

# Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

## Director's Report 2010-2011

Dr Henry Jacek, Academic Director

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### **Introduction**

This is my seventh 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 eighth 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 seventh year as a programme Coordinator. Lorraine, a Research Officer with Research and Information Services, is a former intern herself from the 1983-1983 year. Anne is Deputy Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research and is now completing her fourth 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 1990-1991.

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 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 third year of our ten intern cohort. While we are 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 our educational activities. The intern experience begins with the September orientation. Most exciting for the interns are meetings with the three party leaders, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Leader of the Official Opposition Tim Hudak and Leader of the Third Party, Andrea Horwath.

In order of our interns to understand the practises of the Legislature, the key Assembly staff provide a wealth of information. At the top of the list is Clerk Deborah Deller. Her meeting with the interns is supplemented by meetings with Deputy Clerk Todd Decker, Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research

Lisa Freedman, Clerk of Committees Tonia Grannum, a former OLIP coordinator, and Sergeant-At-Arms Dennis Clark.

Two very important individuals who meet with the interns are his Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, David Onley and the Speaker, Steve Peters, a great supporter of the Programme. Also exciting for the interns are the meetings with the Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. These include Auditor General Jim McCarter, Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller, Ombudsman Andre Marin, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Loren Wells, Information and Privacy Commissioner Dr. Ann Cavoukian and Assistant Commissioners Ken Anderson and Brian Beamish.

A special group of people who impart a great wealth of information and wisdom to the interns are OLIP's Honorary Interns. These include Director of Broadcast and Recording Service Arleigh Holder, Toronto Star columnist Jim Coyle, CBC Radio Producer and Newsreader Robert Fisher, Graham Murray of G.P. Murray Research Limited and Supervisor, Circulation and News Services, Legislative Library Toni Ariganello.

Alumni also help to introduce the new interns to Ontario legislative life. We owe special thanks to the Community Manager of the Ontario Government (Cabinet Office) Meghan Warby, Chief of Staff to the Premier Christ Morley, Senior Policy Advisor (Mining) to the Minister of Northern Development, Mining and Forestry Jon Feairs, Advisor on Legislative Affairs and Issues Manager to the Minister of Northern Development, Mining and Forestry Leslie de Muelles, 2009-2010 interns Paul Dilanni, Matthew Gray, Aviva Levy and Jonathan Trentadue, Special Advisor (Issues and Policy) to NDP Leader Andrea Horwath Dan O'Brien and Information and Research Coordinator (The Cabinet Office) Emma Stanley-Cochrane.

During orientation many of our sponsors meet with interns. These include Ryan Clarke of Advocacy Solutions, Chris May of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, Ted Wigdor of the Certified General Accountants of Ontario, Craig Brockwell of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Dr. Alex Barron of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, Mark Smithyes of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Cheryl Fullerton of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, Kathleen Waters of LawPRO, Sheena Weir of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Ralph Palumbo of the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Matthew Thornton (OLIP Alumni) of the Ontario Real Estate Association.

## **Intern Educational Activities away from the Legislative Assembly**

A great deal of intern education occurs away from the Legislative Assembly, the interns have already had great visits with the government and legislative officials in Ottawa, Quebec City and the Northwest Territories. In Ottawa, the interns met with Senator Bob Runciman, a former Ontario MPP and cabinet minister, MP Mike Chong, Deputy NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, former Premier Bob Rae, House of Commons Speaker Milliken, Deputy Clerk Marc Bosc of the House of Commons, Deputy Auditor General John Wiersema, Associate Secretary to the Cabinet and Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Janice Charette and Principal Clerk to the Senate Charles Robert.

During the intern visit to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in February, the interns met with the Honourable George Tuccari, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Floyd Roland and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Paul Delorey. Interesting talks on the governance process were provided by Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Alan Cash, Secretary to Cabinet. The interns also learned about aboriginal affairs and intergovernmental relations, and they learned about municipal affairs from his Worship, Mayor Gordon Van Tigham of Yellowknife.

For the remainder of the year, the educational activities will focus on the intern research papers. The highlight of the intern educational experience is the week-long meetings with government and parliamentary officials in Westminster at the end of June. In the recent past, the interns have met with the past cabinet ministers from the Major, Blair and Brown governments. The educational value of these meetings cannot be overstated. Usually, the most exciting meetings occur at 10 Downing Street before a tour of the British Prime Minister's residence. Also, important are the chief constitutional officers at the Wales Office, Gwydyr House, at the Northern Ireland Office, 11 Millbank and the Scotland Office, Dover House. We also meet with Canadian Officials at the Canadian High Commission, as well as CBC and BBC journalists such as Managing Editor Ann MacMillan. This year, the interns look forward to the Canada Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square.

## **Fundraising**

By and far, this activity consumes most of my time and energy. While a few sponsors make timely payments most require numerous follow-up communications from Eithne Whaley 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 two lead sponsors, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario and Vale. A Lead Sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$10,000 or more per year. We are also pleased to announce that Barrick Gold and Royal Bank Canada are new sponsors.

## **MPP Placements**

The interns began their first term placements on October 12<sup>th</sup> and their second placements on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Listed below in this report is this year's placements and intern biographies. We are grateful to the twenty MPPs who provide a major learning experience for the interns. Over 40 MPPs expressed an interest in participating in this year's programme. There is nothing more pleasing than watching these bright, well educated young adults learn so much, so quickly, over the course of the ten months. They arrive in September knowing very little about the legislative process. Yet by the end of June, the interns seem to know everything and everybody. In the latter half of their internship, they teach me more than I can teach them.

## Intern Placements

	<b>October – February Placement</b>	<b>February – June Placement</b>
Bryan Bossin	Ernie Hardeman (PC)	Yasir Naqvi (LIB)
Melissa Cernigoy	Gilles Bisson (NDP)	Mike Colle (LIB)
Natalie Desimini	Jean Marc Lalonde (LIB)	Christine Elliot (PC)
Thomas Maidwell	Steve Clark (PC)	Kevin Flynn (LIB)
Katherine Preiss	Donna Cansfield (LIB)	Bob Bailey (PC)
Erica Rayment	Elizabeth Witmer (PC)	Khalil Ramal (LIB)
Michael Smith	Dave Levac (LIB)	John Yakabuski (PC)
Charles Thompson	Helena Jaczek (LIB)	John O’Toole (PC)
Sasha Tregobov	Rosario Marchese (NDP)	Greg Sorbara (LIB)
Lisa Marie Williams	Ted McMeekin (LIB)	Howard Hampton (NDP)