

QUEEN'S PARK INSIDER

FALL 2022

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



OLIP IS A PROGRAMME OF THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

What a ride our OLIP experience has been so far, and we are just a few months in! Being the first OLIP cohort in three years to spend the majority of our time together in-person has been nothing short of refreshing. It has been exciting to be able to take advantage of every opportunity that comes with being at Queen's Park full-time—whether that be building connections by running into MPPs and Assembly staff in the hallways, visiting with our wonderful partners to learn about their work, or sharing a laugh over lunch together in the OLIP office. With a newly minted Legislature elected in June of 2022, the interns have met many people who are almost as new as we are to Queen's Park.

Our orientation included a total of 32 meetings. From nuclear power plants, to nonprofit and union offices, to an elections supply warehouse, our first set of site visits and meetings with our supportive partners have already given us a meaningful glimpse into how their work relates to Ontario and Canadian politics. We also constantly find OLIP alumni everywhere we go and are inspired by the trailblazers that have come before us!

For the month of October, we had the privilege of being welcomed into the offices of the various branches of the Assembly. For the first time in three years, we held an OLIP reception, and our numerous supporters gathered once again and showcased the strength and diversity of the programme's network.

Of course, none of these milestones would have been possible without your incredibly generous support. We would like to thank the Canadian Political Science Association, Speaker Hon. Ted Arnott, Clerk Todd Decker, our hard-working administrative team, and all alumni and partners for making OLIP a thrilling and enriching reality for us this year.

When we started, all we knew of each other was that we were a group of nine young people brought together by a shared interest in experiencing provincial politics up-close. These past three months have revealed both how much we have in common and how much we can learn from each other's different educational backgrounds, professional paths, and perspectives. We, the editors of *Queen's Park Insider*, hope this edition does justice in documenting all of these wonderful beginnings.

Sincerely,

Téah U-Ming & Sharon Lee, Co-Editors of *Queen's Park Insider*



THE COMMITTEES

Magazine
Sharon & Téah

Partnerships
Karissa & Alia

Meetings
Sky & Sophie

Receptions & Alumni Relations
Leah & Sky

Social Media
Lucas & Esma

Study Tours
Sophie & Leah

Recruitment
Esma & Lucas

THE ADMIN TEAM

Academic Director
Dr. Peter P. Constantinou

Programme Coordinators
Meghan Stenson & Michael Vidoni

Programme Manager
Munnka Vajpai

Archivist
Richard Sage

LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



As the Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Program (OLIP), I am proud to present our 47th cohort. It is a special year, being the first time that the programme is operating fully in-person since 2020. Since its inception, OLIP has provided a unique opportunity for recent university graduates to gain first-hand experience learning about the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the work of Members of Provincial Parliament, and I am proud that we are able to continue this tradition.

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 partners, some of whom are featured in this magazine. Our partners add to the wealth of the interns' experience year after year. Furthermore, I would like to welcome our new Programme Manager Munnika Vajpai, and to thank Assembly coordinators Meghan Stenson and Michael Vidoni, as well as Richard Sage who

is a previous coordinator and provides archival assistance. The hard work of these individuals ensures that the programme is as successful as it is today. I also appreciate the opportunities that various branches of the Assembly provided for the interns, who were placed in their offices in October. These kinds of experiences contribute to the programme's success in developing capable young professionals. Finally, my thanks goes out to our incredible alumni, who are an integral part of the OLIP network and success story.

The 2022-2023 cohort is comprised of individuals from a diverse mix of backgrounds, academic disciplines, and professional experiences, who share a love for Ontario politics. Throughout the year, the interns will work closely with MPPs, participate in study tours of other legislatures, and present academic papers at the CPSA's annual conference. They have recently begun their fall placements with MPPs, and 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 interns were welcomed to Queen's Park following a provincial election. As they are placed with MPPs both new and experienced, I anticipate the interns will gain an invaluable perspective into our legislative process while contributing to the work of their MPPs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of the *Queen's Park Insider*. On behalf of the 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

MEET THE



ALIA MUFTI

Hometown: Stouffville, Ontario

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and English (University of Western Ontario)

What drew me to OLIP: When I was seven, I wrote a letter to the mayor of my city to help build a better parkette near my house. I remember getting a call back from him and the joy I got from that moment. Ever since then, I have had a keen interest in politics and policymaking, so when I heard about OLIP, I decided to apply!

Hobbies/Interests: I love travelling and this summer, I backpacked through Italy! I also enjoy reading and writing.



ESMA BOZTAS

Hometown: Ethnically Turkish, born in Morocco, and grew up in Tunisia

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Co-operative Public Policy, Critical Migration Studies and French (University of Toronto)

What drew me to OLIP: OLIP is both a venue to differentiate political theory from its practice, and an opportunity at the heart of democracy to work with politicians from opposing parties. I wanted a practical experience where I could gain an in-depth understanding of provincial politics.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy writing and used to write stories based on my dreams. Additionally, I have lived in four continents and have absorbed various different cultures as a local.



KARISSA SINGH

Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology (University of Toronto); Masters of Social Work (University of Toronto)

What drew me to OLIP: Throughout my Masters, I worked firsthand with marginalized populations and witnessed how public policies impacted them. I noticed that the policy process was siloed and that policymakers did not always have the frontline experience that would help them best represent these communities. I joined OLIP to bring my practical knowledge to the policymaking table.

Hobbies/Interests: I am learning to play the steel pan; I went skydiving for the first time this summer and am a huge Raptors fan.

INTERNS



LEAH WILSON

Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Educational background: Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights & International Development Studies (University of Winnipeg); Master of Arts in Law (Carleton University)

What drew me to OLIP: I have a passion for experiential learning, and completed two practicums and a field course during my undergraduate degree. I also enjoy understanding how people's lives interact with policies and law. I see OLIP as a great opportunity to learn about the intersection of policy and lived experience in a practical context.

Hobbies/Interests: I've never met a sport I'm not willing to try, and I even competed nationally in team handball. Now you can catch me playing ultimate frisbee weekly with friends and boxing for fun!



LUCAS FISHER

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (University of Western Ontario)

What drew me to OLIP: I applied to OLIP to put my political science background to use and better understand the everyday workings of parliamentary politics.

Hobbies/Interests: I am a long-suffering Toronto sports fan, avid traveler, and fan of road trips.



SHARON LEE

Hometown: Etobicoke, Ontario

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (University of Toronto)

What drew me to OLIP: Living in Lebanon during the Syrian Civil War sparked my interest in how political institutions and processes shape access to public goods and services. Having worked for the federal public service, I was drawn to OLIP to gain practical insight into the political dimensions of governance as well as the inner workings of policymaking.

Hobbies/Interests: I play and write music on the guitar and piano. I wrote and recorded a song with my band, which is out on Spotify!

MEET THE INTERNS



SKY SHI

Hometown: Montreal, Quebec

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Arts in International Development (McGill University); Masters of Global Affairs (Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy)

What drew me to OLIP: I worked at the U.S. Consulate General in Toronto and gained firsthand experience in the functioning of bilateral relations. This opportunity fueled my interest in pursuing a career in foreign service. OLIP is a unique steppingstone to gain further insight into public service and enacting public policy.

Hobbies/Interests: Traveling, reading, cycling, and soccer—I can't wait for the World Cup to kick off!



SOPHIE WILLIAMS

Hometown: Peterborough, Ontario

Educational background: Honours Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Trent University)

What drew me to OLIP: I was a Legislative Page when I was younger and participated in two Model Parliament Programs at the Assembly, which made me interested in learning more about Ontario's political process.

Hobbies/Interests: I grew up camping, and I enjoy swimming, hiking, canoeing, and exploring the woods.



TÉAH U-MING

Hometown: North Vancouver, British Columbia

Educational background: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French (Simon Fraser University)

What drew me to OLIP: Being involved in grassroots advocacy with youth-led organizations and non-profits gave me a glimpse of how constituents organize to have their voices heard. Following this, I saw OLIP as a great way to understand the legislative aspect of the public policy process and to serve communities through policy.

Hobbies/Interests: Making music and enjoying live music. I have been to seven concerts so far this year, and I sing in a choir. I am also an avid explorer of mountains and coastlines!

ASSEMBLY PLACEMENTS

SKY **LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY**

For my Assembly branch placement, I worked at the Legislative Library. My main project involved parsing out and entering Bill events from the second session of the 35th Legislature into Mace, a new internal database developed for the Assembly. I also gained further insight on navigating the library catalogue while utilizing effective research tools and the various services offered at the Library. I'd like to thank my mentor Jessica Sheppard and every staff member at the Library for their continued support and positive attitude!

TÉAH **HOUSE PUBLICATIONS & LANGUAGE SERVICES**

For my Assembly placement, I worked with House Publications and Language Services (HPLS). As this branch includes Hansard, House Documents, and Language Services, I was given opportunities to experience a variety of areas where language and politics intersect at the Assembly. This included researching Indigenous language resources for Hansard and examining the 42nd Parliament's Journals for motions that could set a precedent for Parliamentary practices during a pandemic. Thank you to Ros, Peter, and everyone else who supported me!

LEAH **INFORMATION SERVICES**

I was graciously welcomed to the team at the Assembly branch of Information Services (IS). I worked collaboratively with Dave Cumming, my supervisor, to develop a research question regarding public access and open government at the Legislative Assembly. For this, I interviewed members of the IS team and learned about internal and external communications. Further, I researched open government in a broader context, which I hope to apply to my research paper. Thank you to Dave, Steven, and everyone at IS for being so welcoming!



LUCAS **CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW**

I am grateful to have spent my Assembly branch placement with the Canadian Parliamentary Review. I spent the bulk of my time researching and writing an original article for the journal and organizing a roundtable discussion of current and former parliamentarians. I have found these projects rewarding and am proud to have contributed to the journal in my short time here. A big thank you to Will, Tiffany, Dave, and everyone in the Information Services office for making me feel welcome!

KARISSA **LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH**

I had the privilege of being placed with Legislative Research for my Assembly placement. I was drawn to this branch because of the opportunity to conduct research into various provincial issues. I got the chance to update an online resource for Members on the Opioid Crisis in Ontario, a topic I worked in detail on throughout my graduate program. Thank you so much for the opportunity, Legislative Research team, and for the very warm welcome!

ASSEMBLY PLACEMENTS

SOPHIE **LEGISLATIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE**

I worked with the Legislative Protective Service for my Assembly branch placement. The Protective Service works to keep everyone in the Assembly safe. Throughout my placement, I worked with the officers on a project comparing security practices of all Canadian legislatures, which has allowed me to meet with security officials from across the country. A big thank you to Security Supervisor Mangoni, Officers Lauttamus and Maisonneuve, and to Kate for helping me with this project and welcoming me to the team!

ALIA **PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL**

For my Assembly placement, I was placed with Parliamentary Counsel. My main project was to create reference indexes for the Assembly, but I was also given the opportunity to help edit briefing notes on court cases. My time here has been illuminating; I learned about constitutional law and the inner workings of the Assembly. It has been an honour to work alongside William Wong and Gabriela Dedelli, both of whom were incredibly welcoming and supportive. I would like to thank them for their kindness and support!

SHARON **PRECINCT PROPERTIES**

During my time with Precinct Properties, I helped update a chronology of events marking the historical development of the Legislature's grounds and buildings by conducting research and compiling my findings. Through this, I gained in-depth knowledge of the Legislative precinct, and I now appreciate more fully the location in which our democracy unfolds. It was a pleasure working alongside the team at Precinct Properties and contributing to the important work they do for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly.



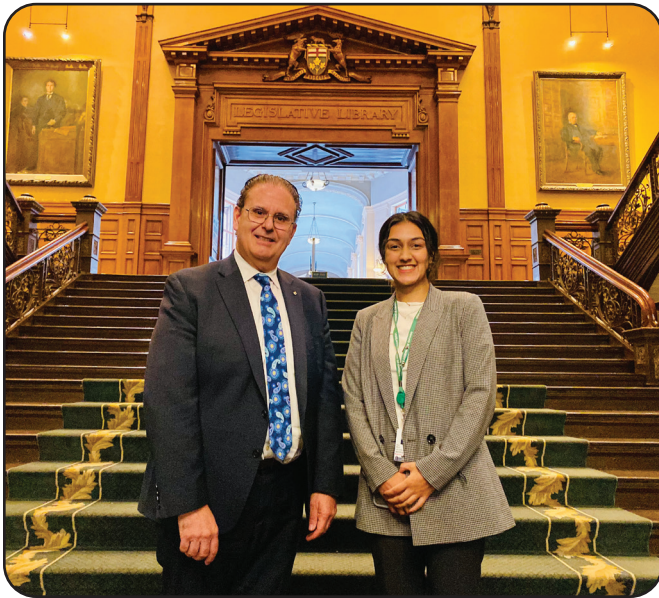
ESMA **TABLE RESEARCH OFFICE & PROCEDURAL SERVICES**

For my Assembly placement, I worked with the Table Research Office (TRO) and the Procedural Services Branch (PSB). I helped the PSB by creating an informative brochure and a formal write-up highlighting the branch's role and services, certain parliamentary procedures, and explaining Committees. I also assisted the TRO by creating two procedural write-ups, on the process of "naming" in the Chamber and the role of Presiding Officers. Thank you to Julia Douglas and Tanzima Khan, whom I worked closely with in each branch!

FALL MPP PLACEMENTS

ALIA IS PLACED WITH MPP RUDY CUZZETTO

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



For my fall placement, I am placed with MPP Rudy Cuzzetto of Mississauga—Lakeshore. MPP Cuzzetto is the Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board and sits on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, as well as the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. Alongside his wide range of roles, MPP Cuzzetto focuses on helping his constituents by prioritizing local policy issues such as accessibility to public services, long-term care, traffic congestion and transportation. So far, my responsibilities have been to attend stakeholder meetings and assist with briefing notes. Working with MPP Cuzzetto and his team has been exciting and eye-opening thus far, and it is only the beginning. I want to thank MPP Cuzzetto, Michael Smith, Cassandra Bianchi, Dorothy, Leo, and Joanna for welcoming me to the team! I look forward to learning more in the months to come.

KARISSA IS PLACED WITH MPP CHANDRA PASMA

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

For my Opposition placement, I am excited to be placed with MPP Chandra Pasma of Ottawa West—Nepean. MPP Pasma is the Critic for Education and for Poverty and Homelessness Reduction. As a long-time anti-poverty advocate, MPP Pasma brings the voices of the most vulnerable members of society to the Legislature and to her constituency work. For example, during stakeholder meetings, MPP Pasma strives to empathize and ensure individuals feel heard. I have also been enjoying these stakeholder meetings as I am able to witness how policies are impacting the populations we are serving, and how we can better meet their needs. A huge thank you goes out to Liam, Leif, Darren, and of course, MPP Pasma, for the warm welcome onto the team. Thank you for the exciting opportunities you have already given me; I am excited for what is to come!



FALL MPP

ESMA IS PLACED WITH MPP DEEPAK ANAND

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



I am placed with MPP Deepak Anand of Mississauga—Malton. MPP Anand is also the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. MPP Anand prioritizes ensuring effective settlement support and social assistance along with youth employment, engagement, and empowerment. Working with MPP Anand has already been very fruitful. In the first week alone, I got to work on three different issues: the barriers faced by foreign-trained nurses in getting their certification, sexual misconduct data in post-secondary institutions, and MPP Anand's upcoming Private Member's Bill. I am looking forward to continuing to work on various issues affecting Ontarians and learning from MPP Anand's work.

LEAH IS PLACED WITH MPP SOL MAMAKWA

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I am placed with MPP Sol Mamakwa, who has represented Kiiwetinoong in the far northwest of Ontario since 2018. Kiiwetinoong covers parts of treaties 9, 3, and 5 territory and is the largest riding in Ontario. MPP Mamakwa brings a unique perspective to the Ontario Legislature. His work piqued my interest as his critic portfolios, Northern Development, and Indigenous and Treaty Relations, grapple with Ontario's history of colonization. In addition to two critic portfolios, he also vice-chairs the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. My placement with MPP Mamakwa has taught me the importance of hearing from Northern voices in the Legislature and the power of speaking with intention. A big thank you to MPP Mamakwa and Athena for having me; I look forward to continuing my work in the office and with Kiiwetinoong!



PLACEMENTS

LUCAS IS PLACED WITH MPP NOLAN QUINN

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

For my fall MPP placement, I am grateful to be working with MPP Nolan Quinn. MPP Quinn represents Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. I have enjoyed working alongside MPP Quinn and seeing firsthand the energy he brings to Queen's Park every day. In his office I have had the chance to research issues, contribute to bills, and engage with stakeholders within and relevant to his riding. I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with an MPP who is passionate about his riding, and I look forward to continuing to help his constituents. A big thank you to MPP Quinn for welcoming me to his team and helping me adjust to the fast pace of Queen's Park. I am looking forward to visiting his riding in the near future.



SHARON IS PLACED WITH MPP JOEL HARDEN

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

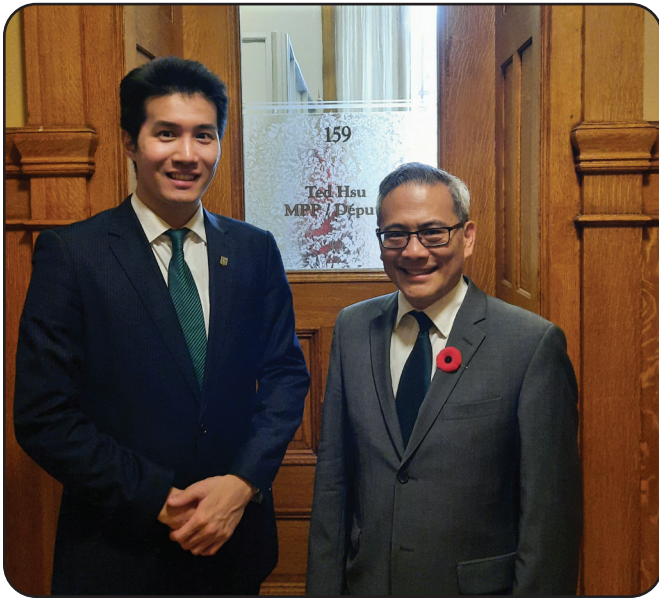


For my fall placement, I am working with MPP Joel Harden, who represents the riding of Ottawa Centre and is the opposition Critic for Transit and Active Transportation. MPP Harden is also a member of the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy. It has been inspiring to get to know MPP Harden as a leader who is just as passionate about advancing the interests of his constituents outside the Chamber as he is in the Chamber. During my placement so far, I have had the privilege of being involved in a large range of work including question pitches, research on gender-based violence, and the introduction of a Private Member's Bill. I would like to thank MPP Harden and the rest of his team including Ethan, Ty, and Jackson for their trust and warm welcome. I look forward to visiting MPP Harden's constituency office in Ottawa Centre!

FALL MPP

SKY IS PLACED WITH MPP TED HSU

LIBERAL PARTY



I am honoured to work with MPP Ted Hsu, who represents Kingston and the Islands, for my Fall MPP Placement. A former federal Liberal MP, MPP Hsu is the Critic for four Ministries: Energy, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, and Citizenship and Multiculturalism. He is also a member of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. MPP Hsu sees his riding as “a place where history and innovation thrive.” I have been conducting research to assist MPP Hsu in his Critic roles. I have also attended meetings with external stakeholders and assisted Ben, his Legislative Assistant, with his office duties. I am looking forward to visiting MPP Hsu’s new constituency office in Kingston and meeting his constituents in the “Limestone City.” I would like to thank MPP Hsu and his team for their warm welcome and this learning opportunity.

SOPHIE IS PLACED WITH MPP ANDREW DOWIE

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

For my fall placement, I am pleased to be placed with MPP Andrew Dowie, Member for Windsor—Tecumseh. Windsor—Tecumseh is one of the province’s southernmost ridings and shares a border with the United States. With both urban and rural regions in the riding, there are plenty of interesting cultural and natural features to see, and I am looking forward to visiting during my placement! MPP Dowie is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and so far, I have been assisting with organizing stakeholder roundtables for this Ministry portfolio. MPP Dowie and Executive Assistant Rachel were very welcoming in my first couple of weeks in the office, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with them, as well as Paul, Denica and Daniela in the constituency office. Thank you to MPP Dowie and his whole team for welcoming me to your office!



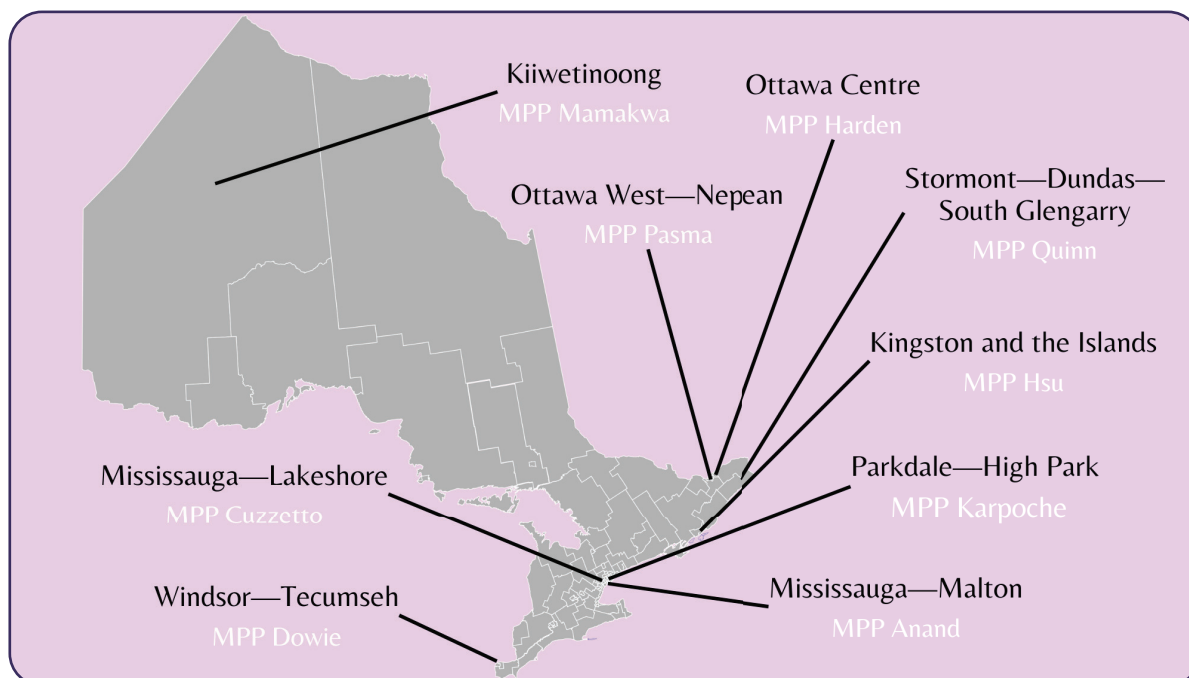
PLACEMENTS

TÉAH IS PLACED WITH MPP BHUTILA KARPOCHE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I am honoured to be working with MPP Bhutla Karpoche, who represents Parkdale—High Park. This urban riding is home to a large population of young people, many locally owned businesses, and communities that are politically active around housing and green spaces. MPP Karpoche is the first person of Tibetan origin to be elected to public office in North America, and she holds a Master's degree in epidemiology. As such, she brings an intersectional lens to her work and focuses on public healthcare advocacy. She is also the Critic for GTA Issues, Child Care, and Early Childhood Development. I am excited to explore local and province-wide issues alike by aiding with stakeholder consultations, community engagement, and policy research in her critic areas. A huge thank you to MPP Karpoche, Legislative Assistant Jeremy Istead, and the team for making me feel so welcome and being so supportive!

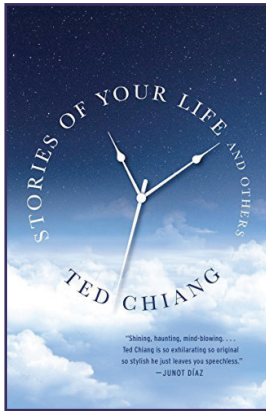


Where are our Members' Ridings?

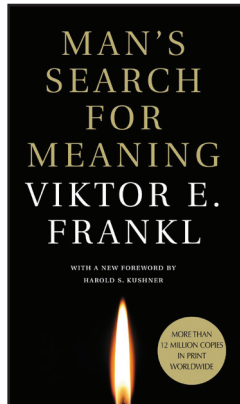


Intern Reading Corner: Top Picks

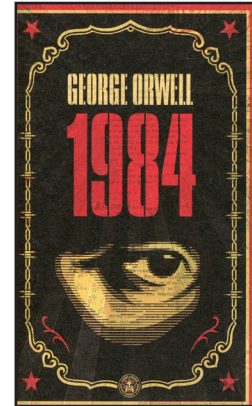
What are OLIP Interns Reading?



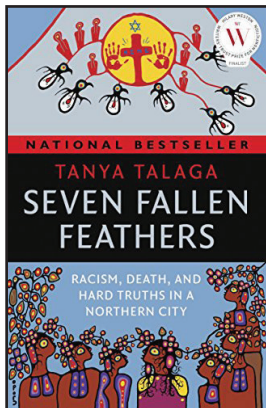
Alia: *Story of Your Life*
by Ted Chiang



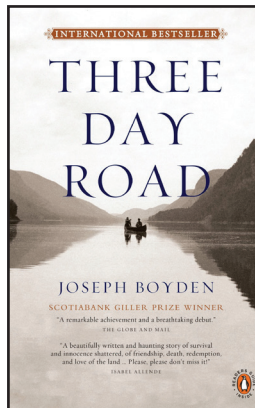
Esma: *Man's Search for Meaning*
by Viktor Frankl



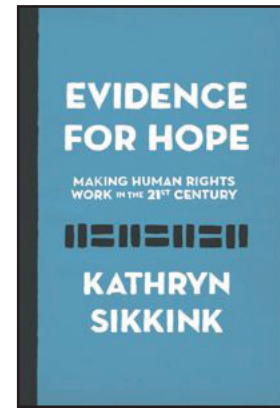
Karissa: *1984* by George Orwell



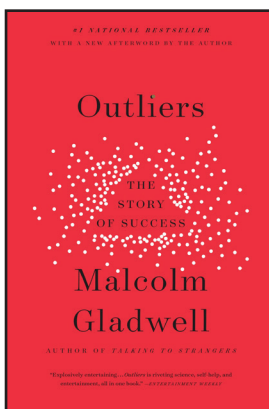
Leah: *Seven Fallen Feathers*
by Tanya Talaga



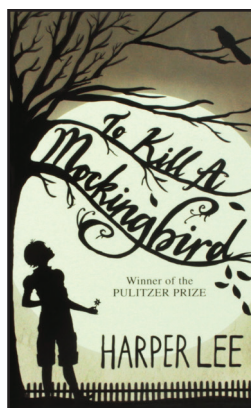
Lucas: *Three Day Road*
by Joseph Boyden



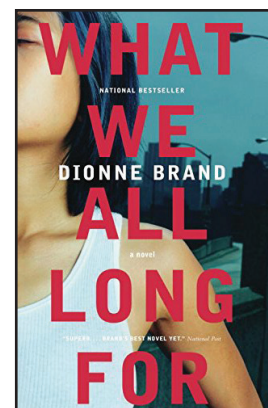
Sharon: *Evidence for Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st Century*
by Kathryn Sikkink



Sky: *Outliers: The Story of Success*
by Malcolm Gladwell



Sophie: *To Kill a Mockingbird*
by Harper Lee



Téah: *What We all Long For*
by Dionne Brand

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SPEAKER TED ARNOTT



We were lucky to be welcomed to Queen's Park by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the Honourable Ted Arnett. Our meeting with the Speaker marked our first look inside the Legislative Chamber. He discussed his 30-plus years as an MPP, his favourite aspects of the speakership, and how Queen's Park has changed throughout his career. It was inspiring to learn about his passion for public service and how he finds time to represent his constituency while fulfilling his many duties. A huge thank you to Speaker Arnett and his executive assistant, OLIP alumna Rachel Nauta, for welcoming us and for their constant support of OLIP.

CLERK TODD DECKER

"Strong opposition makes for strong government" were the wise words delivered to us in our meeting with Todd Decker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It was inspiring to hear about his early motivations to work in public service, and about how he has fulfilled that goal by being with the Legislative Assembly since 1984. Clerk Decker also gave us a book recommendation, which we extend to you all: *Trust by David Johnston*, which he recommended for its lessons on retaining idealism in an often-turbulent world. Thank you for sharing your insights, Clerk Decker!



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JACKIE GORDON



We had the pleasure of meeting with Sergeant-at-Arms Jackie Gordon during our orientation. The Sergeant-at-Arms has many roles at the Legislative Assembly, such as providing security in the Legislative Chamber, carrying the mace during procession, and directing the Legislative Protective Service and Precinct Properties branches of the Assembly. Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon shared memorable aspects of her experience as the first female Sergeant-at-Arms in Ontario. We were impressed and inspired by her many accomplishments and range of experiences both at the Legislative Assembly and in her previous work in the Halton Police Service. Thank you for meeting with us, Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon!

MEETING

AUDITOR GENERAL BONNIE LYSYK



We were privileged to meet with the Auditor General of Ontario, Bonnie Lysyk. The Auditor General is a parliamentary officer who is independent of the government, and advises the Legislature on spending and business practices. The Auditor's office also analyzes public services to understand how efficiently and economically they are being provided by the government of the day. Auditor General Lysyk has nearly completed her term in office and therefore was able to share her vast experience and knowledge from years of service. We would like to thank Auditor General Lysyk for providing us with a much better understanding of her important role!

OMBUDSMAN PAUL DUBÉ

We had the pleasure of meeting with Paul Dubé, the Ontario Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is an independent and impartial officer of the Legislature who resolves citizens' complaints about government and public sector entities' actions. During our meeting with Ombudsman Dubé, we learned about the office's reconciliatory approach to receiving and handling complaints. This approach helps maintain the integrity of the Office and ensures that discussions are kept fair and impartial. A huge thank you to Mr. Dubé for speaking to us about the important work his office does to uphold Ontarians' rights!



ELECTIONS ONTARIO



We had the pleasure of visiting the office of Elections Ontario and meeting with Chief Electoral Officer Greg Essensa. Our visit included an insightful discussion with Mr. Essensa and a warehouse tour, where an election's worth of the supplies that help Ontarians cast a ballot is kept ready. Mr. Essensa emphasized that Elections Ontario focuses on communication during elections so that the electorate knows when, where, and how to vote. It was eye-opening to learn about challenges to this and how Elections Ontario ensures that as many eligible citizens as possible can vote. Thank you, Mr. Essensa and the team at Elections Ontario for having us!

HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTER OF EDUCATION STEPHEN LECCE

We had the honour of meeting Ontario's Minister of Education and the MPP for King—Vaughan, Stephen Lecce. Minister Lecce has spent most of his life in politics and rose to significant positions quickly. As such, he highlighted a strong work ethic, being a generational voice, and building relationships as being essential in helping him to lead a life of public service and to fulfil the demanding role of Ontario's Education Minister. His advice and experiences as a person whose career in politics started at a young age gave us much to reflect upon regarding our own professional development. Thank you, Minister Lecce, for your time and support for the Programme!



PROFESSOR DREW FAGAN



In October, we met with Professor Drew Fagan. He is currently a professor of public policy at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and a Senior Advisor at McMillan Vantage Policy Group. He has previously served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Affairs Canada and Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport in Ontario. Professor Fagan led a research team to address the infrastructure gap between Nunavut and the rest of Canada. He leveraged his previous experience as Deputy Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario) to identify the critical areas where infrastructure in Nunavut needed improvement. We would like to sincerely thank Professor Fagan for his insight and support of OLIP!

SHIREEN SALTI

We had the pleasure of meeting Shireen Salti, OLIP alumna and, currently, the Advancement Lead at Windsor Law. Shireen was previously the Executive Director of the Canadian Arab Institute and in our meeting, she focused on stakeholder engagement. She emphasized the importance of building relationships with stakeholders, and of policymakers and stakeholders in setting goals for what they hope to achieve with each other. Meeting with Shireen was a highlight of our orientation, as it is always encouraging to hear about the successes of OLIP alumni. We thank her for her time and for sharing her expertise and experiences!



THANKING

BRUCE POWER



The OLIP interns recently had the chance to meet with our valued partners at Bruce Power, a privately owned energy company that supplies nearly 30% of Ontario's electricity. Clint Thomas, Manager of Public Relations, and Pat Dalzell, Head of Corporate Affairs, were gracious enough to share their experience in government relations and about the relationship that OLIP and Bruce Power have cultivated over the years. As a leader in North America's nuclear energy sector, Bruce Power is integral to Ontario's low-carbon energy transition. We discussed Bruce Power's contributions to this transition and to nuclear medicine, as well as the importance of open communication with stakeholders. We were excited to continue the OLIP tradition of visiting Bruce Power in person, marking another wonderful chapter in our partnership!

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

We had the pleasure of meeting with Rachel Thompson, Senior Advisor, Government Relations, and Jake Sikora, Senior Manager, Government Relations, at Ontario Power Generation (OPG). As the province's leading clean power generator, OPG produces dependable, low-cost power using a diverse mix of generating sources. With the assistance of site communities and partners, their goal is to ensure a more sustainable future, a cleaner environment, a stronger economy, and the creation of more habitable communities. We enjoyed learning about the organization, not least because OLIP has a strong connection to OPG: Jake is an alumnus from the 2014-2015 cohort. It was fascinating to learn how his experience with the programme successfully prepared him for his current role. Thank you so much Rachel, Jake, and all the employees at OPG who took the time to meet with us! Your kindness and willingness to share your knowledge with us is much appreciated.



OUR PARTNERS

AMAPCEO

The interns had the pleasure of visiting the AMAPCEO office to meet with President David Bulmer, Vice-President Cynthia Watt, Strategic Advisor Grant Burns, and OLIP alumnus Ben Rossiter, Team Lead of Labour Relations Bargaining. AMAPCEO is a non-partisan union that represents over 15,000 professional employees in Ontario's public service. Our hosts discussed their experiences in working with government and the role unions play in a constantly evolving workplace. They explained how collective bargaining represents only a part of the role they play as executives at AMAPCEO. Each of our hosts was empathetic to the challenges their members faced, and passionate about the work they did and the change they created. AMAPCEO has been a proud partner of OLIP for over 16 years and we could not be more thankful for their hospitality and continued support.



INSURANCE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



We had the pleasure of meeting with Colin Simpson, CEO of the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO). We learned that IBAO's main responsibility as a nonprofit organization is to represent and advocate for insurance brokers while offering them advice and insight. IBAO also engages with the provincial government and works closely with MPPs to ensure insurance brokers' voices are heard. Mr. Simpson also shared the complex issues and nuances of Ontario's insurance sector and how IBAO helps support and protect both people who make insurance claims and insurance brokers. Mr. Simpson's presentation gave us a more in-depth understanding of the work of insurance brokers and the advocacy strategies IBAO uses with the government. Our cohort truly enjoyed learning more about IBAO through Mr. Simpson's engaging stories, candour, and passion for his role. We want to thank him for taking the time to meet with us and for the support IBAO continues to give OLIP!

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