



Parliamentary
Internship Programme | Programme
de stage parlementaire



**2011-12 Parliamentary Interns with
Former Parliamentarians**

2011-12 Annual Report

84th Annual Conference
Canadian Political Science Association
Edmonton, Alberta
June 12-15, 2012

Garth Williams
Director

Introduction

The 2011-12 intern year will be remembered, not only for the truly remarkable group of interns who participated, but also for the deep engagement shown by Members of Parliament, the House of Commons, Programme Sponsors and Alumni members. Their engagement, resulting in a revised sponsorship structure, unanimously recommended by the Advisory Board, will help the Programme reach new heights and meet a number of important challenges – already confronting us – in the years ahead.

Please note the recommendation of the PIP Advisory Board for decision at the CPSA Board meeting on June 15, 2012, presented on page 8.

Programme Activities

2011-12 was a truly remarkable year for the Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP). Despite the election of many new Members of Parliament (MPs) in the 2010 federal election, PIP received a record number of applications from MPs in all parties (72). Their interest and engagement, encouraged by an Alumni reception in June 2011, set the tone for all intern activities during the year.

Supporting democracy: Offering tangible assistance to MPs

The 42nd Class of Parliamentary Interns is a wonderful group with four women and six men from four different provinces. They include a former President of the New Brunswick Student Alliance, the Policy Director of the Canadian Youth Delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference (2009), an Editor in Chief of The Strand newspaper (University of Toronto), a journalist for La Factice (SRC), the Carleton University Female Athlete of the Year (2008), an actor with the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society, the producer of a bilingual adaptation of The Vagina Monologues and a pulp and paper technologist as well as an acoustic guitar player and a blogger for The Weekly Crisis (a comic book blog).

Thanks to arrangements made by the Université Laval and the Université de Montréal, two of the interns will – for the first time in the history of the Programme – be doing the internship for credit towards their Master’s degrees.

During the two-week orientation period in early September, the interns met with Clerks from the House of Commons and other experts to prepare for work in the office of an MP. They then had the chance to interview seventy-two MPs, over a short ten-day period, before selecting “their” MPs on September 30th. There were eleven MPs new to the Programme and others who have served as excellent mentors in the past. *Please see Annex 1 (below) for initial impressions of the Programme, and the orientation period, from Anna Laurence, Parliamentary Intern 2011-12.*

Interns	1 st Allocation (October 3, 2011 – January 20, 2012)	2 nd Allocation (January 23, 2012 – June 30, 2012)
Dominique Biron-Bordeleau, Ottawa, ON MSc Political Science, Université de Montréal; BA Political Science and History, University of Ottawa	Robert Sopuck (CPC), Dauphin—Swan River—Marquette, MB	Jean Crowder (NDP), Nanaimo—Cowichan, BC
Andrew Cuddy, Ottawa, ON BA/BSc (Hon) Political Science and Earth Systems Science, McGill	Libby Davies (NDP), Vancouver East, BC	Mike Lacey (CPC), Edmonton—Mill Woods—Beaumont, AB

Alexis Dubois, Québec, QC MSc Political Science, Université de Montréal (in progress); BA Public Affairs and International Relations, Université Laval	The Hon. Denis Coderre (LIB), Bourassa, QC	Shelly Glover (CPC), Saint Boniface, MB
Samuel Gregg-Wallace, Goderich, ON Ba (Hon) Political Science and Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University	James Rajotte (CPC), Edmonton—Leduc, AB	Jack Harris (NDP), St. John's East, NL
Anna Laurence, Halifax, NS MA Political Science, McGill University; BA Political Science and Film Studies, Carleton University	Jasbir Sandhu (NDP), Surrey North, BC	Scott Armstrong (CPC), Cumberland—Colchester—Musquodoboit Valley, NS
Meghan Lawson, Hamilton, ON BA (Hon) Peace and Conflict Studies, history and French Studies, University of Toronto	Kellie Leitch (CPC), Simcoe-Grey, ON	Megan Leslie (NDP), Halifax, NS
Maxim Legault-Mayrand, Ottawa, ON LL.L Law, University of Ottawa	The Hon. Michael Chong (CPC), Wellington—Halton Hills, ON	The Hon. Scott Brison (LIB), Kings—Hants, NS
Grant McLaughlin, Winnipeg, MB BA (Hon) English Language and Literature, Queen's University	Andrew Cash (NDP), Davenport, ON	Ryan Leef (CPC), Yukon, Y.T.
François Plante, Shawinigan-Sud, QC MA Political Science, Université Laval, in progress; BA Political Science, Université Laval	Marc Garneau (LIB), Westmount—Ville-Marie, QC	Leon Benoit (CPC), Vegreville—Wainwright, AB
Ariane Wylie, Ottawa, ON BA English (Hon) and Women's Studies, Mount Allison University	Joyce Bateman (CPC), Winnipeg South Centre, MB	The Hon. Irwin Cotler (LIB), Mount Royal, QC

An enriching educational experience

Seminar and Research Papers

Interns participated in an 11-week seminar in the fall 2011 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 2012, the academic focus of the Programme turns to the preparation of the interns' research papers.

“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 His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, the Honourable Peter Van Loan, the Honourable Stéphane Dion, the Honourable Ed Broadbent, Jeffrey Simpson, Chantal Hébert and 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 2011-12, Interns undertook study tours to the following legislatures:

- National Assembly of Québec, November 13-17, 2011

- European Parliament, January 8-14, 2012
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 14-21, 2012
- Scottish Parliament, January 19-20, 2012
- United States Congress, March 18-23, 2012
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 27 – June 1, 2012

In addition, the PIP receives delegations from other internship programs each year. This year, the Programme hosted interns from the programs in the following legislatures:

- National Assembly of Québec: October 31 - November 3, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario: December 1 and 2, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: March 5 - 9, 2012
- Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: March 6 - 9, 2012
- United States Congress: May 6 - 11, 2012

Contributing to Public Knowledge of Parliament

Sharing the intern experience with young Canadians

This year's interns met with one hundred secondary school students from across Canada participating in Politics Week, in Ottawa, March 26 –30, 2012, in the Encounters with Canada program.



PIP Workshop at Encounters with Canada, March 26, 2012

The interns led interactive workshops on “Question Period and Parliamentary Debate,” “Media Scrums,” “Committee Work,” and “A Day in the Constituency” to share their perspective on the work of Members of Parliament.

PIP Research: Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium

In cooperation with the Institute on Governance (IOG) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), PIP will hold the second annual Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium on June 15, 2012, a unique opportunity to share Interns' research with an academic and

professional audience in Ottawa. All 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

The Alumni Association continued their lunchtime speakers' series in Ottawa. The luncheons are held at the Rideau Club and bring together former interns, sponsors and friends. This year, the series featured:

- Kevin Page, Parliamentary Budget Officer
- Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages
- Honourable Ed Broadbent
- Robert Fowler, former Canadian diplomat and author of *Season in Hell*

The Alumni Association would like to thank the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada and the Co-operators for sponsoring luncheons this year.

Administration and Governance

Administrative Changes

Joanne Cartwright, who has served with the House of Commons for more than thirty-five years and as PIP Administrator for the past fifteen years, will retire at the end of July 2012. Her departure will mean an important loss in corporate memory and capacity that will be felt by interns, the director, CPSA and all stakeholders.

In anticipation of this eventuality, the House of Commons provided assurances of its continued support and met on a number of occasions with the Programme Director to discuss the transition. As a result of decisions taken following the March 29, 2012, Federal Budget, the House now plans to provide support for PIP through the nomination of a coordinator, to liaise with interns, the director and sponsors, while managing other tasks distributed among other staff members.

Budget Summary

From 2008-09 to 2010-11, the Programme 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 assume additional costs for an increased intern stipend (2008-09), an increased honorarium for the Director (2011-12) and increased travel costs while still projecting a small surplus for 2011-12. In this way, it has added approximately \$30,000 to the PIP Reserve Fund since 2008-09.

However, while the current budget year is not yet complete, it is now expected that the annual balance will be -\$7,000. Significantly increasing costs for the study tour to Nunavut, an unexpected obligation to pay Harmonized Sales Tax on the Director's honorarium (an amount that may or may not be reimbursed by the Canada Revenue Agency) and increasing costs for other study tours and Programme activities will offset the savings that resulted from not holding the Alumni Dinner in 2011-12. Without the Dinner, Programme revenues will be reduced by the full amount of the projected surplus (\$15,000). A decision by the Co-operators, long-time

sponsors of the Programme, to reduce their contribution by \$7,000 accounts – with the other financial adjustments – for the projected shortfall.

Based on the experience of 2011-12, a similar shortfall is expected in 2012-13.

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

Financial Challenges

Although the PIP Reserve Fund now stands at approximately \$150,000, the Programme cannot continue to run annual deficits. Moreover, it has faced increasing difficulty in attracting new sponsors in recent years. Potential new sponsors now frequently question the idiosyncratic sponsorship structure that has evolved over the past forty-two years while current sponsors, such as the Co-operators, have made decisions to limit their contributions to minimum amounts required to remain within their current sponsorship range (referred to as Level I, II or III, these are, in fact, ranges bounded by lower and upper limits).

To address these concerns, attract new sponsors and raise revenues, the Programme – in cooperation with the PIP Advisory Board – undertook a revision of its sponsorship structure in 2011-12.

Advisory Board

The PIP Advisory Board, bringing together representatives of the CPSA, the House of Commons as well as Programme Friends, Sponsors and Alumni, met for the first time on December 3, 2010. At the meeting, the Board was apprised of short, medium and long-term issues facing the Programme. It addressed the short-term issues during the year 2010-11 and made recommendations to the CPSA Board, endorsed on May 18, 2011. It established a Finance Committee to address the medium-term financial pressures on the Programme.

Following consultations with business development experts, the Finance Committee recommended that stakeholders reaffirm their vision of PIP a première legislative internship and, to that end, take steps to ensure that, in the years ahead, it is able to:

- Attract the best candidates
- Deliver an excellent program
- Offer a fair and transparent sponsorship structure
- Engage alumni in support of Programme objectives

To attract the best candidates, the Advisory Board endorsed a recommendation that the interns' stipend should increase in the coming years and that more should be done to ensure broader and more systematic promotion of the Programme. In order to raise the stipend and better promote PIP, and to meet the rising cost of Programme activities, the Advisory Board agreed that PIP should establish a fairer and more transparent sponsorship structure.

Ad hoc Sponsors Sub-Committee

To that end, the Advisory Board established an ad hoc sponsors sub-committee, composed of all sponsor representatives and the Programme Director. It met five times from December 2011 to April 2012. Invitations, agendas and minutes for each meeting were sent to all Programme sponsors. Participation at every meeting included representatives from all three levels of sponsorship. In addition, supplementary consultations were held with all Level III sponsors prior to the final meeting on April 12, 2012.

The sub-committee established the revenue required to meet Programme objectives then dealt systematically with principles underlying a revised sponsorship structure, then issues closely tied to current Level I and II sponsorship and Programme events, before turning to communications issues. It examined issues related to Level III sponsorship and participation in Programme events during its initial meeting and returned to those issues again in its final discussion. In addition, it addressed issues related to transition from the current sponsorship structure to a new one and carefully assessed risks to the Programme throughout that transition.

Following these discussions, the following funding increase, sponsorship structure and proposal for managing change were recommended to the Advisory Board with the unanimous support of the sponsor sub-committee.

These recommendations were, in turn, unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Board on May 25, 2012, and are submitted for approval of the CPSA Board on June 15, 2012.

Funding Increase

A fair, transparent and balanced sponsorship structure is required to secure new sponsors in order to increase the overall budget of the Programme by a minimum of \$60,000 in the coming years.

Sponsorship Structure

The following fundamental principles should be adopted as a basis for the new sponsorship structure:

- A balanced sponsorship structure should encourage a sufficient number of sponsors to provide stability for the Programme while allowing PIP to maintain good working relationships with each sponsor
- PIP should adopt sponsorship levels instead of the current sponsorship ranges
- Clear value, related to sponsors' visibility with Members of Parliament, should be established to distinguish each level
- Fair value should reflect the needs of the Programme as well as an equitable distribution of revenue between levels of sponsorship and between individual sponsors at each level
- At all Programme events, an appropriate level of recognition should be given to the House of Commons and SSHRC (Platinum) and the CPSA, PIAA and Friends providing significant financial support for PIP activities (Silver).

Based on these considerations, the new structure should include:

- Platinum Sponsor: One position (1) (Note: In addition to SSHRC)
\$40,000 + \$10,000 contribution as lead sponsor for Annual Dinner
- Gold Sponsors: Six positions (6)
\$20,000 + \$5,000 contribution as lead sponsor for Programme Event
- Silver Sponsors: Nineteen positions (19)
\$10,000 (invited to all Programme Events)
- Bronze Sponsors: Unlimited positions
\$2,500 (invited to open Programme Events)

This structure will allow PIP to meet or surpass its needs if all positions are filled. It will distribute financial costs fairly between levels of sponsorship (Platinum 23 per cent; Gold 30 per cent,

Silver 47 per cent) and between individual sponsors at each level (Platinum 11.5 per cent; Gold 5 per cent; Silver 2.5 per cent).

In the coming year, there is a reasonable expectation that the structure will result in a manageable (in the short term) \$6,000 decrease in revenues – bringing the projected balance, without new sponsors, to -\$13,000.

Managing Change

In the transition to a new sponsorship structure, PIP should adopt the following principles:

Right of First Refusal

- Give the opportunity for sponsors currently hosting particular events to continue hosting those events
- Give current Level II sponsors an opportunity, ahead of current Level III sponsors, to host Programme events
- Give all current sponsors an opportunity, ahead of any new sponsors, to host Programme events

Timing

- Once the sponsorship structure is established, the Programme should notify sponsors of their options as soon as possible, giving them sufficient time to respond by a fixed date.
- It is understood that sponsors may require a period of up to one year to adjust their contribution to the new structure because of differences between their budget-years and that of the Programme.

The Year Ahead

In the year ahead, the Programme will work closely with current sponsors, friends and alumni, taking advantage of a fairer and more transparent sponsorship structure, to attract new sponsors and increase revenues. It will continue to work through the Advisory Board and its sub-committees to develop the Annual Dinner as a flagship event and an additional source of revenue. At the same time, careful consideration will be given to the possibility of suspending the study tour to Nunavut unless such revenues materialize. In the short term, the top priority will be to pursue additional financial support and ensure a smooth transition to a new Administrator / Coordinator.

Yet, despite these challenges, the year ahead is a promising one. The deep engagement of Members of Parliament, the House of Commons, Programme Sponsors and Alumni has never been more evident than it is now. Nor has it ever been more deeply appreciated.

Moreover, the interest of young Canadians has never been higher at any time in the past ten years: PIP received a record number of applications (133) for 2012-13.

Already, the 2012-13 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. Laura Bennett, Researcher, Council of Canadian Academies

Next year's interns will be:

Melissa Bonga, Toronto, ON

BA (Political Science) University of Ottawa

Claire Boychuk, Montréal, QC

BA (Geography and Chinese) University of North Carolina

Gavin Charles, Halifax, NS

MA (International Relations) London School of Economics; BA (Political Science and History) Dalhousie University

Vincent Hardy, Ottawa, ON

MPhil (Sociology) University of Cambridge; BA (Sociology and Environmental Studies) University of Ottawa

Charlotte Kingston, Calgary, AB

MA (Political Science) University of British Columbia; BSc (Political Science) University of Calgary

Kathryn Martin, Waterloo, ON

MA (History) University of Victoria; BA (History) Queen's University

Melissa Moor, Ottawa, ON

BEd (Primary and Junior Divisions) Queen's University; BSc (Political Science) University of Ottawa

Sean Pierce, Ottawa, ON

MA (Political Studies) Queen's University; BA (Political Studies) Queen's University

Morgan Ring, Toronto, ON

MPhil (Early Modern History) University of Cambridge; BA (History) University of Cambridge

Lauren Walsh-Greene, Halifax, NS

BA (Theatre Studies and Contemporary Studies) University of King's College

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

Another Voyage Begun! Anna Laurence

So far the Hill seems to be a place like no other. While the well wishes of last year's interns, conveyed in Simon Letendre's farewell post, are appreciated I feel now that the metaphor of gently setting sail on a new voyage might well have been replaced with one about getting shot out of a gun. September has now come and gone and the beginning of the Parliamentary Internship Programme has been a whirlwind of excitement and new information. Reflecting back to Sept 6th, the usual nervous energy and excitement of starting something new was present. That excitement has quickly been channelled into organizing, attending meetings, arranging interviews and giving life on the Hill our full attention. What makes this programme so intense? For one, there is simply such a vast array of individuals we have had the good fortune to meet. Journalists, academics, lobbyists, researchers, consultants, librarians, politicians...and of course, don't forget the clerks. The fact that 10 young people over a two-week period can meet with 70 Members of Parliament is incredible. The fact that we met with them in a job interview situation where they were on the hot seat is almost unbelievable. The opportunity to talk with the Honourable Speaker, Sergeant of Arms and Clerk of the House (to name but a few) in the same four-week time span is an honour few can boast.

The Parliamentary Internship Programme is not just about the who's though. What equally contributes to the intensity of this programme is all the insight that has been shared with us. Whether conveyed to us in what they said or how they said it, everyone we have met with has taught us something. From the most detailed parliamentary procedure to how to write a speech with a hook; from opinions on Canada's political landscape covering everything from mergers to majorities to just where and how one sleeps when the House sits continuously for three days. The candour of our meetings has been most impressive.

PIP is not all work and no play though. The final piece in the PIP programme intensity trifecta has to be the bonding. So far some of the most important information for maximizing our enjoyment of the programme, as well as life more generally has been shared with us by our intern alumni. What started with a conference room meeting quickly became beers on Sparks street and then routine bump-ins with the friendly face of Brad Vis as we got to know our way around the place. The camaraderie of our group has also grown quickly and been extremely rewarding...though our inside jokes may make our gang quickly insufferable to those stuck in an elevator with us.

Amidst this hectic schedule of work and socializing what's sunk in the most? Some might think that it's the unique access. The unique chances we will have as non-partisan members of the Hill are sure to be exciting. More striking for me though is a message that quickly became recurring, despite the diversity of our meetings, and that is to keep an open mind and take every opportunity available. The ability to capitalize on the opportunities PIP affords is contingent on our ability to accept every chance as worth taking. It's something one knows in theory but I am just beginning to truly appreciate. It is, therefore, with that advice in mind that I have the pleasure of kicking off the 2011-2012 blog and welcoming this year's readers as we chronicle another exciting year of adventure on the Hill!