



Parliamentary Internship Programme | Programme de stage parlementaire



2010-11 Parliamentary Interns

2010-11 Annual Report

83rd Annual Conference
Canadian Political Science Association
Waterloo, Ontario
May 18, 2011

Garth Williams
Director

In Memorium

Dr. Jean-Pierre Gaboury passed away on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

Jean-Pierre was the longest-serving Director of the Parliamentary Internship Programme, having fulfilled this role on two occasions from 1975-77 and 2002-08. He was the heart and soul of the Programme for many years, a true friend and mentor to all interns, a kind, erudite and honourable man. He cared deeply for the interns and alumni, friends and sponsors, MPs and others whom he brought into the PIP "family." In his last years as Director, Jean-Pierre worked with former interns to update the website and trace alumni through the years, two thoughtful and prescient steps that have laid an important foundation for the years ahead.

He is sorely missed.

Introduction

The 2010-11 intern year has been one of accomplishment and consolidation: building on major initiatives introduced last year by the Programme and our Alumni Association. It has been marked, also, by the energies of a remarkable group of interns (who share some of their experience through blog extracts in the attached Annex I) and, of course, the 2011 Federal Election. These themes run through the following report on Programme activities, budget and governance issues described below.

Please note the recommendation of the Advisory Board, for decision by the CPSA Board, on page 8.

Programme Activities

Intern activities focused on the three fundamental objectives of the Programme:

1. Support democracy by providing qualified assistants to Members of Parliament
2. Enrich the education of young Canadians through a unique work-study experience
3. Raise public awareness and understanding of Parliament

1. Supporting democracy: Offering tangible assistance to MPs

The 41st Class of Parliamentary Interns are a wonderfully positive and engaging group with five women and five men, from six different provinces including a former Deputy Minister's Award winner for excellence in policy development, a former freelance journalist and a CBC Radio host and producer, a Frontier College teacher-labourer, a university valedictorian, a varsity athlete, a SSHRC Fellowship winner as well as a former Parliamentary Page and a Parliamentary Guide.

After two weeks of orientation including sessions with procedural and policy experts, sponsors and former interns, the Interns interviewed over fifty Members of Parliament who had applied to the Programme. Their first allocation with Members of Parliament began on Monday, October 4, 2010 and their second allocation on Monday, January 24, 2011.

When the 2011 Federal Election was called, interns began a third allocation, with friends and sponsors of the Programme, on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. During this period, interns have been engaged in election tracking and media monitoring, public affairs as well as policy research and development.

Interns	1 st Allocation	2 nd Allocation	3 rd Allocation
Laura Bennett, Bragg Creek, AB MA (Political Science) Queen's University; BA (Political Science) University of Calgary	Mike Savage (LIB), Dartmouth—Cole Harbour (NS)	Shelly Glover (CPC), St. Boniface, MB	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Communications)
Hanna Button, Moncton, NB BA (International Relations) Mount Allison University	Johanne Deschamps (BQ), Laurentides—Labelle, QC	Laurie Hawn (CPC), Edmonton Centre, AB	Institute on Governance
Mark Dance, Ottawa, ON BA (Contemporary Studies and Philosophy) University of King's College, Dalhousie University	Justin Trudeau (LIB), Papineau, QC	James Bezan (CPC), Selkirk-Interlake, MB	Royal Bank of Canada
Mackenzie Grisdale, Edmonton, AB MA (Journalism) University of Western Ontario; BA (English) University of Alberta	Larry Miller (CPC), Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound, ON	Niki Ashton (NDP), Churchill, MB	Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Fraser Harland, Camrose, AB BA (Political Science and French) Mount Allison University.	Robert Oliphant (LIB), Don Valley West, ON	Bruce Stanton (CPC), Simcoe North, ON	Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Jane Hilderman, Camrose, AB MA (Public Policy) University of Toronto; BA (Political Studies) Queen's University	James Rajotte (CPC), Edmonton—Leduc, AB	Siobhan Coady (LIB), St. John's South-Mt Pearl, NL	Embassy of the United States of America
Simon Letendre, Saint-Laurent, QC MA (Political Science) University of Ottawa; BA (Political Science) Université du Québec à Montréal	Merv Tweed (CPC), Brandon—Souris, MB	Martha Hall Findlay (LIB), Willowdale, ON	Bombardier Inc.
Lynn Matte, Azilda, ON MA (Folklore) Memorial University of Newfoundland; BA (English and History) Queen's University	Michael Chong (CPC), Wellington—Halton Hills, ON	Judy Foote (LIB), Random-Burin-St. George's, NL	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Programs)
Stephen Middleton, Charlottetown, PEI BSc (Biology and Psychology) Mount Allison University	Megan Leslie (NDP), Halifax, NS	John Weston (CPC), West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, BC	Canadian Health and Life Insurance Association
Bradley Vis, Abbotsford, BC MA (Political Science) Carleton University; BA (Political Science and Religion), UBC	Ed Holder (CPC), London West, ON	Robert Bouchard (BQ), Chicoutimi-Le Fjord, QC	Credit Union Central of Canada

2. An enriching educational experience

Seminar and Research Papers

Interns participated in an 11-week seminar in the fall and winter 2010 focused on the interaction of parliamentary institutions, government and Canadian political culture. Discussion was based on a short list of summer readings and a weekly reading list developed by the Director and the intern group. The seminar aims to provide a space for interns to reflect on their experience and the role of Parliament in Canadian society.

In the winter and spring, 2011, the academic focus of the Programme turns to the preparation of the interns' research papers. This year, thanks to the generosity of BMO Financial Group and the timing of the 2011 Federal Election (which forced the Programme to postpone the 41st Annual Alumni Dinner, sponsored each year by BMO Financial Group), has made it possible for five interns to present papers at the 83rd CPSA Annual Conference in Waterloo on May 18, 2011.

- Laura Bennett: *Is Anyone Representing Women? An analysis of campaign websites during the 2011 Canadian federal election*
- Mackenzie Grisdale: *Heckling in the House of Commons*
- Fraser Harland: *Codifying Constitutional Conventions: The Case for a Canadian Cabinet Manual*
- Lynn Matte: *The Art of Neutrality: An Examination of the Role of Parliamentary Committee Chair*
- Stephen Middleton: *An Obstructionist Senate: Fact or Fabrication?*

David Docherty kindly agreed to serve as a discussant for this session.

“Brown Bag Lunch” Speakers’ Series

The “Brown Bag Lunch” Speakers’ Series allows the interns to supplement their educational experience through informal discussions with policy makers and politicians from across Canada and abroad. In the past year, the Interns have met with, among others, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, the Honourable Grant Mitchell (former Intern), the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, the Honourable Michael Fortier, Preston Manning, Peter Mansbridge and Chantal Hébert among others.

Study Tours / Exchanges

Comparative study tours to provincial legislatures and democratic assemblies outside Canada give interns further perspective, and insight, into democratic government and the function of political institutions. In 2010-11, Interns undertook study tours to the following legislatures:

- National Assembly of Québec, November 14-18, 2010
- European Parliament, January 9-15, 2011
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 16-22, 2011
- National Assembly for Wales, January 19-20, 2011
- United States Congress, March 27-April 1, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 29-June 3, 2011

In addition, the PIP receives delegations from internship programs in a number of provinces each year. This year, the Programme hosted interns from the following provinces:

- National Assembly of Québec: November 2-5, 2010
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario: December 1-3, 2010
- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 7-11, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: February 27-March 4, 2011
- United States Congress: May 14-20, 2011

3. Contributing to Public Knowledge of Parliament

Sharing the intern experience with young Canadians

Last year, an effort was made to introduce a public education and outreach component to the Programme. Interns met with students at A.Y. Jackson Secondary School to share something of their enthusiasm for Parliament and their experience as staffers on Parliament Hill. They also participated in the Chair Leaders event, organized by the Canadian Paraplegic Association, raising awareness of the Programme and its objectives through media coverage of this popular non-partisan activity on Parliament Hill.

To expand on these initiatives, this year’s interns met with one hundred High School students from across Canada participating in Politics Week, in Ottawa, February 27th – March 5th, 2011, in the Encounters with Canada program.



Interns: Simon Letendre, Mackenzie Grisdale, Hanna Button, Bradley Vis and Laura Bennett at Encounters with Canada (February, 2011)

In addition, discussions were begun with the Forum for Young Canadians to secure a second opportunity for Interns to speak to a national high school audience. Unfortunately, however, the 2011 Federal Election resulted in plans with both the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the Forum for Young Canadians being cancelled.

PIP Research Forum: Politics and Parliamentary Institutions:

One advantage of the timing of the 2011 Federal Election is that it has made it possible to organize, in cooperation with the Institute on Governance (IOG) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), a unique forum for presenting Interns' research papers to an academic and professional audience in Ottawa. In June 2011, the IOG will host the first PIP Research Forum. All ten Interns have agreed to present their papers; while the IOG will invite the Programme's sponsors and friends, alumni and public servants as well as faculty and graduate students from departments of political science in the Ottawa area.

PIP Alumni Speakers' Series

In the past two years, the Alumni Association has updated its contact database and launched a lunchtime speakers' series in Ottawa. The luncheons are held at the Rideau Club, with sponsorship kindly provided by Peter Harder (Intern 1975-76), and bring together former interns, sponsors, friends and Members of Parliament. Last year, speakers included Peter Harder, former Deputy Minister, DFAIT (Intern 1975-76) and Brian Lee Crowley, Founder, Macdonald-Laurier Institute (Intern 1976-77). This year, the series has featured:

- Honourable Grant Mitchell, Senator (Intern 1974-75)
- His Excellency, David Jacobson, Ambassador of the United States
- Honourable Maxime Bernier, PC, MP
- Jeffrey Simpson, National Affairs Columnist, Globe and Mail (Intern 1972-73)
- Honourable Hugh Segal, Senator

The Alumni Association would like to thank both the Canadian Medical Association and CGA Canada for each sponsoring a luncheon this year.

Budget and Governance

Budget Summary

Over the past three years, the Programme has managed to attract six new sponsors (four at level III and two at level II) and two new friends while reorienting the Annual Alumni Dinner as a fundraising event. At the same time, it faced, as a result of the economic crisis, a reduced contribution from one sponsor (moving from level II to level III) and the withdrawal of one other (level III).

The new contributions allowed the Programme to offer new activities while continuing to provide the academic experience, comparative study tours and unique work experience for which it is known. To do this, the Programme had to assume additional costs for an increased intern stipend, an increased honorarium for the Director and increased travel costs for comparative study-tours.

Despite these increased pressures, the support of sponsors and friends has allowed the Programme to add approximately \$30,000 over the past three years to the reserve fund, bringing the total reserve fund to approximately one third of annual operating costs or close to \$140,000. At its meeting on February 17, 2011, the Finance Sub-Committee recommended that, to be prudent, this amount should be increased to approximately half of operating costs.

Next year, as a result of increasing costs recommended by the Advisory Board (see below) it is expected that the annual balance will be zero unless additional sponsorship can be secured. However, there appears to be little risk of falling into deficit.

Please see Annex II, 2011-12 Budget, for details.

Advisory Board

Perhaps the most important innovation in the past year has been the organization of a permanent Advisory Board to encourage good governance, facilitate communication with and between stakeholder groups and provide their collective advice and assistance to the Director on strategic issues and key activities.

A number of years ago, the CPSA created the possibility of establishing an Advisory Board within the organizational structure of the Programme. The Board was established at a Special Meeting of all stakeholders on June 11, 2010. The first call for nominations was issued on October 22, 2010, and closed on November 3, 2010. The election of representatives from all stakeholder groups opened that day and closed on November 17, 2010.

The first meeting of the Advisory Board was held on December 3, 2010. At that time, the Board established a Finance Committee to review sponsorship and funding for the Programme and an Annual Dinner Committee to assist in the organization of the Dinner and to develop it as a source of funding for the Programme. At the same time, the Board was apprised of short, medium and long-term issues facing the Programme (as described in the PIP Semi-Annual Update presented to the CPSA Board on December 4, 2010).

Since that time, the sub-committees and the full Advisory Board have met a number of times in order to prepare the following recommendations for the CPSA Board.

Short Term Issues: Personnel

This year marks the end of the mandate of the current director and, most likely, will also bring the retirement of the Programme Administrator, Joanne Cartwright, from the House of Commons.

- (a) Director: The CPSA offered a second term to the current director at the CPSA Board meeting on December 4, 2010, on the understanding that compensation would be reviewed. The Finance Sub-Committee of the Advisory Board recommended, at its meeting on February 17, 2011, that the Director's honorarium be raised to twice the stipend of current interns or \$44,000 per year.

This recommendation was discussed and endorsed by the Advisory Board on February 18, 2011 and is submitted for consideration by the CPSA Board at its meeting, May 18, 2011.

- (b) Administrator: At the Advisory Board meeting on February 17, 2011, the Administrator confirmed her intentions to retire in December 2011. Arrangements have been made with the House of Commons for Programme involvement in the selection of a replacement. However, her departure will mean an important loss in corporate memory and capacity that will be felt by interns, the director, CPSA and all stakeholders.

The announcement, by the current Speaker of the House of Commons, that he would not stand for election in 2011, raised a third short-term concern for the Programme. To ensure a smooth transition for the Programme to a new Speaker, it was agreed, at the Advisory Board meeting in February 17, 2011, that a small delegation of stakeholders meet with the Clerk of the House prior to the election of a new Speaker to provide her with current information on the Programme and its relationship with the Speaker and the House of Commons.

Medium and Longer Term Issues: Programme Development

While the Programme is well placed to face funding issues in the short term, it is constantly required to demonstrate value to all stakeholders and to renew and add support. The most important medium-term financial pressures come from the need to address the cost of comparative study tours, the level of compensation for the Programme Director and the value of the Interns' Stipend.

Closely related to these financial pressures are communications issues involving the need to demonstrate value to all stakeholders throughout the year, create additional value through current and new Programme activities and articulate clearly the benefits of sponsorship for current and prospective stakeholders.

- (a) Annual Dinner: At meetings of the Annual Dinner Sub-Committee on January 17, 2011, and the Finance Sub-Committee on February 17, 2011, endorsed by the Advisory Board on February 18, 2011, it was recommended that the Programme aim to make the Annual Dinner a "flagship" event for the Programme by nominating an honorary president of the event, to assist in attracting event sponsors, and inviting a former Prime Minister to address the Parliamentary community, at the Dinner, in each of the next five years.
- (b) Finance: At a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee on January 17, 2011, it was agreed that two members of the Committee (Martin Lavoie and Carole Theauvette) identify and seek the advice of business development experts regarding ways to address the medium and long-term financial, and other, issues facing the Programme. Meetings

have been held and recommendations will be discussed at the next Finance Sub-Committee meeting.

The Year Ahead

In the year ahead, the Programme will continue to work through the Advisory Board and its sub-committees to develop the Annual Dinner as a flagship event and adopt a more strategic approach to medium and longer term financial and programme issues. In the short term, it will be a priority to pursue additional financial support and manage the transition to a new Speaker and, in particular, a new Administrator in order to ensure the continuing quality of the Programme.

Already, the 2011-12 Interns have been chosen with the help of the Selection Committee:

- Mme Marie-Danielle Vachon, Deputy Principal Clerk, House of Commons
- Dr. Martin Papillon, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa
- Ms. Rhea Laube, Graduate Student, University of Ottawa

Next year's interns will be:

Dominique Biron-Bordeleau. Ottawa, ON

MSc (Political Science) Université de Montréal; BA (Political Science and History)
University of Ottawa

Andrew Cuddy. Ottawa, ON

BA/BSc (Political Science and Earth Systems Science) McGill University

Alexis Dubois. Québec, QC

MSc (Political Science) Université de Montréal; BA (Public Affairs and International
Relations) Université Laval

Samuel Gregg-Wallace. London, ON

BA (Political Science and Canadian Studies) Mount Allison University

Anna Laurence. Halifax, NS

MA (Political Science) McGill University; BA (Political Science and Film Studies)
Carleton University

Meghan Lawson. Hamilton, ON

BA (Peace and Conflict Studies, History and French Studies) University of Toronto

Maxim Legault-Mayrand. Ottawa, ON

Barreau du Québec (Law) École du Barreau du Québec; LL.L (Law) University of
Ottawa.

Grant McLaughlin. Winnipeg, MB

BA (English Language and Literature) Queen's University

François Plante. Shawinigan-Sud, QC

MA (Political Science) Université Laval; BA (Political Science) Université Laval.

Ariane Wylie. Ottawa, ON

BA (English and Women's Studies) Mount Allison University

Annex I: Extracts from the Blog (www.pip-ppsp.org/blog/):

Orientation: Mark Dance

It's the end of a long day and the rain pounds down outside the doors of Centre Block. Most of the interns have already dispersed, but Simon and I instead decide to kill some time while the storm subsides. We leave the Rotunda behind us and stroll through the high, vaulted corridors. We pass through the intricately carved entryway to the Library of Parliament. The guard glances at our fresh security passes. He nods. We grab newspapers and plop down on a couple of comfy, red couches.

After a while, my attention drifts away from the paper in my hands and my eyes wander up the walls towards the high, conical ceiling. I think about the history all around me and the depth below my feet. "This is amazing," I whisper to Simon after a while. He smiles. "I know," he replies.

This is where we work. And we're starting to figure out what that means...

Working for the Bloc: Bradley Vis

Never in my wildest political dreams did I ever consider working for the Bloc Quebecois, but here I am!

When I was accepted into PIP I had a hunch that a placement with the Bloc would be the most wild and extreme political experience a British Columbian could have in Ottawa. I was right! Although politics doesn't scare me very often – working for the Bloc definitely did.

I can confidently say that I am no longer scared of the Bloc. In fact, the party has been incredibly accepting and sympathetic to my presence and goals with the programme. During my first week, for example, Mr. Bouchard brought me to caucus to meet the entire party! He has also kept me hard at work with his committee preparation, projects, advocacy work and even speech writing. After spending some time in the office I can now see why other Members of Parliament voted him the best representative in the House of Commons!

Federal Election: Lynn Matte

There is a federal election underway in Canada and the Parliamentary Interns are now dutifully off of the Hill working with some of our programme sponsors for the duration. Although not something most applicants are thinking of when applying to spend 10 months working on Parliament Hill, the opportunity to waltz into the offices of places like Bombardier, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, RBC and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, just to name a few, and be given insider access and work to do is a bit of rush...

While we are now working off the Hill, we are all closely monitoring the election campaign. Although I've voted in numerous federal elections, it has never seemed quite as personal as this one. Many of the men and women vying to represent Canadians and maintain their seats in Parliament are not strangers known only via sound bites and newspaper articles, they are people that we have had chance to sit down with to discuss topics such as how they ended up in politics, what fuels their passion for the work that they do, and how they negotiate their role within a political party with their mandate to represent an electorate that didn't unanimously vote them in....