



Parliamentary  
Internship Programme

Programme  
de stage parlementaire



Parliamentary Interns, 2015-16

## **Annual Report, 2015-16**

88<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Canadian Political Science Association  
Calgary, AB  
May 31-June 2, 2016

Garth Williams, PhD  
Director



10 May 2016

I am pleased to present the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Parliamentary Internship Programme.

Over the past eight years, I have had the privilege of serving as Programme Director. It has been a remarkable experience: to work with exceptional university graduates from across Canada, dedicated Members of Parliament in all parties and so many others devoted to the study of politics, our political institutions and the creation of a remarkable learning experience. They include wonderful colleagues at the CPSA and the House of Commons, among the Programme's sponsors and friends, and among former interns.

The community that makes PIP possible numbers well into the hundreds and extends into universities and academic associations, political parties, government departments and diplomatic corps, into corporations and industry associations, unions and non-governmental organizations, into the courts, think tanks and media outlets, across Canada and abroad. Their pooled experience, and shared commitment to research and education, create an opportunity for participant observation that is truly unique – and truly Canadian.

As the first former intern to serve as Director, I want to express my sincere thanks – and the gratitude of all former interns – to everyone who has helped create, sustain and enrich the Programme over the past 47 years. It is a privilege to be part of something so exceptional – and to have had the chance to share it with others.

Thank you.

Garth Williams, PhD  
Director

## Introduction

The 2015 Federal Election shaped the intern experience this year, giving interns an opportunity to observe the campaign closely and see a new Parliament come together: to see how diplomats, lobbyists and journalists prepare, how MPs set up their offices, committees start their work and a new Government begins to exercise power. The election highlighted former interns' continuing commitment to the quality of public life in Canada, with many playing active roles in parties, media, government and civic engagement initiatives.

The election also produced a new Speaker who – like his predecessors for 47 years – graciously agreed to serve as “Patron of the Programme.” The election resulted in a new distribution of intern placements, reflecting party representation in the House, and it brought one former intern – Arif Virani – to Parliament as a newly elected MP.

Behind the scenes, much has been accomplished in recent years, by CPSA members, House of Commons officials, stakeholders and alumni, to formalize organizational agreements, secure resources, review business practices and staffing requirements and raise Programme visibility. The Programme is well placed to welcome a new Director – who will work with experienced CPSA and House of Commons staff – next year!

The 2015-16 annual report highlights the importance of the election in the life of the Programme before introducing the interns and their activities this year. It then describes the steps taken over the past two years to modernize Programme delivery, summarizes the budget and concludes by presenting next year's interns.

## Election 2015

### *Civic Engagement*

The election highlighted the commitment of former interns to the political process and the engagement of stakeholders, alumni, officials and MPs to the Programme itself. Arif Virani became the second intern elected to Parliament while other alumni played leading roles in national campaigns to engage younger voters, covered the election for national media, contributed editorials, and worked on campaigns across Canada. Peter Harder, an intern in 1975-76, led the new Government's transition team and, subsequently, became the second former intern appointed to the Senate.

### *Election Placements*

During the election, twenty of the Programme's stakeholders offered interns temporary placements, giving interns the rare privilege – and challenge – of choosing those that suited them best. The Programme is grateful to the following organizations who, from September 23 to November 13, 2015, hosted interns, giving them the chance to learn about public affairs, analyse party platforms and track election issues: Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, Bombardier, British High Commission, Canadian Automobile Dealers Association, CIBC, Canadian Real Estate Association, Credit Union Association of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Insurance Bureau of Canada and Innovative Medicines Canada.

### ***Intern Distribution and the Speaker of the House of Commons***

Following the election, the Acting Clerk of the House approved the following allocation of interns. At any one time during the 42nd Parliament, there will be:

- 5 interns with Liberal MPs
- 3 interns with Conservative MPs
- 2 interns with NDP MPs

Following his election as Speaker of the House, the Honourable Geoff Regan kindly accepted to serve as the tenth “Patron” of the Programme since 1969.

### ***MP Applications***

The Programme benefited from the efforts of interns, alumni and both current and former MPs who reached out through email, Facebook and Twitter to encourage all Members to apply for an intern this year. Assistance from Scott Brison, Erin O’Toole, Michael Chong, Hélène Laverdière and Nathan Cullen was greatly appreciated and helped in generate a near-record number of 74 applications. Interns interviewed all 74 MPs between November 16 to 27 and started their first MP placements on November 30 – three days before the opening of Parliament!

### ***Interns and MPs***

The 46th cohort of Parliamentary Interns brings together an equal number of men and women from five different provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Québec and Saskatchewan. The group includes four Francophones and six Anglophones. Seven hold graduate degrees while four hold at least one degree or joint degree in political science. Three hold degrees in international affairs, two in economics and one each in history and classics.

The Programme is grateful for the opportunities the following MPs gave interns to work on legislation, visit their constituencies and learn about politics first hand. The interns’ first allocation ran from November 30, 2015 to April 1, 2016, and the second from April 4 to June 30, 2016.

Madalina Chesoi, Gatineau, Québec

MA (Université York), Affaires publiques et internationales; BA (Université d’Ottawa), Conflits et droits humains

- Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP (Beaches-East York) (LPC)
- James Bezan, MP, Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, MB (CPC)

Gabrielle de Billy Brown, Québec, Québec

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

- Don Rusnak, MP (Thunder Bay-Rainy River) (LPC)
- Blake Richards, MP, Banff-Airdrie, AB (CPC)

Yves Dushimimana, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

BA (Carleton University), Economics and Political Economy

- Peter Kent, PC, MP (Thornhill) (CPC)
- Jonathan Wilkinson, MP, North Vancouver, BC (LPC)

Étienne Grandmaison, Québec, Québec

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

- Andy Fillmore, MP (Halifax) (LPC)
- Michelle Rempel, PC, MP, Calgary Nose Hill, AB (CPC)

Josh Grehan, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

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

- Sean Casey, MP (Charlottetown) (LPC)
- Nathan Cullen, MP, Skeena-Bulkley Valley, BC (NDP)

Mr. Bryan Heystee, Toronto, Ontario

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

- Murray Rankin, MP (Victoria) (NDP)
- Mark Holland, MP, Ajax, ON (LPC)

Feodor Snagovsky, Toronto, Ontario

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

- Larry Maguire, MP (Brandon-Souris) (CPC)
- Arif Virani, MP, Parkdale-High Park, ON (LPC)

Jordan Storozuk, Sarnia, Ontario

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

- Hélène Laverdière, MP (Laurier-Sainte-Marie) (NDP)
- Randeep Sarai, MP, Surrey Centre, BC (LPC)

Alice Trudelle, Québec, Québec

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

- Denis Lebel, PC, MP (Lac-Saint-Jean) (CPC)
- Greg Fergus, MP, Hull-Aylmer, QC (LPC)

Christina Vietinghoff, New Maryland, New Brunswick

BASc (McMaster University), Political Science

- Randy Boissonnault, MP (Edmonton Centre) (LPC)
- Kennedy Stewart, MP, Burnaby South, BC (NDP)

## Activities

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

### A. Educational Experience

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

In the fall, the interns participated in an 11-week seminar focused on the institutions and actors that shape Parliament. Later, the seminar served as a space for interns to share their experiences and discuss their research.

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

The “Brown Bag Lunch” Seminar Series allows the interns to meet informally with policy makers and political actors in their areas of interest. This year, the interns have met with Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin; Rona Ambrose and Peter Van Loan; Grant Mitchell and

Charles Robert; Peter Milliken and Michael Moldaver; Chantal Hébert and Jeffrey Simpson; as well as Frank Graves, Jane Hilderman, Alex Neve, Robert Peck and Nancy Peckford.

### ***Comparative Study Tours***

Comparative study tours to the following provincial legislatures and assemblies outside Canada gave the interns new insights into democratic government and the function of political institutions.

- National Assembly of Québec, October 5-9, 2015
- European Parliament, January 4-8, 2016
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 11-15, 2016
- Scottish Parliament, January 13-14, 2016
- United States Congress, March 14-18, 2016
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 29-June 3, 2016

In addition, PIP hosted interns from the following legislatures, giving PIP interns an opportunity to learn about provincial politics and compare experiences with keenly interested colleagues.

- Legislative Assembly of Ontario: December 3-5, 2015
- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 15-19, 2016
- Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, March 22-24, 2016
- Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: April 11-15, 2016
- United States Congress: May 2-6, 2016
- National Assembly of Québec: May 16-20, 2016

## **B. Professional Experience**

### ***Orientation***

Before starting work, the interns took part in a two-week orientation program focused on the legislative process and private members business as well as the resources available to Parliamentarians through the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament. They also met with the Commissioner of Lobbying and stakeholder organizations. 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 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 committee and supported them in meetings with colleagues, media, departmental, interest group and community representatives. Many also visited constituencies and contributed to communications work, correspondence, letters to ministers, town hall meetings and op-ed pieces.

## **C. Sharing the Experience**

### ***Social Media***

Thanks to the concerted efforts of this year's interns, the Programme now has 866 "likes" on Facebook (a 33 per cent increase over last year) and 472 "followers" on Twitter (a 54 per cent increase). Both social media have helped interns share their

experience, connect with younger Canadians, potential applicants, alumni, sponsors and MPs, helping to raise the Programme's profile both on and off Parliament Hill.

### ***Engaging Younger Canadians***

The interns organized an interactive workshop on the role of an MP for 120 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 workshop was organized in cooperation with Encounters with Canada on April 11, 2016.



Madalina Chesoi, Parliamentary Intern, with high school students  
in workshop on the role of an MP, Encounters with Canada, April 11, 2016

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

The interns' research projects, inspired by their experience and academic interests, contributed fresh perspectives on the effects of a change in government on the work-world of Parliament, on the ways federalism is practiced in constituencies, through caucuses and during debate, and on the prospects for democratic reform. They shared their research with Parliamentarians, alumni, sponsors, Library of Parliament researchers and members of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group at the following events:

- "Food for Thought" Seminars
  - Library of Parliament, May 27 and June 10, 2016
- Presentation, Alfred Hales Prize Winner, 2014-15
  - Speaker's Luncheon, House of Commons, June 14, 2016
- Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium
  - Institute on Governance, Ottawa, June 17, 2016

### ***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 with interns,

reaching out to like-minded organizations and donating to Programme finances. The Programme assists the PIAA with its membership database and provides an electronic workspace for alumni profiles and reference materials as well as electronic services for Association newsletters and events.

This year, the Association organized three networking events and two seminars on “Government Transition” – the first, with David Zussman, September 24, 2015, and the second with Peter Harder, February 23, 2016. In addition, Executive members played a prominent role in organizing the annual Alumni Celebration, on April 18, 2016, at which CPSA President, Bill Cross, joined the Speaker of the House of Commons, alumni and sponsors in marking the election of Arif Virani to Parliament. The fourth annual PIAA charitable campaign generating record donations this year under the chairmanship of Ross Hornby (Parliamentary Intern, 1976-77).

## **Direction**

Over the past eight years, the CPSA, the House of Commons, Programme sponsors and alumni have worked together to enrich the research, professional and outreach components of the Programme, modernize communications, ensure effective and efficient administration and implement a fair and ethical sponsorship structure.

The last four years have seen particular emphasis on governance and management issues, with the introduction of the revised sponsorship structure and the increasing use of electronic services. These initiatives coincided with the rationalization of House of Commons staff support that, while remaining essential to the Programme’s success, has also required the Programme Director and CPSA Administrator to play a greater role in managing Programme finances, electronic services, communications, human resources and some administrative tasks.

As a result, the past two years have been devoted to a comprehensive review of the Programme and efforts to formalize relationships with all stakeholders, ensure sound business practices, secure stable and sufficient funding and establish an effective, efficient and durable model for staff support and Programme delivery. At the same time, the Programme has continued to pursue its longer-term objectives, raising its profile on and off Parliament Hill and increasing the number and diversity of applicants.

## ***Review Committee Report***

The May 2015 Review Committee Report recognized that both PIP and OLIP offered “real value to the participants and to the CPSA, consistent with the CPSA’s mission.” It recommended that the CPSA “ensure that it is represented at meetings of the PIP Advisory Committee, when possible have a representative at significant PIP and OLIP events, and engage in regular communication with the Program Directors.”

The Association anticipated and implemented these recommendations by designating Board members William Cross (President Elect) and Jonathan Malloy, in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively, to represent the Association on the PIP Advisory Board and at Programme events, and to facilitate coordination with the Director. Their engagement was greatly appreciated, strengthening stakeholder relations and informing strategic decisions at all levels.



### ***Institutional Arrangements***

In 2014-15, the CPSA signed agreements with the House of Commons and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council that formalized the Programme's decades-long relationship with both organizations.

- The House of Commons "Service Agreement" establishes a stable level of staff support for the Programme that includes the continued engagement of senior management while focusing House resources on access to meeting space, translation services, language training and administrative support for activities on Parliament Hill. It was renewed this year.
- The "Memorandum of Understanding" with SSHRC was also renewed, providing support for one year, renewable again next year contingent on a successful evaluation to be conducted by the Council.

The Speaker's engagement as "Patron" of the Programme, renewed for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament, is essential to the Programme's non-partisan status and its activities in the parliamentary precinct.

### ***Business Practices***

The Review Committee also recommended ensuring that the letters of agreement signed with interns are consistent with all relevant legislation, that the Association's insurance policy is sufficient to cover the Programme and that PIP introduce training on workplace issues for interns.

- Over the summer and fall 2015, lawyers (all former interns) were consulted pro bono regarding the letters of agreement. They confirmed that these were legal while identifying potential issues for future consideration.
- In the spring 2016, certificates of insurance were obtained at little additional cost (to be borne by the Programme), specifically adding PIP to CPSA policies for property and injury insurance and errors and omissions insurance.
- In April 2016, PIP interns became the first on Parliament Hill to receive training, from the House of Commons, on its new "Policy on Preventing and Addressing Harassment."
- Access was also obtained, at minimal cost (to be borne by the Programme), for future interns to participate in the Library of Parliament "Employee and Family Assistance Program."

### ***Funding***

In 2014-15, the PIP Advisory Board established a "Sponsorship Sub-Committee" to assist in attracting new sponsors for the Programme. Over the past two years, their work has attracted special, one-time, contributions to the interns' study tours to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut in 2014-15, from the Business Development Bank of Canada, and in 2015-16, from Fednav. In addition, they have attracted the following new sponsors over the past two years:

Starting in 2014-15:

- UNIFOR (Silver)
- Canadian Canola Growers Association (Bronze)
- United Technologies Canada (Bronze)

Starting in 2015-16:

- CN (Gold), a five-year commitment
- BIOTech Canada (Silver)
- Canadian Association of Optometrists (Silver)
- Capital One Bank (Canada Branch) (Silver)
- Canadian Electricity Association (Bronze)
- Dairy Farmers of Canada (Bronze)

Starting in 2016-17:

- Fondation Desjardins (Silver), a three-year commitment

For the first time since the new sponsorship structure was adopted, all platinum, gold and silver positions are filled, providing a reasonable assurance of stable and sufficient funding for the foreseeable future. Opportunities for sponsorship at the bronze level remain available.

### ***Staffing***

Over the past two years, the CPSA compiled detailed information on the tasks involved and time spent, by all staff members, in delivering the Programme. It consulted with the current Director and the PIP Advisory Board on this matter and the resulting document was useful in the hiring of a new Director who will begin on July 1, 2016.

The new Director will serve in an 85 per cent “full-time-equivalent” position, as the administrative and academic head of the Programme while both the Programme and Association will benefit from the expertise and efficiencies gained through closer cooperation.

### ***Promotion and Visibility***

In pursuing its longer-term objectives, the Programme took a number of steps over the past two years to raise its visibility on and off Parliament Hill and increase the number and diversity of applicants.

- *Intern's Stipend:* In response to recommendations from the CPSA Board, PIP Advisory Board and the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association, the CPSA increased the intern's stipend to \$23,000 in 2015-16.
- *In the academic community:* PIP updated promotional materials distributed electronically to CPSA members and department chairs in political science and other disciplines. It targeted specific communications to indigenous studies programs. In addition, it took advantage of the 2015 CPSA Conference at the University of Ottawa to invite CPSA members to Parliament Hill and share the interns' research through poster presentations. Canadian Study of Parliament Group members, and CPSA members at Ottawa-area universities, are also invited to the annual Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium.
- *On Parliament Hill:* The Programme purchased a promotional display stand, introduced the use of business cards and dedicated email addresses for interns,

and redesigned promotional material for MPs and Programme sponsorship in 2014-15. In 2015-16, it created a contact database for all Parliamentarians, to promote Programme applications and events, and participated in the House of Commons “Service Fair” for new MPs.

- *With the public:* During the 2015 election, the interns’ served on the jury of the Samara Canada “Everyday Political Citizen” Awards. They also represented PIP at two Forum for Young Canadians “Exhibitions” and delivered a workshop for students at “Encounters with Canada.” Through regular use of Twitter, Facebook and the Blog, interns raised the number of Programme “followers” significantly.

## Budget

The Programme ended the year 2014-15 with a small surplus and projected a similar budget for 2015-16. During the year, the Programme benefited from the recovery of 2014-15 receivables, increased alumni donations, a special one-time contribution and the addition of seven new sponsors for the current and future years. These revenues, combined with lower than anticipated costs for the 2016 Alumni Celebration, offset increases in the interns’ stipend, travel and audit costs, a one-time reconciliation for 2013-14 and a lower rate of recovery on HST payments than originally expected. As a result, PIP anticipates a healthy positive balance for 2015-16 and the year ahead.

## The Year Ahead

The year ahead promises to be exciting, as the Government and Opposition find their footing and two national parties select new leaders.

The year will bring new leadership and new interns into the Programme too. With support from the CPSA, House of Commons, Members of Parliament, stakeholders and alumni, they will have the privilege of recreating – as has been done for 47 years – a truly remarkable educational, research and professional experience.

## 2016-17 Parliamentary Interns

PIP received close to 200 applications again this year. The Programme is grateful for the efforts of applicants and referees who submitted documents online. As a result of their cooperation, and the efforts of the Selection Committee, the review process was completed in five weeks – a record for the Programme.

PIP is most grateful for the work of the Selection Committee:

- Adam Casey, Senior Program Officer, Research Training Portfolio, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Patrice Martin, Deputy Principal Clerk, House of Commons
- Geneviève Tellier, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa
- Lori Turnbull, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University

Next year’s Parliamentary Interns are:

Matthew Blackshaw, Owen Sound, Ontario  
BA (Arts and Science, Minor Mathematics), McMaster University

- Alec Boudreau, Hampton, New Brunswick  
BA (Interdisciplinary Leadership), University of New Brunswick
- Jeanette Carney, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory  
MA (Geography), Memorial University of Newfoundland; BA (Geography, Minor Sociology), Mount Allison University; BA (Geography and Sociology), University of Ottawa
- Michael Forestell, Quispamsis, New Brunswick  
BA (Political Science and Great Books, Minor Spanish), St. Thomas University
- Astrid Krizus, Toronto, Ontario  
MA (Political Science), University of Toronto; BA (Political Science, Minor History), Queen's University
- Skeena Lawson, Smithers, British Columbia  
BA (History, Minor Anthropology), Mount Allison University
- Joshua Regnier, Dawson Creek, British Columbia  
BA (History, Minor Dialogue in Communication), Simon Fraser University
- Anna Rotman, Montréal, Québec  
BA (History), Brown University
- Claire Sieffert, Victoria, British Columbia  
BA (International Studies), Simon Fraser University
- Ryan van den Berg, Ottawa, Ontario  
MA (Educational Studies), University of British Columbia; BA (Canadian Studies), Mount Allison University