



Parliamentary Interns, 2014-15

## **Annual Report, 2014-15**

87<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Canadian Political Science Association  
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Director

## Introduction

The 2014-15 Parliamentary Internship Programme was marked by the energy and enthusiasm of the interns who did more than ever before to share their experience with younger Canadians, through Facebook and Twitter, and a second workshop with secondary students from across Canada. They were particularly pleased to share some of that experience, expressed in their research, through poster presentations at the CPSA Annual Conference.

Sadly, though, the year was also marked by the shooting on Parliament Hill, on October 22, 2014. The interns and House of Commons staff showed great courage during the event. The Programme thanks them all, as well as colleagues at the CPSA and internship programmes across Canada, the United States and Europe, for their support.

But 2014-15 was also a year of transition as the CPSA, House of Commons, sponsors and alumni continued to enrich the Programme while modernizing the administration, financial and institutional support for it. This process was accelerated by the rationalization and reorganization of House of Commons staff support in 2013-14 that prompted the CPSA Board, in June 2014, to initiate a review of the Programme and, at the same time, take steps to assure its administration and delivery while retaining a focus on longer term objectives. As a result of their actions (described below), the Programme expects to complete the transition, to a new administrative structure, with stable financial and institutional support, in the year ahead.

This report presents the 2014-15 Interns with “their” MPs and summarizes their activities before focusing on the efforts made to manage the transition in program delivery and support. It concludes by presenting the 2015-16 Parliamentary interns.

## 2014-15 Parliamentary Interns and MPs

The 45<sup>th</sup> cohort of Parliamentary Interns brought together ten remarkable young professionals, nine women and one man, from Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Québec. The group included an equal number of Francophones and Anglophones and an equal number with graduate and undergraduate degrees.

The group chose “their” MPs from among fifty-five applicants, each intern selecting two MPs for whom to work: one in government and one in opposition. The first allocation began on October 1, 2014, and the second on January 21, 2015. The names of the interns and “their” MPs, in the first and second allocations respectively, are listed below:

Gregoire Baribeau, London, Ontario

MA (Global Governance), University of Waterloo; BA (Public Affairs and Policy Management), Carleton University

- Joyce Murray, MP (LPC)
- Wladyslaw Lizon, MP (CPC)

Jessica Brousseau, Ottawa, Ontario

MA (Public and International Affairs), York University; Certificate (Études politiques), Institut d'études politiques de Grenoble; BA (International Studies and Modern Languages), University of Ottawa

- Wai Young, MP (CPC)
- Hélène Laverdière, MP (NDP)

Natalie Brunet, Ottawa, Ontario

BA (International Relations) Mount Allison University

- Sean Casey, MP (LPC)
- Leon Benoit, MP (CPC)

Innessa Colaiacovo, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BA (Economics and French Studies), Brown University

- Hélène Leblanc, MP (NDP)
- Erin O'Toole, MP (CPC)

Darya Dolzikova, Oakville, Ontario

BA (International Studies and Modern Languages), University of Ottawa

- Mike Lake, MP (CPC)
- Jack Harris, MP (NDP)

Patricia Doyle, Winnipeg, Manitoba

LLB (Law), University of Manitoba; BA (History and Politics), University of Winnipeg

- Larry Maguire, MP (CPC)
- Carolyn Bennett, MP (LPC)

Alexa Greig, Dundas, Ontario

BA (Political Science) University of Ottawa

- Craig Scott, MP (NDP)
- James Rajotte, MP (CPC)

Pascale Laliberté-Martineau, Québec, Québec

BA (Études canadiennes et Sciences politiques), Université d'Ottawa

- Megan Leslie, MP (NDP)
- John Weston, MP (CPC)

Michèle Meilleur Sarazin, Ottawa, Ontario

MA (Mondialisation et Développement international), Université d'Ottawa;

BA (Sciences biomédicales et Mondialisation), Université d'Ottawa

- Rob Clarke, MP (CPC)
- Peter Julian, MP (NDP)

Constance Naud-Arcand, Deschambault-Grondines, Québec

MA (Sciences politiques), Université McGill; BA (Études internationales), Université de Montréal

- David Tilson, MP (CPC)
- Irwin Cotler, MP (LPC)

## Activities

The Programme gives interns a unique educational experience, an opportunity to work closely with Members of Parliament and a chance to contribute, in a small way, to the public knowledge Parliament by sharing their experience and research with other Canadians.

### A. Educational Experience

#### ***Seminar and Research***

The interns participated in an 11-week seminar throughout the fall and winter focused on the institutions and actors that shape the work world of Parliament. Throughout the year, the seminar also served as an important space for interns to share their experiences and learn from each other. In the winter and spring, the academic focus turned to the interns' research projects.

### ***“Brown Bag Lunch” Seminar Series***

The “Brown Bag Lunch” Seminar Series allows the interns to supplement their educational experience through informal discussions with policy makers and politicians. This year, the interns have met with Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, Naheed Nenshi and Jim Watson, Althia Raj and Andrew Coyne, among others.

### ***Study Tours***

Comparative study tours to provincial legislatures and assemblies outside Canada gave the interns further insight into democratic government and the function of political institutions. Interns undertook the following study tours:

- National Assembly of Québec, October 28-31, 2014
- European Parliament, January 5-9, 2015
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 12-16, 2015
- Welsh Assembly, January 14-15, 2015
- United States Congress, March 16-20, 2015
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 25-29, 2015

In addition, PIP received delegations from other legislative internship programs, giving interns an opportunity to learn more about provincial politics and share their own experiences with keenly interested colleagues. The Programme hosted interns from the following legislatures:

- National Assembly of Québec: November 18-21, 2014
- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 23-26, 2015
- Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: March 30-April 1, 2015
- Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, March 31-April 2, 2015
- United States Congress: May 4-8, 2015
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario: June 1-5, 2015

## **B. Professional Experience**

### ***Orientation***

Before starting work, the interns took part in a three-week orientation program focused on the legislative process and private members business as well as the budget and supply processes. They received training in speechwriting, the preparation of press releases and became familiar with the resources available through the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament. In addition, they met with the Commissioner of Lobbying and many public affairs professionals. By the time they started work, they were well prepared to help a Member of Parliament.

### ***In the Office***

In the office, the interns helped “their” MPs by writing speeches, statements and questions for use in the House, drafting briefing notes and research papers, and by preparing Private Members Bills and Motions. They assisted MPs in pre-committee and committee meetings and supported them in meetings with colleagues, media, departmental, interest group and community representatives. They also helped MPs with their constituency and communications work, responding to correspondence, writing to ministers, organizing town hall meetings and drafting op-ed pieces.

## C. Sharing the Experience

### ***Social Media***

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the interns this year, the Programme now has 650 “likes” on Facebook and 306 “followers” on Twitter. Both social media have helped interns share their experience, connect with sponsors and alumni, interest others in Parliament and promote the Programme more widely.

### ***Interactive Workshops for Younger Canadians***

The interns organized two interactive workshops on the role of an MP for secondary students gathered in Ottawa from every province and territory. They engaged the students in role-play, challenging them to consult with constituents, negotiate in committee, debate in Question Period and stay “on message” in a media scrum. The workshops were organized in cooperation with:

- “Youth in Office Day,” Big Brothers Big Sisters / Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada
  - 120 students, November 3, 2014
- “Politics Week,” Encounters with Canada
  - 100 students, April 20, 2015



Innessa Colaiacovo, Intern, with high school students in working group, Encounters with Canada, April 20, 2015

### ***Public Communication of Research***

The interns’ research projects, inspired both by their experience and their academic interests, brought fresh perspectives to developments within political parties, the use of parliamentary institutions and the work life of an MP. They presented their research publicly in three different forums, developing new skills while sharing their knowledge with different audiences:

- Poster Presentations, Session P1, “Canadian Politics,”
  - CPSA Annual Conference, University of Ottawa, June 2, 2015
- Presentation, Alfred Hales Prize Winner, 2013-14,
  - Speaker’s Luncheon, House of Commons, June 10, 2015
- Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium,
  - Institute on Governance, Ottawa, June 19, 2015

### ***Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA)***

The PIAA creates opportunities for former interns to stay in touch, discuss matters of public interest and support the Programme by sharing their expertise, reaching out to like-minded organizations and playing an important role in the Programme's fundraising activities. To facilitate these efforts, PIP and the PIAA updated the membership database this year and established an electronic workspace for alumni profiles as well as electronic services for Association newsletters, event management and reference materials.

The Toronto branch organized the following events:

- Fall Social, Toronto, October 23, 2014
- Spring Reception with RBC, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and Samara Canada, Toronto, May 19, 2015

Members of the Ottawa branch conducted briefings for current interns on the budget process, media relations and electronic communications, and organized the following activities:

- Fall Social with current interns, Ottawa, September 10, 2014
- "Politics at the Pub," Discussion of Emergency Preparedness and US-Canada Work on Ebola, with current interns, Fulbright Scholars and International Exchange Alumni of the US State Department, Ottawa, January 26, 2015
- "US Ambassador Bruce Heyman," meeting with current interns, Ambassador's Residence, Ottawa, February 2, 2015

In addition, the Association ran its third annual charitable campaign under the chairmanship of Maureen Boyd (Intern, 1975-76) and played a prominent role in organizing the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Dinner. This fundraising event, supported by BMO Financial Group and Bombardier, was held on November 26, 2014. The Honourable Jean Charest was the guest speaker.

## **Direction**

In recent years, the CPSA, the House of Commons, Programme sponsors, alumni and interns have worked together to enrich the educational, professional and outreach components of the Programme, modernize communications, ensure effective and efficient administration and develop a fair and transparent sponsorship structure that creates value for stakeholders and sufficient revenue for PIP.

This process of modernization and adjustment has been accelerated over the past two years by the rationalization and reorganization of House of Commons staff support for the Programme. These changes prompted the CPSA Board, in June 2014, to initiate a review of the Programme and, at the same time, take steps to assure the administration and delivery of the Programme while retaining a focus on longer term objectives: notably, to increase the number and diversity of applications by increasing the intern's stipend and raising the visibility of the Programme.

To modernize and adapt the Programme's administration, the following initiatives were taken in 2014-15:

- **Programme Review:** The CPSA established an internal Review Committee to examine the administration and long-term sustainability of both PIP and OLIP. The committee consulted all PIP stakeholders and will report to the CPSA Board in the spring.
- **Service Agreement: House of Commons:** The Association signed a Service Agreement with the House of Commons that provides written confirmation of House support, renewable each year. The agreement reflects an endorsement of the Programme made by the Board of Internal Economy following the department's Strategic Operational Review in 2012. It establishes a stable level of support that includes the engagement of senior staff while focusing resources on administrative support for Programme activities on Parliament Hill.
- **MOU: SSHRC:** It also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council that provides written confirmation of the Council's support for two years. The agreement is renewable upon satisfactory completion of a biannual review.
- **Sponsorship:** The PIP Advisory Board established a Sponsorship Sub-Committee to assist in attracting new sponsors for the Programme. Their work, while continuing, has already resulted in the Programme attracting a one-time special contribution from the Business Development Bank of Canada for the interns' study tour to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and has brought the following new sponsors into the Programme:
  - UNIFOR, Silver Level
  - Canadian Canola Growers Association, Bronze Level
  - United Technologies Canada, Bronze Level
- **Staff:** To ensure continued delivery of the Programme through the 2015 federal election and provide the necessary time and resources to define appropriate long term staffing arrangements, the CPSA broadened the responsibilities of the Director, making it a near full-time position for a temporary two-year period, fully supported within the existing Programme budget. At the same time, it assigned some additional responsibilities for financial administration to the CPSA Administrator.
- **Electronic Service Delivery:** Building on the successful introduction of an online application system in 2013-14, the Programme launched an online event registration system, a new system for electronic communications and electronic workspaces and document storage for staff, interns and alumni. With support from the Alumni Association, it also updated alumni and stakeholder databases.

To increase the number and diversity of applications and raise the visibility of the Programme, the following measures were introduced:

- **Intern's Stipend:** In response to recommendations from both the CPSA Board, the PIP Advisory Board and the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association, the CPSA increased the intern's stipend to \$23,000 for the year 2015-16.

- **Communications:** To improve Programme visibility on and off Parliament Hill, PIP purchased a promotional display stand, business cards for the interns and redesigned promotional material for intern recruitment, alumni dinner sponsorships and Programme sponsorships. The Programme also hosted a reception on Parliament Hill for CPSA Members, PIP Alumni, Interns and their MPs the evening before the CPSA Annual Conference.

## Budget

The Programme ended the year 2013-14 with a modest surplus and, given increasing staff and travel costs, projected a balanced budget for 2014-15.

During the year, the Programme benefited from greater than expected revenues generated by the Alumni Dinner, a special one-time contribution from BDC and the addition of three new sponsors for the current and future years. These revenues offset expenditures made to register the interns and host a reception for the CPSA Annual Conference and manage sharply increasing travel expenditures. More importantly, increased sponsorship revenue will fund the interns' stipend increase in 2015-16 and make it possible, through the management of travel costs, to project a balanced budget.

## The Year Ahead

The federal election, to be held on October 19, 2015, will colour the year ahead for interns as well as MPs. Following the orientation period, interns will be placed with sponsors, to contribute as participant observers of their work in public policy, government and public affairs. They will return to the Hill, with the MPs, in November, to begin their placements on both sides of the House.

For the Programme, the timing of the election will make it impossible to hold the Alumni Dinner in 2015-16, increasing the importance of efforts to manage travel expenses and attract new sponsors next year. But with agreements in place defining an assured level of support from the House of Commons and SSHRC, the continued and growing support of sponsors and completion of the Programme Review, PIP should be well placed to prepare for the introduction of a new, permanent, staffing structure in 2016-17.

## 2014-15 Parliamentary Interns

PIP now consistently receives approximately 150 applications a year from candidates across Canada. To better manage the application and assessment processes, an electronic application system was introduced last year and, this year, the selection committee was expanded to five members. The Programme is grateful for the efforts of applicants and referees who submitted documents online and for their comments on the new system. As a result of their cooperation, and the diligent efforts of the Selection Committee, the process was completed earlier than ever before.

The Programme is most grateful for the work of the Selection Committee:

- Ms. Natalie Foster, Deputy Principal Clerk, House of Commons
- Ms. Sarah Hunter, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- Dr. André Lecours, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa
- Dr. Lori Turnbull, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University



Next year's Parliamentary Interns are:

Mickaël Arseneau, Pointe Vertu, NB

MA (Université d'Ottawa), Affaires publiques et internationales; BA (Université de Moncton), Science politique

Gabrielle de Billy Brown, Québec, QC

MA (Université Laval), Études internationales; BA (Concordia University), Film Studies and Western Society and Culture

Yves Dushimimana, Antigonish, NS

BA (Carleton University), Economics and Political Economy

Étienne Grandmaison, Québec, QC

MA (University of Toronto), Economics; BA (Université d'Ottawa), Science économique et science politique

Francis (Josh) Grehan, Vancouver, BC

MA (University of Oxford), Economic and Social History; BA (Princeton University), Public Policy

Bryan Heystee, Toronto, ON

MA (Dalhousie University), Classics; BA (University of King's College), Classics

Feodor Snagovsky, Toronto, ON

MA (University of Ottawa), Political Studies; BA (Queen's University), Life Science and Political Studies

Jordan Storozuk, Sarnia, ON

BA (University of Ottawa), International Studies and Modern Languages

Alice Trudelle, Québec, QC

MA (Université de Montréal), Gestion philanthropique; MA (Université de Montréal), Journalisme; MA (Université McGill), Histoire; BA (Université de Montréal), Histoire

Christina Vietinghoff, New Maryland, NB

BA (McMaster University), Political Science