAPCEO** for sponsoring this fantastic event, as well as to all of the panellists, moderators, and OLIP community members for participating and making our first Speaker Series a success.

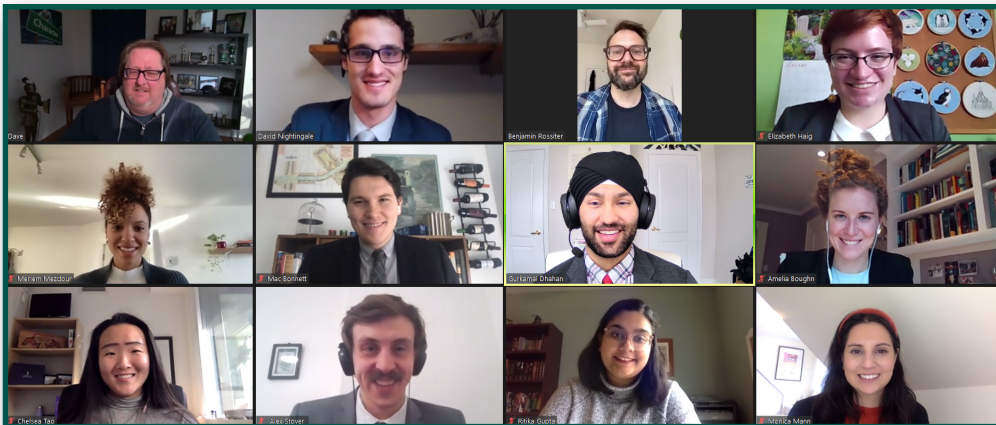
THANKING OUR

IBAO



On December 4th, we met with Joseph Carnevale and Colin Simpson, representatives from the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO). The IBAO is a non-profit organization representing insurance brokerages across Ontario. They advocate for their members provincially while acting as a liaison between brokerages and clients. We had the chance to ask Mr. Carnevale and Mr. Simpson questions on a variety of topics, including the challenges faced by brokers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunities that digital technology offers brokerages, and how new legislation (such as Bill 218, which will make changes to how liability claims during the pandemic are handled) may affect the insurance business in Ontario. We appreciate Mr. Carnevale and Mr. Simpson taking the time to discuss the issues facing the IBAO, brokerages, and policyholders across the province. We are grateful to the IBAO for their ongoing support of the programme as a Purple Trillium Sponsor. OLIP would not be the same without their support, and we benefit from all our sponsors who educate and support us in our endeavours at Queen's Park.

AMAPCEO



We are very grateful to AMAPCEO for their amazing support of OLIP, and particularly to Mr. Dave Bulmer, President of AMAPCEO, who takes the time to meet with the OLIP interns each year. This year, OLIP alumnus Benjamin Rossiter joined him and shared his academic and professional journey with us. We always enjoy hearing OLIP alumni recount their path to where they are today because it gives us a better sense of the options that exist for us after OLIP, and the ways that OLIP can be a springboard to launch our careers. Mr. Rossiter also gave us an overview of AMAPCEO's history and its work as the union of more than 14,000 professional employees, including many members of Ontario's Public Service. Mr. Bulmer followed this up with an engaging discussion of his perspective on the importance of unions like AMAPCEO as catalysts for change not just in the world of workers' rights, but in society as a whole. He also shared some useful career advice with us. Thank you to both Mr. Bulmer and Mr. Rossiter for taking the time to talk with us, and telling us about the important work that AMAPCEO does!

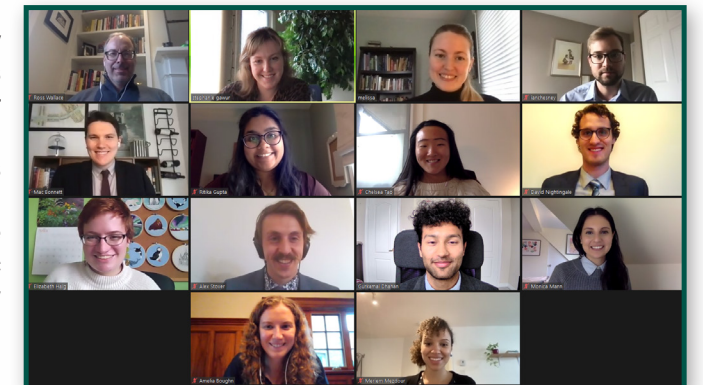
SPONSORS



We are excited to welcome our newest sponsor, the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO)! BFO has been a leading voice for Ontario's 19,000 beef farmers since 1962. The organization advocates for sustainability, animal health and care, the environment, food safety, and market development in the beef industry. It is always a pleasure to meet with our sponsors, as they provide an excellent opportunity to learn about a variety of industries, the significant challenges they face, and their connection to government. We are looking forward to meeting with BFO, and building an ongoing relationship with them. OLIP would not be possible without the generosity of our amazing sponsors, so from all of us, thank you BFO for your generous support!

SANTIS HEALTH

In April, we had the chance to speak with representatives from one of OLIP's newest sponsors. Santis Health is a consultancy focusing exclusively on health care issues in Ontario and across Canada. The ongoing pandemic provided a unique context for us to ask questions about how health care advocacy works and how stakeholders in the health care sector are affected by this unprecedented health care crisis. The conversation included topics like digitizing health records, creating space for the domestic production of medical supplies, and how the pandemic will change the health care sector. We left the meeting with new insights into an industry relevant to so many Ontarians right now. We are grateful to Santis for taking the time to speak with us and for supporting the programme!



PROVOKE PR



In January, we met with the founders of a government relations firm and OLIP's brand new sponsor, Provoke PR. Provoke PR was founded by Sydney Oakes, an OLIP alumna, and Sabrina Glover, an experienced advocacy, policy, and communications professional. Their mission was to found an organization that could provide public relations services to communities in need that have few resources to address their concerns. Sabrina and Sydney discussed their career trajectories, and shared how their experiences working with stakeholders from different backgrounds ultimately led them to begin a business venture together. Thank you to Sydney and Sabrina from all of us at OLIP for your generous support of the programme!

PURPLE TRILLIUM SPONSORS



LEAD SPONSORS

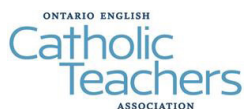


SYMPOSIUM SPONSOR

MAJOR SPONSORS



SPONSORS



SPONSOR IN-KIND



ALUMNI DONORS

Annette Boucher
Guy Charlton
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