



Parliamentary
Internship Programme

Programme
de stage parlementaire



2013-14 Parliamentary Interns

2013-14 Annual Report

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Director

Introduction

In 2013-14 Parliamentary Internship Programme was marked by the energy and enthusiasm of the interns, an ever-growing emphasis on digital communications and electronic service delivery and the impact of measures introduced over the past five years to modernize the governance, funding and administration of the Programme. These measures, although not complete, are just starting to bear fruit for interns, alumni, sponsors and stakeholders, creating positive challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

There is no better evidence of this, than the decision of IBM Canada to sponsor PIP at the Silver level this year. It is welcome news and offers a promising long-term partnership for the Programme.

This report introduces the 2013-14 Parliamentary Interns and MPs and reviews their main activities before turning to a consideration of management, governance and financial issues. It concludes with a look at priorities and plans for the year ahead and a presentation of next year's interns.

Interns and MPs

The 44th Class of Parliamentary Interns brought together six men and four women from four provinces: Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Québec. The group includes two recipients of SSHRC graduate awards and eight interns with graduate degrees. While six hold at least one degree in international relations and five in political science or policy studies, as a group they also have expertise in education, English literature, history, microbiology, musicology and music performance (cello).

The Programme received applications from seventy MPs this year and interns began their first allocation on Monday, September 30, 2013 and their second on Monday, January 20, 2014. The names of the interns, and the MPs for whom they worked in the first and second allocations respectively, are listed below:

Adam Casey, Annapolis County, NS

MA (English Literature) University of Ottawa; BA (English Literature and Contemporary Studies) University of King's College

- *Wayne Easter (LPC)*
- *Ed Holder (CPC)*

Robyn Gibbard, Ottawa, ON

BA (Public Affairs and Policy Management) Carleton University

- *Roger Cuzner (LPC)*
- *James Rajotte (CPC)*

Christine Guyot, Winnipeg, MB

BEd University of Ottawa, BSc (Microbiology and Biological Sciences) University of Manitoba

- *Leon Benoit (CPC)*
- *Charlie Angus (NDP)*

Sarah Hunter, Nepean, ON

MSc (International Relations) London School of Economics and Political Science, BA (Political Studies) Queen's University

- *Megan Leslie (NDP)*
- *Erin O'Toole (CPC)*

Olivier Jacques, Montréal, QC

MA (International Studies) Université de Montréal, BA (Political Science) Université de Montréal

- *Mike Lake (CPC)*
- *Peggy Nash (NDP)*

Avalon Jennings, Toronto, ON

MA (Public and International Affairs) York University, BA (International Development) University of Ottawa

- *Joyce Bateman (CPC)*
- *Scott Brison (LPC)*

Ivan Narvaez, Ottawa, ON

MA (International Affairs) Carleton University, BA (History and Political Science) University of Ottawa

- *James Bezan (CPC)*
- *Marc Garneau (LPC)*

Jonathan Paradis, Québec, QC

BA (International Relations) University of British Columbia

- *John Weston (CPC)*
- *Murray Rankin (NDP)*

Tim Stiles, Ottawa, ON

MA (International Affairs) Carleton University, BA (Political Science) University of Guelph

- *Nathan Cullen (NDP)*
- *Rob Clarke (CPC)*

Andrea Stuart, St. Lambert, QC

MA (Musicology) University of Toronto, BA (Western Society and Culture) Concordia University, BMusic (Cello and Music History) Wilfrid Laurier University

- *Irene Mathysen (NDP)*
- *Blake Richards (CPC)*

Activities

Programme activities provide interns with a unique educational experience, an opportunity to work closely with Members of Parliament and a chance to share their experience and reflections with other Canadians.

A. Educational Experience

Seminar and Research Papers

Interns participated in an 11-week seminar in the fall 2013 focused on the interaction of parliamentary institutions, government and Canadian political culture. Discussion was based on a short list of summer readings and a weekly reading list developed by the Director and the intern group. The seminar aims to provide a space for interns to reflect

on their experience and the role of Parliament in Canadian society. In the winter and spring 2014, the academic focus turned to the interns' research papers.

“Brown Bag Lunch” Seminar Series

The “Brown Bag Lunch” Seminar Series allows the interns to supplement their educational experience through informal discussions with policy makers and politicians from across Canada. In the past year, the interns have met with Paul Martin, Jean Chrétien, Marc Mayrand, Andrew Coyne, Preston Manning and others.

Study Tours

Comparative study tours to provincial legislatures and democratic assemblies outside Canada give interns further perspective, and insight, into democratic government and the function of political institutions. In all, Interns undertook the following study tours in 2013-14:

- National Assembly of Québec, October 8-11, 2013
- European Parliament, January 6-10, 2014
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 13-17, 2014
- Scottish Parliament, January 16-17, 2014
- United States Congress, March 24-28, 2014
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 26-30, 2014

In addition, PIP receives delegations from other legislative internship programs each year. These are opportunities for PIP interns to learn more about provincial politics and share something of their own experiences with interested colleagues. After consultations with provincial interns, PIP interns organize the study tours. The Programme hosts a breakfast for both groups in the Parliamentary Restaurant. This year, PIP hosted interns from interns in the following legislatures:

- National Assembly of Québec: October 28-31, 2013
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario: December 2-6, 2013
- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 10-14, 2014
- Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: February 24-26, 2014
- United States Congress: May 5-9, 2014
- Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, June 3-5, 2014

B. Work Experience

Orientation

Before starting work, interns take part in an intensive three-week orientation program that provides them with a detailed knowledge of the role of the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Commons, the legislative process, the organization of committees and the role of Committee Clerks and Researchers. They become familiar with House of Commons Journals, Table Research and Private Members Business. They are introduced to the Library of Parliament and the electronic resources available for research on Parliament Hill and are briefed on the budget and supply processes. In addition, interns receive training in speechwriting, the preparation of press releases, newsletters, blog posts and videos as well as the use of social media. They meet with the Commissioner of Lobbying and many public affairs professionals. By the time they start work, they are well equipped to help a Member of Parliament.

In the Office

In the office, interns help MPs with their legislative responsibilities by writing speeches, statements and questions for use in the House, drafting briefing notes and research papers, and by preparing Private Members Bills and Motions. They assist MPs in pre-committee and committee meetings and support them in meetings with colleagues, media, departmental, interest group and community representatives. They help MPs with their constituency and communications work, too, by responding to correspondence, writing to ministers, organizing town hall meetings, drafting newsletters, op-ed pieces and press releases.

This year, they have been actively involved in prominent debates over the Fair Elections Act, the Senate scandal, pension reform and the Budget Implementation Act. With their MPs, they've also worked to build support for initiatives on veterans' mental health, palliative care, prescription drugs, genetically modified organisms, international human rights and a multitude of constituency issues.

C. Sharing the Experience

Social Media

Led by Andrea Stuart, this year's interns given PIP a real presence on social media. Thanks to their concerted efforts, the Programme now has 475 likes on Facebook and 134 followers on Twitter. Both social media have helped interns share their experience, connect with sponsors and alumni, interest others in Parliament and promote the Programme more widely. It is one important reason the Programme received a record number of applications for next year.

Encounters with Canada

Led by Olivier Jacques, the interns organized interactive workshops for a hundred secondary students from across Canada gathered for "Politics Week" at Encounters with Canada." They led breakout sessions on "Question Period," "Media Scrums," "Negotiation in Committee," and "A Day in the Constituency" that allowed them to share their knowledge on the work of Members of Parliament. In these sessions, they engaged the students in role-play, challenging them to consult with constituents, negotiate in committee, participate in question period and face the media as MPs deciding whether or not to support a fictitious gold mining initiative under Parliament Hill.



Adam Casey with high school students in working group, Encounters with Canada, April 22, 2014

Nunavut Sivuniksavut

For the first time, PIP organized an afternoon seminar with college students in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program in Ottawa. It gave interns an opportunity to share their first hand experience of Parliament in an informal setting with young Inuit preparing for university and, at the same time, to learn about the culture and politics of Nunavut before undertaking a study tour to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium

In cooperation with the Institute on Governance (IOG) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), PIP will hold the fourth annual Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium on June 20, 2014, a unique opportunity to share Interns' research with an academic and professional audience in Ottawa. All interns will present their papers; while the IOG and PIP will invite the Programme's sponsors and friends, alumni and public servants as well as faculty and graduate students from departments of political science in the Ottawa area.

Alfred Hales Prize

Each year, the Programme awards the Alfred Hales Prize for the best research paper written by an intern during the previous year. The Prize is generously sponsored by the Institute on Governance and selected, from a short list, by a committee composed of representatives from the IOG, House of Commons and the CPSA. Last year's winner will be announced at a luncheon on Parliament Hill, supported by the Canadian Real Estate Association, on June 11, 2014.

Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA)

The PIAA creates opportunities for former interns to stay in touch, meet new colleagues and discuss matters of public interest and to work together in supporting the goals and objectives of the Programme. There is an active Ottawa Branch and, this year, a Toronto Branch was established. The PIAA, in cooperation with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and Samara Canada, brought together former interns, current and former MPs, and Programme sponsors for an inaugural reception in Toronto on May 22, 2014.

In Ottawa, the PIAA invited current interns to join them for lunchtime discussions with Susanne Legault, Information Commissioner, organized with support from Credit Union Central, on October 3, 2013, and with Karen Shephard, Commissioner of Lobbying, on February 4, 2014. In cooperation with the US Embassy, the Association organized an informal gathering of former interns, Fulbright scholars and other participants in the US International Visitors Leadership Program on January 15, 2014. The following month, SSHRC tapped into the Association's network to identify, and contract, two graduate students (former interns) to write articles reflecting public interest in SSHRC-funded research.

Finally, under the chairmanship of Peter Harder (Intern, 1975-76), the Association ran its second annual charitable campaign in 2013-14. The Association Executive also played a prominent role in organizing the 44th Anniversary Alumni Dinner. This fundraising event, supported by BMO Financial Group and Bombardier, was held in Ottawa on November 5, 2013, with the Right Honourable Kim Campbell as the guest speaker.

Management

Over the past 45 years, interns have lent their support to almost 800 MPs and gone on to build records of achievement in almost all sectors of society. It is a proud history that reflects the enduring commitment of CPSA and its partners to Canadian democracy, education and research. Such longevity reflects, also, a determination to adapt to change and ensure that the Programme remains relevant for young Canadians and Parliamentarians.

With this in mind, an effort has been made over the past five years to enrich the educational, professional and outreach components of the Programme, modernize internal and external communications, ensure effective and efficient administration and develop a fair and transparent sponsorship structure that creates value for sponsors and sufficient revenue for PIP. It is an ongoing process that continued this year and focused Programme management on meeting two major challenges.

The first, created by the introduction of the new sponsorship structure, centred on the need to deliver a greater number of sponsored events and to increase the Programme's visibility on and off "the Hill." The second, driven by rationalization of House of Commons staff support, was a desire for greater efficiency in the administration of the application process. PIP met elements of both challenges, in part, by investing significant staff and financial resources in the development and launch of a revised Website, linked more closely to the Programme's social media sites, and supported by a content management system that made it possible, for the first time, to manage the application process online and will permit, next year, development of an electronic event management system.

The Programme met other elements of these challenges, and provided more resources for communications and electronic service delivery, by adjusting the responsibilities of both the Director and Programme Assistant. The cumulative effect resulted in a significant increase in the demands on the Director's position. Expiry of the Director's mandate on June 30, 2014, presents a timely opportunity to address these changes and ensure that the Programme is managed effectively in the years ahead.

Governance

The PIP Advisory Board met on December 4, 2013, and agreed to the following:

- To position the Programme for the possibility of additional cost increases this year and next, to provide the CPSA with every possible option when reviewing the Director's mandate, and to ensure that PIP will be able to fulfill its objectives for years to come, sponsors agreed to assist the Director in securing additional support in the months ahead.
- To secure a qualified Director, or an equivalent, it recommended that the current Director consult with stakeholders and others, as required, to develop administrative options that will ensure the sound management of the Programme, reflecting the interests and ambitions of all parties, and to present these options to the CPSA Executive and Board.

Budget

Last year (2012-13), increased revenues generated through the new sponsorship structure contributed to a small cash surplus. The Programme also benefited from a special donation of \$5,000 from the Alumni Association although this did not completely compensate for lower than expected revenues from the Alumni Dinner and sharply increased costs for study tours to legislatures in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

This year (2013-14), PIP incurred significant expenditures for development of the Website, content management system and electronic application and event management systems and suffered a small loss on organization of the Alumni Dinner. However, it benefited from another generous contribution from the Alumni Association and lower than expected costs for the study tour to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. As a result, the Programme expects to again finish the year with a small surplus for the reserve fund.

The Year Ahead

Plans and Priorities

The most immediate priority stems from the recent redistribution of responsibilities between the Programme Director and Assistant and the expiry of the current Director's mandate on June 30, 2014. As recommended by the PIP Advisory Board and requested by the CPSA Executive and Board, the Director has prepared options for consideration of the CPSA Executive and Board based on the resources available, consultations with stakeholders and a review of other legislative internship programmes. These will be the subject of discussion at the CPSA Executive and Board meetings on May 26, 2014.

In the next two years, the Programme will focus on consolidating reforms and continue adjusting to the challenges arising since 2012-13. These include securing new sponsors to complete the sponsorship structure, clearly defining the responsibilities of the House of Commons and CPSA for Programme management and delivery, introducing the training and management procedures needed to maximize the value of the new content management system and electronic services. PIP will also take advantage of a greater social media presence to promote the Programme in western Canada and with Aboriginal Canadians. Finally, it will be necessary to prepare for the electoral period, expected in October 2015, and the arrival of a new Parliament later that year.

2014-15 Parliamentary Interns

For the sixth consecutive year, PIP received a record number of applications (208). But introduction of the online application system meant that the process was new for everyone. Special thanks must be given to the many applicants and referees who submitted documents online and whose comments and suggestions helped ensure a smooth transition to the new system. As a result of their cooperation, and the diligent efforts of the Selection Committee, the selection process was completed one month earlier than ever before.

The Programme is most grateful for the work of the Selection Committee:

- M. Jean-Philippe Brochu, Deputy Principal Clerk, House of Commons
- Dr. André Lecours, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa
- Ms. Melissa Bonga, Graduate Student, Carleton University

Next year's Parliamentary Interns are:

Gregoire Baribeau, London, Ontario

MA (Global Governance), University of Waterloo

BA (Public Affairs and Policy Management), Carleton University

Jessica Brousseau, Ottawa, Ontario

MA (Public and International Affairs), York University

BA (Études politiques), Institut d'études politiques de Grenoble

BA (International Studies and Modern Languages), University of Ottawa

Nathalie Brunet, Ottawa, Ontario

BA (International Relations) Mount Allison University

Innessa Colaicovo, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BA (Economics and French Studies), Brown University

Darya Dolzikova, Oakville, Ontario

BA (International Studies and Modern Languages), University of Ottawa

Patricia Doyle, Winnipeg, Manitoba

LLB (Law), University of Manitoba

BA (History and Politics), University of Winnipeg

Alexa Greig, Dundas, Ontario

BA (Political Science) University of Ottawa

Michèle Meilleur Sarazin, Ottawa, Ontario

MA (Mondialisation et Développement international), Université d'Ottawa;

BA (Sciences biomédicales et Mondialisation), Université d'Ottawa

Pascale Laliberté-Martineau, Québec, Québec

BA (Études canadiennes et Sciences politiques), Université d'Ottawa

Constance Naud-Arcand, Deschambault-Grondines, Québec

MA (Sciences politiques), Université McGill

BA (Études internationales), Université de Montréal