



# Parliamentary Internship Programme Annual Report, 2017-18

Annual General Meeting  
Canadian Political Science Association  
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Dr. Anne Dance  
Director

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May 14, 2018

I am very pleased to present the 2017-18 Annual Report for the Parliamentary Internship Programme. As this year's program comes to a close, stakeholders can take pride in the remarkable 2017-18 cohort: Patrick Butler, Ronald Hoffman, Emily Jensen, Ross Linden-Fraser, Andrew Merrell, Alex Miller-Pelletier, Kim Paradis, Avnee Paranjape, Aurélie Skrobik, and Rose St-Pierre. Since their first day on the Hill in September, these 10 university graduates have embodied the professionalism, enthusiasm, and intellectual curiosity the program was designed to foster.

I am extremely fortunate to work with Silvina Danesi, Executive Director of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). The program also owes a great deal to Michelle Hopkins and Tim Howard at the CPSA, and it is a pleasure to collaborate with them.

The Hon. Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, continues to serve as the patron of the program, and we are all tremendously grateful for his support. The House of Commons Clerk, Charles Robert, has likewise lent his expertise and the interns and I have particularly appreciated his enthusiasm for the program's research component. I am likewise grateful for the guidance of House of Commons Curator Johanna Mizgala. I also want to recognize the wonderful efforts of Lucie Paquette, our outgoing House of Commons Programme Assistant, and her successor, Marylène St-Jean, who has already made outstanding contributions.

The Parliamentary Internship Programme's continued success is due in large part to the sponsor community, which not only funds the interns' stipends and activities, but also provides mentorship and job opportunities to them.

Finally, I want to recognize the involvement of the program's incomparable alumni network, particularly the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association. One factor that makes this program special is the passionate loyalty and support of its hundreds of alumni and friends. As the program approaches its 50th anniversary, I invite all of you to join the 2018-19 cohort in Ottawa for a series of events that will celebrate the Parliamentary Internship Programme's legacy and help us look forward to the next 50 years.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anne Dance  
Director

## Introduction

In 1969, backbench MP Alfred Hales set out three goals for the program he helped design: to create unique training opportunities for young professionals, increase Canadians' knowledge of Parliament, and provide Members of Parliament (MPs) with skilled assistants. During their ten-month program, the interns were to work on both sides of the House, making it a truly non-partisan experience.

Nearly half a century later, the Parliamentary Internship Programme continues this unique non-partisan tradition. The 10 interns for 2017-18 have joined the teams of 20 formidable MPs, whom the interns interviewed and selected in September. They have shadowed MPs to learn first-hand about the work that goes on in the House. The interns traveled to Québec City, Brussels, London, Edinburgh, Washington, and Iqaluit to study other legislatures. The interns have written innovative research papers on harassment on the Hill, the Chamber's temporary move from Centre Block to West Block, the "Rule of 12" for federal political parties, and MP language training, among other topics

The interns join a unique community of alumni and friends that extends into universities, political parties, government departments and diplomatic corps, into corporations and industry associations, unions and non-governmental organizations, into the courts, think tanks, and media outlets. The program is extremely proud of its alumni, including Heather Conway, Erin Crandall Jane Hilderman, Don Murray, Nancy Peckford, Roland Paris, Brock Pitawanakwat, Althia Raj, Dominique O'Rourke, Alison Smith, Paul Thomas, Bradley Vis, and many others

This 2017-18 annual report introduces the interns and their MPs. The report describes the interns' work, projects, training, and outreach activities, then provides a summary of program management and strategic planning as well as a financial update. It concludes by presenting next year's interns.



*The 2017-18 Parliamentary Interns, the Director, and the Speaker of the House of Commons*



## The Interns in the House of Commons

### **2017-18 Interns**

The 48<sup>th</sup> cohort of Parliamentary Interns brings together four men and six women from six provinces: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Québec, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The group includes four francophones and six anglophones. Four hold or nearly hold graduate degrees and eight majored or minored in political science. The interns also hold degrees in linguistics, human ecology, journalism, English literature, science, and international development.

### **MP Allocations**

The allocation of interns continues to reflect party representation in the House of Commons. Based on the advice of the Clerk of the House and the director during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament, at any given time there are five interns with Liberal MPs, three interns with Conservative MPs, and two interns with NDP MPs. After the first allocation, interns working with opposition MPs then worked with Liberal MPs, and vice versa.

In keeping with the goals of the program, only backbench MPs are eligible to host interns. MPs were encouraged to apply for an intern in August 2017, and following their orientation, the interns interviewed 70 MPs from September 18 to 28. They began their first MP placements on October 3, 2017 and their second placements on January 23, 2018.

In selecting their MPs, the interns strived to balance regional representation, gender, language, and the background of their MPs in a way that reflected the diversity of Canada and Parliament. At the same time, they prioritized working with MPs and offices that would provide them with training, mentorship, challenging projects, and a positive, constructive, and safe work environment. Nine out of the 20 MPs selected for the two allocations had never before hosted interns from the program.

The program is extremely grateful for the opportunities the host MPs gave interns to work on legislation, visit their constituencies, and learn about politics.



### ***The 2017-18 Interns and their MPs***

**Patrick Butler**, Conception Bay South, NL

BA (Carleton University), Journalism and Political Science

- Luc Berthold, MP for Mégantic—L'Érable, QC (Conservative)
- Rob Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West (Liberal)

**Emily Jensen**, Stratford, PEI

BA (McGill University), Political Science

- Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP for Beaches—East York (Liberal)
- Stephanie Kusie, MP for Calgary Midnapore (Conservative)

**Ronald Hoffman**, Barrie, ON

BA (York University), Linguistics and Language Studies

- Randeep Sarai, MP for Surrey Centre (Liberal)
- James Bezan, MP for Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman (Conservative)

**Ross Linden-Fraser**, Oakville, ON

BA (Western University), International Relations

MA (London School of Economics), International Relations

- Hélène Laverdière, MP for Laurier—Sainte-Marie (New Democrat)
- Jonathan Wilkinson, MP for North Vancouver (Liberal)

**Andrew Merrell**, Edmonton, AB

BSc (University of Alberta), Human Ecology

MA (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Political Science – *in progress*

- Gary Anandasangaree, MP for Scarborough—Rouge Park (Liberal)
- The Hon. Erin O'Toole, MP for Durham (Conservative)

**Alex Miller-Pelletier**, Québec, QC

BA (Université Laval), Science politique

- Julie Dabrusin, MP for Toronto—Danforth (Liberal)
- Rachel Blaney, MP for North Island—Powell River (New Democrat)

**Kim Paradis**, Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC

BA (Université de Montréal), Études internationales

MA (Université de Montréal), Science politique

- Irene Mathysen, MP for London—Fanshawe (New Democrat)
- Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North—Seymour (Liberal)

**Avnee Paranjape**, Regina, SK

BA and BSc (University of Regina), English and Biology

MA (University of Toronto), English Literature

- Bev Shipley, MP for Lambton—Kent—Middlesex (Conservative)
- Mary Ng, MP for Markham—Thornhill (Liberal)

**Aurélié Skrobik**, Montréal, QC

BA (McGill University), International Development, minor Political Science

- Raj Grewal, MP for Brampton East (Liberal)

- Jenny Kwan, MP for Vancouver East (New Democrat)

**Rose St-Pierre**, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

BA (Université du Québec à Montréal), Communication, politique et société

- Alain Rayes, MP for Richmond—Arthabaska (Conservative)
- Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova (Liberal)

## **Skills Development and Research Training**

### ***Seminar Series***

Throughout the year, the interns participated in 12 graduate-level academic seminars focused on the institutions and actors that shape Parliament. Leading academics such as Helaina Gaspard (CPSA Practitioner Representative), Geneviève Tellier (University of Ottawa), and others have generously shared their expertise during the weekly seminars, ensuring the interns can engage directly with experts in the field. The interns also studied former intern papers to help them shape their own research. In the spring, the seminar served as a space for interns to share their experiences and discuss their research projects.

2017-18 seminar topics included:

- The Role of the Senate with Senator Peter Harder (PIP 1975-76)
- Canadian policymaking and the North
- Bilingualism in the House
- The role of fiscal scrutiny with Helaina Gaspard
- Politics and budgets with Geneviève Tellier
- Federalism with François Rocher

Interns also attend scholarly events such as the Administrators' Colloquium, the Big Thinking Breakfasts, and seminars organized by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group.

During their legislative study tours, the interns took part in additional seminars with scholars such as Sarah Binder, Malcolm Harvey, Emily St.Denny, and Daniel Cetrà.

### ***Research Papers***

The interns' research papers are the product of in-depth participant observation, interviews, textual research, and comparative and quantitative analysis.

Tentative 2017-18 Research Paper topics are:

- *The role of parliamentarians and staff in the committee process*
- *The "Rule of 12" and Canadian federal parties in the House of Commons*
- *Language training: If, why, and how Members of Parliament choose to learn French or English in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament*
- *Language choice as political act in the House of Commons*
- *The "Indigenization" of Parliament Hill*

- *The relocation of the Chamber to West Block*
- *A gendered analysis of the experience of Parliamentarians*
- *Ending sexual harassment on the Hill: A cultural transformation?*
- *Populism and e-petitions in the 42nd Parliament*
- *Institutionalizing "impartiality" and "non-partisanship" on Parliament Hill*

Intern Andrew Merrell has also supported the work of Samara Canada with its third survey of MPs. This survey focuses on parliamentary reforms that have the potential to improve the ability of MPs to do their job.

### ***Brown Bag Lunch Series***

The Brown Bag Lunch Series allows the interns to meet informally with policy makers and political actors of their choosing. This year, the interns met with Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, Jeffrey Copenace, Rhéal Fortin, Chantal Hébert, Elizabeth May, Martine Ouellet, John Parisella Monique Pauzé, Charles Robert, Jane Hilderman (PIP 2010-11) and Samara Canada, Ian Lambert, Marilyn Landry (PIP 1996-97), the Right Hon. Paul Martin, Natan Obed, Jennifer O'Rourke and Tracey Waite, Robert Peck (PIP 1981-82), Justice Malcolm Rowe, Katie Telford, Raymond Thériault, and The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau.

### ***Comparative Legislative Study Tours***

Comparative study tours to provincial legislatures and assemblies outside Canada gave the interns new insights into democratic government and the function of political institutions. The interns organized the visits and produce detailed reports on the legislative study tours.

These study tours are made possible thanks to specific support from Via Rail, the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, the British High Commission, the United States Embassy in Ottawa and the US State Department, and Fednav, as well as other friends and sponsors of the program.

This year's legislative study tours are:

- National Assembly of Québec, November 13-17, 2017
- European Parliament, January 7-14, 2018
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 14-18, 2018
- Scottish Parliament, January 18-20, 2018
- United States Congress, March 4-9, 2018
- Montréal, May 22-24, 2018
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 27-June 1, 2018



*A highlight of the Washington study tour was a meeting with Representative John Lewis, who generously took time to discuss the American civil rights movement and his work in Congress*

### ***The Annual Hales Prize***

Each year, the top paper from the previous cohort is awarded the Alf Hales Prize from the Institute on Governance. In autumn 2017 the program director and Melissa Dubreuil of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council selected the top three papers of the 2016-17 cohort for the 2018 Hales Prize shortlist. These papers tackled challenging topics and exhibited a sophisticated, nuanced understanding of important topics in Parliamentary and political studies.

The papers were:

- Claire Sieffert
  - *Two-Way Networks: Evaluating the Linkages Between Canadian Senators and Civil Society*
- Astrid Krizus
  - *Substantive or Symbolic? Non-dominant group MPs and representation in Parliament*
- Ryan van den Berg
  - *Theatricality and Dissent: The Committee on the Use of Parliament Hill*

A jury comprising representatives from the Institute on Governance, the Canadian Political Science Association (JP Lewis, UNB Saint John; Alison Smith, University of Toronto in Mississauga), and the House of Commons, selected the top paper in May.

The two runners-up, Ryan van den Berg and Astrid Krizus, will receive \$500 from the Institute on Governance. The Institute on Governance will award the \$1,000 Hales prize to Claire Sieffert at the June 6 Valedictory Speaker's Luncheon.



## **Professional Experience and Skills Training**

### ***Orientation***

In collaboration with the House of Commons, the director and program assistant organized the 2017-18 Parliamentary Internship Programme orientation, an intensive two-week training period from September 5 to 18. The Library of Parliament also organized a valuable day of training on Library resources.

The orientation program included more than 50 meetings and activities that prepared the interns for their work in the offices of MPs. Meetings with sponsors also offered the interns the chance to learn about lobbying, policymaking, the budgetary cycle, and other key issues.

This year's orientation included meetings with last year's intern cohort and friends of the program now working for each of the three largest parties, including:

- Liberals: Hanna Button (PIP 2010-11), Director of Policy for the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie; Astrid Krizus (PIP 2016-17), Legislative Assistant to MP Ali Ehsassi
- NDP: Riccardo Filippone, Director of Communications for the NDP
- Conservatives: Bradley Vis (PIP 2010-11), Conservative candidate in the 2015 federal election and Legislative Assistant to The Hon. Ed Fast

These meetings included training on the day-to-day work of opposition and government placements.

The interns benefitted from training on briefing notes and other practical skills necessary for Parliamentary and bureaucratic work. The interns also received training on research methods, participant observation, social media work, communication, project management and delivery, workplace issues, and protocol.

Interns emerged from their intensive training with a firm grasp of House of Commons procedure and the program's academic goals. The Programme's welcome reception on September 6 allowed stakeholders, including members of the 2017-18 selection committee, the chance to meet with the interns and welcome them to Parliament Hill.

### ***In the Office***

In the office, the interns helped MPs and staff by writing statements and questions for Question Period, assisting with media interviews, drafting correspondence, letters to ministers, briefing notes, op-eds, and papers, researching committee witnesses, and preparing motions in consultation with expert procedural clerks. They assisted MPs in committees and shadowed them in meetings with colleagues, media, interest groups, and departmental and community representatives. Highlights include: requesting the Parliamentary Poet Laureate to write a special tribute to the Sea King helicopters, working on several fascinating private members bills, and assisting MPs during a filibuster in the House. Each intern had the extraordinary opportunity to visit both of their MPs' constituencies and contribute to the work of the riding offices.

## Sharing the Experience

### ***Social Media***

The 2017-18 interns successfully launched an Instagram account (@stageparlinternship). Their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ParlInternship/>) has attracted over 1500 “likes” and PIP twitter (@parlinternship) now has over 950 followers. These three social media platforms have helped interns share their experience and connect with potential applicants in both official languages.

### ***Incoming Legislative Study Tours***

By mid-June 2018, the program will have hosted interns and research fellows from five other legislatures, giving visiting groups the chance to learn about the Canadian Parliament and federal politics. The interns, too, value this opportunity to learn about provincial and American politics. The interns were wholly responsible for these visits and exhaustively arranged over 130 meetings with MPs, ministers, scholars, journalists, and legislative experts for their visiting counterparts.

The incoming legislative study tours this year were:

- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario: November 29-December 1, 2017
- *Boursiers* from the National Assembly of Québec: December 12-16, 2017
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 12-16, 2018
- APSA Congressional Fellows from the US Congress: April 29-May 4, 2018
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, June 2-5, 2018

The interns did not organize a legislative study tour for the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Programme this year because that program was on hiatus in 2017-18.

### ***Teaching Youth about Parliament***

Interns continue to be involved in numerous activities that promote youth engagement and build knowledge of Parliament.

The interns organized workshops on the role of MPs for over 240 secondary students from across the country in partnership with Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Encounters with Canada Democracy and Youth initiative. The interns encouraged the students to debate a bill in Question Period, committee, and caucus before finally voting on the bill. The interns received positive feedback for their efforts. For example, students attending the Democracy and Youth week appreciated the interns’ three-hour session on Parliament:

- "It was amazing, I learned so much. It was the best part of my week [in Ottawa]!"
- "They [the interns] answered all of our questions well and have opened my eyes to a new future."

Three interns also participated in the Teachers' Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy in November, where they spoke about the program and their research to teachers across the country. In addition, they briefed students visiting Ottawa at the Forum for Young Canadians.

*Interns brief participants  
from Big Brothers Big  
Sisters on the work of  
Parliament*



### ***Everyday Political Citizen Project***

The interns were honoured to once again act collectively as one juror for the Everyday Political Citizen project, a Samara Canada initiative that celebrates citizen engagement across Canada. The interns nominated Patience Evbagharu, an innovative young leader from Toronto. The winners of the 2017 Everyday Political Citizens Project Prize include Lorelei Williams, Janelle Hinds, Nabaa Alam, Teagyn Vallevand, and Noah Irvine. It was an honour for the interns to be a part of this process and the Programme congratulates all of the nominees on their incredible work across Canada.

### ***Communication of Research***

The interns' research projects contribute new perspectives on the Canada's Parliament. They will share their research with Parliamentarians, alumni, sponsors, Library of Parliament researchers and members of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group at the following events:

- "Food for Thought" Seminars
  - Library of Parliament, June 2018
- Presentation, Alfred Hales Prize Winner, 2018
  - Valedictory Speaker's Luncheon, House of Commons, June 6, 2018
- Jean-Pierre Gaboury Symposium
  - Institute on Governance, Ottawa, June 22, 2018

### ***Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA)***

Members of the PIAA have worked extremely hard to connect alumni with the program and with each other. In the summer of 2017, Andrew Cuddy (PIP 2011-12) undertook a comprehensive survey of alumni. This survey also helped identify the numerous academic contributions of past interns. The program assists the PIAA with its membership database and pays for PIAA's electronic services.

By the end of June 2018, the PIAA will have organized three networking events and two brown bag lunches with former interns. The PIAA executive also piloted an innovative "PIAA Conversations" panel discussion with leading alumni from diverse fields. Executive members of the PIAA helped with the annual Alumni Reception in November 2017, where MP Bruce Stanton, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, welcomed alumni, MPs, political scientists, sponsors, and friends of the programme.

Led by chair Michel Vermette (PIP 1987-88), Innessa Colaiacovo (PIP 2014-15), Madalina Chesoi (PIP 2015-16), and Alan Freeman (PIP 1973-74), the annual PIAA charitable campaign raised over \$8,000 for the Hales and Hurley Parliamentary Foundation. The foundation was launched via the Ottawa Community Foundation in May 2017 with the assistance of Alan Freeman, Sara Krynitzki (PIP 2008-09), Bob Peck (PIP 1981-82), and Anne Dance (PIP 2008-09). The Foundation is named for Alfred Hales, the MP who spearheaded the launch of the program in 1969, and James Ross Hurley, its architect.

Anoush Terjanian (PIP 1994-95) organized a panel of program alumni presenting papers at the annual CPSA conference in Regina. The panel will feature Brock Pitawanakwat (PIP 2002-03), Paul Thomas (PIP 2005-06), Jon Weier (PIP 2000-01), and Alison Smith (PIP 2009-10) as discussant; their work highlights the many contributions of program alumni to the field of political science.

## **Management and Governance**

### ***Staffing and Governance***

The director serves in an 85 per cent (full-time-equivalent) position as the administrative and academic head of the program. The director organizes eight annual events; organizes and chairs the selection committee; plans the orientation program; teaches the seminars; oversees the weekly “Intern Caucus”; provides advice to the interns; and liaises with all relevant stakeholders (sponsors, alumni, academics, House staff, MPs, Advisory Board, etc.). The director is also responsible for the program’s annual report, budget, electronic services, communications, fundraising, finances, grant-writing, agreements, and human resources management.

The director is supported in her work by the House of Commons Programme Assistant, who works part-time on program activities in the House, as well as the CPSA Administrator, who handles payments, and CPSA Executive Director Silvina Danesi, who provides guidance and oversight on the long-term direction of the program. The Parliamentary Internship Programme Advisory Board, comprising representatives of the CPSA, SSHRC, sponsors, the PIAA, and friends of the program, meets twice annually and provides feedback and advice to the director.

Over 100 alumni also volunteer their time to promote the program, fundraise, guide potential applicants, and support current interns through networking and their post-internship job search.

### ***Institutional Arrangements***

The Speaker’s engagement as Patron of the program, renewed for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament, is essential to the program’s non-partisan status and its activities in the parliamentary precinct.

The House of Commons Service Agreement provides a stable level of staff support for the program that includes engagement of senior management while focusing House resources on access to meeting spaces, translation services, language training and administrative support for activities on Parliament Hill.

The program's Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) was recently renewed for four years, starting in SSHRC's 2017-18 fiscal year. SSHRC's involvement helps the program stress its academic focus, non-partisan credibility, and also differentiates the program from other (often partisan, part-time) internships in Canada.

### ***Funding***

The program really appreciates the longstanding support of its sponsors and welcomes their enthusiasm for and engagement with the program. Five new sponsors joined the program beginning in 2017-18: the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, Genworth Canada, and Scotiabank. Fednav has continued to provide special support for the Nunavut legislative study tour, and the Canadian Credit Union Association has provided a one-time donation for PIP's 50th anniversary video.

All platinum and gold positions are currently filled. However, opportunities for sponsorship at the silver level and for friends of the program remain available and the director and alumni are currently seeking to fill these positions.

The CPSA has invested a portion of the accumulated program surplus in the Parliamentary Internship Programme Legacy Fund, a term fund within the Ottawa Community Foundation. This will be extremely beneficial for the program over the long-term.

### ***Budget***

The program's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. The program will end the 2017-18 year with a small surplus. The projected budget for 2018-19 forecasts a reasonable assurance of stable and sufficient funding for the foreseeable future. Significant one-time additional costs for 2018-19 relate to the 50th anniversary celebrations; however, these costs will be offset by separate donations and funding from sponsors.

### ***Business Practices and Human Resources***

The program continues to maintain sound business practices.

- The letters of agreement signed with interns are consistent with all relevant legislation.
- The CPSA's insurance policy is sufficient to cover the program. At the program's expense, the program is included in CPSA insurance policies for property and injury insurance and errors and omissions insurance.
- The interns are offered counselling services through the House Employee and Family Assistance Program.
- The interns receive training on workplace issues.
- In recognition of the security dangers inherent in Parliament Hill work, the interns and director met with members of the House of Commons Corporate Security Office. The interns were also provided with safety manuals for Parliamentary work.
- The House of Commons has also generously provided training to the interns through its Respectful Workplace Program.



## ***Communications***

The director provided business cards and email addresses for the interns. After reviewing the program's existing arrangements, the director took steps to renew the program's online presence. Working with volunteer alumnus Andrew Cuddy and the CPSA's IT Consultant Sean Hart, the program shifted to a new email system and invitation system (Constant Contact). Sean Hart's technical expertise proved invaluable. In October 2017 the program successfully launched its new, user-friendly website. The website has already proved to be a valuable asset for communicating program news and goals.

The interns, alumni, and the director also spent many hours revising and reviewing the online application and assessment systems, and a new version of both systems went live in early December.

## **Strategic Planning**

### ***Intern Stipends***

Funding the program remains a long-term challenge, in part because unlike other Canadian legislative internships, the Parliamentary Internship Programme relies almost wholly upon year-to-year sponsorships. Program stakeholders are continually looking to enhance the program's long-term financial sustainability and increase the intern stipend to ensure the Programme remains accessible to all qualified candidates. Indeed, the 2017-18 \$24,000 taxable stipend (approximately \$20,500 after taxes) was an increase from the \$23,000 stipend offered to the 2016-17 interns.

Nevertheless, the low stipend continues to be a barrier to young Canadians trying to pay off student loans and for those without affordable accommodation options in Ottawa. The PIAA helps incoming interns find reasonable housing, and the program will cover some intern moving expenses to Ottawa beginning in 2018-19. The interns' legislative study tour costs, including per diems, are also covered by the program.

Over the long term, raising the stipend will widen the pool of potential applicants. Reassessing the sponsorship levels in 2018-19 could also support a substantial stipend increase.

### ***Harassment Prevention***

Since its creation, the program has always sought ways to ensure the interns have a safe and comfortable work environment. Beginning in August 2017, the director took steps to formalize and update the program's conventions. Alumni with special expertise in harassment prevention, human resources law, and the legislative workplace generously shared their time and expertise through a special committee dedicated to crafting a formal harassment prevention policy. The 2017-18 intern cohort likewise provided valuable input. The new policy will go into effect in Spring 2018 and will be subject to annual review by the interns and the director.

### ***Inclusive Recruitment and Supporting Applicants***

Every program stakeholder recognizes the importance of ensuring that the intern cohort reflects the country's diverse population. The program has invested in diversity recruitment and will complete work on an Indigenous recruitment strategy by July 2018. This will be implemented

during the fall recruitment campaign for the 2019-20 program, and in all subsequent years. The program is also reviewing all components of the application process to ensure that they support inclusive recruitment in keeping with the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

In an effort to raise the program's profile and encourage applications, the program again used more targeted communications to ensure that key groups are aware of the opportunity to participate in the program. For example, a PowerPoint presentation (in English and French) was made available to applicants and political scientists across Canada. The director and alumni have built a detailed list of contacts of underrepresented groups in the applicant pool. As well, the recent alumni survey identified many former interns holding faculty positions at universities across the country. These faculty members were asked to promote the program at their universities and directly recruit applicants.

Over the past two years, the director has promoted the program and other opportunities available to young people in politics by visiting political science classes at Memorial University, the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, and the University of Saskatchewan. She hopes to speak to students in Manitoba and British Columbia next year. The interns also promoted the program at Université Laval during their legislative study tour to Québec in November 2017.

The program's special alumni mentoring program continues to directly support all applicants: nearly 40 alumni volunteers provided advice to prospective applicants who were less familiar with the application process and program.

### ***50th Anniversary***

The Parliamentary Internship Programme will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Ottawa, May 9-11, 2019. Working closely with the PIAA, the program is organizing a series of events for all alumni, their MPs, sponsors, and friends of the program.

## **The Year Ahead**

### ***The 2018-19 Selection Committee***

The program's new, user-friendly online application system came online in December 2017 after revisions from more than 20 volunteer alumni, the current interns, and the director.

The program received nearly 150 superb applications this year. The committee reviewed the applications and selected the ten 2018-19 interns based on interviews with the top 25 candidates in March 2018.

The Director is grateful for the tireless work of the Selection Committee. The selection committee is traditionally made up of the academic director, who serves as committee chair, an intern from the previous cohort, political scientists, and a representative of the House of Commons.

- Anne Dance, Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP 2008-09)
- Ryan van den Berg, Library of Parliament (PIP 2016-17)
- Janique Dubois, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa (PIP 2009-10)

- Helaina Gaspard, Director, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy
- Paul Thomas, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, Carleton University (PIP 2005-06)
- Johanna Mizgala, Curator, House of Commons

### ***The 2018-19 Parliamentary Interns***

The next intern cohort will have a singular experience on Parliament Hill: in Spring 2019, the program will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Alumni, friends, and sponsors are looking forward to welcoming the 10 new interns to Parliament Hill and celebrating this anniversary with them. Their internship will likely also be shaped by preparations for the October 2019 federal election and the closure of Centre Block for renovations.

*Next year's Parliamentary Interns are:*

**Sarah Crosby** (Charlottetown, PEI)

BA Honours (Political Science) University of Prince Edward Island and University of Ottawa

**Eleanor Davidson** (Victoria, BC)

BJ Honours (Journalism with minors in French and Spanish) University of King's College  
MA (International Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy) Carleton University

**Nicholas Doiron** (Halifax, NS)

BA (Public Administration and Political Science) University of Ottawa

**Delphine Ducasse** (Boucherville, QC)

LL.B (Law), Université de Sherbrooke  
LL.M (Law and International Politics) Université de Sherbrooke

**Laura Fernz** (Ottawa, ON)

BA Honours (Political Science and Philosophy) Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Emma Lodge** (Fort McMurray, AB)

BA Honours (Political Science) University of British Columbia

**Guillermo Renna** (Ottawa, ON)

BA (Political Science) McGill University

**Grégoire Saint-Martin-Audet** (Chicoutimi, QC)

BA (Economics and Politics) Université Laval  
MA (Political Science) Université de Montréal

**Fregine Sheehy** (Ottawa, ON)

BA Honours (Sociology and Women's Studies) University of Ottawa

**Andrew Walker** (Toronto, ON)

BA Honours (Political Science and Canadian Studies) York University  
Certificate in Law and Social Thought, York University



## Sponsors and Friends, 2017-18

### **Platinum**

BMO Financial Group  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

### **Gold**

Bombardier Inc.  
Canadian Bankers' Association  
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association  
Canadian Real Estate Association  
CN  
CropLife Canada

### **Silver**

BIOTEC Canada  
Business Development Bank of Canada  
Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians  
Canadian Automobile Dealers Association  
Canadian Health Food Association  
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce  
Chartered Professional Accountants Canada  
Desjardins  
Forest Products Association of Canada  
Innovative Medicines Canada  
Insurance Brokers Association of Canada  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
RBC Financial Group  
TD Bank Financial Group  
Universities Canada  
UNIFOR

### **Bronze**

Association of Consulting Engineering Companies  
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers  
Canadian Canola Growers Association  
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada  
Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada  
Canadian Credit Union Association  
Estée Lauder Inc.  
Genworth Canada  
Insurance Bureau of Canada  
Rogers Communications  
Scotiabank

### **Amis du Programme**

British High Commission Ottawa  
Delegation of the European Union to Canada  
Embassy of the United States of America in Ottawa  
Fednav  
First Air  
Institute on Governance  
Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association  
VIA Rail Canada