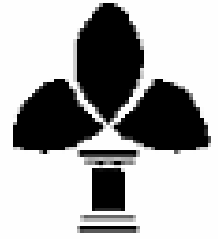




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2004 Fall Newsletter

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT — FALL 2004

As the new director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP), I am delighted to write my first column for the Queen's Park Insider. I was pleased to participate in the interns' orientation with many of the officials of the Legislature, sponsors and journalists. After all, it was my orientation as well! One of the joys of being the academic director is to interact with the eight keen, bright young people who relish working on a new challenge. This year's group is outstanding. They enjoyed and learned a great deal from the orientation sessions. They scheduled a large number of MPP

interviews and handled well the difficult job of matching their interests with the large number of good possible placements. Finally, despite their busy schedule in the Legislature, they have all developed interesting

bers of the administration team. I would be lost without Eithne Whaley, our resourceful Programme Assistant, now in her second year with OLIP. We are ably assisted by our two veteran Legislative Coordi-

nators, Committee Clerk Tonia Granum, and Legislative Researcher Ray McLellan. Tonia took the lead role in scheduling orientation while



educational research projects. Their research reports will be presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) at the University of Western Ontario in early June, 2005.

I have been greatly helped by the other mem-

Ray is especially helpful in sponsor relations.

The twelve of us, interns and staff, have had a great start to our year together and we are sure that things will get even better!

Henry Jacek
Academic Director.

OLIP Orientation 2004 - 2005

The official start date for the 2004 – 2005 Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was on Thursday September 9th, at 8:20 a.m. With rain pouring on pavement, the eight interns scurried to the side entrance of the Legislative Building to await the mysterious new Academic Director of the Programme. Upon Dr. Henry Jacek's arrival and greeting, the Group of Eight followed him in to nervously await the distribution of Orientation Packages in the auspicious 'Amethyst Room'. Once the initial nerves subsided, the 2004 Orientation period was underway. Over the course of the next few weeks, the interns and Director met with a host of offices and personalities inside and outside of Queen's Park.

Lisa Freedman, Clerk of Committee and Clerk-At-the-Table, began our orientation within the procedural branch of the Legislative Assembly. She introduced us to the formidable duties assigned to clerks of the assembly and prepped us for later meetings with Deborah Deller, Deputy Clerk and Executive Director of Legislative Services, and with Claude L. DesRosiers, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. All three officials provided insightful perspectives into the legislative process as well as 'life' at Queen's Park. Lastly, the interns met with two essential institutional figures of the legislature, as they had insightful discussions with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Alvin Curling, and with the Honourable James K. Bartleman, the Lieutenant Governor.

Interns received a tour and tutorial for use of the Legislative Library, on behalf of Vicki Whitmell, Fiona Watson and Susanne Hynes, respectively. Following, the interns were introduced to a very different system of research compilation than experienced during their undergraduate and graduate careers, as they met with Legislative

Research and Information Services Branch. Elaine Campbell, Avrum Fenson, Larry Johnston, and Ray McLellan detailed the range of research resources available to employees of the assembly and discussed the need for high research standards and confidentiality when compiling legislative research. Their



discussion dovetailed nicely with our subsequent meeting with Donald Revell, Chief Legislative Counsel. These meetings showcased the practical applications and demands for highly developed research skills.

Our orientation period was peppered with a series of meetings and orientations with other offices and services at Queen's Park. The interns met with Dennis Clark, the Sergeant-At-Arms, as well as Marilyn Abraham who gave an educational discussion regarding job skill assessment, as Director of Human Resources. Following, the interns were introduced to the glitz and glare of the video cameras which capture the dynamics of the personalities and business that unfolds in the Legislature. Arleigh Holder, Director of Broadcasting and Recording Services, provided an informative and interactive tour of the media facilities and equipment stationed at Queen's Park. Lastly, the interns' meeting with Richard Copeland, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services, provided an excellent illustration of a demanding historic parliamentary institution and motivated us all to become proficiently bilingual.

Outside of Queen's Park, but only an arm's length distance away, the interns met with various Officers of the Legislative As-

sembly who function as accountability and transparency mechanisms on our elected officials. Meetings with Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner; Clare Lewis, the Ombudsman; Lorie Wells, the Assistant Chief Election Officer; Jim McCarter, the Acting Provincial Auditor; Tom Mitchinson, the Assistant Information and Privacy Commissioner; and with the Office of the Integrity Commissioner were very informative. Communicating with these officers and learning about their mandates, experienced barriers, and successes were insightful moments of our orientation period.

Interns also met various Ontario media personalities such as Ian Urquhart from the Toronto Star, Christina Blizzard from the Toronto Sun, and Graham Richardson formally of Global Television.

Lastly, the interns met with diverse organizations, which routinely communicate with Queen's Park. A meeting with Graham Murray and Brian O'Riordan of G.P. Murray Research Ltd., described the work of a political consultant. Additionally, meetings with Mark Yakubski of the Insurance Bureau of Canada; Sarah Sheppard and Penny Eizenga of Novartis Pharmaceuticals; and Don Drummond of Toronto-Dominion Bank offered venues for a wide array of public policy topics to be discussed and debated.

The interns would like to thank all of the people who offered their valuable time in meeting with us during our orientation period and also to those who worked very hard to prepare and organize a truly informative orientation experience.

The Annual Churchill Society Dinner — Tim Culbert

The Churchill Society has been an avid supporter of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme for quite some time now. As such, OLIP has typically delegated one intern to sit on the Churchill Society Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of being able to sit in this position during my time as an intern thus far. The Churchill Society is a non-profit organization composed of members who both admire the historical legacy of Sir Winston Churchill, and promote the principles of parliamentary

democracy, which Churchill supported. Thus far, I have been able to attend two board of directors meetings of the Churchill Society and have been welcomed with open arms by the many interesting individuals that make up this board.

Their organizing capacity and knowledge of Sir Winston Churchill and the principles of parliamentary democracy were illuminated on November 8, 2004, at the Society's 21st Annual Society Dinner, which included a

marvelous speech by Professor Warren F. Kimball, Robert Treat Professor of History, Rutgers University and the presentation of the society's award of excellence to former Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Joe Clark. Clark eloquently spoke of the contrast between the theories behind Canada's parliamentary democracy, and the practical realities of the government's applications of these theories. Our director, Dr. Henry Jacek, and all eight interns were able to attend this event thanks to members of

the society's board of directors, who so thoughtfully sponsored the intern attendance. On behalf of the 2004/05 Ontario Legislative Interns, I would like to thank the Churchill Society for their on-going support for our programme. I would also like to thank former intern, Sarah Baker, for her ongoing support and advice to both the current interns and the Churchill society.

INTERN MEETINGS SO FAR... NICOLA HEPBURN



The interns have been given the chance to meet with some of the most prominent and accomplished political individuals of our generation, and we have taken this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and run with it!

On October 19th, we met with Mr. Sean Conway, a highly respected former Member of the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Conway spoke to the group about the shifts in the personal and professional relationships within the Legislature over a number of years, energy conservation issues, and democratic renewal.

On October 22nd, the interns and Dr. Jacek met with four members of the

particularly regarding the elimination of mandatory retirement at age 65, the issue of exempting universities from the Freedom of Information Legislation and the Bob Rae Postsecondary Review.

On the morning of the 28th, the interns met with John Clarke, leader of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. Mr. Clarke talked to the group about OCAP's unflinching resolve to work towards the amelioration of the present conditions of

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations – Henry Mandelbaum (Exec. Director), Mark Rosenfeld, Charles Campbell, and Amy Dickieson Kaufman. Mr. Mandelbaum spoke to us about the composition, mandate and activities to date of the organization,

the underprivileged of Ontario, particularly Torontonians.

The last meeting for the month took place with the Honourable Bill Davis P.C., former Premier of Ontario. He spoke to the interns about the changes in the Legislature over the past forty years, the pending Rae Postsecondary Review, his role in the constitutional debate of the 1980s...and so much more. He encouraged us to take every opportunity to become involved in the political sphere and implored us to always remember: 'Democracy is not a spectator sport; you must get involved!' Based on the work we have done thus far, the interns have definitely taken Hon. Davis' words to heart.



In preparation for the release of the 2004 – 2005 OLIP Fall Newsletter, we were asked to compose articles that detailed our thoughts and feelings during our orientation period. Our orientation period largely filled the month of September and provided two distinct opportunities. Firstly, our orientation period allowed us to become familiarized with offices of the Legislative Assembly as well as to perfect the essential task of navigating between Queen's Park and the Whitney Block using the underground tunnels. Secondly though, our orientation period afforded us the time to begin forging relationships. The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme offers interns the opportunity to realize learning objectives through working closely with MPPs. However, the Program also provides interns with opportunities to build peer relationships and to develop skills in group-decision making, as the interns work very closely to plan trips to other legislatures, conduct meetings with various parliamentarians and political activists, host receptions, and develop fundraising initiatives. To say that OLIP becomes a family affair is likely not an understatement. Our weekly meetings with the Administrative Coordinators and Academic Director and our group-based activities have already provided us all with an interesting matrix of individuals and roles which will lay the foundation for the development of many professional skills.

Because the Ontario Legislature Internship Program depends in part, upon the working relationship between the interns, we thought it best to capture our orientation period using personal 'lenses'. To characterize the dynamics of the 2004 – 2005 interns and provide a snapshot of our initial reactions, each intern composed a profile of another intern during the month of September. Showcased below are glimpses of our initial thoughts and hopefully adroit descriptions of one another.

Tim Culbert, according to Nicola Hepburn

Opinionated, fun loving, good-natured and with a bit of a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor— that's the Tim Culbert I've come to know. He's a lively, out-spoken individual, though he's not afraid to show his more sensitive side, bearing in mind his choice of favorite movies and a special rendezvous we were told about...or was that a date? Twisting Tim's arm is hilarious given that Tim is always more than willing to get down to the bottom of the best that the Canadian brewery has to offer! In general, working with Tim should continue to be a positive experience considering that one of his most laudable attributes is his emphasis on detail when working on important projects. This was most evident during the final stages of the completion of his MA thesis: We were all so very proud!



Kaila Mintz, according to Beki Scott

Kaila Mintz is originally from Corner Brook, Newfoundland but has called Toronto her home for the past few years. She is the only one of the group confident enough with her French skills to dub herself bilingual and has kindly offered to tutor the rest of us. Kaila can always be counted on for great ideas, endless energy and excellent restaurant suggestions. She is a very intelligent, friendly and inviting person who, within the first couple weeks of the programme, was kind enough to invite the whole bunch over to her house where we discovered that she has a white elephant on her front lawn. Kaila is rarely without her bike or an infectious smile. We are all happy that this great girl from "the Rock" decided to join the team.

MEETING THE 2004-5 INTERN GROUP

Beki Scott, according to Ben Rossiter

Throughout the past month, Beki has demonstrated to the 2004-5 interns an array of personal competencies. She is able to take charge of a group, facilitate equitable discussion and foster a warm social environment. This group has had tremendous success in coming to genuinely conflict-free consensus on a variety of issues, and the leadership role that Beki has taken inside of the Programme has been essential to this process. Beki is able to connect with many people in diverse ways, and this is witnessed by her work experience: she has taught fitness to seniors, volunteered with the recently disabled, and mentored younger peers. It has been a pleasure to discuss politics and Metallica with her. Beki runs a lot, and would probably beat me in a fight.



Adam

McDonald, according to Rebecca Sciarra

That Adam confronts an hour long commute to Queen's Park from Hamilton every morning yet still manages to be the first intern in the office in the mornings, offers some insight into the oldest member of the 2004-2005 legislative interns. Despite only having met Adam a mere four weeks ago, his upbeat disposition, concise decision making abilities, and penchant for obscure Ontario politics trivia have laid the foundation for what promises to be a wonderful working relationship. In addition to keeping the rest of the interns focused during our frequent tangential discussions, Adam is a man "plein de" many interests and talents. Adam received an Honours Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University in Political Science and History and then went on to receive a Master of Arts from the University of Waterloo in Political Science while working at Canadian Blood Services. This technologically savvy man requires very strong black coffee to start his day, enjoys playing golf in his spare time and has already become adept at interpreting my not-so-subtle facial expressions. It looks like this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship...

Nicola Hepburn, according to Audrey Lemieux

Prior to the Internship Programme, I was fortunate to have Nicola as a colleague through a collaborative MA programme between McMaster University and the University of Guelph. Nicola is very helpful, knowledgeable, and professional in any endeavour. She has a very warm and serene disposition. Perhaps this can be attributed to her sixteen years living in Nassau Bahamas. One of Nicola's greatest personal qualities is her sincerity. She is a very genuine person who always thinks of others. Nicola can often be found smiling, laughing, or making others laugh. When I saw her in the lobby of Queen's Park before attending the 2003-2004 Interns Spring reception, I was both ecstatic and comforted. The key to Nicola's heart is through a bran and blueberry muffin, but she is not terribly picky. Any muffin will suffice!



Ben Rossiter, according to Adam McDonald

I've heard the expression "still waters run deep," but have never met someone who embodies the phrase as much as Ben Rossiter does. Within a few minutes of meeting him, I was struck by the variety of interests he holds: music; social activism; good conversation; and, of course, good beer. Ben is the kind of guy who always looks calm, but whenever I've engaged him in conversation, it's clear that his mind is always active and racing. He is passionate about what he believes in and takes the time to consider many different points of view. Every time I talk to Ben, I come away with something new to think about; that's probably one of his best qualities! When you meet Ben, be sure to ask him about the Rock, Paper, Scissors Championship!

Audrey Lemieux, according to Kaila Mintz

In the short time since I have known Audrey, I have come to respect her balanced approach to life and her unmistakable joie de vivre. On the one hand, she is passionate about women's representation issues, social policy dilemmas, and other issues, while on the other hand she can step back to enjoy family, friends, and life outside of academia and work. She is an empathetic listener with sound judgement and trustworthy advice. I admire Audrey's strong commitment to her loved ones, matched with an eagerness to meet new people and to make people feel welcome. She is a planner and a social organizer who easily builds team spirit. Certainly, her eager and upbeat disposition is both energizing and inspiring. Her enthusiasm manifests itself daily when lunchtime or snacktime comes- to earn bonus points, invite her out for Thai food!



Rebecca Sciarra, according to Tim Culbert

At first meeting, Bec seems to have a rather quiet demeanour. But once you have the pleasure to get to know her, you will realize that she is a very well rounded, vibrant individual who knows a great deal about Ontario politics and achievement. Bec enjoys cooking, live music, and the "occasional" Friday evening spent watching the Fourth Reading on TVO. She walks very fast all of the time and always seems as though she has somewhere to go. If this is true, it is my opinion that wherever it is that she wants to go, she will most definitely get there. However, this journey may take a while, as she is the only person I know that is more directionally challenged than I am. However, both of us are able to find our way to the nearest sushi restaurant that serves Heineken.

A New Director

In July 2004, the Canadian Political Science Association appointed a new OLIP Director: Dr. Henry Jacek. Dr. Jacek, who also answers to Henry (or Hank), is a professor of Political Science at McMaster University in Hamilton. Although I attended McMaster from 1996-2000, my only contact with Dr. Jacek before starting the internship was peripheral at best.



Having met him, however, I can safely say that there are very few people who are as excited about Ontario politics and OLIP as Dr. Jacek. From our very first day in orientation, Henry has consistently demonstrated a passion for the inner workings of the Legislature. Of course, that should come as no surprise: not only has he spent a career studying Ontario politics, but Dr. Jacek also spent time as the President of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). In this former life, Henry spent a great deal of time at Queen's Park advocating for the various faculty associations across the province.

As OLIP Director, Dr. Jacek has been tireless in preparing the eight of us for what to expect at Queen's Park. He's spent time outlining our roles in the programme; he's taken on the thankless task of raising sponsorship money; and – most important – he's regaled us with stories of Queen's Park from his days as OCUFA President. As all eight of us have said at one time or another, we couldn't be happier with the selection of Dr. Jacek as OLIP Director!

Beki's First Placement

My first few weeks in Jim Wilson's office have been very interesting and very fun. Jim and his Executive Assistant, Dave, made me feel like one of the family right away and put me straight to work. I have had the opportunity to work on everything from large long-term projects to the all-important every day tasks that keep the office running. There is never a shortage of phone calls to be made, subjects to be researched, letters to be written or ideas to be considered and I have been involved with all of it.



member and I have certainly found that in Jim. He was first elected in September 1990 and has held various cabinet positions including Minister of Health and Minister of Energy, Science and Technology. I never cease to be impressed by Jim's intelligence and quick thinking and am amazed at how much I can learn from a short conversation with him.

Jim's riding of Simcoe-Grey is not far from Toronto and I have had the opportunity to attend events there twice so far. I especially enjoyed meeting and speak-

ing with members of his community and hearing their views on the issues that affect their lives. I have always thought that people were the most important part of the political process and Jim's dedication to his constituents and emphasis on quality customer service has reinforced this view.

I have become accustomed to the unpredictable work environment at Queen's Park, and am actually finding myself enjoying the long days and late nights. During these first three weeks I have learned how to organize events, write press releases and shake hands while holding a wine glass and a plate of food. I can't wait to see what's in store over the next few months!

Tim's First Placement

When I stepped into John Baird's office two weeks ago to report for work, I could not have imagined how much I would be able to learn in such a short amount of time. During my time in John's office, I have been involved with working on press releases, various research tasks, answering phone calls, attending meetings, writing letters, and soaking up the vast knowledge that he has of Ontario politics, and indeed, politics in general.

Since being elected in 1995 under the Conservative Government of Mike Harris, John has held various cabinet posts, including the positions of Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Energy, and Government House Leader. Experience in these portfolios has provided John with a strong knowledge of the inner workings of political life at Queen's Park. With this wealth of knowledge, along with the help of John's two office Assistants, Michael Fogarty and Matthew Gibson, I

have learned to always ask myself, "is this the best that I can do?"



John's newly acquired roles as Opposition House Leader and Opposition Health Critic have provided me with an opportunity to have first hand accounts of the processes of consensus building and passing bills in the house. I can always count on being entertained by John's enthusiasm in the house.

But make no mistake about it, there is always a "method to his madness." If this is any indication of what life at Queen's Park is like, I'm going to have a very eventful year.

Adam's First Placement

I'm very interested in "process," so when I saw Dave Levac's name on the list of MPPs who wanted interns, I was interested in hearing what experiences he would offer. Dave, of course, is the Chief Government Whip, and so working in his office provides a worms-eye view of how legislation gets through the House (at least, on the Government side!).

I've had the opportunity to learn a great deal in a very short period of time. From a procedural standpoint, I've learned how "the system" operates, from

ensuring a minimum number of MPPs in the House to how the Standing Orders serve to make the place run.

Dave is the MPP for Brant. First elected in 1999, he was the Lib-

eral critic for the Solicitor General and has taken a great interest in police officer and firefighter issues. Additionally, Dave was an educator before running

for office. His many interests and experiences mean that I am able to work on a variety of files within the office.

Dave's had interns before, and so has a good idea of how the programme works; his commitment from the start was to provide the best possible

experience for an intern. If the first three weeks is any indication, I'm in for a great time!



Nicola's First Placement

From the first day I arrived in the office of Linda Jeffrey, I was extremely optimistic about my first working experience in an MPP's office. Organized almost to a fault, Linda's staff – Shawn and Tim – had planned my first day as a full orientation to the office.

They brought me up to speed on Linda's legislative duties and particularly on the constituency issues which are of highest priority to Linda: the construction of the William Osler Hospital and the extension of the 410 highway.

Since then, Linda and her staff have continued to make every effort to include me in the daily operations of the office at Queen's Park and her con-



stituency office in Brampton. I have had the good fortune of sitting in on staff meetings, a 905-caucus meeting, a committee hearing and more. Linda's office door is always open to other Members and staff,

giving me the opportunity to meet many of her colleagues and associates. Additionally, I have done extensive research on various issues that are pertinent to Linda's legislative and constituency duties, assisted in organizing a town hall meeting in Brampton, and helped to organize Linda's appearance on a phone-in talk-show, "Politically Speaking". Beyond Queen's Park, I have also already had the chance to travel to her constituency and meet the other two hard-working staff members on Linda's team: Norma and Dal.

I have come to admire the level of commit-

ment Linda has shown in working for the betterment of the constituency of Brampton centre, particularly her untiring dedication in ensuring that construction began on the new William Osler Hospital. In general, I consider my placement to be an especially auspicious one because of the fact that Linda makes herself so accessible. In the afternoon, she normally takes the time to connect with her staff, from discussing the more important issues of the day to sharing a few light-hearted jokes. Indeed, I made the right choice for my first placement.

Kaila's First Placement

When I first met Marilyn Churley at last June's interns' reception, I secretly hoped that she would ask for an intern for this year. Marilyn is outgoing, warm, feisty, passionate and dedicated- and, of course, hails from the "Rock" that is Newfoundland and Labrador, like me. My wish happily came true- and thanks fellow interns for enabling me to work for Marilyn!

Marilyn has been an MPP since 1990, and her vast experience ranges from cabinet minister to her current position as Deputy Leader for the NDP and Critic for Environment, Women's Issues and Democratic Renewal. Marilyn



is an extremely active member who is both passionate about her constituency and engaged at Queen's Park. Despite her busy schedule, Marilyn finds time to share laughs with everyone with her stories, adventures and fun-loving ways!

Marilyn is a compassionate and supportive boss who makes time for my questions and encourages me to work on issues that interest or challenge me. Besides learning the daily office routine, I help Marilyn out with her Democratic Renewal critic's portfolio, special projects and whatever comes up spontaneously in a day... And most days in Marilyn's office are an adventure! Marilyn asks questions frequently in Question Period, which makes our mornings lively as we all help prepare. A memorable such morning was the day I helped build a "real time machine" from an old fax ma-

chine, proudly displayed here.

Of course, no story about life with Marilyn would be complete without mentioning my office-mate Jasmyn Singh, Marilyn's tireless EA whose energy and determination keeps everyone on their toes, and whose wonderful humour keeps me smiling. Although I may pretend that she's my "assistant," I'm delighted to help her out when I can, to work with her, and to learn from her!

Finally, what I really appreciate about working with Marilyn is how willing she is to bring me along with her to meetings and functions outside of Queen's Park. As Marilyn's acquaintances and friends in the community are vast and diverse, she has introduced me to so many inspiring movers and shakers!

Thanks to Marilyn, Jasmyn and all the fabulous NDPers who have made me feel so welcome and included.

Bec's First Placement

My first term placement has offered me the opportunity to work with a long-serving Member of Provincial Parliament, Richard Patten, the Liberal member for the riding of Ottawa Centre. Richard was first elected in 1987 and has held many diverse roles in parliament. He served as Minister of Government Services and then of Correctional Services in the David Peterson government and held a wide array of critic portfolios while in opposition. Currently, Richard is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Working in Richard's office has already proved to be a unique experience. My start date in his office came only a

few short weeks after his appointment as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Consequently, I have been afforded the opportunity to observe and participate in the orientation process, which occurs between elected officials and bureaucratic departments. Additionally, Richard's office staff has largely gained many new people since my arrival. As a result, I have been fully included in the process of defining all of our new roles and in establishing objectives for action within Richard's office. The range of duties experienced has already been quite diverse. I have been responsible for conducting

research for work that Richard will be doing, which will dovetail with ministry initiatives. Additionally, I have connected with constituency office workers and already found myself knee deep in



managing correspondence with constituents from Ottawa Centre.

Richard and his staff

have been particularly active in creating an inclusive atmosphere. I have attended meetings with ministry officials as well as Cabinet Committee meetings and sat in on Conservation Action Team meetings.

Additionally, I will be traveling to Ottawa Centre shortly and will be attending a series of public consultations with Richard and ministry representatives. I will also be spending some time in Richard's constituency office, in order to observe the grass roots level of political interaction between representatives and those represented. The next few months in Richard's office appear to promise a wealth of diverse experiences.

Ben's First Placement

In my first session placement, I've been working with Kevin Flynn, Liberal M.P.P. for Oakville and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour. While Kevin has been working in municipal politics for many years, this is his first term as a member of the provincial government, and he is extremely active. In my first month in the office I have had the opportunity to see Kevin speak at several large announcements, helped prepare speaking notes and press releases, and assisted in



the introduction of a Private Member's Bill.

I often feel like I have been wearing rose-colored glasses since my arrival in the office, as it seems like every couple of days a major "good news" event has occurred. Of particular interest was the chance to attend the announcement of funding for a new Oakville automobile plant, which was enthusiastically endorsed by prominent members of federal and provincial government, business, and labour. Additionally, watching Kevin's efforts to protect greenspace in the Oakville community being met with such great success has been particularly exciting.

While working directly with Kevin has been highly educational, I would be remiss if I did not mention how great it has been to work alongside his amazing staff. Shawn and Carol have been extremely generous with their time and energy, fully including me in the daily routines of the office and taking every opportunity to instruct me in how things are done around Queen's Park. In Oakville, the constituency staff of Tina, Fiona, Nancy and Barbara have facilitated some great visits, and proved an invaluable resource in answering all of my various queries. I look forward to coming into work every morning, and am genuinely thrilled to be able to do so for the next four months.

Audrey's First Placement

For my first term placement I have the privilege of working with John O'Toole for the Progressive Conservative Party. John has been an elected MPP for Durham since 1995, and is dedicated to representing his constituency at Queen's Park. John is also the critic for the Energy file and is passionate about the issues surrounding energy in Ontario. Not only is John very engaged in his critic portfolio, he has also allowed me to

dive in and learn about this very intriguing and complex policy area.

From my first day in the office, John and his staff were not hesitant to get me working on a variety of projects. This term I will have the opportunity to work on numerous projects, including work within the Energy file, petitions, statements and questions for the

House, Private Member's Bills, research, as well as attending Committee hearings. There will also

very rewarding experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John and all of his staff for the warm welcome they gave me into their office. They have been very helpful in answering my many questions, and I appreciate their candidness. I am looking forward to the many learning experiences that lie ahead during the remainder of my term with John's office.



be opportunities to visit and work in the constituency at a more grassroots level, which will also be a

FORMER INTERNS REFLECT...

This year, we will be introducing a new feature in our OLIP newsletter; former interns will reflect on their experiences at Queen's Park and give a sense of what "life after OLIP" is like. We will be starting this feature by profiling two interns from the very first group. Now, in their own words, Angela Longo and Peter McBride describe some of their memories...

Angela Longo

What made you decide to get involved with the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme?

I was in graduate school at Western, saw a flyer on the bulletin board, and applied. I was totally blown away to be selected as one of the first group of interns.

Which members did you work for?

I worked for Larry Grossman, PC MPP for St Andrews in Toronto and for Pat Reid Liberal-Labour MPP for Rainy River. I wanted a downtown Toronto experience and a northern Ontario experience. Both of them were great members to work for and I learned so much from two very different MPP's and two very different ridings.

What are some of your most memorable experiences from your time with OLIP?

My most memorable memory of the whole internship experience was the very strong camaraderie and mutual support that developed very quickly among our group of seven. They are all special people and we had the opportunity to learn so much together in our very first real jobs. My next best memory is our trip to Quebec City and meeting René Lévesque. My ever present memory is our Friday afternoon sessions with John Holtby – then the Assistant Clerk of the Legisla-

ture – and Ron Blair – our academic director – where we were able to share the experiences of the week, the insider funny stories, the political intrigues of the day and the dialogue as we tried to make sense of the political process. All my memories are coloured by the experience of "hanging around" the lobbies waiting for our members; watching the deal making, the grandstanding, and the jokes; and the mutual respect for the legislative process. It was the very best introduction one could ever have to the political process.

What did you do after you completed the programme?

After the program ended, I was recruited to be an Assistant Clerk in the Legislature and had a great learning experience clerking standing committees and select committees. Another superb window into the process

How do you feel that your experiences with OLIP have helped you in your current position?

It was my year as a legislative intern that convinced me to make a 28-year career of working in the public service. I learned, I saw, I witnessed very good men (mostly men then) and women committed to making "good government" through the legislative process. That foundation of how the political process works behind the lobby doors and how the legislative process works has been enormously helpful in every public service job I've had.

Can you tell us a bit about your current position?

Today, I'm the President and CEO of Legal Aid Ontario, a government agency reporting to the Ministry of the Attorney General. We provide legal services to low income Ontarians - over 1 million every year! - in partnership with the private bar, the clinic system and staff across the province. It is a true public service - access to justice, regardless of income level and a cornerstone of our democracy. It is the very best job because terrific, committed lawyers, legal workers, and staff make a difference every day in the lives of poor people who need that help. Legal Aid Ontario is an exciting, innovative organization with services in every part of Ontario.

Peter McBride

What made you decide to get involved with the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme?

As a student taking political science and economics at the University of Toronto, I was aware of and interested in the federal parliamentary intern program. I had spoken with several past and – at the time – present federal interns and was keen on putting in an application even though I had a greater interest in provincial politics. When I learned about the launch of the Ontario Legislative Intern Program, I concentrated my efforts at getting the right marks and the application form submitted with the hope of becoming a member of the first group of legislative interns at Queen's Park.

Which members did you work for?

The first term, I was assigned to the Government side and I worked with George McCague, who was a Progressive Conservative member representing Dufferin-Simcoe. The second term, I was on the Opposition side and I worked with Michael Cassidy who was NDP Finance Critic representing the riding of Ottawa-Centre. There was an election called in the spring of that second term and I stayed with the NDP and worked on the election campaign of David Warner (Scarborough-Ellesmere).

What are some of your most memorable experiences from your time with OLIP?

The most memorable experiences from participating in the program are the personal ones. Yes, there was plenty of excitement and flurries of activity and memories of humorous and serious incidents on the political side. However, the lasting memories are the friendships with your fellow interns who were effectively your brothers and sisters for 10 months, program director Ron Blair, and other personalities in the Legislature. I was at the Legislature during the era of regular night sittings, which often forced MPPs of all parties to spend a lot of time together. Somehow it made for a less partisan and more cooperative environment at Queen's Park that you don't always see today.

What did you do after you completed the programme?

During my time at Queen's Park as an Intern, I spent a great deal of time hanging around the Press Gallery meeting a variety of journalists and becoming familiar with their newspapers and radio and television stations. Upon completing the Internship Program, I started a career in journalism as an editorial writer and reporter with the Hamilton Spectator. After several years there, I moved to the Toronto Star to work on the television magazine for a year before becoming a business editor and reporter. That led to jobs with mining companies in the public affairs and investor rela-

tions areas and eventually to where I work today at the Ontario Mining Association as Manager of Communications and Energy Issues.

How do you feel that your experiences with OLIP have helped you in your current position?

You can never underestimate what you gain from the opportunity of seeing the provincial government in operation from the inside with the ability to move within different parties and gain access to many wheels within political circles and the public service. To some degree it is similar to the book *I Learned Everything I Need to Know in Kindergarten*. In my current position, a week seldom goes by without there being some circumstance or situation in which my time as an Intern at Queen's Park does not offer insight and guidance.

Can you tell us a bit about your current position?

The Ontario Mining Association has been around since 1920 as the trade organization for mineral producers. It is the lobby group for the sector and, in my current job, a lot of the work is basically being a communications bridge between the two distinct and different worlds of mining and provincial government. I have the opportunity to meet and work with diverse personalities and characters from both these worlds.

FIRST ANNUAL OLIP ALUMNI PUB NIGHT – BEKI SCOTT

The first annual OLIP Alumni pub night was a success! On Thursday September 30, 2004, both former and current interns met at the Fox's Den for food, fun, and fellowship. From the point of view of a new intern, it was great to see all of the successful people in the bunch; it definitely

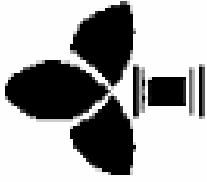
made me realize what an exceptional opportunity this is and how many different paths are open to me in the future.

Former interns are now working in a wide variety of fields in the public and private sectors – and many are still walking the halls of Queen's Park. The candid

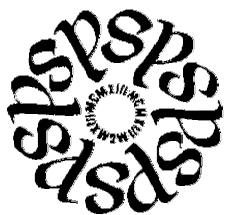
and confidential spirit of the internship programme has endured throughout the years; this was evident as the alumni shared stories and advice that served to entertain and inform the new generation of bright-eyed interns. It was also a good time for former interns to get to know each other and ex-

change experiences (and business cards!). A huge thank you must go out to the organizer: Sarah Baker.

This event was certainly a success and plans are now in the works to organize a similar event with the Ottawa caucus of interns on Thursday December 2, 2004.



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