



ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JUNE 2021

DR. PETER P. CONSTANTINOU

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

DR. PETER P. CONSTANTINOU

The 2020-2021 Parliamentary calendar marks the 45th anniversary of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Over the course of 45 years, this is the first OLIP cohort to have worked from home for the entirety of the internship. It is challenging to work from home, but despite the challenges, this cohort has risen to the occasion and truly made the most of the virtual aspects of the Programme. This report will further outline the virtual highlights from this year, including the virtual speaker series, international virtual study tours, meetings with international professionals, and much more.

Another cohort's year is coming to an end, and I am proud that it is yet another year where we have accomplished so much and grown as a programme.

I would be remiss not to note that OLIP is a very special partnership between the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association. Many thanks go to both Hon. Ted Arnott, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Todd Decker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, along with the Board of Internal Economy for their enthusiastic support of the Programme.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

OLIP would not be the incredible programme it is without our coordinators Meghan Stenson, Senior Clerk - Table Research, and Michael Vidoni, Research Officer. They both are incomparable assets to the Programme. They hold a steady and consistent presence for the interns to ask questions and seek guidance. Thank you, Meghan and Michael for all you do for the interns and for the Programme.

This year, Meghan and Michael liaised with the Legislative Assembly to secure laptops for the interns to use while working from home. This has been instrumental in the facilitation of working from home, and ensures the interns have a comfortable working environment. This is also exemplary of the enormous support from the leadership at the Assembly and for that we thank them greatly.



After four and a half years with OLIP, Elisa Natarelli, Programme Manager, has notified us that her other professional responsibilities require more of her time and she will be leaving us this June. Elisa's track record is one of exceptional competence, and generous mentorship to the interns. On behalf of OLIP, I thank Elisa for her immeasurable contributions to the Programme. Elisa informed me she looks forward to post-pandemic receptions for many years to come.

Rick Sage continues to assist in maintaining our archives remotely. He has been essential in the OLIP 45th anniversary history project and celebration. I am very grateful for Rick's ongoing support and his steady presence with the Programme.

I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the team at the CPSA -- Silvina Danesi, Michelle Hopkins, and Tim Howard -- for their endless support of our Programme. You make so much possible for us, and for that, I say thank you.

MPP PLACEMENTS (Second Term)

The second term placements have been going very well. Thank you to all of the MPPs who hosted an intern this year. Below are the second term placements, and if you would like to learn more about each intern's experience, I encourage you to read the OLIP Interns' Blog, <https://www.olipinterns.ca/blog>.

| Intern | Member |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amelia Boughn | MPP Logan Kanapathi (PC) |
| Mackenzie Bonnett | MPP Christina Mitas (PC) |
| Gurkamal Singh Dhahan | MPP John Fraser (LIB) |
| Ritika Gupta | MPP Nina Tangri (PC) |
| Elizabeth Haig | MPP Mike Schreiner (GRE) |
| Monica Mann | MPP Marit Stiles (NDP) |
| Meriem Mezdour | MPP Michael Parsa (PC) |
| David Nightingale | MPP Natalia Kusendova (PC) |
| Alexander Stover | MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell (NDP) |
| Chelsea Tao | MPP Bhutla Karpoche (NDP) |

INCOMING COHORT

This year, we received **187** applications, and for the second year in a row, we conducted our interviews via the video conferencing tool Zoom. The outcome was successful, and I am looking forward to welcoming our 2021-2022 cohort.

Janine AlHadidi received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in Political Science and Diaspora and Transnational Studies. Janine is from Oakville, Ontario.

Habon Ali received an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto with a Double Major in Biology and Environmental Science, and is a Master of Science candidate at McMaster University, studying Global Health. Habon is from Toronto, Ontario.

Melody Greaves received a Bachelor of Arts from Wilfried Laurier in Political Science with a minor in French, and is a Master of Applied Politics, graduating from Wilfrid Laurier University. Melody is from Waterloo, Ontario.

Alexander Horbal received a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in Political Science and History. Alexander is from Toronto, Ontario.

Sharika Khan received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in Political Science and International Relations, and is a Master of Global Affairs candidate at the University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Sharika is from Toronto, Ontario.

Tori Llewellyn received a Honours Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University in Political Science and History, and is a Master of Public Policy and Administration candidate at Ryerson University. Tori is from Hamilton, Ontario.

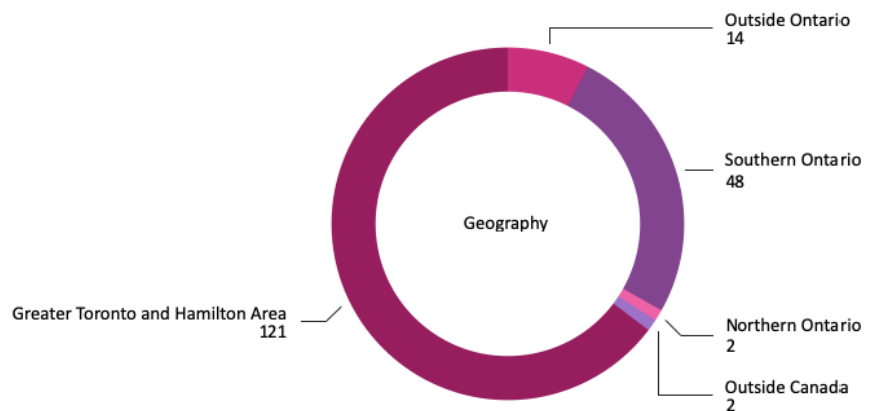
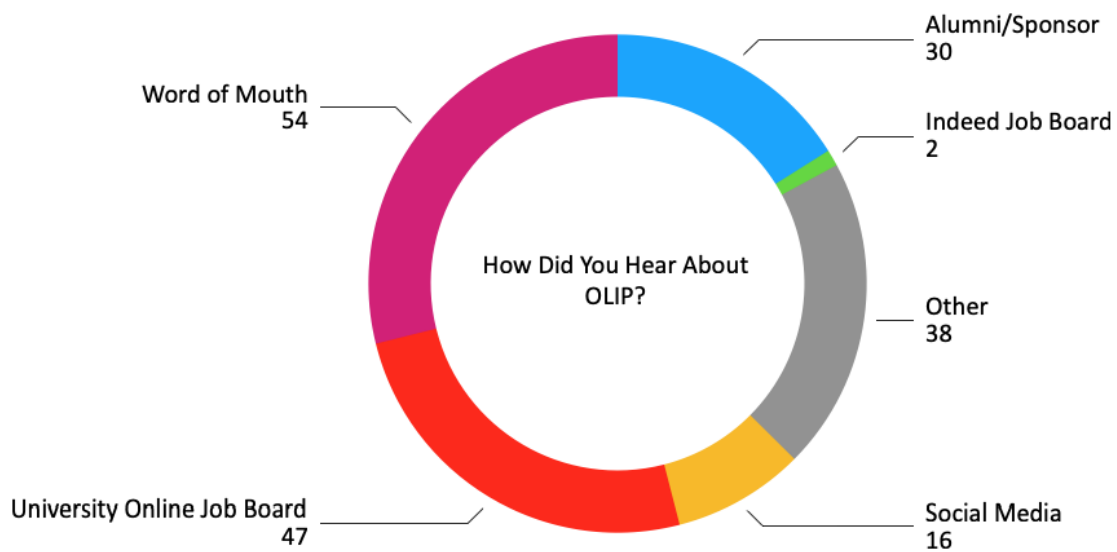
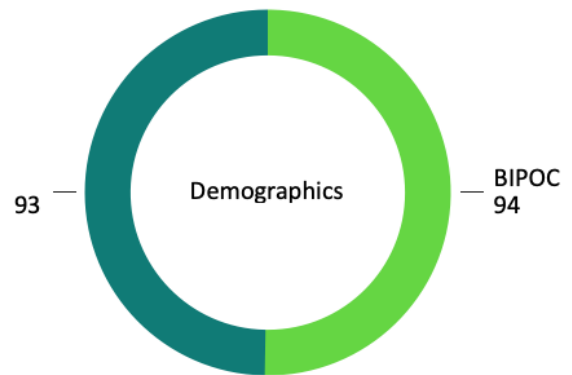
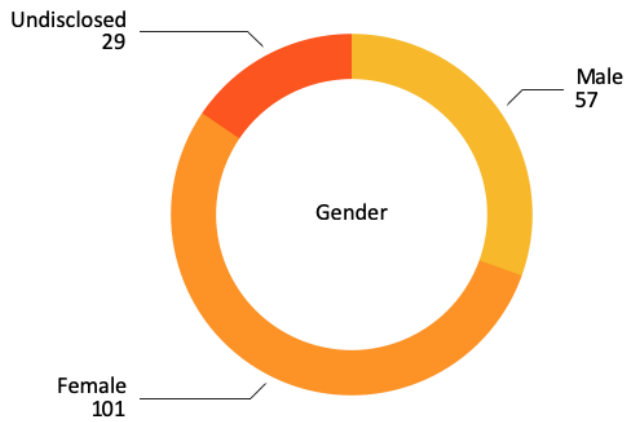
Iqra Mahmood received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto in Health Studies and Psychology. She is from Hamilton, Ontario.

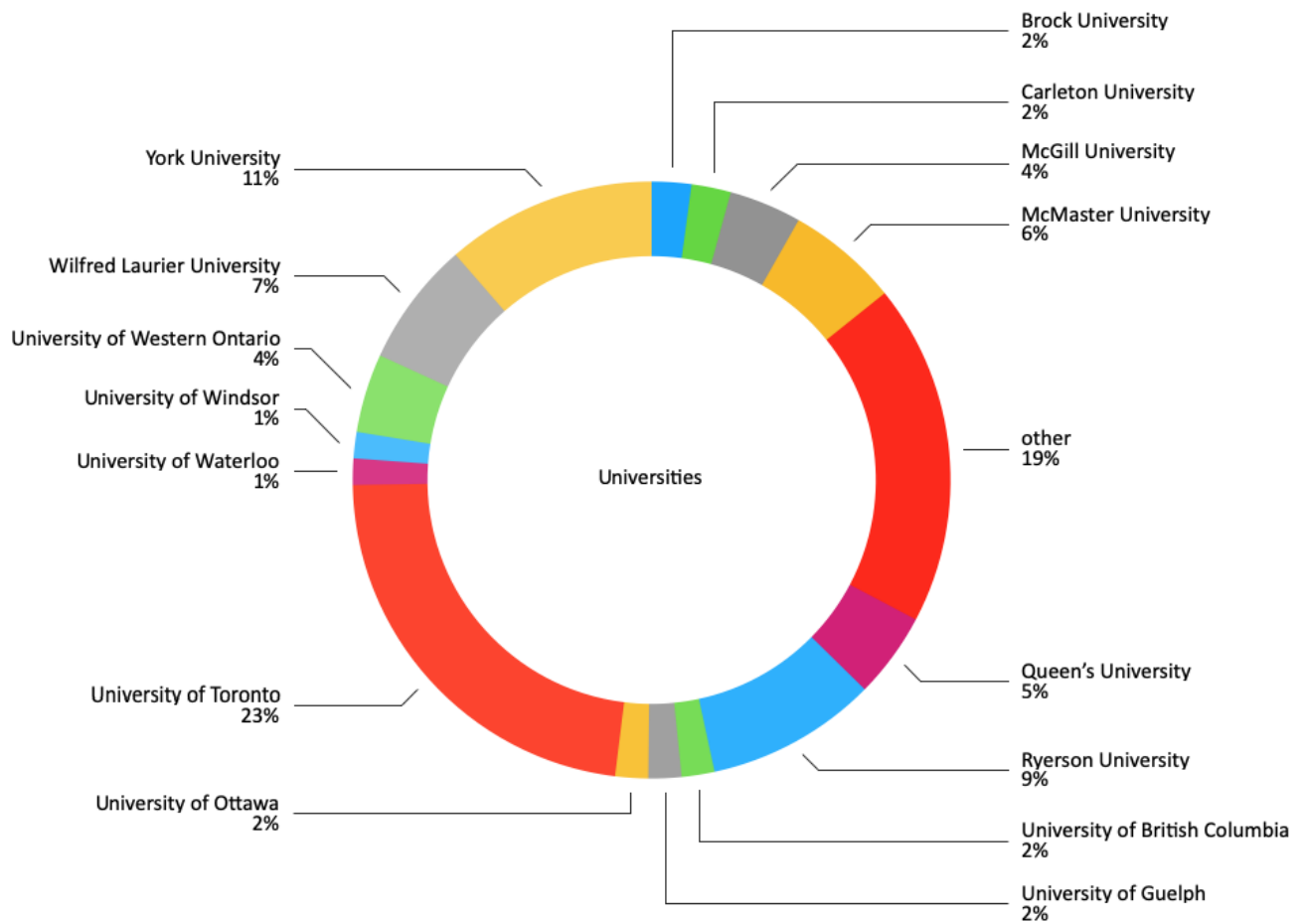
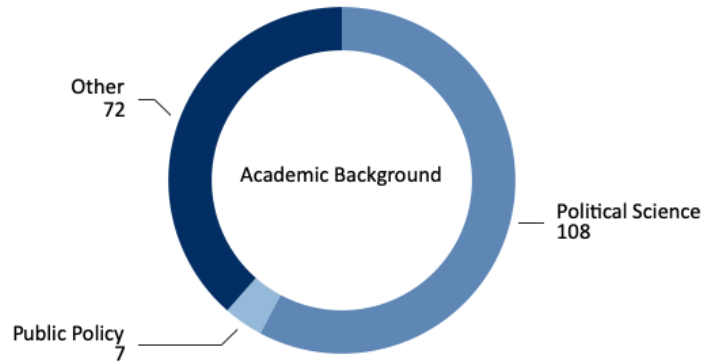
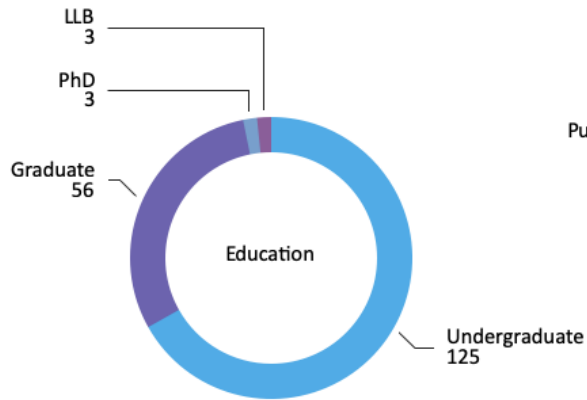
Dia Mukherjee received a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in History and Literature. Dia is from Etobicoke, Ontario.

Alessia Rao received a Bachelor of Arts from Ryerson University in Politics and Governance, and is a Master of Arts, Social Justice and Community Engagement candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University. Alessia is from Toronto, Ontario.

Katherine Clare Simon received an Honours Bachelor of Arts from Queens University in History, and is a Master of Philosophy Candidate at the University of Cambridge studying Modern British History. Clare is from Burlington, Ontario.

RECRUITMENT STATISTICS





SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

This year, the Sponsorship committee co-chairs, Monica Mann and David Nightingale, successfully secured 5 new sponsors. Monica and David successfully raised \$18,000 in sponsorship dollars this year (including \$2,500 from AMAPCEO).

Provoke PR: One of the great things about our extensive alumni network, is that they are always so generous to us. Provoke PR is a new agency co-founded by Sydney Oakes (2015-2016), and we are very excited to welcome them at our \$1,000 Sponsor level.

Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO): We were delighted to have an OLIP champion (Jessica Behnke, 2013-2014) at CMHO who was instrumental in facilitating our new sponsorship with CMHO at the \$1,000 Sponsor level. We look forward to connecting with them soon to hear more about the organization.

Santis Health: Santis Health is a consultancy firm that solely represents organisations in the healthcare space. The interns met with them recently and had a very interesting discussion. They will no doubt be a great asset to the program because of their insights into this field, and we are grateful to have them on board at the \$1,000 Sponsor level.

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO): BFO have agreed to sponsor OLIP at the \$7,500 Symposium Level. We are working closely with BFO to determine which event would best suit their needs, and are very excited to have this new sponsor.

Enbridge: After two years without contribution, Enbridge has agreed to sponsor OLIP at \$15,000 over three years. We are very excited to have Enbridge back on board and are looking forward to working closely with them.

The OLIP Alumni Fundraising Advisory Council

Monica and David have been thinking long-term about connection and engagement. In light of this, they are establishing the OLIP Alumnus Fundraising Advisory Council. This council will harness the expertise and experience of OLIPs vast alumni network to create a group of engaged individuals to help advance sponsorship outreach.

The Council's role will be to identify potential sponsor organizations and provide strategic sponsorship advice to the OLIP Sponsorship Committee. Members of the Council will be asked to provide strategic advice and guidance to the sponsorship co-chairs and serve as ambassadors for the Programme. By identifying organizations that may be willing to sponsor the Programme and connecting OLIP with these organizations, they will set the stage for a successful sponsorship request from the OLIP Sponsorship Committee.

OLIP AT 45 SPEAKER SERIES

The OLIP Speaker Series was created to honour OLIP's 45th anniversary and bring OLIPs community together virtually. The interns worked together to create interesting and relevant topics for the five events which ran from December to April. Each intern played a role in the series, and five interns -- Monica Mann, David Nightingale, Amelia Boughn, Mackenzie Bonnet, and Gurkumal Dhahan -- have taken turns to plan and host the events. The other interns have helped with other aspects of the events such as social media and creating the posters.

The events were sponsored by AMAPCEO, who provided additional funding of \$2,500 to sponsor the series. They sent representatives to speak at the beginning of each event.

The topics and details of the events:



Covering Queens Park through the Ages

Moderator: Steve Paikin

Panelists: Alison Smith, Robert Fisher and Richard Brennan

Registration: 189

Attendees: 110 approx.

Views of video on Facebook: 455

The Future of Cities



Moderator: Scott Varrett

Panelists: Habon Ali, Christine Abe and Eldon Theodore

Registration: 83

Attendees: 55

Views of video on Facebook: 74



Women in Politics

Moderator: Kate Graham

Panelists: MP Atwin and Janet Ecker
(Senator Lakin was sick on the day)

Registration: 85

Attendees: 74

Views of video on Facebook: n/a



Trust in Elections

Moderator: Dr. Peter Loewen

Panelists : Greg Essensa, Anna Esselment
and Janet Yale

Registration: 79

Attendees: 57

Views of video on Facebook: 100



The Future of Work

Moderator: Bianca Wylie

Panelists : Malika Asthana, Amanda Clarke, Sunil Johal

Registration: 80

Attendees: 61

Views of video on Facebook: n/a

THE CLERK'S POSTER COMPETITION AND LIBRARY PAPER PRESENTATIONS



This year, we will continue the Clerks Poster Competition, which was inaugurated last year. On May 21st, 2021, Todd Decker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will chair a poster presentation session, complete with an award for best results.

Last year's winner of the Clerk's Poster Competition was Clare MacDonald for her poster presentation of her paper titled *The Private Side of Public Life: The Impact of a Legislative Career on the Work-Life Balance of MPPs*.

A big thank you to Todd Decker, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Trevor Day, Deputy Clerk & Executive Director of Legislative Services, and Michael Morden, Director, Legislative Research Service who will comprise the panel for the Clerk's Poster Competition. I would also like to extend a thank you to all of our friends at the Assembly who make opportunities like this possible.

The Interns look forward to presenting their paper topics:

Mackenzie Bonnett, *The Forgotten Branch: Ontario's International Engagement and the Role of the Legislative Assembly*

Amelia Boughn, *First, Do No Harm: Regulated Health Professional Interest Groups and Opposition MPPs*

Elizabeth Haig, *Digital Witnesses: Analyzing the Impact of the COVID-19 Protocols on Committees at the Ontario Legislature*

Ritika Gupta, *We Are Not 'Trained Seals': A Perspective on Party Discipline*

Monica Mann, *The Effect of COVID-19 on Representation in Ontario*

David Nightingale, *Collaboration between Backbench Legislators: A Case Study of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario*

Alexander Stover, *Managing Misinformation: An analysis of how the independent officers of the Ontario Legislative Assembly identify, filter, and regulate misinformation*

Chelsea Tao, *Constituency Representation and Relationship-Building Among Members of Provincial Parliament in the Ontario Legislature*

VIRTUAL STUDY TOURS

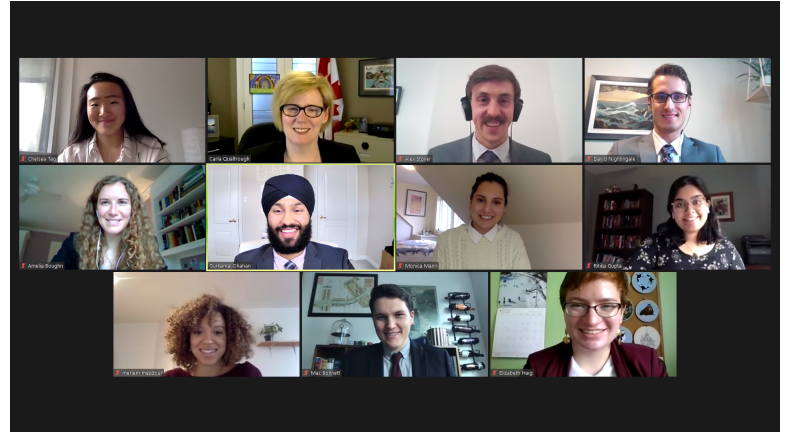
Throughout OLIP's history, the comparative nature of the study tours has been instrumental to the interns' learning experience, and we are happy we can virtually maintain this essential aspect of the Programme. The interns participated in the following study tours:

Ottawa

Though this year's virtual Ottawa study tour looked a bit different than in years past, the interns still had a fantastic week connecting and speaking with incredible people at Parliament Hill, including our colleagues at the Parliamentary Internship Programme.

Meetings of note include:

- The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
- Senator Dennis Glen Patterson, Senator for Nunavut
- The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Dakota Kochie, Chief of Staff for National Chief Perry Bellegarde



Quebec City

During their virtual tour to Quebec City, the interns met a variety of politicians. These included representatives from all the major political parties as well as several sitting Ministers in the National Assembly. Meetings of note include:

- Maryse Gaudreault - Member for Hull, Quebec Liberal Party, Third Vice-President of the National Assembly
- Christopher Skeete - Member for Sainte-Rose, Coalition Avenir Québec, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism
- Jean-François Roberge - Member for Chambly, Coalition Avenir Québec, Minister of Education

Manitoba

The interns' study tour in Manitoba blended the political, cultural and academic presence of the province together through the choice of speakers they arranged. The Manitoba study tour allowed the interns to learn more about provincial parliamentary politics in Canada in a different jurisdiction than the one they had become accustomed to through OLIP. Meetings of note include:

- Guided Tour of the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg.
- Hon. Myrna Driedger - Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

- Wab Kinew - New Democratic Party, Leader of the Official Opposition
- Roland Bohr - Director of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies

Washington

The interns joined the British Columbia Legislative Internship Program and the Washington State Legislative Internship Program for a virtual tour to Washington State. The WSLIPs provided a warm welcome and introduction to their state, and the interns had a riveting conversation with the state's policy advisors about climate change and clean energy initiatives. Meetings of note include:

- Anna Lising, Senior Policy Advisor for Energy, Office of Governor Jay Inslee
- Becky Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate, Office of Governor Jay Inslee

Colorado

The interns spent an afternoon virtually in Colorado to learn about the United States' legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Through these three meetings, they learned a great deal about the interplay between different branches and levels of government, and reflected upon the advantages and limitations of our own system here in Ontario. Meetings of note include:

- Justice William Hood, Justice of the Supreme Court of Colorado
- Kathy Nesbitt, Chief Operating & Strategy Officer at American Diabetes Association, former Executive Director Department of Personnel & Administration for the State of Colorado
- Julie Gonzales, Senator for the 34th district in the City and County of Denver & Majority Caucus Chair

Northwest Territories

Whereas the Manitoba study tour gave the interns an opportunity to understand provincial politics from a new angle, the tour of the Northwest Territories introduced them to a whole new way of democratic governance. Through interviews with local political leaders, civil servants, Indigenous and Corporate stakeholders, the OLIP interns received a crash course in Consensus style government and issues alien to the Ontario political landscape. Meetings of note include:

- Caroline Cochrane - Premier of the Northwest Territories
- Edward Sangris - Chief of the Yellowknife Dene First Nation
- Devlin Fernandes - Executive Director of the Gwich'in Council International
- Nicole Latour - Chief Electoral Officer of the Northwest Territories

In addition to these Study Tours, the interns will also be attending a Virtual Study Tour in London, UK in June.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The interns have had an incredible year for meetings, and to date, have attended and planned a total of **158** meetings. Below is a list of meetings planned from February 1, 2021 - June 25, 2021.

Academic Sessions

Dr. Jane Philpott - former MP/Dean of School of Medicine, Queen's University

Dr. David Trick - Professor, Ryerson University

Dr. Chris Ragan - Director, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University

Government

Ena Chadha - Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission

Paul Dube - Ontario Ombudsman

Preston Manning - former MP and leader of Reform Party of Canada

Bob Rae - Former Premier

David Peterson - former Premier

Hon. Doug Downey - Attorney General of Ontario

Dr. David Williams - Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario

Jean Charest - former Premier of Quebec

Kristyn Wong-Tam - Toronto City Councillor

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy - Ontario Finance Minister

Hon. Victor Fedeli - Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Michael Chong - MP

Peter Weltman - Financial Accountability Officer Ontario

Yasir Naqvi - former MPP and Attorney General

Jennifer Harewood, Senior Policy Advisor, Curriculum, Ontario Ministry of Education

Friends of OLIP

Andrew Coyne - Journalist, The Globe and Mail

Jeff Nankivell - Consul General at the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong

Stephen Jost - Director of Art Gallery of Ontario

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council

Bianca Wylie - tech journalist

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

Paul Heinbecker - former diplomat

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

Elizabeth McIsaac - President of Maytree Canada

Karl Baldauf - MacMillan Vantage

Dr. Brian Goldman - Host, White Coat Black Art
Robert Fisher - Retired Queen's Park journalist
Alison Loat - Samara Centre for Democracy
Metroland - Media
Christine McMillan - Crestview Strategy
Katie Weaver - Public Affairs and Communications Officer

Northwest Territories Study Tour

Glen Rutland - Acting Clerk, Legislative Assembly of NWT
Shawn McCann - Deputy Secretary, Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, NWT
Kerry Penney - Director of Economic Development and Strategy, City of Yellowknife
Rebecca Alty - Mayor of Yellowknife
Shane Thompson - Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Lands, Minister Responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation, NWT
Representative from Joint Task Force North
Caroline Cochrane - Premier NWT
Steve Loutitt - Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, NWT
Chief Edward Sangris - Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Devlin Fernandes - Executive Director of Gwich'in Council International
Nichole Latour - Chief Electoral Officer, NWT
Colette Langlois - NWT Ombud
Natalie Plato - Deputy Director, Giant Mine Remediation Project, NWT
Toby Kruger - Law Clerk, NWT Legislative Assembly

Manitoba Study Tour

Roland Bohr - Director, Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, University of Winnipeg
Hon. Myrna Driedger - Speaker, Manitoba Legislative Assembly
Wab Kinew - Leader of the Official Opposition, Manitoba

Colorado Study Tour

Kathy Nesbitt - VP Administration, University of Colorado Boulder
Justice William Hood - Colorado Supreme Court
Julie Gonzales - Colorado State Senator

OLIP Alumni

Graham White - Former OLIP Academic Director and professor at the University of Toronto
Annamie Paul - OLIP Alumnus and Leader of Green Party of Canada
Jon Fearis
Chris Morley

Mitch Davidson
David Myles
Jess Dutton
Lauren Hanna
Guy Charlton
Nicole Goodman
Samantha Majic
Vanessa Dupuis
Robert Nicol
Brandy Giannetta
Lisa Clements

Sponsors

Achev
Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
Ontario Nurses' Association
Public Affairs Association of Ontario
Children's Mental Health Ontario
Insurance Bureau of Canada
Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association
Santis Health
Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
The Cooperators
Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries
Bombardier
Council of Ontario Universities

CONCLUSION

Despite the difficulties of the ongoing pandemic, OLIP has persevered and created memories to last for many years to come. I hope you take some time to review our magazine -- which can be accessed via olipinterns.ca/magazine -- to learn more about what the interns have been up to this year.

A big thank you to the administrative team, and to everyone at the CPSA who go above and beyond to ensure the smooth functioning of the Programme.



Thank you everyone for an amazing year!