

**Ontario Legislature Internship Programme**  
**Directors Report 2012-13**  
**Henry J. Jacek, Academic Director**

**Introduction**

This is my ninth 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 tenth year with the Programme.

Also in our management team are two excellent employees of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, coordinators Lorraine Luski and William Short. Lorraine is now in her ninth and final year as a Programme Coordinator. Lorraine, a Research Officer with Research & Informational Services is a former intern herself from the 1983-84 year. Will Short is the Legislature's Committee Clerk for two Standing Committees, Public Accounts and Justice Policy. Finally, I thank Dr. Karen Murray, an Associate Professor of Political Science at York University, for her help in the intern selection process. Karen was an intern in 1993-94.

Every Friday, the management team has a two-hour meeting with the ten interns. I think I can speak for all of us and say that 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.

**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 OLIP educational activities. The intern experience begins with the September orientation. A highlight for the new interns is the schedule of meetings with the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. This year, the interns enjoyed meeting with the Environment Commissioner Gord Miller, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Irwin Elman, Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Ombudsman Andre Marin, Chief and Deputy Electoral Officers Greg Essensa and Loren Wells and Auditor Jum McCarter.

While the meetings with the independent officers were similar to last year, many others were unique. In the middle of September, the interns met then premier Dalton McGuinty in the Cabinet Room. A few weeks later, Mr. McGuinty resigned as Premier and prorogued the Legislature, all on the very first day of the first term placements.

The interns did have, though, a fairly normal September orientation, although with some new experiences. I would like to thank the Legislative Assembly officials and staff, sponsors, alumni and friends of the programme for making themselves available to the interns during the September orientation. Sponsors who took part in the orientation include Ipsos Canada, the Certified General

Accountants of Ontario, Advocacy Solutions, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and the Royal Bank of Canada. I thank them all for their continuing support of the Programme.

As usual, many of the members of the Assembly staff gave great help and information during the orientation. A partial list includes Clerk Deborah Deller, Deputy Clerk Todd Decker, Clerk of Procedural Research Tonia Grannum, Director of Human Resources Nancy Marling, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services Deborah Caruso, Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark, and Director of Research and Informational Services Susan Swift.

Other important individuals gave freely of their time such as our patron, Speaker Dave Levac, immediate past Speaker Steve Peters, former environment and revenue minister John Wilkinson, honorary intern Jim Coyle, a former Queen's Park columnist for the Toronto Star, Kevin Lynch, immediate past Clerk of Privy Council in Ottawa and the new American Consul General, Jim Dickmeyer.

### **Intern Educational Visits**

A great deal of the intern education occurs away from the Legislative Assembly. The interns already had great visits with government and legislative officials in Ottawa and the Northwest Territories. In the first full week of June, the interns will attend the Annual Meeting of the Political Science Association in Victoria, British Columbia. Each intern will present an original research paper on some aspect of the Legislative Assembly. Finally, in the first week of July, the interns will travel to London, England for a one week visit with officials of the British Parliament.

### **Fundraising**

Without a doubt, this activity consumes most of my time and energy. While a few sponsors make timely payments, most require numerous follow-up communications from Eithne 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 three lead sponsors, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, Vale and now the Ontario Real Estate Association of Ontario. A lead sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$10,000 or more per year. We are pleased to announce new major sponsors, Ontario power Generation, ScotiaBank, Canadian tire and Ontario Stone, Sand Gravel & Glass Association and Enbridge Gas Distribution for this or the upcoming year. A major sponsor is defined as an organization or individual that contributes \$5,000 or more per year. We were also fortunate to gain new regular sponsors this year.

### **Placements**

The interns began their first placements on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 and their second placements on Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013. Listed below are this year's placements. We are grateful to the eighteen MPPs who provided a learning experience. Over 40 MPPs express an interest in participating in the Programme each year. There is nothing more pleasant than watching these bright, well educated, young adults learn so quickly over the course of the ten months. It seems that in September the interns arrive knowing so little about the Ontario legislative process but by the end of June, they seem to know everything, even more than the Director!

## Intern Placements

	First Term	Second Term
Connor Bays	Yasir Naqvi LIB	Laurie Scott PC
Anthony Boland	Rosario Marchese NDP	Dipika Damerla LIB
Joshua Borden	Kevin Flynn LIB	Rod Jackson PC
Beth Elder	Lisa Thompson PC	Laura Albanese LIB
Andrea Ernesaks	Gilles Bisson NDP	Steven Del Duca LIB
Gillian Hanson	Steve Clark PC	Helena Jaczek LIB
Leanna Katz	Mike Colle LIB	Christine Elliott PC
Hibah Sidat	Bob Bailey PC	Soo Wong LIB
Lauren Tarasuk	Donna Cansfield LIB	Michael Mantha NDP