



ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MAY 2026

DR. PETER P. CONSTANTINOU



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The 2025-2026 Parliamentary calendar marks the 50th anniversary of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. OLIP is a special partnership between the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association. Many thanks go to both Hon. Donna Skelly, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Trevor Day, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, along with the Board of Internal Economy for their unwavering support of the Programme.

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. I also remain grateful to the CPSA Board of Directors for your continued support of our Programme.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

I would like to acknowledge the strong contributions of OLIP's administrative team this year. Our Coordinators, Tanzima Khan and Nick Ruderman, have quickly established themselves as reliable and capable leaders, playing a key role in maintaining the Programme's effectiveness and responsiveness. Elisa Natarelli continues to provide steady leadership as Programme Manager, ensuring continuity and alignment across all areas of work.

I would also like to recognize Richard Sage for his ongoing commitment, particularly his support for the 50th anniversary and his engagement with interns.

MPP PLACEMENTS (Second Term)

We extend our sincere appreciation to the MPPs who host OLIP interns in their offices. Their willingness to provide hands-on experience and mentorship is fundamental to the Programme's impact. During the second-term placements (April–June), interns were placed with the following Members:

Bianca Morelli - MPP Peggy Sattler (NDP)
David Landry - MPP John Vanthof (NDP)
Emily Shi - MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam (NDP)
Eve Parry - MPP Sol Mamakwa (NDP)
Geneva Fuina - MPP John Fraser (OLP)
Giulia Iacobucci - MPP Matthew Rae (PC)
Keana Caverio - MPP Andrew Dowie (PC)
Kewan Perera - MPP Rudy Cuzzetto (PC)
Noor Akrawi - MPP Monica Ciriello (PC)
Shakthi Suthakaran - MPP Steve Clark (PC)



STUDY TOURS

Study Tours continue to be a highlight of the OLIP experience, offering interns valuable exposure and perspective beyond Queen's Park. We extend our sincere thanks to our partners in each host city for their collaboration, hospitality, and for curating such impactful programming.

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

November 2025: Ottawa, Ontario

March 2026: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

June 2026: Ottawa, Ontario (CPSA Conference)

June 2026: Belfast, Northern Ireland & 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF QUEENS PARK INSIDER



Queen's Park Insider is the official magazine of OLIP. Produced by interns, the magazine blends thoughtful reflections, interviews, and firsthand accounts of legislative work with profiles of political leaders, alumni, and partners. This special 50th anniversary edition celebrates five decades of OLIP's impact, highlighting its role in shaping future leaders through experiential learning. Both a chronicle and a tribute, the magazine captures the spirit of curiosity, non-partisanship, and public service that defines the OLIP experience.

[You can read the magazine by clicking here.](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

OLIP's continued success is anchored in a strong and diverse network of partners whose support enables the Programme to deliver a high-quality experience for our interns. These partnerships not only provide essential financial support, but also expand access to professional networks, private sector insights, and hands-on experiences that enrich the cohort.



We are pleased to report that, to date, OLIP has secured an additional \$32,500 in new revenue through the establishment of the following partnerships:

Canadian Beverage Association – \$20,000

Graham Management Services – \$10,000

Innovative Medicines Canada – \$2,500

We are grateful for their support and look forward to building and sustaining these relationships in the years ahead.

INCOMING COHORT

This September, we will welcome another ten bright individuals to Queen's Park as the 51st OLIP cohort. 70% of the incoming cohort holds a degree in Political Science, Political Philosophy, or Public Policy. While they have engaged in studies around the world and across the country, all 10 interns are originally from Ontario.

Bogdana Torbina holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto, specializing in Political Science. She also holds a Masters Degree from the University of Toronto in European and Eurasian Studies. Bogdana is from Toronto, Ontario.

David Saldanha holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from McMaster University, specializing in Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law, with a minor in Community Engagement. David is from Mississauga, Ontario.

Elijah Aedo-Castillo holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from McGill University, specializing in History with a minor in Philosophy. Elijah is from Toronto, Ontario.

Emelia Grossman holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science (Honours) from McMaster University. Emelia is from Toronto, Ontario.

Isabella O'Brien holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern California, specializing in Political Science. She also holds a Masters of Philosophy from the University of Oxford in Politics (Comparative Government). Isabella is from Paris, Ontario.

Ishvita Sharma holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from York University, specializing in Public Administration. Ishvita is from Toronto, Ontario.

Jacob Colatosti holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto, specializing in Public Policy & International Relations. Jacob is from Hamilton, Ontario.



Jayden Cote holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Guelph specializing in Government, Economics, and Management. He also holds a Masters of Science from the University of Guelph in Rural Planning and Development. Jayden is from Guelph, Ontario.

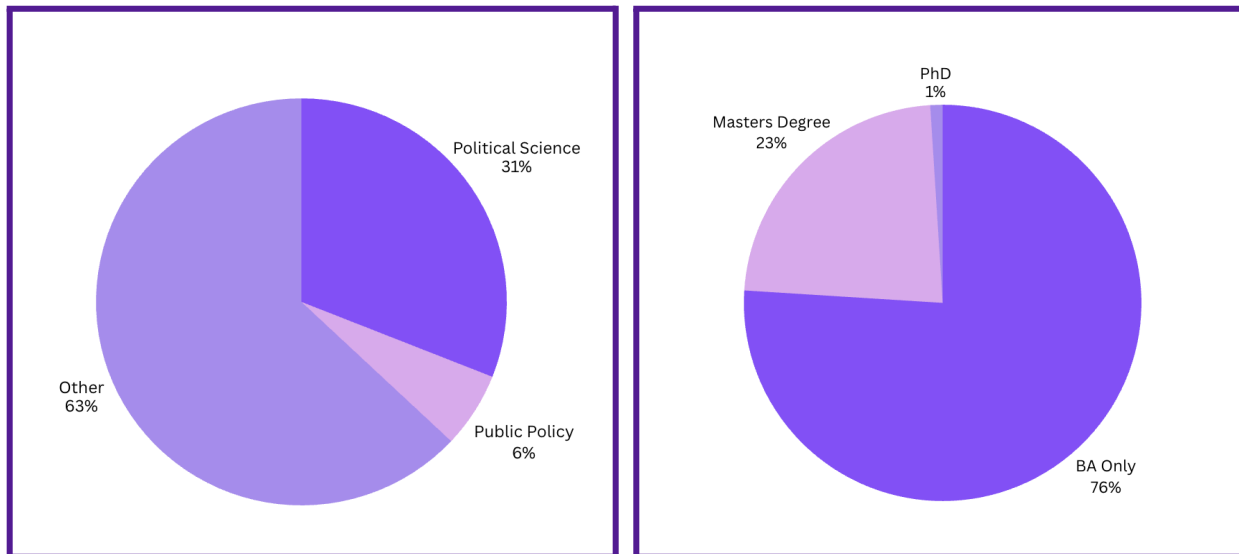
Nicholas Argyris Arruda holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto, with a major in History, and a double minor in Political Science and European Affairs. He also holds a Master of Science from the London School of Economics, specializing in European and International Politics and Policy. Nicholas is from Mississauga, Ontario.

Sudipta Verma holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) from the University of Ottawa, specializing in Public Administration and Political Science. Sudipta is from Kleinburg, Ontario.

RECRUITMENT OUTCOMES

We were pleased to receive **183** applications from highly qualified applicants this year. **85%** of our applicants were from Ontario, with the remaining 15% representing Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

24% of our applicants hold a Masters degree or PhD, and **36%** of applicants studied 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, 2026 - June 19, 2026.

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Partners

Bruce Power
Bombardier
Canadian Beverage Association
CIBC
Counsel of Ontario Universities
The Co-operators
Churchill Society of Ontario
Enbridge
Innovative Medicines Canada
Loblaws
Noviscend
Ontario Association of Landscape Architects
Ontario Community Newspaper Association
Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association
Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System
Ontario Nuclear Waste Management Organization
Ontario Nurses Association
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers
Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance
Santis Health

OLIP Alumni

Graham White
Kathleen Monk
Mich Davidson
Sky Shi

Previous Premiers

Bob Rae



Provincial Level

Paul Dubé, Ombudsman

Additional Meetings

Burson Global

Cam Guthrie, Mayor of Guelph

Christine McMillan and Briar Knott, Crestview Strategies

Fouzia Younis, British Consul General in Toronto

Kim Wright, Wright Strategies

Leah Levac, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, University of Guelph

Linda Hasenfratz, CEO, Linamar

Robert Benzie, Queen's Park Bureau Chief for the Toronto Star

Tim Hudak, Former Member of Provincial Parliament

Samara Centre for Democracy

Sharon Bollenbach, Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026

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.