

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

Directors Report 2011-2012

Henry J. Jacek, Academic Director

Introduction

This is my eighth year as Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). I could not do this job unless I had a capable and wise Programme Assistant. I am fortunate to have an outstanding person in this position in Eithne Whaley, a former intern in the British House of Commons, now in her ninth year with the Programme.

Also on our management team are two excellent employees of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, coordinators Lorraine Luski and Anne Stokes. Lorraine is now in her eighth year as a Programme Coordinator. Lorraine, a Research Officer with Research and Information Services is a former intern herself from the 1983-84 year. Anne is Deputy Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research and is now completing her fifth year as Programme Coordinator. Finally, I thank Dr. Catherine Frost, an Associate Professor of Political Science at McMaster University, for her help in the intern selection process. Catherine was an intern in 1990-91.

Every Friday, the management team has a two-hour meeting with the ten interns. I think I can speak for all 14 of us and say that this is the most enjoyable time of the week as we discuss the legislative events of the week, the recent experiences of the interns and the plans for future OLIP activities. As well, we discuss the research projects of the interns, the fruit of which are the papers the interns present at this Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association.

We are now in our fourth year of our ten intern cohort. While OLIP is happy to provide two more bright young university graduates the experience of our Programme, the increased financial cost, especially in Intern Education, is an added strain for us. We hope to maintain the rich experience of recent years, but for that to continue, we will need more sponsor support.

Intern Educational Activities: Orientation

The core of the intern programme is the placements with two members of the Legislative Assembly, one with the government side and one on the opposition side. But just as important are OLIP educational activities. The intern experience begins with the September orientation. A highlight for the new interns is the

schedule of meetings with the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. This year, the interns enjoyed meeting with the Environment Commissioner Gord Miller, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Irwin Elman, Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Auditor General Jim McCarter, Chief and Deputy Electoral Officers Greg Essensa and Loren Wells and Ombudsman Andre Marin.

Of course, many of the members of the Assembly staff gave great help and information to the new interns in the orientation period and beyond. A partial list includes Clerk Deborah Deller, deputy Clerk Todd Decker, Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research Lisa Freedman, Human Resources Director Nancy Marling, Susan Swift and Philip Kaye of Legislative Research Services, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services Deborah Caruso, and Director of Broadcast and Recording Services and Honorary Intern Arleigh Holder.

Other important individuals gave freely of their time such as former parliamentarian David Warner and Steve Peters, both former Speakers. Journalists and former Queen's park columnists such as Murray Campbell, Honorary Intern Jim Coyle, and Ian Urquhart provide still another perspective on the Legislature. Key OLIP alumni such as Meghan Warby, John Wright and Emma Stanley-Cochrane gave useful presentations. Other alumni came to an alumni pub night.

I would also like to thank sponsors who took part in the orientation. These included Ipsos Canada, the Certified General Accountants, LawPRO, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, CIBC, Ontario Community Newspapers Association, Advocacy Solutions, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline, Law Society of Upper Canada and GP Murray Research. I thank them all for the continuing support of the Programme.

Intern Educational Visits

A great deal of the intern education occurs away from the Legislative Assembly. The interns have already had great visits with government and legislative officials in Ottawa, Quebec city, and the Northwest Territories. In Ottawa, the interns met with Clerk of the House Audrey O'Brien, Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page as well as MPs from the main parties. These included NDP MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault from Sherbrooke, the youngest MP to be elected in Canada, former Liberal Cabinet Ministers Irwin Cotler and Stephane Dion and Conservative MPs Candace Hoepfner and Dr. Kellie Leitch. A highlight was a meeting with the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and his Issues Manager, former OLIP intern Ana Curic. Final

Meetings were with Senator Art Eggleton and Supreme Court Justice Morris Fish as well as American Embassy staff.

In Quebec City, the interns met with Globe and Mail journalist Rheel Seguin and Laval Professor Eric Montigny. As well the interns had interviews with many of the National Assembly. On the government side, they met with Deputy Speaker Francois Ouimette, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Geoffret Kelley and Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities Kathleen Weil. On the Opposition side, they met with Whip Nicole Leger of the Parti Quebecois and Francois Bonnardel of the Action Democratique due Quebec.

Unlike most years, this year saw the interns going to London, England in March rather than at the end of June due to the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. In some ways, this change may have special advantages in that there is an opportunity to bring new ideas of procedure back to the Ontario Legislative Assembly. A number of MPs provided a contrast of backbench roles in London and Toronto. Supplementing this British-Canadian comparison was a very interesting meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, former British Columbia Premier, Gordon Campbell. Also very informative were meetings with the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip as well as the Clerk of the House of Commons and the Chief Executive Officer.

Fundraising

Without a doubt, this activity consumes most of my time and energy. While a few sponsors make timely payments, most require numerous follow-up communications from Eithne and myself. These sponsorships are crucial if the educational component of the Programme is to be maintained. We are pleased to note that we now have three lead sponsors, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, Vale and now the Ontario Real Estate Association of Ontario. A lead sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$10,000 or more per year. We are pleased to announce new major sponsors, Shoppers Drug Mart, the Power Workers Union and Investment Funds Institute of Canada. A major sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$5,000 or more per year. We were also fortunate to gain six new regular sponsors this year.

Placements

Because of the Ontario General Election on October 6th, 2011, the interns were given mini-placements. The legislative placements were with the Environment Commissioner and the Ombudsman. Sponsor placements include Labatt Breweries of Canada, the British Consulate in Toronto, the Law Society of Upper

Canada, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario and Ipsos Canada.

The interns began their first placements in mid November and their second term placements in February. Listed below are this year's placements. We are grateful to the twenty-one MPPs who provide a learning experience. Over 40 MPPs express an interest in participating in the Programme each year. There is nothing more pleasant than watching these bright, well educated, young adults learn so quickly over the course of the ten months. It seems that in September the interns arrive knowing so little about the Ontario legislative process but by the end of June, they seem to know everything, even more than the Director!

Intern	Mini Placement	First Term	Second Term
Evan Akriotis	Environment Commissioner	Kevin Flynn (LIB)	Norm Miller (PC)
Patrick DeRochie	Labatt Breweries of Canada	Vic Fedeli (PC)	Phil McNeely (LIB)
Belinda Ellsworth	British Consulate in Toronto	Donna Cansfield (LIB)	Rosario Marchese (NDP)
Lauren Hanna	Law Society of Upper Canada	Lisa Thompson (PC)	Tracy MacCharles (LIB)
Humera Jabir	Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations	Soo Wong (LIB)	Jagmeet Singh (NDP)
Sylvia Kim	Ombudsman	Teresa Piruzza (LIB)	Elizabeth Witmer and Laurie Scott (PC)
Diego Ortiz	Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario	Rod Jackson (PC)	Dr. Helena Jaczek (LIB)
Sylvia Pena	Ipsos Canada	Michael Prue (NDP)	Greg Sorbara (LIB)
Craig Ruttan	British Consulate in Toronto	Mike Colle (LIB)	John Yakabuski (PC)
Monica Wyrzykowska	Ipsos Canada	Monte McNaughton (PC)	Laura Albanese (LIB)