

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme
Director Report 2013-2014
Henry J. Jacek, Academic Director

Introduction

This is my tenth year as Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). I could not do this job unless I had a capable and wise Programme Assistant. I am very fortunate to have an outstanding person in this position in Eithne Whaley, a former intern in the British House of Commons, now in her eleventh year with the Programme.

Also in our management are two excellent employees of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, coordinators Rick Sage and William Short. Rick is a Research Librarian in the Legislative Library and Research Service and he is in his first year as a Programme Coordinator. Will is the Legislative Committee Clerk for two Standing Committees, Public Accounts and Justice Policy. Finally I thank Dagmar Soenneken, an Assistant Professor at York University, for her help in the intern selection process. Dagmar was an intern in 1998-1999.

Every Friday the management team have a two-hour meeting with the ten interns. I think I can speak for all of us and say that this is the most enjoyable time of the week as we discuss the legislative events of the week, the recent experiences of the interns and the plans for future OLIP activities. As well we discuss the research projects of the interns, the fruit of which are the papers the interns present at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association.

Intern Educational Activities: Orientation

The core of the intern programme is the placements with two members of the Legislative Assembly, one with the government side and one with the opposition side. But just as important are OLIP educational activities. The intern experience begins with a September orientation. A highlight for the new interns is the schedule of meetings with the Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. This year the interns enjoyed meetings with the new Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk and Deputy Auditor General Gary Peall, Chief and Deputy Chief Electoral Officers Greg Essensa and Loren Wells, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Gord Miller, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, Ombudsman Andre Marin, and the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Irwin Elman.

We thank four key members of the Legislative Assembly for making themselves available for meetings. Our patron is the Speaker, Dave Levac. We receive strong support from Clerk Deborah Deller, Deputy Clerk Rodd Decker and Clerk of Procedural Research Services Tonia Grannum. In addition, we also thank the Director of Broadcast and Recording Services and Honorary Intern Arleigh Holder as well as former Speaker David Warner, Director of Human Resources Nancy Marling, Director of Hansard, Reporting and Interpretation Services Deborah Caruso, Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark, and Vicki Whitmell, Head of iDivision.

Among the sponsors who took part in the orientation are Advocacy Solutions, the Certified General Accountants of Ontario, Ipsos Canada, the Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario, LawPRO, the Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Law Society of Upper Canada, Shoppers Drug Mart, Vale

Canada and the Royal Bank of Canada.

Other important meetings included Paul Macmillan and former intern Sasha Tregobov of Deloitte, who spoke on the work of consulting firms and the government. The interns enjoyed advice and stories from journalists knowledgeable about Queen's Park, such as Honorary Interns Jim Coyle, a former Queen's Park columnist with the Toronto Star and CBC Radio News producer and newsreader Robert Fisher. In addition, Robert Benzie of the Toronto Star and Christina Blizzard of Sun Media gave the interns the benefit of their insights about life at Queen's Park.

Intern alumni helped familiarize the new interns with the norms and traditions of Queen's Park. I especially thank Leslie DeMeulles, Senior Ministerial Policy Advisor; Karim Bardessy, Director of Policy and Research to the Premier; Chelsea Peet, Emma Stanley-Cochrane and Meghan Warby, all from Cabinet Office; Kaila Mintz, Foreign Service Officer and Senior Policy Advisor; and Rebecca Scott, Regional Director of Extendicare. And as is usual for the intern orientation, Honorary Intern Graham Murray hosted an information session at his home office followed by refreshments at his favourite local pub.

Intern Educational Visits

A great deal of the intern education occurs away from the Legislative Assembly. The interns already had great visits with government and legislative officials in Ottawa and the Northwest Territories. In the last full week in May, the interns will attend the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. Each intern will present on some aspect of the Legislative Assembly. Finally, in the last full week of June, the interns will travel to London, England for a one week visit with officials of the British Parliament.

Fundraising

Without a doubt, this activity consumes most of my time and energy. While a few sponsors make timely payments, most require numerous follow-up communication from Eithne and myself. These sponsorships are crucial if the educational components of the Programme is to be maintained. We are pleased to note that we now have three lead sponsors, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Real Estate Association of Ontario and Vale Canada. A lead sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$10,000 or more per year. We are pleased to announce some new major sponsors, the Public Affairs Association of Canada and R+D; Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies. A major sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$5,000 or more per year. We were also fortunate to gain new regular sponsors this year such as the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association of Canada and Central 1 Credit Union.

Placements

The interns began their first placements on Monday, October 21st, 2013 and their second placements on Tuesday, February 18th 2014. During the election, the interns are placed with Independent Officers and sponsors. Listed below are this year's placements.

We are grateful to the 21 MPPs who provided an excellent learning experience for our interns. Over 40 MPPs express an interest in participating in the Programme each year.

There is nothing more pleasant than watching these bright, well-educated, young adults learn so quickly over the course of the ten months. It seems that in September the interns arrive knowing so little about the Ontario legislative process, but by the end of June, they

seem to know everything, even more than the Director!

	First Placement	Second Placement	Mini Placement
Emily Barrette	Norm Miller (PC)	Phil McNeely (LIB)	Environmental Comissioner of Ontario
Jessica Behnke	Mitzie Hunter (LIB)	Christine Elliott (PC)	Ipsos Canada
Mitchell Davidson	Ernie Hardeman (PC)	Mike Colle (LIB)	Ontario Real Estate Association
Aaron Denhartog	John Fraser (LIB)	Paul Miller (NDP)	Law Society of Upper Canada
Vanesa Dupuis	Bas Balkissoon (LIB)	Laurie Scott (PC)	Auditor General of Ontario
Amanda Garofalo	Lisa Thompson (PC)	Donna Cansfield (LIB)	British Consulate in Toronto
Taylor Lew	France Gelinis (NDP)	Soo Wong (LIB)	Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario
Lauren Millar	Steven Del Duca (LIB)	Vic Fedeli (PC)	Royal Bank of Canada
Melinda Munding	Dipika Damerla (LIB)	Catherine Fife (NDP)	Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Douglas Wong	Michael Prue (NDP)	Kevin Flynn & Bob Delaney (LIB)	Ipsos Canada.