

Queen's Park Fall 2016 Insider

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



Queen's Park Insider

Intern Committee Chairs

Alumni

Hannah Forsyth

Magazine

Hannah Iles

Meetings

Leslie Muñoz

Receptions

Kyle Sholes

Records

Sara Gajic

Recruitment

Jacob Larocque-Graham

Social Media

Stephanie Lowe

Sponsorship

Rachel Nauta &
Alexander Overton

Study Tours

Emily Trudeau

Contact OLIP

1303A Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
Tel: 416-325-0040
www.olipinterns.ca



olipinterns

Editor's Note

In this 2016 fall issue of the Queen's Park Insider, we are delighted to introduce you to the forty-first cohort of OLIP interns. We hope this issue gives you a sense of who we are and of our backgrounds and aspirations. Hailing quite literally from coast to coast, our group has gathered from Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia to develop an in-depth understanding of the Ontario Legislature and all its players.

We are at Queen's Park to learn about the legislative process. We intend to take away a working knowledge of this institution and how it can be used to improve people's lives, whether they be here, in Ontario, or farther afield.

Over the pages of this issue, you will have a chance to meet our academic director, members of our community of generous sponsors, and supportive alumni. We also share a slice of our orientation experience and introduce you to some of the interesting individuals we had the pleasure of meeting in our first month at Queen's Park.

At the time this issue is going to press, we are filled with anticipation as we embark on our next adventure-- our first round of MPP placements. We are excited to present them to you in the following pages. And, to keep you on your toes, we've thrown in a little legislative trivia.

If you are reading this issue, you probably have an interest in the programme and have contributed to its successes in some way. We thank you for that and look forward to crossing paths with you over the course of our adventures this year. We hope you stay tuned so we can share our experiences with you, whether they be from one of our study tours or here at Queen's Park.

We look forward to checking back in with you in our spring issue!

Cheers,

Hannah Iles, Stephanie Lowe, and Emily Trudeau
Magazine Chairs

Layout: Emily Trudeau, Photos: Stephanie Lowe

Director's Report

Welcome to the 2016 fall issue of the *Queen's Park Insider!*

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is made possible by a wonderful partnership with both the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Canadian Political Science Association. And of course, the programme is significantly enriched by our generous sponsors, whom you will find showcased throughout the pages of this issue. OLIP is further strengthened by the dedication of our administrative team, including both Susan Viets and Valerie Quioc Lim, and Matthew Banninga who has recently undertaken the Programme Assistant role.



Above: This year's great group of interns pose outside of the Legislature.

Over the next pages, we would like to introduce you to our promising new cohort. Each intern has demonstrated a keen interest in the workings of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and we are happy to be able to provide them with an opportunity to learn and explore the legislative process through educational

placements with Members of Provincial Parliament.

The interns have recently completed an enriching orientation period and are eager to begin their first placements. We hope you will stay tuned in to their adventures this year, whether it be through social media or by speaking with them in person.

Last year we celebrated 40 successful years of OLIP, and this year we look forward to the next 40 with great anticipation. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, with so much support for the interns from our OLIP community of sponsors, alumni, administrators, and the Legislature

itself, it is clear that with each and every year of growth we can make OLIP better for the future!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Peter Constantinou
OLIP Director

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in 1975. The programme is administered by the Canadian Political Science Association and is supported by a substantial grant from the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The Programme is not associated with the Government of Ontario nor with any political party. OLIP provides backbench opposition and government members of the Legislative Assembly with highly qualified assistants, while simultaneously giving interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

Meet the Interns

Sara Gajic was raised in Pickering, Ontario, and recently graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Political Science. Her interest in politics originates in political theory, and particularly in the role that virtue-based thinking can have in politics. Sara spent three years as a writer and front-line advisor for the Innis College Registrar's Office, which gave her a crash course in writing about university policy. Having also written for her university's newspaper, she felt prepared to take on a year-long Senior Thesis project. Sara spent two years as a residence don at the University of Toronto, providing academic, peer, and crisis support for students. Sara also worked for a year as a legislative usher at Queen's Park; this experience allowed her to see how political theory can inform governance at the provincial level. She is honoured to be part of that process in 2016-2017 as an OLIP intern.



Kyle Sholes is one of our out-of-province interns, joining us from Maple Ridge, BC. He studied at Huron University College, an affiliate college of Western University, where he developed a passion for politics and civic engagement. In his final year of undergrad Kyle had the privilege of representing Western as the first Western Representative on the London Youth Advisory Council, an organization aimed at cultivating youth engagement with London's City Council. During his degree Kyle also spent time abroad, studying at Sciences Po in France for

one semester where he gained an international perspective on the theories and functions of government. Kyle is excited for the opportunity to apply his knowledge and explore his interests in the political decision-making and legislative processes through OLIP, and he cannot wait for what the coming months have in store!

Kyle about Sara:

Sara is one of our go-to interns for insider information about the Leg since she worked here as an Usher while at the University of Toronto. I'm hoping her skills at navigating Queen's Park are transferrable to the road trip she and I will inevitably take through the Maritimes, although the TIFF movie about our journey would be interesting - I don't think Tom Hanks and Melissa McCarthy have ever co-starred together. Sara has a love of reading and a keen eye (and ear!) for politics, making each conversation with her a chance to learn something new. I'm excited for us to be a part of the same OLIP family!

Sara about Kyle:

Queen's Park is a whirlwind of a workplace, and it can be all too easy to get caught up in the hurricane of legislative business at the Assembly. Given this kind of stormy atmosphere, Kyle is a breath of fresh air, the calm in the eye of the storm. He is even-keeled, always pleasant, and remarkably insightful. It has been a pleasure to work with and learn from Kyle, and I can't wait to see what political shoal he'll find himself swimming in after our ten months are up.

Meet the Interns

Leslie Muñoz is a proud member of the Colombian diaspora and has lived in Ontario since 2004. Prior to OLIP, she attended Carleton University where she received a Master of Arts Degree in Political Economy and a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management with a Specialization in Human Rights. During this time, Leslie's research focused on migrant justice, immigration policy, and settler colonialism in the Canadian context. She also had the opportunity to collaborate on research projects in Peru, the UK, and around Ontario. Outside of academia, Leslie had the pleasure of participating in Canada's G7/G20 Summits team while working as a Policy Analyst at Global Affairs Canada. This past year she was also able to pursue a passion in municipal governance through a placement opportunity with her local City of Ottawa Councilor. Leslie is looking forward to gaining first-hand experience in provincial politics, and is particularly excited by the opportunity to engage with constituents and stakeholders in Ontario's democratic process.



Emily Trudeau was born and raised in Northern Ontario, splitting her time between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. In 2014, she graduated from McMaster University, with a B.A.Sc. Honours degree from the interdisciplinary Arts & Science Program. In 2016, she completed a Masters of Arts degree in Political Science from the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. During the summer and fall of 2015, she studied at Saint Petersburg State University and Central European University in Budapest, Hungary and completed an internship at the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala Universitet, Sweden. She is interested in the ways that history informs contemporary politics, intersections between civil society and the state, gender relations, and the use of media by the government. Emily is honoured to have been selected as an OLIP intern and is excited to apply her knowledge of international politics to the provincial level.

Emily about Leslie:

As our meetings chair, Leslie has been quick to seize opportunities and make the most of them for all of us. She is thoughtful, seeks to understand others, and makes the intern spaces as inclusive and welcoming as possible. Leslie is a kind soul, ready to have fun, and do good work in equal measure.

Leslie about Emily:

Emily describes herself as “incredibly trustworthy” and I must say (for now) that I completely agree. Joking aside, I'm very glad that I've been able to meet Emily through OLIP. She is smart, thoughtful, and probably the wittiest of the Interns - qualities I'm excited to get more acquainted with as we spend time together at Queen's Park.

Meet the Interns

Rachel Nauta was born and raised in the rural community of Blenheim in southwestern Ontario. Growing up, Rachel had a passion for all things Canadian. This passion led her to study in Canada's capital at the University of Ottawa where she completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences Honours degree, specializing in Public Administration. During two of her summer breaks, Rachel travelled to Jonquière and Trois Rivières, Québec to study French and improve her second-language skills. In Ottawa, Rachel volunteered for CAUSE, an organization that provides free tutoring to homeless and vulnerable populations, where she developed an interest in education policy and social welfare programs. Rachel also has a keen interest in municipal politics and the relationship between municipal and provincial governments in Ontario. Throughout her studies, Rachel focused on bureaucracy, and is now looking forward to learning about the legislative process through OLIP.



Hannah Iles is originally from Leamington. She developed an interest in provincial and federal politics during her time as an Information and Education Officer at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Hannah completed a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in History and an International Studies Certificate at Queen's University, where she also had the opportunity to study abroad at the Bader International Study Centre, Herstmonceux, UK. Additionally, she earned a Master of Arts degree with distinction from University College London, UK, specializing in Holocaust Studies. Hannah has had the opportunity to live and study overseas on several occasions, including experiences in Switzerland, England, and Poland. She is interested in Canadian and European history and politics, specifically with respect to inter-ethnic relations and multiculturalism. Hannah is also interested in electoral reform in the Canadian context. She is eager to continue learning about public policy, provincial politics, and the legislative process through her experience with OLIP.

Hannah about Rachel:

After only a few weeks together it is clear that Rachel is the trivia master of our group. She has a wide range of knowledge spanning from federal politics on the Hill to rural affairs in southwestern Ontario, and she constantly surprises our group with the many fun facts up her sleeve. Rachel is always chipper and friendly, and I look forward to spending the next ten months becoming friends!

Rachel about Hannah:

Hannah I. keeps me laughing with her wit and hilarious life stories. She grew up 'down the road' from me in southwestern Ontario, so we had an instant connection and I have enjoyed getting to know more about her over the past few weeks. Hannah's Leg experience giving tours as an Information Officer also kept us from getting lost on our way to meetings. If it weren't for her, I'd probably still be missing somewhere in the North Wing!

Meet the Interns

Stephanie Lowe developed her passion for politics while covering local events as a summer radio reporter in her hometown of Owen Sound. Stephanie is a recent graduate of OISE's Master of Teaching Program within the University of Toronto and is an alumnus of Ryerson University's School of Journalism where she earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree. While at Ryerson, Stephanie worked as a news intern at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's London, UK bureau. Stephanie's experiences in newsrooms and teaching placements in Ontario elementary classrooms helped to fuel her curiosity about the diverse responsibilities of the Ontario government. This curiosity is what encouraged her to research a wide range of policy issues, from education to the environment, and how policy decisions affect those living across the province of Ontario. All paths have led Stephanie to provincial politics, and she is thrilled to be a member of the 2016-2017 OLIP team to learn about the Legislature from the inside.



Jacob Larocque-Graham is a proud Franco-Ontarian, born and raised in Ottawa. He is a recent graduate of Carleton University, having completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management. Jacob's research interests have focused primarily on health, indigenous affairs, and development. During his studies, Jacob enjoyed sharing his knowledge and supporting students as a teaching assistant for an economic philosophy course. France was his adopted country in 2013, when he studied at l'Université Pierre Mendès in Grenoble. Following his studies, he

was honoured to help commemorate the exploits of Canadians through his work for Veteran Affairs as an interpreter at the Vimy Ridge and Beaumont-Hamel Memorials. Jacob also worked as an interpreter at Rideau Hall and the Parliament of Canada, where he shared Canadian history with the public. Jacob looks forward to being a part of OLIP and getting an insider's perspective on the legislative process at Queen's Park.

Jacob about Stephanie:

It will come as no surprise once you get to know her that Stephanie studied both journalism and teaching because she personifies the best traits of both fields. She is creative, patient, inquisitive, and always willing to help her fellow interns. Internet watch out! With Stephanie at the helm of our social media committee prepare for a great year of tweets, videos, blogs, and instagram filters. The OLIP interns are #Blessed to have Steph!

Stephanie about Jacob:

There are few people in the world you meet who can put you at ease as soon as you meet them. Jacob is one of those people. Whenever there is any tension in a room, Jacob knows just what to say or do to make us all smile, laugh, and put everything back into perspective. He can hit the reset button in any situation no matter how difficult. As a Franco-Ontarian, Jacob brings a unique perspective (not to mention seriously impressive language skills) to our group. Jacob has a certain 'je ne sais quoi' that makes him a valuable asset to our OLIP team. Bienvenue à OLIP, Jacob!

Meet the Interns

Alexander Overton was raised in the Ottawa Valley and considers London, UK to be his second home. While spending time abroad, Alexander developed a passion for intercultural communication and international affairs. He recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton University in Political Science and Law, with a focus on development, and political and legal structures in China. Throughout his undergraduate degree, Alexander pursued a variety of interests, including varsity sports, and public service with both Passport Canada and the Canadian High Commission in London. He has also maintained a strong link to his campus community, volunteering in many roles across university departments, and representing Carleton University for two years as a student ambassador to partner universities in China. Recognizing the vital role politics plays in the lives of all Canadians, Alexander is excited to be a part of the 41st cohort of OLIP interns.



Hannah Forsyth was born and raised in West Chezzetcook, a small Acadian community in Nova Scotia. She attended Dalhousie University, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Political Science and a minor in Economics. In addition to her studies and community volunteer work, Hannah is an elite-level sprint kayak athlete. In May 2016 she represented Canada at America's Cup in Mexico, bringing home three gold medals. Hannah is very passionate about her sport and she has worked to establish the Equal Opportunity Fund in the Atlantic Division of Canoe Kayak. The fund helps athletes overcome financial barriers to the sport. Given her athletic and academic background, Hannah's research interests are health and wellness initiatives, gender and sport, community outreach and economic development. She is thrilled to be a part of OLIP and is eager to experience and learn from all that the programme has to offer.

Hannah about Alex:

Alex is a great member of our OLIP team. He is easy going and likes to joke around, but can also be serious and decisive. Alex is outgoing and eager to meet new contacts, and for that, he is an excellent person to have as co-chair of the sponsorship committee. He is an aspiring lawyer, infatuated by otters, and knows how to pull off a three piece suit!

Alex about Hannah:

Hannah F. is our resident East-Coaster and sport super-star! In the short time we've been a cohort, she has already established herself with her quick wit and ability to drop in a low-key joke to lighten the mood. She is fiercely dedicated to equality, and her expertise in health and economics nicely round out this year's group of interns. With Olympic aspirations down the line, we are all eager to see where Hannah's political and athletic successes take her after OLIP!

MPP Placements

Hannah F. is placed with Liberal MPP John Fraser (Ottawa South).

I am thrilled to begin my fall placement with MPP John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and MPP for Ottawa-South. MPP Fraser is a community-oriented member who volunteers with many locally-initiated organizations in his riding. I look forward to joining Executive Assistant Elise Roiron in MPP Fraser's office and becoming a part of their team. I am interested in working on health and wellness initiatives and gaining practical policy development experience throughout my placement. I am also excited for the opportunity to contribute to MPP Fraser's work on long-term care homes and vision screening for children in Ontario. I anticipate four exciting and beneficial months with MPP Fraser, and I am keen to begin my placement!



Sara is placed with Liberal MPP Mike Colle (Eglinton-Lawrence).

I am so excited to begin working for MPP Mike Colle, government member for Eglinton-Lawrence. MPP Colle has been a Member of Provincial Parliament since 1995, giving him an astounding twenty-one years of experience at Queen's Park. He has been a member on an array of committees and has also held ministerial positions throughout his extensive career. He is currently Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Deputy Government Whip, and a member of the committees on Justice Policy and General Government. Surrounded by excellent Queen's Park and constituency office staff, MPP Colle continues to be a dedicated advocate for the people of Eglinton-Lawrence. I am honoured to be able to join his team this fall.

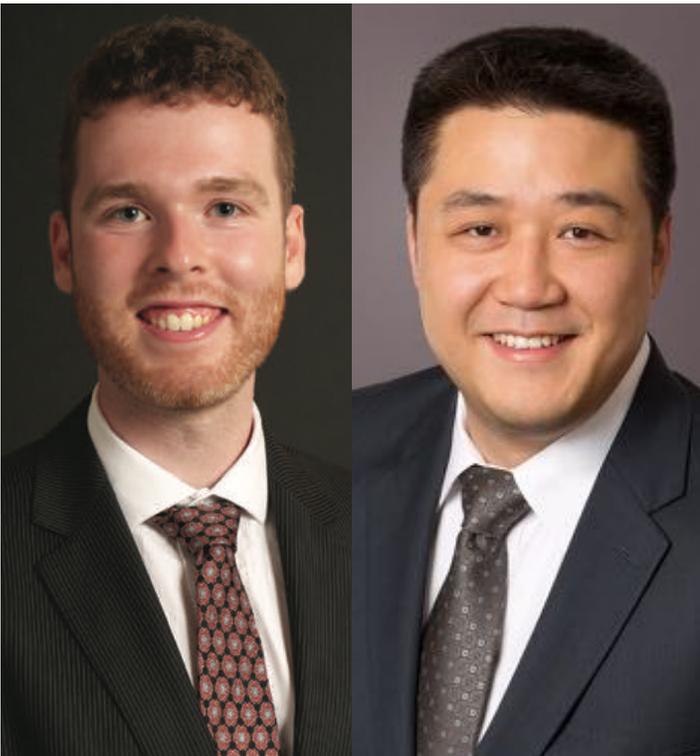


MPP Placements



Hannah I. is placed with NDP MPP France Gélinas (Nickel Belt).

I am delighted to start my opposition placement with MPP France Gélinas this fall. MPP Gélinas is a hard-working and dedicated elected representative for the Nickel Belt riding, and I know I can learn a lot from her. She is currently the Deputy Third Party House Leader and the critic of three portfolios: Aboriginal Affairs, Francophone Affairs, and Health and Long-Term Care. I am eager to assist her in these capacities and to learn more about her responsibilities both at Queen's Park and in her electoral district. As a bilingual intern, I am very happy to be placed in the office of a Francophone MPP. I also look forward to learning from and working with MPP Gélinas' Legislative Assistant, Shelley Martel.



Jacob is placed with Liberal MPP Han Dong (Trinity-Spadina).

My government placement this fall will be with the Member of Provincial Parliament for Trinity-Spadina, Han Dong. As a member of the Legislature, MPP Dong brings expertise from both his involvement in politics from a young age and his time in the private sector. Having the chance to experience the constituency of Trinity-Spadina, a very diverse and vibrant community in Toronto, is such an exciting opportunity! Moreover, MPP Dong, while very active in engaging with his constituents, is also on two committees and is Parliamentary Assistant to two ministries. With MPP Dong's wide range of responsibilities, I expect to be kept very busy and to learn a great deal throughout my placement in his office.

MPP Dong was in China during our time of publication. In lieu of a proper photo, please enjoy their headshots.

MPP Placements

Stephanie is placed with PC MPP Lisa Thompson (Huron-Bruce).

I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome from PC MPP Lisa Thompson, her Legislative Assistant Jessica Trepanier and Policy Advisor, Ben Menka. In just one week, I have been immersed in the fascinating and diverse issues within MPP Thompson's riding of Huron-Bruce and have learned the depth of her passion for helping her constituents. MPP Thompson is currently the PC Critic for Environment and Cap-and-Trade and a Member of the Standing Committee on General Government. It's an exciting time to be placed in Huron-Bruce and I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with and learn from MPP Thompson and her talented team. I grew up just down the road from Huron-Bruce – it is one of my most favourite areas of the province and I look forward to seeing it through the eyes of Team Thompson and their constituents!



Leslie is placed with NDP MPP Peggy Sattler (London West).

For my first OLIP placement I am very excited to be working with MPP Peggy Sattler. MPP Sattler has represented the riding of London-West since 2013 and brings expertise on education, post-secondary schooling, and workforce development to Queen's Park. I am sure that MPP Sattler, and her new LA Holli-Lynne Elash, will prove to be valuable mentors as I learn to navigate Ontario's legislature. I am also looking forward to helping MPP Sattler in her roles as the NDP critic for Training, Colleges and Universities; Research and Innovation; and Women's Issues. The next four months will be very interesting - I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to MPP Sattler's team, which serves the people of London-West!



MPP Placements



Rachel is placed with PC MPP Ernie Hardeman (Oxford).

I am very excited to be spending my first placement with MPP Ernie Hardeman from Oxford. MPP Hardeman has been in politics since 1980, when he was elected as a municipal councillor in the Township of South-West Oxford (where he later became Mayor). In 1995, he made the jump to provincial politics and has been at Queen's Park ever since. One of the first projects I will be helping with is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week. MPP Hardeman has been an active educator on the dangers of carbon monoxide and was responsible for bringing forward legislation requiring every home containing a fuel-burning appliance to have a carbon monoxide detector. I look forward to working with MPP Hardeman and his Executive Assistant Tara Barry!



Alexander is placed with Liberal MPP Arthur Potts (Beaches-East York).

I am very excited to spend my government placement with MPP Arthur Potts. MPP Potts has recently moved to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as Parliamentary Assistant and is a MPP with lots of energy and ideas. As the environment is a key area of concern for many Ontarians, and sustainable development is gaining traction with business, the Ministry is sure to be a hotbed of new ideas and innovation. I am also interested in getting to know Toronto better by working in the constituency of Beaches-East York, a very diverse riding. Many thanks to MPP Potts and his Executive Assistant David Bellmore for their warm welcome!

MPP Placements

Kyle is placed with PC MPP Vic Fedeli (Nipissing).

For my first placement, I am excited to be working with Vic Fedeli, MPP for Nipissing. First elected in 2011 and again in 2014, Mr. Fedeli has incredible insight into life at Queen's Park. Currently Finance critic for his party, he has a deep knowledge of one of the most important ministries in the government. MPP Fedeli's experience, however, extends beyond Queen's Park. After serving as Mayor of North Bay for two terms, he approaches his position as MPP with an in-depth understanding of who his constituents are and how he can best represent them here in Toronto. Learning from MPP Fedeli and contributing to his work will be an excellent opportunity. I cannot wait for what my placement has in store.



Emily is placed with Liberal MPP Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke-Lakeshore).

I'm looking forward to starting my placement with Etobicoke-Lakeshore MPP Peter Milczyn and his Executive Assistant Andrew Misiak. MPP Milczyn's role as a Parliamentary Assistant to three ministries (Labour, Infrastructure, and Francophone Affairs) is sure to bring with it lots of learning and excitement. Working in MPP Milczyn's office will be an excellent opportunity for me to explore my budding interest in infrastructure and the development of innovative transit networks. MPP Milczyn also has a tremendous wealth of experience as a Toronto City Councilor from which I can learn. After living in Toronto for a few years, it will be a welcome change to engage more deeply with the city I now call home.



The Press at Queen's Park

As part of our orientation, we recently had the privilege of talking to the people at Queen's Park who shine the spotlight on politics, but rarely stand in it. These light-bearers are the dedicated group of newspaper reporters and columnists who cover politics, both provincially and federally. We were privileged enough to speak with not one, but three journalists who watch, write, and breathe politics.

Our first meeting was with Mr. Adrian Morrow, who has written about Queen's Park for *The Globe and Mail* since 2013. This means he has covered the entirety of The Honourable Kathleen Wynne's time as premier!



Like everyone we have met so far at the Assembly, Mr. Morrow's passion for provincial politics is palpable. He is currently the only writer from *The Globe and Mail* who works in-house at the Legislature, and he has written about everything from campaign financing rules to energy issues.

We were also lucky enough to meet with Mr. Robert Benzie, Queen's Park Bureau Chief for the *Toronto Star*. Mr. Benzie has covered politics at the municipal, federal, and provincial levels. Queen's Park has held his interest for thirteen years, with no sign of that interest waning!

To complete this excellent media trio, we spoke with Mr. Andrew Coyne, columnist for the *Nation-*



al Post and bona fide TV star (you can catch him on the "At Issue" panel on CBC's *The National*). Mr. Coyne covers Parliament Hill, but spoke eloquently on a variety of topics, from the future of traditional media to retrospections on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2015 federal election campaign.

We owe a lot to the journalists at Queen's Park, and on Parliament Hill. Many of the interns' initial interest in politics was sparked by the media, and newspapers are absolutely essential in communicating political news to Canadians. For these reasons, and for their remarkable insight and wit, we were grateful to have a chance to speak with the people who bring us the news that we care about every day.



From top to bottom: the interns meet with the Globe and Mail's Adrian Morrow, the National Post's Andrew Coyne, and the Toronto Star's Robert Benzie.

Meeting the Officers of the House

During our orientation, we were fortunate enough to meet the people whose tireless efforts allow Queen's Park to function as smoothly as it does. While they all play very different roles, the Speaker of the House, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Clerk share a passion for the Legislature that inspired us all!

The Honourable Dave Levac, the Speaker of the House and elected representative for the riding of Brant inspired us with his passion for public service. He shared insightful stories about the importance of community and civic engagement, and taught us about his non-partisan role at Queen's Park. After our meeting we had the opportunity to watch "Mr. Speaker" preside over Question Period. Thank you Mr. Levac, we enjoyed all of the interesting anecdotes you shared.



Protocol and procedure are the cornerstones of Westminster-style parliaments, and Ontario's is no different. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Deborah Deller, has spent 37 years working at the Legislature developing a thorough understanding of our parliamentary procedure set out in the "Standing Orders." Clerk Deller has been an asset to OLIP, taking time from her busy schedule to meet with the interns each year to share some of her knowledge with us. We wish Clerk Deller all the best in retirement, and thank her for her commitment to the Legislature and OLIP!

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario is a machine with many moving parts, and one of the most integral parts of this machinery is security. Mr. Dennis Clark, Sergeant-at-Arms, is the ceremonial and literal head of the Legislative Security Service. As Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Clark wears many hats (including a bicorn one): his role involves maintaining decorum in the house, but more practically, maintaining security in the Legislature's precinct. It was an honour to meet with Mr. Clark and discuss his important role at Queen's Park.



Making it Work: Ontario's Independent Officers

During our orientation, we were fortunate enough to meet with all of Ontario's Independent Officers. All of the meetings were stimulating and allowed us to put together the pieces of the larger Queen's Park puzzle. We would like to thank each of them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to chat with us.

Stephen LeClair, the **Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario**, provides independent analysis on the state of the province's finances. His office tracks economic outlook trends, and considers their impact on the provincial budget. Mr. LeClair and his office look forward to anticipate what the future might hold for the province's economy. As a new Independent Office of the Legislature, Mr. LeClair and his team have been working hard from the ground up to build not just an office, but a reputation as a reliable and independent source of analysis for the Legislature and the people of Ontario.



Mr. Irwin Elman, **Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth**, gives Ontario's young people a voice by interacting with them directly. Mr. Elman has traveled to all corners of the province to engage youth in conversations about how their lives can be improved. He believes the most powerful reports to the government on youth issues are those that young people write themselves. It was inspiring to hear how Mr. Elman builds positive relationships with youth in the province, and works to foster an environment where children feel that they can be heard.

Balancing a personal cheque-book does not even begin to compare to what Ms. Bonnie Lysyk has to do everyday. As the **Auditor General of Ontario**, she oversees the administration of all of Ontario's finances. Ms. Lysyk's top priority is to make sure taxpayers in Ontario are receiving good value for the money spent by the provincial government. The Auditor General's office has roots that date back more than 100 years, and over that time its responsibilities have increased significantly.





We had the pleasure of meeting **Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer**, Mr. Greg Essensa. During our visit to Elections Ontario's Scarborough office, Mr. Essensa provided us with a complete overview of the who, what, where, when, why and how of Ontario's electoral process. It was riveting to hear about Election Ontario's plan to bring Ontario's electoral system into the twenty-first century!

We had the interesting opportunity to meet with **Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health**, Dr. David Williams. Dr. Williams spoke avidly about public health and safety in Ontario. He also shared some of his experiences from working in the province's north, highlighting the unique health-related challenges that exist for remote communities. His position is crucial in providing public health advice to both the government and Ontarians.



We had the privilege to meet Dr. Dianne Saxe, the **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**. Commissioner Saxe's office was created in 1993 with the introduction of the Environmental Bill of Rights. Her position here in Ontario is unique, having only one direct equivalent in the world- all the way off in New Zealand! Commissioner Saxe spoke to us about her varied career path before she became the province's Environmental Commissioner, which began surprisingly as a tax lawyer, and then the founder of a boutique environmental law firm.



We would like to say "merci" to **French Language Services Commissioner** Mr. François Boileau for inviting us to his office! The Commissioner spoke passionately about the need to ensure the availability of French language services in Ontario. In this province, nearly five percent of the population is Francophone -- that is a little more than 600,000 people in Ontario! Mr. Boileau emphasized the need to provide francophone Ontarians with French services that are of equal quality as those received by anglophones. We came out of our meeting with a great appreciation for the important work of Commissioner Boileau's office.





We had the pleasure of meeting the Honourable J. David Wake, **Ontario's Integrity Commissioner**, at his Bloor Street office. Mr. Wake and his staff work independently of government to maintain integrity and accountability in five areas of responsibility: MPP integrity, expenses review, Minister's staff ethical conduct, Ontario Public Service disclosure of wrongdoing, and lobbyist registration. His office is essential in maintaining public confidence in Ontario's elected representatives and public service.

Ontario Ombudsman Mr. Paul Dubé welcomed us to his Bay Street office during our orientation period. Mr. Dubé, Ontario's "Watchdog" so to speak, took the time to explain his role in improving governance and promoting fairness in Ontario. The Ombudsman's office pursues these goals through the four pillars of "independence," "confidentiality," "impartiality," and a "credible investigation process." Thank you Mr. Dubé, it was a pleasure to learn about the collaborative way in which your office assists different public bodies in ensuring government services are provided to Ontarians fairly.



A Day in the Life: OLIP Orientation

September days may have been calm, but our OLIP orientation schedule certainly wasn't. Throughout September and early October, we continued to meet with interesting Independent Officers and Assembly staff, as was the case on Tuesday, September 20th.

The day started off in dialogue with the Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations (PPPR) Branch Director, Ms. Debi LaMantia. She described the myriad of programs run by PPPR, from the Legislative Page Program (a both impressive and adorable program) to interparliamentary delegations (yes everyone, that includes royal visits). This session was followed by an informative meeting with the Executive Director of Technology Services, Mr. Kirk Cameron, and his tech-savvy team members.

Our third meeting of the day found us in a room with

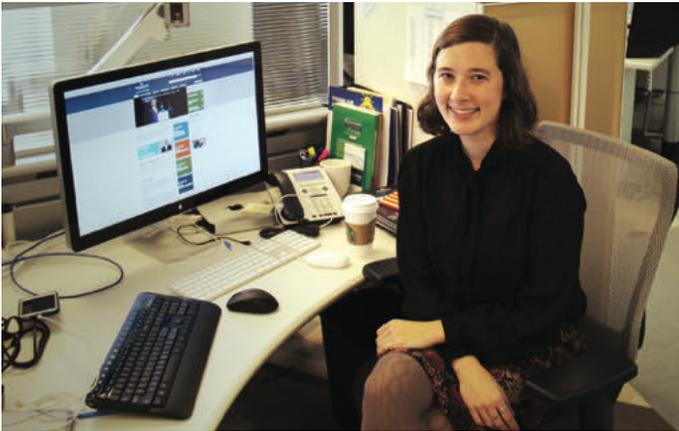
Deputy Clerk, Mr. Todd Decker, who has more than thirty years of experience at the Legislative Assembly. He has seen governments come and go and witnessed the evolution of Members' interactions with each other over that time. "It's changed a lot," he reflected. Ultimately, that's what makes the job an exciting and gratifying one for him because, as Mr. Decker said, "on any given day, you don't know what [is] going to happen."

Our final meeting was at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on Bloor Street. Commissioner Brian Beamish has a challenging and important mandate which includes overseeing approximately 60,000 freedom of information requests per year!

That concluded a busy orientation day-in-the-life of an OLIP intern. To echo Mr. Decker, every single day at Queen's Park is exciting because we just don't know what might happen next!

Alumni Spotlight

Not only did our orientation period allow us to meet important players in Ontario politics, we also had the pleasure of meeting several former interns. One of those interns, **Emily Barrette**, agreed to share her experiences as part of the famous 2013-2014 cohort. Thank you to Emily for answering questions from the current interns!



What is your favourite memory from OLIP?

There are so many to choose from! Our trip to Yellowknife definitely stands out as a really unique and wonderful learning experience. Also getting to watch the results of the 2014 provincial election with the interns from my year was a fitting way to end our time together in the programme.

What do you do now?

I work for the Ontario Ombudsman as a Communications Officer. I am a part of a small communications team that is responsible for everything from updating social media and our website, to staffing press conferences and overseeing outreach events across the province with both the Ombudsman and members of our senior management team.

How do your OLIP experiences inform your current work?

I walked away from OLIP with a really comprehensive knowledge of provincial politics and stakeholders,

and it serves me well in an office with a broad mandate. I also see a lot of parallels between the work of the Ombudsman and the constituency role of Members of Provincial Parliament. In both instances it is a lot of individual case work and helping people navigate government services and procedures. From the very beginning of my year as an OLIP intern, I was fascinated by the work of Ontario's Independent Officers of the Legislature, and it is nice to have come full circle in a way and ended with working for the Ombudsman. I doubt I would have ended up in this role without OLIP, so in a sense it informs every aspect of my current work!

How did OLIP change your perspective on Ontario politics?

OLIP gave me a real appreciation and deep respect for how hard MPPs work to serve their constituents and the many sacrifices that come with the job. The internship also humanized politics for me. I was able to see up close the camaraderie that can (and does) exist between members across party lines.

Do you have any advice for current interns?

Try to appreciate every moment of the internship, it goes by so quickly and will be over before you know it! Embrace opportunities to step out of your comfort zone, challenge your own assumptions, and be open to new experiences - you never know where it will lead you!

Class of 2016-2017: Ten in Ten



Hannah F.: A dynamic and unique opportunity to gain practical legislative experience.



Sara: Working at Queen's Park is the opportunity of a lifetime.



Hannah I.: Discovering ways to make Ontario a better place for everyone.



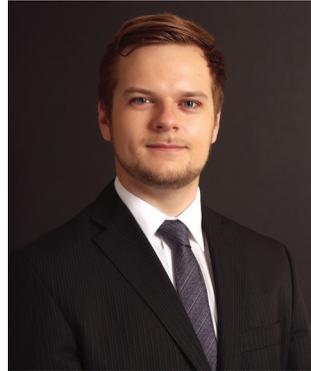
Jacob: Just trying to live my best life while being non-partisan.



Leslie: So many new names and faces - what an amazing start!



Rachel: Opening doors, developing skills, and exploring #ONPoli from the inside.



Alexander: Running through the 6ix with my knowledge of provincial politics.



Kyle: Turning theory into practice - learning how provincial government really works.



Steph: The opportunity to experience government processes holistically with amazing people.



Emily: Learning from my brilliant colleagues and developing skills for life.

We'd love to hear from you! If you're an OLIP alumni or sponsor, tweet your "ten in ten" to @olipinterns to share your experiences with the programme too!

Question Period

During Question Period, the provincial government answers challenging questions in the Chamber. Can you answer these challenging questions about the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and OLIP?

Questions

1. What are the official colours of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario?
2. Which famous Canadian is immortalized as a statue at the most southern point of Queen's Park?
3. What motto forms part of Ontario's coat of arms?
4. How many ridings will Ontario have in the 2018 provincial election?
5. How many premiers have served Ontario since OLIP began?
6. The name "Ontario" is derived from an Iroquois word meaning what?
7. Who was Ontario's first "elected" Speaker of the House?
8. Throughout its forty-one year history, how many OLIP interns have worked at Queen's Park?
9. Why do all the office doors in the east and west wings face each other?
10. Whose faces are depicted in the Chamber?
11. What is the longest amount of time the Legislature has sat consecutively?
12. What is the title of the oldest book in the Legislative Library?

Answers

1. Green and gold
2. Sir John A. MacDONald
3. Ut Incepit Fidelis Sic Permanet, which translates to "Loyal She Began, Loyal She Remains"
4. One hundred and twenty-two
5. Eight
6. Sparkling water
7. David Warner
8. Three hundred and fifty-six
9. As a result of an old superstition about evil spirits moving in straight lines
10. Queen Victoria and the carvers who crafted the stonework
11. 248 consecutive hours, from 5:20 pm, 2 April to 9:00 pm, 11 April, 1997.
12. "Latin Grammar"

Our Sponsors

OLIP would not be possible without its generous sponsors. Over the course of our orientation OLIP interns have had the opportunity to meet with representatives from several of our supporters. We have had the pleasure of meeting with LawPRO, TD, and Ontario Power Generation. During our orientation period, we had the privilege of learning about the work of LawPRO, one of OLIP's generous sponsors. LawPRO provides liability coverage for lawyers practicing in Ontario. Through our visit to the Toronto headquarters, we learned about LawPRO's multifaceted services, including its educational initiatives which



target high school students, law school students, and the general public. Thank you to Kathleen Waters, CEO; Daniel Pinnington, Vice President, Claims Preventions & Stakeholder Relations; Raymond Leclair, Vice President Public Affairs; and Tim Lemieux, Claims Prevention & Stakeholder Relations Coordinator for taking the time to meet with us and for your continued support of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme! We look forward to meeting with many more of our sponsors over the next few months, as we are assisted not only from their financial contributions, but also from the insight and advice shared in these meetings. Thank you to our sponsors for their commitment to the programme – we are sincerely grateful for your support throughout our time here at Queen's Park.

We are once again proud to present Ontario Power Generation as one of our three lead sponsors this year. We've been lucky to have OPG's support for several years now and appreciate its ongoing involvement. Ontario Power Generation is owned by the province and has plants and staff from Kenora to Cornwall and everywhere in between. The company produces more than half the power used in most homes, schools, hospitals and businesses in Ontario and OPG is committed to ensuring its energy production is reliable, safe and environmentally sustainable for Ontarians today and for the future. In 2014, OPG burned its last piece of coal to make electricity. OPG notes that this was the largest single action to combat climate change in North America to date. OPG's two northwestern coal stations were converted to renewable biomass. Now, together with a diverse fleet that includes 65 hydroelectric stations and two nuclear stations, OPG's power is 99.7 per cent free of smog and greenhouse gas emissions. And it produces this power at approximately half the cost of other generators.

ONTARIO **POWER**
GENERATION

Our Sponsors

The Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) has developed a unique working relationship with the OLIP interns over the past 20 years, most recently, becoming a lead sponsor in 2012. OREA is one of Ontario's most respected professional associations. Founded in 1922 by a handful of real estate professionals, today, OREA represents over 56,000 REALTORS® and 40 local real estate boards and associations. It serves its members through a variety of publications, educational programs and brings a united voice to the Ontario Legislature on behalf of REALTORS®. The association is committed to promoting high industry standards, protecting consumers and promoting home ownership. OREA is the only authorized provider of real estate licensing courses in the province. Committed to education and professionalism, OREA takes special pride in helping nurture young people's interest in politics and create tomorrow's leaders. OREA is a proud sponsor of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, and boasts two former interns as part of its government relations staff.



The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO) became OLIP's first Lead Sponsor in 2010, and we would like to thank them for its continued support over the years. The IBAO has been a proud sponsor of OLIP since 1996. The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario is a voluntary membership organization that serves over 11,500 independent insurance brokers across the province. The organization is a politically active group that represents its members at the Ontario Legislature, regulatory bodies, as well as industry commissions and associations. The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario member brokers play an active role in their communities with strong vested interest in serving consumers across the province. They volunteer at many local events and participate in many career fairs at high schools, colleges and universities, supporting and encouraging young Ontarians to build solid futures in this province.

LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



THE INVESTMENT FUNDS INSTITUTE OF CANADA



ROGERS

AMAPCEO
ONTARIO'S PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES



SPONSORS

