

## Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

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### Director's Report 2014-2015

Henry J. Jacek, Programme Director

#### Introduction

This is the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). It is safe to say that OLIP has been a great success throughout its 39 years because of its institutional design. Having the Canadian Political Science Association administer the Programme through its appointed director with the advice and help of two coordinators from the Legislature's staff provides expertise combined with flexibility. Especially important is the ability to have help of a part time (16 hours) Programme Assistant. Ms. Eithne Whaley fulfills this role in such a way that I found it easy to administer the Programme for 11 years while performing my duties as a full time professor of political science at McMaster University.

2014-2015 was much the same as the previous years. We have ten high quality interns who eagerly learn from the educational opportunities OLIP provides while giving excellent service to their MPPs. As usual, we begin with a rich September orientation with additional educational meetings throughout the year. The interns have the benefit of four important study trips this year, Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, the Ohio Legislature in Columbus, the Parliament in Ottawa and a visit to the mother of all parliaments, Westminster in London. Finally, the interns increase our understanding of the Legislative Assembly by their year-long research whose findings are presented at the annual CPSA meeting in Ottawa. You can get the details and flavor of the intern year by reading the Fall and Spring editions of our magazine, the Queens Park Insider and visiting our website, [www.olipinterns.ca](http://www.olipinterns.ca).

Since this is my final report, I thought it would be useful for the CPSA members to learn the details of how OLIP operates, especially the role of the administrative staff in the last 11 years.

#### Programme Director

The Programme Director is appointed by the CPSA for a three year period. The three year period has worked well. It takes one year to really learn the role and provides an incentive for the Director to invest time and effort in the first year so the learning can be applied for at least two additional years. The final choice of a director rests solely with the CPSA since the CPSA has sole responsibility for the financial state of the Programme. There is something to be said for the Speaker and Clerk to be consulted on the appointment of a director but the final choice should remain with the CPSA.

The Programme Director is in charge of administering the Programme with the help of the Director's appointed Programme Assistant. In a normal week the Director devotes about eight hours a week to the Programme. The Director's financial compensation ranges from \$7,500 to \$15,000 a year in the form of an honorarium, released time payment to the Director's home university or a combination of both.

The Director is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Programme. All expenses must be approved by the CFO. The revenues consist of a yearly grant from the Legislature's Board of Internal Economy and private donations. Cheques for expenses, including stipends paid to the interns, are produced by the CPSA office in Ottawa and cosigned by the Programme Director. The Director is accountable to the CPSA for all expenditures and for the budget balance.

The Programme Director does seek advice from the Programme Coordinators and the Programme Assistant but in the end, the Director makes, and is responsible for all important decisions affecting the Programme. Financial commitments are made by the Director or the Director's appointee. The Director as CFO should manage the budget so that an accumulated surplus of at least half of the yearly expenses is maintained. Private funds can be used to make-up for the shortfall in the Legislature's grant as long as the accumulated surplus is not compromised.

The Programme Director is also the educational director. In this role, the Director guides the research of each intern. The Director sets up educational meetings for the interns during the September orientation and beyond. The Director decides if a first and second draft is acceptable and if so, each draft will result in a \$500 payment to the intern.

### **Programme Assistant**

The Programme Assistant is chosen by the Programme Director and is expected to work 16 hours a week, normally on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Programme Assistant is given paid holidays when the legislative staff are given paid holidays. The Programme Assistant comes into the OLIP office on Wednesdays only in July and August.

The Programme Assistant has a number of roles, the most important being that of deputy administrator. Eithne Whaley has performed this role so well for 12 years. I could not do my job without her at this point in my service to OLIP. In this role she is the OLIP bookkeeper, purchasing clerk, scheduler of meetings, keeper of documents, and travel manager. She knows how to stretch our funds by making sure all purchases are at the best available price. Eithne is also our first contact with our sponsors, sends out invoices to them, deposits their cheques and generally keeps them informed of OLIP activities.

Eithne directs our external communications. There are a number of examples but at least two stand out in my mind. First, our website, [www.olipinterns.ca](http://www.olipinterns.ca), did not exist 11 years ago. I often receive unsolicited comments from prospective applicants, sponsors and alumni that makes me proud of our website. However, even a great website can be improved, so please let me know about any change you think we should make. Outside advice is always a good source of suggested improvement.

Second is the quality of our glossy magazine, Queen's Park Insider. Eithne is the design editor that has taken our former four page black and white newsletter through the transformation you now see twice a year. The interns write the text and take some of the photos in it but it is Eithne as design editor who puts the whole magazine together. At least one other internship programme has copied our design. As we know, imitation is the most sincere form of approval. Eithne in her role of design editor and webmaster earns OLIP many accolades.

### **Programme Coordinators**

In my eleven years as Programme Director, I have had the support of six different Programme Coordinators. These Individuals, drawn from the legislative staff, are very helpful in helping the ten interns learn about procedure and traditions of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Although they are busy in their own positions whether Research Librarians in the Legislative Library or Committee Clerks, they usually are available five days a week to help the interns. The two Programme Coordinators give me helpful advice.

The major interaction with the interns and the Programme Director and Programme Assistant happens on Fridays, usually from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There, the interns give the administrative team a weekly update and raise any questions they have and seek advice for problems encountered. Then the ten intern committee chairs present their weekly reports. Finally, each of the administrative staff gives their weekly report.

### **Placements for 2014-2015**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Term</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term</b>
Clare Devereux	Fife (NDP)	McGarry (LIB)
Christine Eamer	Lalonde (LIB)	Clark (PC)
Emily Hewitt	McMahon (LIB)	Forster (NDP)
Justin Khorana-Medeiros	Dong (LIB)	Singh (NDP)
Kristy May	Thompson (PC)	Wong (LIB)
Kristen Neagle	DiNovo (NDP)	Fraser (LIB)
Patrick Sackville	Hudak (PC)	Balkissoon (LIB)
Jakub Sikora	Vernile (LIB)	Yakabuski (PC)
Matthew Stanton	Hardeman (PC)	Colle (LIB)
Aaron Van Tassel	Baker (LIB)	Harris (PC)



**Clare Devereux** is originally from Kingston, and grew up in Hong Kong and Vancouver. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and economics from McGill University in 2012, and continued on at McGill to pursue her master's degree in political science, specializing in Canadian politics. Her master's research focuses on comparative political psychology in Canada and the United States, and was carried out with the support of a CGS SSHRC award. While at McGill, Clare worked as a research assistant on the Canadian Election Study, as well as a teaching assistant and guest lecturer for various undergraduate courses, including a class in Canadian health policy. Clare is fascinated with public policy and legislative behaviour, and is thrilled at the opportunity to apply her academic knowledge to the real political process!

**Christine Eamer** is a proud Franco-Ontarian originally from the small city of Brockville. Her passion for politics developed at a young age when she was a Legislative Page and has more recently been deepened in her position as an Interpretive Officer at the Legislative Assembly. She studied at York University's Glendon Campus and has recently graduated with an iBA in Political Science and a Certificate in Public Administration and Public Policy. In her third year of studies Christine's experience studying politics from a European perspective at Humboldt Universität in Berlin led her to a clearer recognition of the uniqueness of Canadian institutions while helping her become fluent in German. Christine can't wait for the opportunity OLIP will provide to explore provincial politics in more depth.



**Emily Hewitt** proudly calls Vancouver, BC home. She has recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA in International Relations, focusing on environmental and immigration policy. Emily has also worked on editing and fact-checking articles for the North South Institute, a think tank on international resource management. Throughout her time at UBC, Emily was involved in her students association, sustainability projects and orientation logistics. An avid musician, Emily enjoys both singing and rocking out on the piano. Her nerdy love for all things politics has led her to an exchange at Sciences Po in Paris, to guiding at the Parliament of Canada, and now to the provincial legislature in Toronto. She aspires to pursue a Master in Public Policy in the near future.

**Justin Khorana-Medeiros** was born and raised in Toronto. After graduating with his Honours BA from the University of Toronto (Political Science & Philosophy), he spent 7 months teaching English in Seoul, South Korea. Justin has worked at other levels of government before, both municipally (Toronto Transit Commission) and federally (Statistics Canada). He recently completed an MA at the Munk School for Global Affairs' Centre for European Studies, during which time he did several academic exchanges in Europe, including a fall semester at the Institute for Political Studies in Paris. His research interests include constitutional politics, particularly in the post-Charter era, as well as the politics of citizenship and immigration. Outside of his passion for politics, Justin's hobbies include film, music, literature, and especially basketball.



**Kristy May** is originally from East Gwillimbury, Ontario. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Development and a diploma in Environmental Assessment from the University of Waterloo. She has worked with community organizations in Ontario, Vietnam, and Malawi. Kristy has spent the last two years working towards her Master's degree in Political Science and International Development at the University of Guelph. During her Master's program, she worked as a teaching assistant for public policy and public administration courses. This position, along with her passion for community development, has spurred an interest in public policy and legislative processes here at home. Kristy is excited to learn from and work closely with MPPs and the other OLIP interns.



**Kristen Neagle** was born and raised in Toronto. She attended McMaster University where she recently graduated with a Master's degree in Political Science. After obtaining her BA (Honours) in Political Science (McMaster University), she held an internship with the federal government at the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. During her time at McMaster, Kristen worked as a teaching assistant and volunteered with various community outreach programs. She is particularly interested in the politics of public policy, focusing most of her graduate research on health policy and policy implementation. She is looking forward to working alongside the other OLIP interns and is excited to learn more about the legislative process.

**Patrick Sackville** was born and raised in London, Ontario. He is a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a Masters in Political Science, after completing an Honours Specialization in Political Science and a Minor in American Studies. Patrick achieved success as a finance manager at a boutique firm in Cambridge, Ontario deepening his understanding of the complex relationship that exists between business and government in our province. While at Western, Patrick served as President of the Political Science Association and Co-Founder of the American Studies Association. Patrick's research interests include multilevel governance, political risk management, public-private partnerships (PPP/3P), and democratization. In the future, he aspires to incorporate public policy into his career. Patrick is humbled by the opportunity to participate in the OLIP program and looks forward to an exciting year ahead.



**Jakub Sikora** is originally from Toronto, Ontario and attended York University where he obtained his BA (Honours) in Political Science and Philosophy. He will complete his Master's Degree in Political Science from York University in the fall of 2014. His Master's research focuses on Canadian politics surrounding the environment. His research specifically expounds on the issues of fresh water pollution in Canada, namely the implications of public and industrial pollution on the Great Lakes basin. The research concentrates on politicization, public activism, and Canadian water governance and water policy pertaining to the Great Lakes. He has also worked for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as a Student Usher from 2012 to 2014, which helped him garner a comprehensive understanding of Ontario politics.

**Matthew Stanton** is originally from Beamsville, Ontario. In 2012, he graduated with distinction from the University of Western Ontario, receiving a B.A. (Honours) in Political Science and Criminology. Matthew then pursued graduate studies in political science at Western, and recently completed a MPA from Queen's University. He also travelled on exchange to Sweden, where he studied at Lunds Universitet. While in school, Matthew was a volunteer for Future Possibilities for Kids, and worked with International Service Learning in Costa Rica. He was most recently employed as a Program Analyst for MTCU, and was previously a Teaching Assistant at Western. Matthew is looking forward to meeting the other OLIP interns, and to observing first-hand the intersection of politics and policy in the Ontario Legislative Assembly.



**Aaron Van Tassel** is originally from Mississauga, Ontario. He received a BA in history from the University of Guelph. Working as an undergraduate research assistant, he co-authored an article about Aboriginal soldiers who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. The article was included as a chapter in an edited book, *Lives in Transition: Longitudinal Analysis from Historical Sources*. Aaron also received an MA in history from the University of Western Ontario with a focus on Canadian business and cultural history. In addition to academic work, Aaron has served as a public affairs intern at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Aaron is



honoured to be a part of OLIP and looks forward to gaining firsthand experience in the legislative process.

### **Introducing the 2015-16 Interns:**

**Matthew Banninga** - B.A. Public Affairs & Policy from Carleton University, M.A. Political Economy also from Carleton University

**Alison Brown** – B.A. History & Political Science from McGill University, B.Ed. Intermediate-Senior (History & French) from Queen’s University and M.A. History from University of Western Ontario

**Brittany Davis** – B.A. English Literature from McGill University

**Olivia Labonté** – B.Soc.Sc. Economics from the University of Ottawa and M.Sc. Applied Economics from HEC Montréal (University of Montreal)

**Sara O’Sullivan** - B.A. Global Development from Queen’s University and M.A. Public Policy and Administration from Ryerson University

**Sydney Oakes** – B.A. Political Studies from Trent University and M.A. Public Policy and Political Science from McMaster University

**Julia Redmond** - B.A.Sc Arts & Science from McMaster University

**Isa Topbas** – B.A. International Relations & Political Science from the University of Toronto and M.A. European, Russian and Eurasian Studies also from the University of Toronto

**Justyna Zegarmistrz** - B.A. International Relations from the University of Toronto

**Eric Zinn** – B.A. Criminal Justice & Public Policy from the University of Guelph