

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

Report 2003-2004

Greg Inwood, Director

1. Introduction

I want to begin by acknowledging the tremendous support I have received from the OLIP Advisory Committee at Queen's Park. Ray McLellan from Legislative Research and Tonia Grannum from Committee's Branch of the Clerk's Office and their staff have been extraordinarily helpful through a very difficult transition period. I also want to thank OLIP's new secretary, Eithne Whaley. Eithne hails from England and has a B.A. in political science from the University of Essex. She worked in the House of Commons for two different MPs as a research assistant and was also an Intern there. This combination of experience makes her particularly well-suited to the job she now occupies with OLIP.

Secondly, I want to say how pleased I am with the current group of Interns (see biographies below) who have had to labour under some trying conditions (i.e. no MPP placements for the first two-and-a-half months). The group has been very flexible in responding to our circumstances. Each of the Interns took up alternative placements while the election was on with enthusiasm and did an excellent job. The Interns as a group have a terrific dynamic and are a pleasure to work with.

Overall, this has been perhaps the most challenging time for a new Director to take over the Programme. A number of factors contributed to this circumstance:

- The fact that the Legislature was not sitting when the 2003-2004 Interns arrived, and that the Ontario election did not occur until October meant that there were no placements with MPPs.
- The naming of the cabinet did not occur until October 24th, which meant we could not be sure which MPPs would be eligible to accept Interns until at least that time.
- We had to scramble to find alternative placements for the Interns.
- The transition of the OLIP office from its former site at the University of Waterloo to its current (and hopefully permanent) site at Queen's Park was a large administrative and managerial challenge. Nine years of files (hard copy and disk) had to be sorted and organized, office space and equipment had to be found, a new secretary had to be hired, the OLIP web site had to be transferred from Waterloo to Queen's Park, and coordination between the bureaucracies at Ryerson, Waterloo and Queen's Park had to be facilitated.

All these activities had to be undertaken while the regular business of the Programme was maintained – sponsorship contact and recruitment, new Intern recruitment for 2004-2005, arranging Intern orientation, travel and meetings, holding the fall and spring receptions at the Legislature, administering the financial affairs of the Programme, and so on.

The remainder of this Report details some of the most important activities we have undertaken in 2003-2004.

2. Fundraising

Fundraising is, as always, a challenge. The programme relies for a considerable portion of its support for educational activities on the generosity of donors. This means constant attention and energy must be directed to maintaining and growing the sponsorship base. An ad hoc committee was struck in October to investigate the goal of placing fundraising on a more systematic, long-term basis with a more strategic approach. The committee consists of the Director, advisory committee, a sponsor (and former Intern) and former advisory committee member.

3. Intern Activities

Intern orientation took place in the first two-and-a-half weeks of September. The Interns met with a variety of Legislature officials and found the experience extremely useful (if a bit intense and daunting, at first). After this introduction to their new roles, the Interns were placed in a variety of offices from September 22nd to October 31st while we awaited the outcome of the Ontario election. The Interns were placed with: Committee's Branch of the Clerk's Office; Legislative Research (Legislative Library); G.P. Murray

Research; the Office of the Ombudsman; and the Office of the Environmental Commissioner. I want to thank these offices for stepping into the breach and helping out.

The suggestion has been made that placing the Interns in this way at the beginning of their tenure is a very useful exercise. They benefited tremendously from exposure to how the legislature and Ontario political system works, and this enhanced their value as Interns for MPPs.

In late October, the Interns travelled to Québec City and Ottawa where they met their Intern counterparts as well as a number of politicians and government officials. Their Québec itinerary included meetings with Jean Charest, Bernard Landry, the Québec Minister of Intergovernmental Relations and others. In Ottawa they met Eddie Goldenberg, Auditor-General Sheila Fraser, American Ambassador Paul Celucci, and others, and were present in the House for the historic moment of Jean Chrétien's last day there.

On November 25th, the Interns hosted the annual OLIP fall reception at Queen's Park. Over 150 MPPs, sponsors, OLIP alumni, Legislature officials and others attended what was called one of the most successful fall receptions in OLIP's history. The new Speaker of the Legislature, Alvin Curling, introduced the Interns at both the reception and later in the Legislative Chamber. As well, in November, they attended the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy annual dinner, featuring a speech by Sir Martin Gilbert. In December the Interns travelled to Ottawa for the CPSA Board dinner.

The Ontario Interns were happy to host their Saskatchewan counterparts during their brief stop over in Toronto - in between Washington DC and Ottawa – in February. The Saskatchewan visit began with a panel meeting with some of Queen's Park's most respected and experienced journalists. They also met with a representative from the Premier's office, a former Conservative cabinet minister, the Leader of the NDP, former premier Bill Davis and current Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry, and the leader of the Green Party of Ontario.

In March, the Interns went to Edmonton and Yellowknife where they met a variety of government, business, media, and NGO officials in both capitals. The highlights of the Edmonton trip were graciously facilitated by Clerk David McNeil, who coordinated the Intern's visit. The Interns gained some unique insights into the nature of parliamentary democracy in Alberta as a result of witnessing proceedings in the Legislature and courtesy of the Conservative Party Whip, and the Minister of Education and Learning, the leaders of the Liberal Party and the NDP, the head of Conservative Party caucus research, media representatives, the Alberta Public Interest Research Group, the manager of intergovernmental relations for the city of Edmonton, and other officials.

In Yellowknife, Clerk Tim Mercer generously gave of his time and arranged a wonderful itinerary that included meetings with Premier Joe Handley, several MLAs, the Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, an official from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, the mayor of Yellowknife, and an official from DIAND. As well, the Interns toured a diamond manufacturing facility and learned about the significance of this industry to the future of the North. By a stroke of good luck, the Interns happened to be in Yellowknife when the government was bringing down its budget, and got to witness this event as well as meet the Finance Minister to discuss it.

Meanwhile, back in Toronto, the Interns experienced life working for Members of the Provincial Legislature. They also held meetings with a variety of political, business, media, interest groups, academics, sponsors and other organizations and individuals. These included Premier Dalton McGuinty, former Premier Bill Davis, Richard Mackie and Murray Campbell of the Globe and Mail, a variety of present and past cabinet ministers and MPPs, legislative staff, the British High Commissioner, and numerous OLIP sponsors. In addition, the Interns have attended various academic and political seminars, functions and conventions. Two Interns also gave regular reports of their experiences on the CBC Radio program Metro Morning.

The educational value of these meetings cannot be overstated. The insights gleaned by the Interns as a result of exposure to a wide variety of perspectives are immeasurable, and one of the most important features of the OLIP experience.

Meanwhile, the Interns produced two newsletters detailing their work and planned their spring reception for early June, and a trip to London, England at that end of June. They also worked feverishly on

fundraising, and prepared for their CPSA presentations at Congress, which will serve as the basis of the research paper each will produce at the end of their tenure as Interns. All the while, they have also served the varying needs of their MPPs writing speeches and questions for Question Period, doing research and policy analysis, travelling to constituencies, and assisting staff with the affairs of their offices. To say the Internship is a fulsome experience is clearly an understatement!

4. MPP Placements

The Interns were placed with MPPs in late November after the dust settled from the Ontario election.. There was a very healthy competition for the Interns among the MPPs, with all three parties well represented among those seeking to secure placements. The Interns then switched to their second placements in mid-March.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNS MPP PLACEMENTS 2003-2004

	1 st Term	2 nd Term
Michael Acedo B.A. University of Toronto	Jim Flaherty (PC)	Bruce Crozier (LIB)
Sarah Baker B.A. University of Western M.A. York University	Donna Cansfield (LIB)	Robert Runciman (PC)
Holly Bondy B.A. University of Windsor	Marilyn Churley (NDP)	Linda Jeffery (LIB)
Melanie Francis B.A. Wilfrid Laurier University	Dave Levac (LIB)	John Baird (PC)
Amanda Mayer B.A. University of Western	Ernie Hardeman (PC)	Jim Brownell (LIB)
Kate Mulligan B. Arts Sc. McMaster University M.A. University of Toronto	Mike Brown (LIB)	Gilles Bisson (NDP)
David Myles B.A. Mount Allison University	Mike Gravelle (LIB)	Norm Miller (PC)
Chris Shantz-Smiley B.A. Queen's University	John O'Toole (PC)	Deb Mathews (LIB)

5. Recruitment for 2004-2005

OLIP received a large number of excellent applications for next year's Internship. At the time of writing, the recruitment committee has screened the resumes and short listed 24 applicants for the interviews at the end of April. Thank you to all the members of the political science community who promoted OLIP to their graduating students.

6. Ontario Legislature Internship Biographies 2003-2004

Chris Shantz-Smiley grew up in Toronto and is a graduate of Queen's University where he earned an Honours BA in Political Studies. Chris was on the Political Studies Department's Honour Roll and the Dean's List. In fourth year he won the Robert Southam Memorial Scholarship. He was also a tutorial leader for the first year politics class. Chris has been accepted by McGill University for graduate work but has deferred this to work as an Intern at Queen's Park. While at university, Chris was involved in several extra-curricular activities, including annual participation in Queen's Model Parliament in Ottawa and work as a section editor and weekly column writer for the Queen's student newspaper, *The Journal*. He also studied for one term at the Queen's International Study Centre in England. Chris's work experience includes two summers working for Legal Aid Ontario in the Family Law Office. Most recently, Chris worked at the CN Tower in the Horizon's Café. This past summer, he was awarded a government bursary to study French at the University of Trois-Rivières for five weeks.

Melanie Francis graduated from Wilfred Laurier University with a double major in Political Science and Psychology. At Laurier, Melanie maintained academic excellence while balancing a demanding varsity swim team schedule, with a part time job at the school's bookstore, and numerous other extra curricular activities. Melanie originally intended to attend Queen's Law School this fall, however, she became enthralled with the political process, particularly media relations and public opinion, and has therefore deferred that plan for a while. Aside from her interest in politics she is a huge sports enthusiast, and though her family is now living in Belleville, she is originally from the GTA and thus has a special love for the Leafs and Raptors!

Kate Mulligan comes from Orillia, Ontario and holds a B. Arts Sc. from McMaster University with a minor in Globalization Studies and an M.A. in Adult Education and Community Development from OISE/UT. Kate's research interests include environmental, northern, Aboriginal, social justice, and gender issues. She has held research fellowships and teaching assistantships in political science and education across diverse areas including women's political participation, technology policy, political philosophy and democratic citizenship education. Kate has experience in student governance, serving as Vice President of the Arts & Science Programme at McMaster and departmental Communications Officer at OISE/UT. She also holds a certificate in Intermediate French from Université Sainte Anne (Nova Scotia) and spent many summers working as an outdoor naturalist and theatre/arts camp director. She has extensive community and volunteer experience and enjoys team sports, reading, and creative writing. In addition Kate is currently trying to upgrade her rusty campfire guitar skills.

Michael Acedo is a graduate from the University of Toronto with a specialist Honours B.A. in political science and history. He has deferred plans to attend law school at the University of Western Ontario in order to participate in OLIP. He is also considering graduate studies in political science. Michael has work experience ranging from office administration to automotive parts sales to golf services. He was also involved in organizing a number of activities and events at the University of Toronto and was a member of several athletic teams. Michael enjoys traveling, music and virtually all sports and athletic activity.

Amanda Mayer was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. She recently completed a combined honours B.A. in Political Science and Sociology at The University of Western Ontario. Amanda achieved inclusion on the Dean's Honour List each year. Her academic interests include Canadian and International Politics, Classic and Contemporary Political Theory, Public Administration, and Social Psychology. Amanda has been the recipient of many awards, one of them being a scholarship award which acknowledged her initiatives involving ethno cultural research. She also won awards for highest academic standing in four out of five first year university courses, two of which were for political science and sociology. Amanda has served as the only student member of a university hiring committee. She has also been active in the community outside of school. Amanda volunteered in Rehabilitation Services at Trillium Health Centre, served as a child and youth mentor at the Boys= and Girls= Club of London, and was a

teacher=s assistant for many years. She has also worked as a summer day camp coordinator for The Academy of Martial Arts. In her spare time, Amanda can be found practising martial arts, power walking, canoeing, or swimming. She also enjoys exploring Toronto=s fine restaurants, listening to music, and reading newspapers to stay informed on current events.

David Myles is from Fredericton, New Brunswick. He graduated from Mount Allison University with an honours degree in Political Science and a minor in Chinese language and culture. The Chinese portion of his degree was completed as part of a year long exchange in Hang Zhou, China during his third year of university. At Mount Allison, David was involved in various human rights and environmental groups and served as the co-chair person of the university's chapter of Amnesty International. He spent the past four summers as a waiter in a back-country lodge in Yoho National Park in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, where he was blessed with hours of hiking, canoeing and camping. However, it would be unfair not to mention his most significant interest; music. When not studying or working David can generally be found playing, listening to, or talking about music.

Holly Bondy is a graduate of the University of Windsor with an honours Degree in French and Political Science, achieving the Board of Governors Medal at convocation. Her studies in Windsor were enhanced by opportunities abroad. She spent one year at the University of Nice, France and has travelled extensively throughout Europe. Recently, she returned from West Africa where she participated in a World University Service of Canada seven-week summer seminar in Benin. Holly has worked for many years as a piano teacher and waitress. Her volunteer experience straddles a variety of areas, including positions at the New Canadians' Centre and Citizens' Environment Alliance. Music, art, cuisine, outdoor adventure, travel, education and, of course, politics are particular passions of Holly's.

Sarah Baker is from Orillia and graduated as a gold medalist from the University of Western Ontario with a combined Honours degree in Political Science and Women's Studies. She recently completed her Master's degree in Political Science at York University where she undertook a policy analysis of the legal aid clinic system in Ontario. Sarah's research interests include political representation, gender studies and issues of access to the Ontario justice system. Outside of her studies, Sarah has been active in women's issues and in her spare time enjoys reading, soccer and (increasingly) cooking.