

# Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME  
FALL 2013



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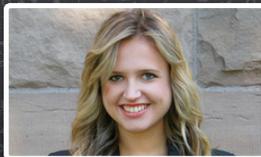
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MELINDA  
MUNDING



DOUGLAS  
WONG



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Welcome to the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. On behalf of this year's Interns, we invite you to explore the fall edition of the Queen's Park Insider, our bi-annual publication reviewing our many activities and adventures as OLIP Interns. This Fall has provided the Interns with an opportunity to become acclimatized to their new positions at Queen's Park. The orientation period included everything from a tour of the Legislature, to meetings with various stakeholders, as well as a number of staff and members at Queen's Park. We are excited to see what the rest of our internship brings and look forward to sharing our experiences with you in our magazines and blogs.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in November 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 or with any political party. The Programme is designed to provide backbench Members of the Legislative Assembly with highly qualified assistants, while at the same time giving Interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

## LEAD SPONSORS



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## NEW SPONSORS



I am now in my tenth year as Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) and once again I am delighted to work with a new group of bright, eager interns.

We began our orientation on September 4th and the Legislative Assembly resumed sitting on September 9th, a quick start to the intern year. 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 Advocacy Solutions, the Certified General Accountants of Ontario, Ipsos Canada, the Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario, LawPRO, Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Law Society of Upper Canada, Shoppers Drug Mart, Vale Canada, and the Royal Bank of Canada.

Other meetings included Paul Macmillan and former intern Sasha Tregebov of Deloitte, who spoke on the work of consulting firms and government. The interns also enjoyed advice and stories from journalists knowledgeable about Queen's Park, such as Honorary Interns Jim Coyle, a former Queen's Park columnist with the Toronto Star, and CBC Radio News producer and news reader Robert Fisher. In addition, Robert Benzie of the Toronto Star and Christina Blizzard of Sun Media gave the interns the benefit of their insights about life at Queen's Park.

A highlight of orientation for the new interns is always their meetings with the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. This year the interns enjoyed meetings with the new Auditor-General Bonnie Lysyk and Deputy Auditor-General Gary Peall, Chief and Deputy Chief Electoral Officers Greg Essensa and Loren Wells, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Gord Miller, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, Ombudsman Andre Marin, and Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Irwin Elman.

We thank four key members of the Legislative Assembly for making themselves available for meetings. Our patron is the Speaker, Dave Levac. We receive strong support from Clerk Deborah Deller, Deputy Clerk Todd Decker and Clerk of

Procedural Research Services Tonia Grannum.

In addition, we also thank the Director of Broadcast and Recording Services and Honorary Intern Arleigh Holder, as well as former Speaker David Warner, Director of Human Resources Nancy Marling, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services Deborah Caruso, Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark and Vicki Whitmell, head of iDivision.

Intern alumni helped familiarize the new interns with the norms and traditions of Queen's Park. I especially thank Leslie DeMeulles, Senior Ministerial Policy Advisor; Karim Bardessy, Director of Policy and Research to the Premier; Chelsea Peet, Emma Stanley-Cochrane and Meghan Warby, all from the Cabinet Office; Kaila Mintz, Foreign Service Officer and Senior Policy Advisor; and Rebecca Scott, Regional Director of Extencicare. And as is usual for the intern orientation, Honorary Intern Graham Murray hosted an information session at his home office followed by refreshments at his favourite local pub.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that the success of our Programme is the result of a great team effort. First and foremost is Eithne Whaley, our Programme Assistant who solves so many of our problems. Committee Clerk Will Short, in his second year as a Programme Coordinator, has been a great asset to OLIP and a very great help to the Director. Joining OLIP in his first year as a Programme Coordinator is Research Librarian Rick Sage, who follows in the footsteps of his wife, Research Officer and OLIP alumnus Lorraine Luski. Although now formally retired, Lorraine gave a one-hour presentation on "Intern Etiquette." Lorraine and Rick also hosted their Intern Chili Lunch at their home in North York. This fun event is an important exercise that firms up the bond among the interns and between the interns and the OLIP administrative team.

All the orientation activities herald a great intern year in 2013-2014. We all believe the 38th OLIP year will be the best yet!

Dr. Henry J. Jacek

# MEET THE INTERNS

EMILY BARRETTE & JESSICA BEHNKE

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**Emily** was born and raised in Ottawa, and grew up in a bilingual home. She completed her BA at McGill in Joint Honours History and Political Science, and her MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. A Europhile at heart, Emily has lived in Austria and Belgium, and travelled extensively in Central and Eastern Europe. She has completed study tours of European Union institutions and the Western Balkans, and completed an internship at the Canadian Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg. Long fascinated by Canadian politics, she worked as a tour guide on Parliament Hill and caught the political bug for good. Emily has volunteered with several environmental and sustainable food organizations in Toronto. An avid cyclist, Emily also enjoys running, swimming, cooking, and pickling things.

Hometown riding: *Ottawa South*

Favourite place in Ontario: *her family's cottage on Dalhousie Lake, Lanark County*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *the architecture of the Legislature, and the people in it*

Dream job at the legislature: *Environmental Commissioner or Auditor General*

OLIP archetype: *the Franco-Ontarian*

Survival tips for working at the legislature: *Band aids, a water bottle, and a pair of flats*

## Jessica On Emily

Emily is the ideal balance of kind-heartedness and feistiness. One of her many Europhile qualities, Em rides her bike to work everyday—and somehow still arrives at Queen's Park looking polished! Her acumen, as well as her integrity, are huge assets to our OLIP team.

Born and raised in Mississauga, **Jessica** has an affinity for Northern Ontario after having spent many summers up north as a child. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Wilfrid Laurier University, and a Master's Degree in Political Science from McGill University. She has presented two academic papers at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, and has three years of experience as a Teaching Assistant for Canadian Politics and Methods courses. Her Master's thesis was on the topic of immigration and multiculturalism, but she is also interested in social policy, media and politics, and fiscal/tax policy.

She has traveled Europe and Australia, and enjoys concerts, exhibits, museums, and painting (both pictures and her nails).

Hometown riding: *Mississauga South*

Favourite place in Ontario: *Family members' "Camps" on Lakes Agnew, Matinenda, Tube and Lauzon*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *The "Women at Queen's Park" exhibit*

Dream job at the legislature: *If I could be 14 again, a Page. As a grown-up, the Ombudsman or the Speaker (mostly for the apartment)*

OLIP archetype: *the Reluctant Academic*

Survival tips for working at the legislature: *Always carry band-aids*

## Emily On Jessica

The first thing I noticed about Jess was her smile and her happy disposition. She brings a good balance of silliness and academic seriousness to OLIP—she is definitely the quantitative methods expert of the group. She can always be relied on for a good laugh and an impromptu food run.



# MEET THE INTERNS

MITCHELL DAVIDSON & AARON DENHARTOG

OPI PAGE 5

**Mitchell** is originally from Oro-Medonte, north of Barrie, Ontario. He completed both his honours BA and MA degrees in political science from the University of Western Ontario. Mitchell focused his studies on the evolution of Canadian political institutions, culminating in a major research paper on the evolution and future progression of Question Period in the federal parliament. Outside of academia, Mitchell is an avid sports fan and played competitive level hockey and baseball growing up. Mitchell enjoys pursuing hobbies that include recreational writing and coaching local sports teams and organizations in the Oro-Medonte area. Mitchell is proud to represent rural constituencies in the 2013-2014 OLIP family and is eager to see parliamentary procedure in action.



**Aaron** was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He attended York University for his undergrad in political science. Aaron's academic interests include politics, aboriginal and constitutional law, and the impact of international trade agreements on domestic policy making. While at York, Aaron volunteered extensively with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and served as the President of CCLA at York University. While his interests are primarily around law and politics, Aaron has also spent time with numerous organizations promoting improved access to local food and poverty eradication. Prior to attending York, Aaron successfully ran his own business for a number of years.

Hometown Riding: *Simcoe North*

Favourite Place in Ontario: *Oro-Medonte Community Arena*

Favourite Aspect of Queen's Park: *The traditions of the legislature and the ringing of the division bells*

Dream Job at the Legislature: *The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly*

OLIP Archetype: *the Rural One*

Survival Tips for Queen's Park: *Read the Order Paper and know the Standing Orders*

## **Aaron on Mitchell**

Most likely to read the Standing Orders....and enjoy it. Born and raised in Shanty Bay, Mitchell brings a mix of humour, bad puns, and an intimate knowledge of legislative procedure. His passion for all things procedure is matched only by his love of Toronto sports teams.

Hometown riding: *Etobicoke-Lakeshore*

Favorite Place in Ontario: *Anywhere along the waterfront*

Dream job at the Legislature: *Premier*

Favorite Aspect of Queen's Park: *Watching Question Period in the public gallery and the receptions*

OLIP archetype: *the Future Lawyer*

Survival Tips for Working at the Legislature: *Get to know the catering staff on a first name basis. You will thank me*

## **Mitchell on Aaron**

Despite Aaron's aspirations to be a lawyer, his personality does not fit the typical legal description. Aaron has a sharp sense of humour and rigid opinions on all things hockey. In my humble opinion Aaron would be voted by the group as most likely to cook a fantastic dinner and as the best reception eater.

# MEET THE INTERNS

VANESSA DUPUIS & AMANDA GAROFALO

QPI PAGE 6

**Vanessa** was born and raised in Richmond Hill and graduated from the University of Guelph. Her MA focused on issues of accountability in public-private partnerships, with a case study on the correctional facility in Penetanguishene. Vanessa's other interests center around the structure and efficiency of government. Vanessa was the Captain and MVP of the Varsity Women's Golf Team; a Teaching Assistant for political science courses; and a volunteer Peer Helper for the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre. Vanessa also established her own business to develop the fundamental skills and techniques of young hockey goaltenders. Vanessa enjoys running, reading, writing, and cooking. She is also a die-hard Toronto Maple Leafs fan



Hometown riding: *Richmond Hill*

Favourite place in Ontario: *Niagara Falls & Wine Country*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *Fast-paced and intense environment*

Dream job at the legislature: *Premier or Clerk*

OLIP archetype: *the Athlete*

Survival tips for working at the legislature: *Do not forget your security pass, and keep your eyes open because you are always running into an MPP/Party Leader/etc*

## **Amanda on Vanessa**

Vanessa is an incredibly skilled athlete, excelling in both hockey and golf. Although she only took up golf a few years ago, Vanessa has already competed semi-professionally. Accordingly, Vanessa's golf skills have rendered the interns petrified to challenge her to a game of mini-golf. Vanessa brings a much-appreciated friendly attitude, thoughtfulness, and calm demeanor to the program.

**Amanda** is a dyed-in-the-wool Torontonion. She completed her undergraduate degree in political science at the University of Toronto and her Master of Arts in public policy and administration at Ryerson University. Amanda has always had a strong interest in government and has worked at both the provincial and municipal levels. Amanda's work at Cabinet Office gave her first-hand insight into Cabinet committees and the decision-making process, thereby solidifying her interest. Most recently, Amanda worked at the Ministry of Economic Development where she dealt with projects dedicated to modernizing the interaction between government and business. In her (increasingly rare) spare time, Amanda enjoys reading, trying new restaurants, and exploring Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods.

Hometown riding: *York Centre*

Favourite place in Ontario: *Niagara-on-the-Lake*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *The hustle and bustle and excitement in the air*

Dream job at the Legislature: *Party Whip*

OLIP archetype: *the Public Servant*

Survival tips for working at the Legislature: *Always check your schedule and do your research before every meeting*

## **Vanessa on Amanda**

Amanda is the only intern with work experience in the public sector, and we have benefitted from her extensive knowledge! She is a genuinely nice person, and has been an amazing Meetings Chair. Her organization and attention to detail have been integral in providing background information for the interns in preparation for our meetings.

# MEET THE INTERNS

TAYLOR LEW & LAUREN MILLAR

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**Taylor** first entered the exciting world of provincial politics as a Legislative Page and later worked at Queen's Park for three years as a Bilingual Information Officer. Taylor earned an Honours BA in International Relations with high distinction from Trinity College, University of Toronto. His research interests in humanitarian intervention lead him to serve on the executive of the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. He is honoured to be a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his prolonged efforts to improve the lives of children in partnership with Plan International Canada. Taylor also worked as a Compensation Analyst at Towers Watson & Company. The experience spurred his desire to learn more about the intersection of politics and business during the internship year.



Hometown riding: *Don Valley West*

Favourite place in Ontario: *Serena Gundy Park*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *The fast pace!*

Dream job at the legislature: *Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

OLIP archetype: *The Queen's Park Lifer*

Survival tips for working at the legislature: *Always have a note pad and pen on hand. With so many incredible people to talk to at the legislature there is always an idea, tip, or email address to jot down.*

## Lauren on Taylor

If you work at Queen's Park chances are you know (and like) Taylor Lew. He's what we interns call a "Lifer" around the Pink Palace. His friendly smile and charming personality makes it unsurprising that he can't walk anywhere without running into a friend. I doubt Taylor will be leaving the Legislative Assembly anytime soon. Who knows, he may even be your MPP one day!

Originally from Hamilton, **Lauren** recently graduated from the University of Toronto where she earned a double major Honours BA in political science and history. Lauren served on the executive of the G8 Research Group, where she conducted research at four international G8 and NATO Summits. She also completed an internship with the U.S. Consulate in Toronto and was the Director of Communications for the university's Association of Political Science Students. Lauren enjoys traveling, running, and hopes to ultimately combine her public and private sector interests into a career in strategic planning/consulting, advocacy, or government relations.

Hometown Riding: *Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale*

Favourite place in Ontario: *Hidden lookout spots on the Hamilton escarpment "Rail-Trail."*

Favourite aspect of Queen's Park: *The atmosphere! Nothing compares to working alongside passionate people in a fast-paced environment that is constantly changing*

Dream job at the legislature: *Growing up I wanted to be Dana Perino (White House Press Secretary). I'd love to be her equivalent at Queen's Park!*

OLIP archetype: *the Social Butterfly*

Survival tips for working at the legislature: *Breath mints, for small cost, big yield.*

## Taylor on Lauren

I've known Lauren since the first year of university and am happy that we continue to cross paths. She never ceases to amaze me anytime we go to a reception, meet with a sponsor, or even just walk down the street because she is constantly approached by people she knows! Her professional popularity is a great testament to her friendliness and likability!

# MEET THE INTERNS

MELINDA MUNDING & DOUGLAS WONG

QPI PAGE 8

**Melinda** spent much of her childhood in the Hamilton area, although she also lived in Germany for four years. In Germany she developed a fondness for foreign cultures. Her newfound interest in culture and politics led her to an academic career at McMaster University, where she completed her undergraduate degree with a double major in history and political science. In the past year she also completed a MA in political science with a focus on public policy and Canadian politics. She has a particular interest in education policy, the environment, health policy, politics related to Aboriginal peoples, and children. She thoroughly enjoyed her position as a teaching assistant for political theory, hopes to attend teacher's college in the future, and eventually work in education policy or Aboriginal policy.

Hometown Riding: *Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale and Haldimand-Norfolk*

Favourite Place in Ontario: *Georgian Bay area and Niagara-On-The-Lake*

Favourite Aspect of Queen's Park: *The Legislative Library and the mosaic floors in the west wing*

Dream Job at the Legislature: *Hansard*

OLIP Archetype: *the Sweetheart*

Survival Tips for Working at the Legislature: *Bring band-aids for your feet, be open-minded, be polite to everyone and make sure you eat your veggies at receptions*

## Doug on Melinda

Melinda is the sweetest girl you will ever meet, period. I've known her for over a year now and it never ceases to amaze me the kindness and conviction that she possesses. Melinda is the personification of principled and it's wonderful going through this programme with her. She also gives fantastic high fives.



**Douglas** comes to the programme from Vancouver, British Columbia. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA, completing a double major in political science and history. He then moved to Hamilton, Ontario to complete his MA at McMaster University in political science.

Douglas' research interests include intergovernmental relations, and federalism. During his graduate program he worked as a Teaching Assistant for a first year political science course, which he found incredibly rewarding. For the past six years Douglas has worked with a non-profit which hosts an annual Model United Nations conference for high school students. Douglas is the lone Western Canadian this year and is a proud fan of

the Vancouver Canucks.

Hometown Riding: *Vancouver-Kingsway, British Columbia*

Favourite Place in Ontario: *The Legislative Assembly of Ontario (the Chamber; the hallways; everything).*

Favourite Aspect of Queen's Park: *The incredible history of the building and everything that's happened in it*

Dream Job at the Legislature: *Premier*

OLIP archetype: *the Out-Of-Province Intern*

Survival Tips for Working at the Legislature: *Appreciate every moment of being there*

## Melinda on Doug

Doug's happy demeanour and funny (or sometimes awkward) comments brighten all of our days at the legislature. Although we joke about him racing to hold the door for everyone, we all really appreciate it. Doug always makes sure that no intern is left behind. All of us are lucky to have such a nice, smart, and industrious person in our ranks. I am sure he will make OLIP proud!

# INTERN PLACEMENTS

EMILY, JESSICA, MITCHELL & AARON

QPI PAGE 9

**Emily:** For my first placement, I will be working with Norm Miller, the MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, and the Northern Development and Mines, as well as Aboriginal Affairs critic for the PC party. In my first week in the office, I had the chance to sit in on stakeholder meetings, attend committee, work on a Private Member's Bill, and help with a variety of research and writing tasks. Marcia and Adam, Norm's staff, have been extremely welcoming and friendly, and haven't hesitated to put me to work. Norm brings a wealth of experience to Queen's Park and to his critic roles. I am looking forward to assisting him with his diverse roles and becoming more familiar with the issues affecting Northern Ontario. Thanks for welcoming me to the team Norm, Marcia, and Adam!



**Mitchell:** I am happy to be working for Ernie Hardeman, the PC agriculture critic. Mr. Hardeman, although insistent on being called Ernie, has been an MPP since 1995, meaning he is very familiar with the inner workings of the legislature. In addition, Ernie is extremely knowledgeable about agricultural issues. Coming from a rural riding myself, I am very excited to be working in an office that has a particular focus on issues that directly affect my friends and family. Ernie's executive assistant Tara Barry has been very welcoming. From day one Tara and Ernie have made sure that I have been busy and included in everything going on in the office. I am truly looking forward to the rest of the term working with both Tara and Ernie!

**Jessica:** Mitzie Hunter, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood, was elected in the by-election this past August. Although both of us are rookies to life at Queen's Park, MPP Hunter brings a wealth of leadership and city-building experience to the role, which I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from! From her involvement at CivicAction, to starting her own consulting business, Mitzie has accomplished more in the last decade than most people could hope to in a lifetime. So far, I've worked on a Private Member's Bill, rolled up my sleeves in the constituency, and most recently started supporting her role on the Select Committee for Developmental Services. Thank you to Mitzie, Damien and Dayani for the warm welcome on board for my first placement term!



**Aaron:** My first OLIP placement is with John Fraser, MPP for Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to both the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of Natural Resources. I am barely in to my first week and Mr. Fraser has kept me busy doing everything from researching mining developments and attending ministerial briefings, to preparing for his committee work. I will also have the opportunity to travel to Ottawa South and witness first hand the operations of Mr. Fraser's constituency office and his commitment to his riding. While Mr. Fraser was only recently elected, he brings over a decade of political experience with him to Queen's Park. I am excited to learn from, and work with John and his staff in the upcoming months.

# INTERN PLACEMENTS

VANESSA, AMANDA, TAYLOR & LAUREN

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**Vanessa:** My first placement is with Liberal MPP **Bas Balkissoon**, representing the riding of Scarborough-Rouge River. His current Parliamentary Roles are extensive, which I am sure will keep me occupied throughout my placement. On my first day, working in the constituency office in Scarborough, I was quickly immersed in research and writing. I completed a draft speech and petition for Bas, and have been busy making briefing notes in preparation for two upcoming Private Members' Bills. It did not take me long to recognize the compassion and care that Bas has for his constituency. I am happy to be working with such a knowledgeable and experienced Member, and anticipate that my placement with Bas will provide me with access to excellent mentorship and guidance.



**Amanda:** For my first placement I am thrilled to be with **Lisa Thompson**, PC MPP for Huron Bruce. Lisa's passion always shines through, whether it is for her constituency of Huron Bruce, agriculture issues or energy policy. Being a born and bred Torontonionian, I am excited to learn more about the issues that matter to rural Ontarians. Lisa is eager to take me out to her riding and have me visit her Blyth and Kincardine constituency offices. Lisa's constituency staff, Janet, Lynne, and Sarah, have also been incredibly friendly and helpful. I am excited to help Lisa with her new portfolio as the Critic for Small Business and Red Tape. I know there will be plenty of work to do and that these next few months will fly by!



**Taylor:** My first impression of **Mme. France G elinas**, MPP for Nickel Belt, was that she is a great leader and mentor. During my first week, she offered me the chance to job shadow to help me decide on an area of focus. There is so much to choose from! Mme. G elinas is the NDP critic for Health and Long-Term Care and also Francophone Affairs. In addition, she serves as Deputy Whip and as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. So far I've attended stakeholder meetings, worked on a petition, witnessed committee hearings, and written a member's statement. That's only the first four days! I'll also visit the riding during the November Constituency Week. Overall, I'm having a lot of fun!

**Lauren:** I am thrilled to have my first placement in the office of **Steven Del Duca**, who is the Liberal MPP representing Vaughan and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance. Both his finance portfolio and passion for being an advocate for Vaughan creates an office culture that is fast-paced and exciting. Although the learning curve has been steep, Mr. Del Duca's warm personality, great sense of humour, and experience as a former staffer himself makes him a compassionate and motivating boss. On top of that, working alongside his staff, **Najva Amin** and former OLIP superstar **Andrea Ernesaks**, is fantastic. I thank them all for welcoming me into their office family and can't wait to see what the next few months have in store!

# INTERN PLACEMENTS

MELINDA & DOUGLAS  
WELCOMING A NEW OLIP COORDINATOR

QPI PAGE 11

**Melinda:** I was delighted when I found that I would be placed with **Dipika Damerla** for this half of the internship. I found Ms. Damerla's achievements to be quite inspirational—she received her MBA from the University of Toronto and could be working in the private sector, yet she chooses to use her knowledge to better her community through public service. In the short time I have worked with Ms. Damerla, it has already become clear that her main goal is to help the constituents of her community—whether it be through flood prevention, hosting town-halls to hear feedback on the Condo Act Review or meeting individually with constituents of Mississauga East-Cooksville. I am very honoured to have the opportunity to work with such a talented and caring individual.



**Doug:** For the first term, I was placed with **Michael Prue**, MPP for Beaches-East York. The duo of Mr. Prue and his EA, Laurie, have been incredibly welcoming to their office and bring a sense of humour and enthusiasm to their jobs. I've finally gotten used to the constant influx of people coming in, either to talk strategy or to take some of the member's baked goods (usually the latter). Michael Prue is a proud East Yorker, refusing to end his address with "Toronto, Ontario," and ensuring he is always photographed with his East York lapel pin, or his much more flashy East York sweater. In the short time that I have been there, I have learned a great deal about the NDP, the large amount of constituency work Mr. Prue deals with, and a member's life outside of the chamber.



## Welcoming a new OLIP coordinator- Rick Sage

We are pleased to announce that Richard Sage has joined the OLIP team as one of our programme coordinators. Rick was born in Windsor, raised in Etobicoke and has lived in Chatham, London, Kingston, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Toronto, all of which have given him a great appreciation for the size, and diversity, of Ontario. Rick holds degrees from the universities of Western Ontario (H.B.A), Queen's (LL.B.) and Toronto (M.L.S). In 1988, shortly after starting the last of these degrees, Rick wandered over to Queen's Park for a tour of the Legislative Library. When the tour ended he enquired if the Library hired students. They did. He applied, was accepted and, with the exception of a year's secondment to Legislative Counsel's e-Laws project, has never left. As a librarian with the Legislative Library and Research Service, Rick provides confidential, non-partisan, research services to the Members, Officers, and staff of the Ontario Legislature. He also makes a mean chili. Welcome to the OLIP team Rick!



# QUEEN'S PARK 101

## ORIENTATION 2013

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Orientation period is a rite of passage for OLIP interns, and if you spent any time around Queen's Park in September, it is likely you saw a group of 10 wide-eyed interns scurrying from meeting to meeting. This busy introductory month helped us to get acquainted with the people and players central to policymaking in Ontario. From Clerks to Independent Officers, to sponsors and former interns, there was no shortage of advice and information being shared. Beyond our action packed schedule of meetings, we also got a chance to familiarize ourselves with the happenings of the Legislative Assembly. We sat in on Committee Hearings and Question Period, where the Speaker formally introduced us in the House, and are certainly not strangers to the reception circuit. Although we are still the new kids in Whitney Block, this month laid the groundwork for our placements in MPP office, and helped us bond as the OLIP cohort of 2013-2014



Over its 38-year history, OLIP has amassed quite the crew of friends—ranging from OLIP alumni, honorary interns and ardent supporters. We were fortunate to meet with many of these individuals.

Former interns are always amongst our favourite meetings—they provide candid insights and invaluable advice that is second to none! Emma Stanley-Cochrane, Chelsea Peet and David Donovan shared their OLIP insights. Kaila Mintz and Rebecca Scott regaled us with some funny stories from their intern cohort and shared advice about working for both the private sector and federal government. The ranks of the Ontario Public Service are also filled with alumni with wisdom to impart. Meghan Warby from Cabinet Office shared her media savvy with us, and Chris Shantz from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provided us with some survival tips and words of wisdom.



Paul Macmillan from Deloitte offered an interesting discussion of his new book, *The Solution Revolution*, and the intersection between businesses, government and social enterprises. We were even happier that he brought former OLIP intern Sasha Tregobov with him.



Another “fan favourite” of the interns are the many meetings with Queen’s Park journalists. Robert Fisher, Jim Coyle, Robert Benzie, and Christina Blizzard all provided their unique insights into the role of Queen’s Park journalists, how they hold MPPs to account, and how journalism has changed over the years at the Legislature.



One unforgettable meeting this year was our tour of Broadcast and Recording Services, courtesy of honorary intern Arleigh Holder. Mr. Holder let us sit in the control room for the Ontario Legislative television channel and play around with some of the cameras. The highlight of the tour was examining the hidden passages of the building, and even having the opportunity to climb the rafters in the attic.



We are grateful to have so many supporters and friends of the program. Your expertise, knowledge and advice make the orientation period unforgettable!

# THE INNER WORKINGS

## MEETING LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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The 2013-2014 OLIP cohort was graciously introduced to the workings of the Ontario Legislature by a host of crucial Legislative employees. On the procedural side, the interns had the opportunity to meet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Deborah Deller; the Deputy Clerk and Executive Director, Todd Decker; the Clerk of Procedural Services, Tonia Grannum; and the Senior Clerk of House Documents, Anne Stokes. Together they thoroughly answered questions about the House and the various procedures governing the Legislature.

In addition to the various clerks, the interns also met with the always helpful library staff. This included Toni Ariganello, Circulation and News Services Librarian, Wendy Reynolds, Manager of Library Client Services, Susan Swift, the Director of Legislative Research, and Philip Kaye, the Manager of Research Services. The interns also met Research Librarian Eileen Lewis and the entire library research team; each offering helpful advice.

While at the library we were shown the stacks of debates and proceedings compiled by past Hansard teams, including the Director of Reporting and Interpretation Services, Deborah Caruso, who we had the pleasure of meeting. Director of Human Resources, Nancy Marling, complemented our orientation by explaining the intricacies of employment services, while the Executive Director of Information and Technology Services Division, Vicki Whitmell, detailed the ever important role of technology in the Legislature.

Rick Boon, Director of Legislative Security Services, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, Dennis Clark, both explained the importance of security at the legislature and captivated us with their stories and humour. Finally, the interns had an exclusive meeting with the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the House. Mr. Levac showed both his humour and charm while explaining the vast responsibility of his position. The interns would like to thank all members of the Legislative staff for taking the time to meet with us and help guide us through the orientation process!

*Pictured: Clerk Deborah Deller, meeting with Hansard, Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark & Speaker Dave Levac*



# KEEPING 'EM HONEST

## MEETING ONTARIO'S INDEPENDENT OFFICERS

QPI PAGE 15

During the first month of orientation the interns were fortunate to visit each of the seven Independent Officers of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Each officer provided insight into the legislation covering their mandate and the role they play in Ontario politics. First on the intern's schedule was Irwin Elwin, the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. After discussing his mandate Mr. Elwin shared emotional stories from his years as an advocate for children and youth. Not only was Mr. Elwin informative, but he also reminded us that we are all advocates of children and youth.

Next up was Bonnie Lysyk, the new provincial Auditor General. Just a few weeks into the position, Ms. Lysyk described the process and importance of performing value for money audits. She provided valuable insight into provincial spending and the role that the Auditor General plays in keeping the government accountable.



The interns met with Gord Miller, the provincial Environmental Commissioner. Mr. Miller is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Environmental Bill of Rights in addition to monitoring and reporting on environmental issues. He offered insight into the current and future environmental challenges facing Ontario.

Next up the interns met with Dr. Ann Cavoukian, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, who shared her passion for citizen privacy and transparent government. After an inspirational speech on the importance of open government, the interns were informed about the various initiatives emanating from the Information and Privacy Commissioner's office.



Following our meeting with Dr. Ann Cavoukian, the interns were invited to meet with Lynn Morrison, the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario. Ms. Morrison and her office are responsible for preventing ethics violations before they occur in addition providing public expense reviews and whistleblower protection.

The interns visited Elections Ontario, where they were welcomed by Greg Essensa, the Chief Electoral Officer. Mr. Essensa took the interns on a tour of their Scarborough facility and described the challenges that Elections Ontario faces during a minority government, when they must be prepared at all times for the writ to drop.

Finally, the interns were excited to visit with Andre Marin, the Ombudsman of Ontario. Mr. Marin talked to the interns about his vast mandate, which allows him to investigate a wide range of provincial matters, and his push to expand his mandate to include other sectors.

OLIP would like to thank all of the Provincial Independent Officers for taking time from their busy schedules to meet with us.



# A WORD FOR OUR SPONSORS

## MEETING OLIP'S SPONSORS

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Sponsors are an important part of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, and we are thankful for their support. Throughout our orientation, we have had the opportunity to meet with a number of sponsors of OLIP. One of our lead sponsors, Vale Canada, kindly hosted us at their offices at the beginning of our orientation. The interns were also delighted to host Sean Webster from Shoppers Drug Mart (one of our major sponsors) at Queen's Park. Over the next few months we hope to have the opportunity to meet many more of our sponsors in an effort to further educate ourselves within their area of expertise. We would like to sincerely thank each of our sponsors for their commitment to the programme – we are fortunate to have such a wealth of support throughout our tenure at Queen's Park.



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*We look forward to meeting with more of our sponsors as the year continues and already have many exciting meetings planned.*

*If you would like to meet the interns, contact the OLIP office by email [eithne\\_whaley@ontla.ola.org](mailto:eithne_whaley@ontla.ola.org) or by phone 416-325-0040.*

*Please note that Fridays are more convenient for meetings as the interns are in MPP placements Monday to Thursday.*

# INTERN EVENTS

QPI PAGE 18

Change seems to define the atmosphere at Queen's Park and in parliamentary democracy more generally. The interns attend question period to listen to changes made in policy, perspective and motive. There are changes in the saliency of issues sometimes day by day. Former 2012-2013 intern, Andrea Ernesaks, warned us before our placements began, that things in the legislature change swiftly, sometimes without warning, and that we need to be able to adapt to these changes. Change was also the focus of the first event hosted by the Churchill Society which the interns had the opportunity and pleasure of attending. Darrell Bricker, author of the Big Shift, presented his thesis on the transformation of the Canadian economic and demographic composition and the implications these changes have had—and might have—on the Canadian political landscape. Chrystia Freeland, journalist, author, and Liberal Party candidate for Toronto Centre, offered her interpretation of the changes pointed out by Mr. Bricker regarding the traditional identity and means of unification of Canada's population. We are looking forward to the upcoming Churchill Society events and would like to extend a warm thank you for hosting the interns.

his recently released book within which he divulges into greater detail aspects of the interviews we have witnessed on TVO as well as his own personal interviews with Ontario's Premiers. Mr. Paikin's dedication to politics and to informing the public is admirable and inspiring for our future careers.



Interns meet with alumni



The interns were also invited as guests of Paul Yeung at RBC, to attend the Public Affairs Association Award of Distinction Luncheon in September. Steve Paikin was presented with the award for his commitment to the public and political affairs of Ontario. Mr. Paikin discussed



Interns get a look at the Legislative Building attic

# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

## MEETING THE PARTY LEADERS

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There was a great deal of anticipation surrounding our meetings with Mr. Hudak, Ms. Horwath, and Premier Wynne. As political junkies, we are used to keeping up with leaders' activities. We see them frequently in the newspapers, on the six o'clock news, on Twitter, in the Chamber, and at receptions – so, naturally, we were anxious to meet with them in person. All of the leaders were gracious in answering our questions, and we walked out of each meeting all smiles with the new insights gained.

### Premier Wynne

It was a real pleasure to have Premier Wynne's undivided attention. She was excited to tell us that her third grandchild was born just the night before! This really set the tone for our meeting – everyone was in good spirits. She answered our questions regarding the importance of getting more women elected to public office and the Ring of Fire. When asked about what she would like to be remembered for, the Premier responded with the improvement of education for Aboriginal students. She also jokingly reassured us that she would try her best to avoid a Spring election in order to avoid cutting our second OLIP placement short. It will be exciting to see how events play out leading up to the budget announcement!



### Mr. Hudak

The hustle and bustle in a party leader's office truly never stops. Just as we were about to sit down, Mr. Hudak had to rush off to the house unexpectedly for a quick vote! Upon returning, he immediately made us feel at ease and welcomed our questions. We enjoyed learning about his ex-

perience getting elected as an MPP for the first time at the age of 27. (A great source of inspiration for those of us seeking to run for office one day!) He has a personal interest in OLIP, since he has received an intern multiple times before becoming leader. Possibly due to the OLIP factor, Mr. Hudak even trusted us enough to reveal his old fantasy-wrestling nickname, but we will keep that as our secret for now...



### Ms. Horwath

We were all excited to continue our conversation with Ms. Horwath, having met with her briefly at a reception. She was very kind and accommodating and let us determine the structure of the meeting based on our interests. We decided to take all the time to ask her questions and she spoke candidly on a variety of issues. For example, she talked to us about her transition from municipal to provincial politics, and adjusting to the difference between the two vis-à-vis constituency work. She also discussed the challenges of maintaining a positive tone in opposition and the NDP victories in the recent by-elections.



# ALUMNI UPDATES

## RECENT ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS & UPDATES

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**Bill Acres** (83-84) Professor of Comparative Religion and History, Huron College and Member, University of Western Ontario History Dept., London, Ontario.

**Karim Bardeesy** (01-02) Executive Director of Policy and Research for Premier Kathleen Wynne, Toronto.

**Connor Bays** (12-13) Executive Assistant to Executive Director and CEO Frances Gucciardi (94-95), Loran Scholars and the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation, Toronto.

**Meghan Buckham** (08-09) Graduate Student and Research Assistant, Trent University and Consulatant to the Nunatsiavut Territorial Government.

**Natalie Desimini** (10-11) Policy Advisor, Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch, Ministry of Education, Government of Ontario, Toronto.

**Paul DiIanni** (09-10) Director of Tour for Premier Kathleen Wynne, Toronto.

**Beth Elder** (12-13) Executive Assistant to the Director of the School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto.

**Belinda Ellsworth** (11-12) Program Policy Intern, Language Training Unit, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Government of Ontario, Toronto.

**Andrea Ernesaks** (12-13) Legislative Assistant to Steven Del Duca MPP.

**Patrick Fafard** (85-86) Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa

**Jon Feairs** (05-06) Senior Manager, Government Affairs Ontario, Astra Zeneca Canada, Mississauga, Ontario.

**Melanie Francis** (03-04) Special Advisor, Government House Leader's Office, Ontario Legislative Assembly, Toronto.

**Lynn Gidluck** (91-92) Author and Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Nicole Goodman** (05-06) Assistant Professor of Political Science, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

**Lauren Hanna** (11-12) Audit Research Coordinator, Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, Toronto.

**Gillian Hanson** (12-13) Communications and Outreach Officer, Manitoba Institute for Policy Research, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Waqas Iqbal** (08-09) Student-at-Law, Law Department, City of Calgary, Alberta.

**Sylvia Kim** (11-12) Manager, Centre for Social Innovation (CSI), Regent Park, Toronto.

**Aviva Levy** (09-10) Policy Development Officer, Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS), City of Toronto.

**Daniel Malik** (00-01) Director, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Toronto Financial Services Alliance (TFSA).

**Erin McGinn** (98-99) Assistant Vice President, Communications, Government and Community Engagement, Ryerson University, Toronto.

**Megan McIlroy** (90-91) Hospital Case Manager, Southwest Community Care Access Centre, Waterloo, Ontario.

**Kate Mulligan** (03-04) Researcher, Healthy Public Policy, Toronto Public Health, Toronto.

**Tim Murphy** (82-83) Co-Chair, Ontario Liberal Election Campaign, Toronto.

**Chelsea Peet** (08-09) Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cabinet Office, Government of Ontario, Toronto.

**Sylvia Pena** (11-12) Government Relations Specialist, Department of Government Relations, Ontario Real Estate Association, Toronto.

**Sarah Roberts** (02-03) Manager, External Relations, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, Westminster, London, England.

**Rebecca Scott** (04-05) Co-Chair, Equal Voice, Toronto.

**Hibah Sidat** (12-13) Research Assistant, Counsel Public Affairs, Toronto.

**Priya Suagh** (99-00) Communications and Marketing Strategist, Toronto.

**Sacha Tregobov** (10-11) Senior Consultant, Deloitte Consulting, Public Strategy and Operations, Toronto.

**Natalie Tutunzis** (09-10) Consultant, Hill & Knowlton Strategies, Toronto.

**Megan Warby** (05-06) Lead, Social Media Strategy, Cabinet Office, Government of Ontario, Toronto.

**Monica Wyrzykowska** (11-12) Economist, Ministry of Infrastructure, Government of Ontario, Toronto.



**Daniel Cayen** has enjoyed an incredible career in the Ontario Public Service, working for numerous ministries and currently as the Assistant Deputy Minister to the Office of Francophone Affairs. Daniel insists that he owes the foundation of his career to the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme, which he calls the “best learning experience you’ll have in your life”. His OLIP year, 1981-1982, was an exciting time to be in the legislature. The Canadian Constitution was being repatriated, making political debate in the house heated and exciting. Daniel was able to navigate through the political firestorm in his two placements, NDP member C.J. (Bud) Wildman and Conservative Yuri Shymko, with the help of his tight-knit intern group who were the first to create a magazine, the gossip newsletter entitled the “Intern Inquirer”, and even camped out in Dr. Graham White’s (a clerk at the time, now Professor at the University of Toronto) backyard. Beyond the fun he had in his OLIP year, Daniel Cayen insists that he entered into the government afterwards with an important respect for politicians and their commitment to serving the public, an understanding of stakeholder management, valuable knowledge of the legislative process, and the marketable skill in the public service of being a generalist. Daniel Cayen’s advice for the interns is to “soak it all in”, ask questions, and enjoy every day.

**Karim Bardeesy’s** name is known and highly respected around Queen’s Park. The former OLIP intern from the 2001-2002 cohort is currently Hon. Premier Wynne’s Executive Director of Policy. Karim took a partisan route after the internship, however, his exciting career led him down a



diverse path inside and outside of politics, which eventually brought him back to Queen’s Park. Karim was so impressed with his intern placement with Liberal Jim Bradley, then Critic for the Environment, that he decided to work on the Ontario Liberal Party 2003 election campaign. There he was placed in the centre of electoral politics, working in the “War Room”. When the Liberals won and formed government Karim worked as a political staffer to the Minister of Finance. Eventually he decided to step away from politics and pursue his Masters in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and from 2008-2011 worked as a journalist. A month after the 2011 election he was asked to return to Queen’s Park and he did. Karim credits OLIP with instilling in him the “skill of observation” which is underappreciated in politics (and elsewhere) today. To him, the internship gives participants the unique and otherwise impossible opportunity to be “in something but not of something”. Karim’s advice to current interns is to recognize the “privileged position” you are in. Cast away any fears or impatience about job prospects or grad school – things will work themselves out if you savour your year and focus on the opportunities around you that can have a real impact on Ontarians.

## Alumni: Stay in touch!

Have you moved? Started a new job? Contact us at [eithne\\_whaley@ontla.ola.org](mailto:eithne_whaley@ontla.ola.org) with details

# INTERN TRAVEL

QPI PAGE 22

The travel plans for this year include trips to Ottawa, the Northwest Territories, and the United Kingdom. In all three instances, we will be studying the democratic responsibilities and difficulties that each respective jurisdiction faces. The first trip to the national capital will take place in early December and “it’s not that cold in December” is something we have been assured of during discussions of Ottawa. We hope to meet a number of the influential players in the federal arena and learn more about the intricacies of the federal system so that we may place the issues we have witnessed at the provincial level into context. We will also be meeting with our parent organization, the Canadian Political Science Association, for light banter and witty repartee (but more likely just great academic political discussion).



The capstone trip will once again be to London, England. Predictably, the group is very excited for this trip and it should be a fantastic experience to witness the proceedings at Westminster. The level of civility in British House of Commons is a frequently discussed topic and we all look forward to experiencing it first-hand. The trip to London looks to be the perfect way to end the 10-month experience!



Our second trip will take us to the far North: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The decision to go North was heavily contested but after a thorough debate, we came to the decision that a trip to the Great White North would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are all looking forward to dog sledding, interacting with northern Aboriginal groups, and the moments of bliss that accompany entering a heated building after being outside. However, the most interesting facet of our trip will be a visit to the jurisdiction’s unique, non-partisan assembly. The cooperative atmosphere of their chamber looks to be a refreshing experience, though we imagine the heckling will be much more restrained.



Once again, we would like to thank our sponsors. Without your financial support these educational comparative study trips would not be possible

# A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT  
LEAD SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

QPI PAGE 23



The Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (registered name of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario) is pleased to have sponsored the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme for the past 15 years. Some of the province's brightest young people have been OLIP interns and many have gone on to senior roles within Ontario's political, civil service and business communities.

CPA Ontario is the qualifying and regulatory body of Ontario's almost 37,000 CPAs and 6,000 CPA Students. With a rich history dating back to 1879, the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario serves the public interest by developing, monitoring and enforcing the highest standards of professional competence and ethical conduct. Chartered Professional Accountants are valued by organizations of all types for their financial expertise, strategic thinking, business insight, management skills and leadership.

This is an exciting time for the accounting profession in Canada. All our nation's accounting professionals are committed to unifying as one single, strong profession under the banner of Chartered Professional Accountants. As part of this change, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario now uses the name Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario. CPA Ontario and the Certified Management Accountants of Ontario are currently working towards uniting and together we are in unification negotiations with the Certified General Accountants of Ontario.

## Our Lead Sponsors

Vale became one of OLIP's lead sponsors four years ago and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued generosity.

Vale, the world's second largest mining company, prides itself on transforming base elements into useful ingredients that improve our everyday lives while employing sustainable mining practices whenever possible. The minerals Vale mines, for example, are used to build and create essential items like batteries, cars, medical equipment, and computers.

Vale's history in the Canadian mining sector is rich, and its presence in Ontario spans over 100 years. We are proud to be a longtime contributor to both the country's and the province's economies and communities, and we look forward to a bright and prosperous future in Canada.

The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme is providing first-class experiences to Ontario's best and brightest emerging civic leaders, and Vale is proud to support such a high-quality programme that aligns with our commitment to enhancing education in the countries in which we operate. Vale looks forward to watching the program grow over the next several years, and we wish each of the 2013-14 interns the best of luck.

Vale is proud to continue our support of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

# Queen's Park Insider

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

FALL 2013

The Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario became OLIP's first Lead Sponsor in 2010, we would like to thank them for their continued support over the years.

Since 1996, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario (IBAO) has been a proud sponsor of OLIP. And in 2010 the association took on the role of lead sponsor.

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 their 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.

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- You have the right to dispute your insurance company's refusal to pay benefits.
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## Our Lead 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 their government relations staff.