

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

Report 2004-2005

Henry Jacek, Academic Director

1. Introduction

I have many people to thank for their advice, help and suggestions in my first year as Academic Director of the OLIP. To begin with, a great deal of the work and good advice I received this past year came from Eithne Whaley, our Programme Assistant. Eithne hails from England, and has an honours B.A. in Politics from the University of Essex. Eithne worked in the House of Commons for two different MPs as a research assistant and was also an Intern there.

On our management committee, I was very fortunate to have Ray McLellan from Legislative Research who retired in March of this year after ten years of dedicated service to the Programme. He is succeeded by Lorraine Luski, a former Intern. Tonia Grannum from the Committee's branch of the Clerk's office and her staff have been extraordinarily helpful. My immediate predecessor, Dr. Greg Inwood of Ryerson gave freely of his time in August and September and made my transition into the position easier than I thought it would be. Previous Directors, Bob Williams and Graham White gave me good advice as I took over the job. My McMaster colleague, Catherine Frost, a former intern, gave me good advice continually and once again devoted a good deal of time to the intern selection process.

I did not have a voice in choosing the current Interns (see biographies below) but I must thank the 2004 selection committee for doing an outstanding job. Just about every Friday afternoon, I meet with the Interns to discuss administrative and academic concerns. To sum up my experience with them, I can say that Fridays were the highlight of my week. I will be truly saddened to see them leave at the end of this month.

2. Intern Educational Activities

Although working for two MPPs is the core of the Programme, the educational function is just as important. The September orientation is just the beginning. Meetings with important Parliamentary Officers top the list of important educational activities. Key meetings were with the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Complementing these were meetings with the Auditor General, the Environmental Commissioner, the Ombudsman, the Assistant Chief Election Officer and the Assistant Information and Privacy Commissioner. In addition, there were a whole host of other officials who shared information on the workings of the Legislative Assembly with the Interns and myself. These included many officials from the Committee's Branch, the Legislative Library, the Chief Legislative Counsel, the Sergeant-At-Arms, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Broadcasting and Recording Services, the Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services.

Outside of Queen's Park, many of our sponsors and potential sponsors not only gave a considerable amount of time to the Interns and shared their perspectives on current Ontario policy issues, but also often provided food and other refreshments at lunches and receptions. Well known journalists also made time for the interns. These included Ian Urquhart of the Toronto Star, Graham Richardson and Robert Fisher, both former hosts of Focus Ontario on Global TV, Steve Paiken of TVO, Christina Blizzard from the Toronto Sun and Murray Campbell of the Globe and Mail. The Interns were also impressed with their meetings with former Premiers, Bill Davis and Bob Rae.

In December, the Interns travelled to Quebec City and Ottawa. They were grateful to meet with the former Premier and present Parti Québécois leader, Bernard Landry and other Quebec MNAs. In Ottawa, the Interns had excellent meetings with among other people, NDP MP David Christopherson, a former Ontario cabinet minister, the Clerk and Speaker of the House of Commons and journalist John Ibbitson.

In March, the Interns went to Edmonton and Yellowknife where they met with a variety of government, media and association officers. In Edmonton, the Interns met with a number of legislators and administrative/legislative staff. Important highlights were meetings with the Clerk of the House, the Sergeant-At-Arms, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Kevin Taft and the Minister for Finance and Deputy Premier, Shirley McClellan. The two most memorable meetings were with the Speaker, Ken Kowalski and the Minister of Community Development, Gary Mar. Mr Mar not only gave an important perspective on Alberta public policy goals, but he also treated the Interns to a fine Chinese dinner. Given the meagre per diem of the Interns, the dinner was greatly appreciated. In Yellowknife, Clerk Tim Mercer once again gave freely of his time as did Doug Schauerte, NWT Assembly Table Clerk. The latter

pleased the Interns with a lunch at the NWT's museum. Also the Interns met Glen McLean, Chief Electoral Officer and the Speaker of the Assembly Paul Delorey. Other visits were with Sandy Lee, MLA for Range Lake, Mike Bryant, the editor of the Yellowknifer, the local newspaper, and the Mayor of Yellowknife, Gordon Van Tighem. The trip closed with a midnight view of the dancing green lights of the Legendary Northern Lights.

For the rest of the year, educational activities focused on their paper presentations at these meetings in London, Ontario and the highlight of their educational year, the trip to the mother of Parliaments at Westminster. The educational value of these meetings cannot be overstated. Many of these meetings have led to research papers. I must add that the educational experiences have benefited greatly the Academic Director as well.

3. Fundraising

This has been the most time consuming of my activities. At the time of writing this report, April 14th, we surpassed last year's total. There are a number of reasons for this. At least a couple of cheques arrived after July 1st, invoices were processed earlier this year and the interns were kept busy visiting as a group our past and present sponsors. Not surprisingly, the people we visited were impressed by the bright, hard-working interns and these visits provided an incentive for sponsorship renewal. Some sponsors even dramatically increased their donation as a result. These sponsorships are crucial if the educational component of the Programme is to be maintained.

4. MPP Placements

The interns began their autumn placements in early October and their Spring placements towards the end of February. Fortunately many MPPs wanted an Intern so the Interns had the ability to secure two one term internships with the potential for a major learning experience. As the Interns, present and past would after say, the experience is amazing.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNS MPP PLACEMENTS - 2004-2005

	1st Term <i>October 18, 2004 – February 18, 2005</i>	2nd Term <i>February 21, 2005 - June 17, 2005</i>
Timothy Culbert B.A. Saint Mary's University M.A. Wilfred Laurier University	John Baird (PC)	Michael Gravelle (LIB)
Nicola Hepburn B.A. McMaster University M.A. McMaster University	Linda Jeffrey (LIB)	Norm Miller (PC)
Audrey Lemieux B.A. University of Guelph M.A. University of Guelph	John O'Toole (PC)	Donna Cansfield (LIB)
Adam McDonald B.A. McMaster University M.A. University of Waterloo	Dave Levac (LIB)	Tim Hudak (PC)
Kaila Mintz B.A. York University	Marilyn Churley (NDP)	Jean-Marc Lalonde (LIB)
Ben Rossiter B.A. Trent University	Kevin Flynn (LIB)	Michael Prue (NDP)
Rebecca Sciarra B.A. McMaster University	Richard Patten (LIB)	Laurie Scott (PC)
Beki Scott B.A. Carleton University	Jim Wilson (PC)	Monique Smith (LIB)

5. Selection

OLIP received 51 completed applications for 2005. At the time of writing, the five person selection committee has selected 24 applicants for interviews out of an outstanding applicant pool. We thank all of you who have promoted our Programme to graduating students.

6. Intern Biographies

Timothy Culbert is a native of Woodstock, New Brunswick. He finished his undergraduate degree (BA) at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2003, where he received a major in Political Science and a minor in Philosophy, and worked as a teaching and research assistant. After graduating from Saint Mary's, Tim attended and finished a Master of Arts degree in Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, focusing on Canadian foreign policy and human rights, questioning the "friendly Canadian myth." Outside of his studies and involvement in a wide range of political activities, Tim enjoys playing the guitar and clarinet, reading and working out at the gym. This year, Tim has participated in conferences for the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, and the Canada Study of Parliament Group, in Calgary and Ottawa, respectively. He recently attended a Summer Course at the School of Human Rights Research in the Netherlands and Belgium, a joint research institute involving the law faculties of a number of universities.

Nicola Hepburn was born in Hamilton, Ontario, though she has spent sixteen of her formative years living in Nassau, Bahamas. In 1998, Nicola earned an entrance scholarship to McMaster University. During her fourth year, she worked as a teaching assistant for the Sociology department, and graduated summa cum laude with combined honours in Political Science and Sociology. After graduation, Nicola worked for a year at the Main Branch of Scotiabank (Bahamas) Ltd. Following this, she earned an entrance scholarship and teaching assistantship to McMaster and enrolled into the Public Policy and Administration Master of Arts program. Her research interests include Canadian politics, public policy and administration. Nicola has been active in Caribbean-related issues and clubs and has participated in initiatives for providing better treatment and services for persons with cerebral palsy. She is a published poet and enjoys listening to music, staying fit and reading.

Audrey Lemieux is a graduate from the University of Guelph and holds an Honours BA in Criminal Justice and Public Policy, and an MA in Public Administration and Public Policy. Her research interests include gender issues, intergovernmental relations, national security and intelligence, public administration and public policy. Audrey spent the past four summers working for municipal government in York Region, and held teaching assistantships in the areas of public administration and public policy. Most recently she worked as a research assistant in the area of comparative taxation policy. Aside from politics, Audrey enjoys art, music, photography and athletics, particularly tennis and soccer.

Adam McDonald holds a B.A. (Hons) in Political Science and History from McMaster University and recently completed an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Waterloo. His Master's thesis explored the ways in which the provinces fund and govern Canada's blood supply. Adam's broader research interests include examining Canadian separatist movements, federalism, and intergovernmental relations. Adam comes to OLIP from Canadian Blood Services, where he worked to put himself through school, first in Computer Services and then in Quality Systems. His interests include politics, music, camping, reading, and Canadian football. When not found with his nose in a book, Adam can most often be found at Ivor Wynne Stadium rooting for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Kaila Mintz is an island girl from Corner Brook, Newfoundland. A travel enthusiast, she attended Pearson College near Victoria, BC, before attending Glendon College, York University's bilingual campus, in Toronto. There, she obtained her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies, and achieved a Certificate of Bilingual Excellence. Her interest in politics and policy grew from inspiring courses in public administration and policy. At Glendon, Kaila actively participated in campus life, serving as a Residence Don, as member of the Faculty Council and Student Union, as a keen participant of the women's soccer team and as co-founder of the Alpine Club, among others. She sits on the Board of Tempus International, a youth-oriented International development and education organization she helped create. Furthermore, having worked at the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, she enjoys exploring the relationship between the non-profit sector and others in society. In her spare time, Kaila enjoys being active, especially in nature, cooking and eating, exploring new parts of the world, and laughing.

Ben Rossiter finished his Honours B.A. at Trent University, majoring in Political Studies with a minor in Cultural Studies. While at Trent, Ben's main areas of study were Canadian and global political economy,

with an emphasis on issues surrounding international finance and monetary policy. English literature was another area of interest, whenever he could fit it into his schedule. For the past six years, Ben has spent his summers working within the City of Toronto hostel system at a harm reduction shelter for homeless men. He has experience organizing around a variety of social and political issues, but tempers this with a near-fanatical devotion to the Toronto Raptors. In his free time, Ben enjoys reading, travelling, live music and pick-up games of basketball and ultimate Frisbee. Recently, Ben finished a five-week course in Riviere-du-Loup, improving his French language skills.

Rebecca Sciarra is a recent graduate from McMaster University. She completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts in May 2004, with a major in Political Science and a minor in English Literature. During her undergraduate career, Rebecca focused upon comparative politics, with a particular emphasis on the numerical representation of women in legislative assemblies and the relationship between political party ideologies and theoretical conceptions of representation. Rebecca has deferred entry into a Master of Arts program to participate in the 2004-2005 Ontario Legislative Internship Program. Rebecca has lived in Hamilton for the past four years but has returned home to Toronto this past fall. During high school Rebecca worked as a summer student at the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat organizing land claim resources and during university was employed as an administrative assistant at McMaster University's School of Graduate Studies. This past summer, Rebecca spent most of her time overseas in Poland, Italy, Japan, and teaching English in South Korea. Outside of her studies, Rebecca enjoys reading, music, film, biking, and cooking.

Beki Scott is originally from London Ontario but has been living in Ottawa for the past 5 years. She recently graduated from Carleton University with a degree in Political Science, Business Minor and received High Honours. Beki has always been interested in developing her own and encouraging others leadership abilities and during her time at Carleton she developed and implemented a leadership program for her fellow students. She also spent many hours serving as a mentor and resource to new students. Beki is a fitness instructor and has been leading various types of classes for over 5 years. She particularly enjoys working with older adults and seniors and volunteers helping those who have suffered strokes improve their motor capabilities. She is an avid runner and is looking forward to finding some great routes in Toronto.