

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JUNE 2025

DR. PETER P. CONSTANTINOU



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The 2024-2025 year marks the 49th anniversary of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). This unique initiative is a valued partnership between the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association. We extend our sincere thanks to the Honourable Ted Arnott, the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Trevor Day, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and the Honourable Donna Skelly, the newly appointed Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as well as the Board of Internal Economy for their continued and steadfast support.

A heartfelt thank you as well to Silvina Danesi, Tim Howard, and Chimène N. Woktcheu for their outstanding work and dedication in ensuring OLIP's success year after year.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

I am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our Administrative Team. Coordinators Julia Douglas and Nick Ruderman, Programme Manager Elisa Natarelli, and Volunteer Archivist Richard Sage each contribute to the success of the Programme.

At the end of June, we bid farewell to Julia Douglas, who has supported OLIP for three cohorts. We are so grateful to Julia for all she did for the Programme, she will be very missed. Over the past several months, she has been working closely with Tanzima Khan, who will be taking over the role. Tanzima is a Committee Clerk in the Procedural Services Branch of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and has been with the Assembly since June 2014. As part of her role, Tanzima provides confidential procedural advice to Members and supports all administrative work of the Committees she Clerks. In addition to this, Tanzima serves the House as a Table Rotation Clerk, where she works closely with the Table Officers, the Speaker and Members. Welcome, Tanzima!

MPP PLACEMENTS (Second Term)

We are deeply grateful to the MPPs who welcome our interns into their offices. Each placement offers a unique and invaluable learning experience, and we sincerely thank them for their generosity and mentorship. For the Second Term MPP Placements (April–June), interns had the opportunity to work with the following members:

Alexander Salton: MPP Andrew Dowie (PC)
Annie Dowd: MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam (NDP)
Ayesha Ali: MPP Doly Begum (NDP)
Caitlin Arizala: MPP Steve Pinsonneault (PC)
James Liao: MPP Rudy Cuzzetto (PC)
Madeline Ritter: MPP Sol Mamakwa (NDP)



Massimo Rigatto: MPP France Gélinas (NDP)
Megan Ryan-Lloyd: MPP Chandra Pasma (NDP)
Nika Lennox: MPP Chris Glover (NDP)
Sayyidah Jaffer: MPP Steve Clark (PC)

STUDY TOURS



OLIP's Study Tours generate tremendous interest and enthusiasm within the cohort, and we have been delighted to hear about the insights they have gained so far and eagerly anticipate what's still ahead. A heartfelt thank you to all our colleagues in each host city for their warm hospitality and for helping to organize such meaningful meetings and experiences for our interns.

To-date, the interns have attended two study tours, with two more upcoming in June:

November 2024: Quebec City, Quebec and Ottawa, Ontario
February 2025: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
June 2025: Cardiff & London, United Kingdom

In addition to our own study tours, we were thrilled to welcome our colleagues from the Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP), the British Columbia Legislative Internship Program, and the Quebec Legislature Internship Programme.

PARTNERSHIPS

OLIP would not be what it is today without the support of our valued partners. Over the years, we have built a remarkable network of champions whose financial contributions and generosity in welcoming our interns into their circles have been invaluable.

This year, our Sponsorship Committee interns, James Liao and Alexander Salton, dedicated themselves to securing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones — helping to ensure OLIP's continued success and sustainability. Their thoughtful stewardship and hard work have been greatly appreciated.





So far this year, we secured an additional \$6,000 in revenue through new partnerships, as well as through re-engaging returning partners.

New Partners:

CentreCourt - \$2,500

Sussex Strategies - \$2,500

Returned Partners:

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects - \$1,000

OLIP's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that preliminary conversations are underway to mark a very special milestone — OLIP's 50th anniversary. As we approach this significant moment in the Programme's history, we're beginning to connect with a small group of alumni to assist in planning a commemorative event worthy of this occasion. While details are still in the early stages, we look forward to sharing more information in the coming months and welcoming our OLIP community to be part of the celebration.

INCOMING COHORT

This September, we will welcome another ten bright individuals to Queen's Park as the 50th OLIP cohort. 80% of the incoming cohort holds a degree in Political Science, Political Philosophy, or Public Policy. We will be welcoming nine interns from Ontario, and one intern from British Columbia.

Bianca Morelli holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University, where she specialized in Law, Justice, and Society, and Sociology of Social Justice and Inequality. Bianca is from Toronto, Ontario.

David Landry holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science (Honours) from McMaster University, specializing in Arts and Science. He also completed an exchange in Political Science at Sciences Po Lille University. David is from Hamilton, Ontario.

Emily Shi holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto (St. George), with a double major in Criminology and Sociolegal Studies and Political Science, and a minor in Contemporary Asian Studies. Emily is from Richmond, British Columbia.

Evelyne Parry holds a BSc (Joint Honours) in International Relations and History from The London School of Economics and Political Science. She also holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from LSE's School of Public Policy, and a Master of Global Affairs (MGA) from the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, with a double emphasis in Justice and Human Rights, and Global Policy. Evelyne is from Toronto, Ontario.



Giuliana Iacobucci holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Queen's University, where she studied Political Studies. Giuliana is from Scarborough, Ontario.

Geneva Fuina holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from Western University, where she studied Political Science. Geneva is from Markham, Ontario.

Keana Caverio holds a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton University, with a concentration in Transnational Law and Human Rights and a minor in Religious Studies. Keana is from Brampton, Ontario.

Kewan Perera holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from McMaster University, where he studied Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law. He also holds a Master of Arts in Public Management, with a focus on Public Policy and Economics, from Johns Hopkins University. Kewan is from Mississauga, Ontario.

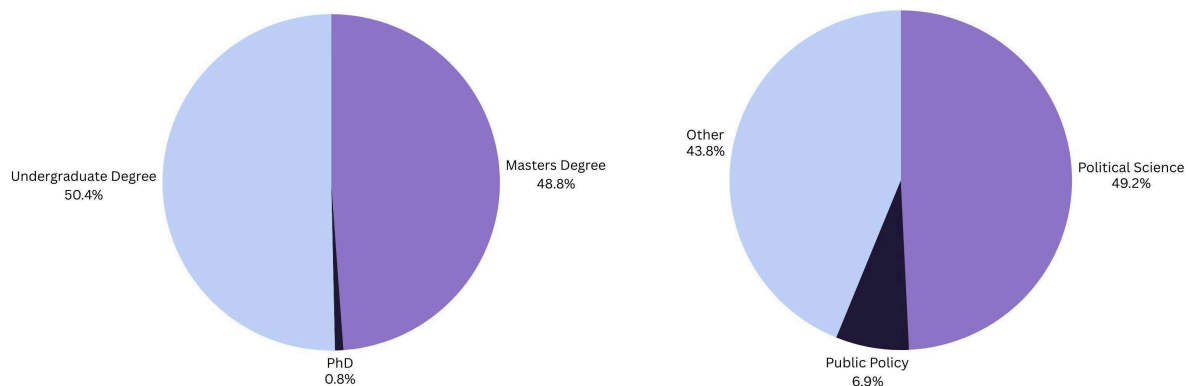
Noor Akrawi holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science from McMaster University. Noor is from Oakville, Ontario.

Shakthi Suthakaran holds a Master's Degree in Political Studies, with a concentration in Comparative Politics, from Queen's University. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Toronto. Shakthi is from Toronto, Ontario.

RECRUITMENT OUTCOMES

We were pleased to receive **130** applications from highly qualified applicants this year. 92% of our applicants were from Ontario, with the remaining 8% representing British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta. Among this group, 60% identified as a member of a racialized group, and 80% of applicants speak more than one language.

50% of our applicants hold a post-secondary degree, with 56% of applicants studying either Political Science or Public Policy:





MEETINGS

The interns have programmed a robust and educational suite of meetings. The following list reflects the meetings this cohort has planned to-date or attended from February 1, 2025 - June 19, 2025.

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Partners

Achev

AEFO

Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario (AMAPCEO)

Beef Farmers of Ontario

Bombardier

Bruce Power

Canadian Automobile Association

Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association

Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association

Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council

CentreCourt

CIBC

Canadian Media Producers Association

Counsel of Ontario Universities

Counsel Public Affairs

Hill and Knowlton Strategies

Loblaws

Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario

Noviscend

Public Affairs Association of Canada

Ontario Catholic Teachers Association

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association

Ontario Nurses Association

Ontario Power Generation

Ontario Secondary Schools Teacher Foundation

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance

Provoke Public Relations

RBC

Santis Health

OLIP Alumni

Graham White

Habon Ali

Impact Public Affairs



Mitchel Davidson
Patrick Sackville
Shilbee Kim

Previous Premiers

Bob Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York

Provincial Level

Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario.
Michele DiEmanuele, Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council for the government of Ontario
MPP Marit Stiles, Leader of the New Democratic Party
MPP Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party

Municipal Level

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Chris Moise, City of Toronto Councillor
Olivia Chow, Mayor of the City of Toronto
Stephen Del Duca, Mayor of the City of Vaughan

Federal Level

Amanda Colina (StatsCan)

Journalists

CBC Site Visit
Colin D'Mello, Queen's Park Bureau Chief, Global News Host
Ginella Massa, Journalist, CityNews
Sabrina Nanji, Founder and Journalist, Queen's Park Observer

Academics

Professor, Alan Taylor, University of Virginia, Department of History
Professor David Eidelman, McGill University, Department of Medicine
Professor Dennis Pilon, York University, Department of Politics
Professor Kerry Scot, York University, School of Global Health

Additional Meetings

Bonnie Lysyk, Former Auditor General of Ontario
Jillian Hanson, Author
Katie Preiss, Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations, Telus
Khawar Nasim, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Ontario
Ontario Arts Council



Peter MacLeod, Co-founder and Principal of Mass LBP

Tim Murphy, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Affairs Officer, Aecon
The Neighbourhood Group

CONCLUSION

We look forward to sending our current cohort off to begin the exciting next chapter of their careers, and welcome our new cohort this September. This Programme continues to be a success because of the many people who dedicate their time, expertise, and support.