



2016-17 Parliamentary Interns

Annual Report, 2016-17

Annual Conference
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May 30-June 1, 2017

Dr. Anne Dance
Director

May 15, 2017

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report for the Canadian Political Science Association's Parliamentary Internship Programme. The 47th cohort of the Parliamentary Internship Programme has not slowed down since starting their work on Parliament Hill in September 2016. Congratulations to Matthew Blackshaw, Alec Boudreau, Jeanette Carney, Michael Forestell, Astrid Krizus, Skeena Lawson, Joshua Regnier, Anna Rotman, and Ryan van den Berg on their hard work and commitment to this program. Their internship will wrap up on Friday, June 30th 2017, after 10 eventful months.

Many people make the continued success of this program possible. Lucie Paquette, House of Commons Programme Assistant, is endlessly competent and a joy to work with. Johanna Mizgala, Curator of the House of Commons, has been a superb House liaison and the program is richer for her involvement. We are also delighted that the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Hon. Geoff Regan, continues his role as the Patron of the Parliamentary Internship Programme. We would also like to thank the Library of Parliament for their contributions.

Michelle Hopkins of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) ably provides support by processing payments and producing charitable receipts for the program and I appreciate her expertise. Many members of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) have spent countless hours providing advice, including Professor Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Professor Bill Cross, Dr. Jonathan Malloy, Dr. Luc Turgeon, and especially CPSA Executive Director Dr. Silvina Danesi.

I also want to thank the sponsor community and friends of the program for funding the program and for the superb learning opportunities you offer the interns throughout the year. PIP would not be possible without the work of alumni, who have spent hundreds of volunteer hours assisting with outreach, recruitment, long-term planning, and intern mentoring.

Most of all, I am grateful to Dr. Garth Williams, former PIP director and alumnus, for his tireless support during my first year as director.

The tradition continues!



Anne Dance
Director

Introduction

Envisioned by backbench MP Alfred Hales in 1969, the Parliamentary Internship Programme creates unique training opportunities for young professionals, increases knowledge of Parliament, and provides Members of Parliament with skilled assistants. It is truly non-partisan: during their 10 month program, the interns work on both sides of the House.

This year's 10 2016-17 interns have written speeches, briefing notes, research reports, and questions for question period. They have shadowed MPs to learn firsthand about the work that goes on in the House. They have all had the opportunity to visit their MPs' ridings, from Victoria, British Columbia, to Victoriaville, Québec, to Halifax, Nova Scotia. They have also written innovative research papers on Parliament and the work of MPs and taken part in unique legislative study tours within Canada and abroad.

The community that makes PIP possible numbers is large and extends into universities and academic associations, 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. Their pooled experience and shared commitment to research and education create a unique opportunity for participant observation. The program is extremely proud of its alumni, including Peter Harder, Jane Hilderman, Althia Raj, Dr. Erin Crandall, Dr. Brock Pitawanakwat, and Dr. Alison Smith.

The 2016-17 annual report introduces the interns and their MPs. It then describes the interns' activities this year, outreach, ongoing challenges and opportunities for the program, and summarizes the budget. The report concludes by presenting next year's interns.



Professor Bill Cross addresses alumni at the 2016 Alumni Celebration

The Interns and the House

Last year the Acting Clerk of the House, Marc Bosc, approved the following allocation of interns to approximately reflect party representation in the House. During the 42nd Parliament, there continues to be five interns with Liberal MPs, three interns with Conservative MPs, and two interns with NDP MPs. After the first allocation, those interns working with opposition MPs then worked with Liberal MPs, and vice versa.

The Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, continues to serve as the tenth Patron of the program since 1969, and the program really appreciates his support.

MP Applications

The program benefited from the efforts of interns, alumni, and MPs who encouraged all eligible MPs to apply for an intern. This helped generate a record number of applications. Interns interviewed 90 MPs over two weeks from September 19-29, 2016 and started their first MP placements on October 3, 2016.

The interns spent many hours trying to decide upon their allocations. Over the course of the two allocations, they 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.

2016-17 Interns and MPs

The 47th cohort of Parliamentary Interns brings together an equal number of men and women from four different provinces and one territory: New Brunswick (2), Ontario (3), Québec (1), British Columbia (3), and Yukon (1). The group includes two francophones and eight anglophones. Three hold graduate degrees and four hold at least one degree or joint degree in political science. The remaining interns hold degrees in international studies, history, interdisciplinary studies, educational studies, Canadian Studies, and communications.

The program is grateful for the opportunities the twenty host MPs gave interns to work on legislation, visit their constituencies and learn about politics. The interns' first allocation ran from October 3rd, 2016 to January 20, 2017, and the second from January 21st to June 30, 2017.



Alumni from 1992-93 traveled from far and wide to reunite at the November 2016 Alumni Celebration in Ottawa.



Parliamentary Intern Skeena Lawson with Victoria MP Murray Rankin, who hosted her February-June 2017

The 2016-17 Interns and their MPs

Matthew Blackshaw

BA (Arts and Science, Minor Mathematics), McMaster University

- Greg Fergus, MP Hull-Aylmer, QC (LPC)
- Alain Rayes, MP for Richmond—Arthabaska (PCC)

Alec Boudreau, Hampton, New Brunswick

BA (Interdisciplinary Leadership), University of New Brunswick

- Nathan Cullen, MP for Skeena-Bulkley Valley (NDP)
- Ruby Sahota, MP for Brampton North (LPC)

Jeanette Carney, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

MA (Geography), Memorial University of Newfoundland

BA (Geography, Minor Sociology), Mount Allison University

- Luc Berthold, MP for Mégantic—L'Érable (PCC)
- Don Rusnak, MP for Thunder Bay—Rainy River (LPC)

Michael Forestell, Quispamsis, New Brunswick

BA (Political Science and Great Books, Minor Spanish), St. Thomas University

- The Hon. Erin O'Toole, MP for Durham (CPC)
- Arnold Chan, MP for Scarborough—Agincourt (LPC)

Astrid Krizus, Toronto, Ontario

MA (Political Science), University of Toronto

BA (Political Science, Minor History), Queen's University

- Ali Ehsassi, MP for Willowdale (LPC)
- Sheila Malcolmson, MP for Nanaimo—Ladysmith (NDP)

Skeena Lawson, Smithers, British Columbia

BA (History, Minor Anthropology), Mount Allison University

- Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, MP for Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe (LPC)
- Murray Rankin, MP for Victoria (NDP)

Joshua Regnier, Dawson Creek, British Columbia

BA (History, Communication), Simon Fraser University

- The Hon. Denis Lebel, MP for Lac-Saint-Jean (CPC)
- Pam Damoff, MP for Oakville North—Burlington (LPC)

Anna Rotman, Montréal, Québec

BA (History), Brown University

- Joël Lightbound, MP for Louis-Hébert (PLC)
- The Hon. Michelle Rempel, MP for Calgary Nose Hill, AB (CPC)

Claire Sieffert, Victoria, British Columbia

BA (International Studies), Simon Fraser University

- Guy Caron, MP for Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques (NPD)
- Andy Fillmore, MP for Halifax (LPC)

Ryan van den Berg, Ottawa, Ontario

MA (Educational Studies), University of British Columbia

BA (Canadian Studies), Mount Allison University

- Arif Virani, MP for Parkdale—High Park, ON (LPC)
- Blake Richards, MP for Banff—Airdrie, AB (CPC)

Educational Experience

The program provides interns with a unique opportunity to work closely with MPs, study Parliament, public policymaking, and legislatures outside of Ottawa, and and contribute to public knowledge of Parliament.

Seminar

In the fall and winter, the interns participated in seminars focused on the institutions and actors that shape Parliament. These seminars took place during the three-hour “PIP Caucus” on Wednesday mornings. The seminars were similar to graduate-level courses and interns took turns chairing. The director invited scholarly experts in to discuss their area of expertise. Later, the seminar served as a space for interns to share their experiences and discuss their research.

The seminar also provided an opportunity to assess the Parliamentary Internship Programme role in addressing ongoing Settler-Indigenous relations in academia and policymaking, and the program will continue to pursue steps to address this urgent issue.

The interns also attend scholarly events such as the Administrators’ Colloquium and talks organized by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group.



Professor Sarah Binder prepares to address the Parliamentary Interns and the APSA Congressional Fellows (left). The Parliamentary Interns discuss Parliamentary reform during their weekly academic seminar (right).

2016-17 seminar topics included:

- Canadian politics post-TRC with Dr. Dan Ruck
- Role of the MP with Dr. Jonathan Malloy and Dr. Paul Thomas
- The role of staffers and legislative Interns
- The media and contemporary politics
- Political parties and advocacy groups
- US politics post-election
- Women and Canadian politics
- Politics and budgets with Dr. Genevieve Tellier
- Politics and the North

As well, the interns spoke with leading scholars such as Professor Sarah Binder, Professor Graham Walker, Dr. Roland Paris (PIP 1990-91), Dr. Élodie Fabre, and others during legislative study tours.

Research Papers

The 10 annual PIP research papers are truly unique: they are the product of in-depth participant observation, interviews, textual research, and comparative and quantitative analysis. Tentative 2016-17 PIP Research Paper topics are:

- Matthew Blackshaw: "The Role of the Parliamentary Secretary in the 21st Century"
- Alec Boudreau: "Lessons from the Special Committee on Electoral Reform"
- Jeanette Carney: "The Role of Northern MPs in Canada's 42nd Parliament"
- Mike Forestell: "Pursuing the Pattern: Tracing the Repeated Political Failures of Maritime Integration to Find New Avenues for Interprovincial Federalism"
- Astrid Krizus: "Substantive or Symbolic? Non-dominant Group MPs and Representation in Parliament"
- Skeena Lawson: "Rural MPs, Constituents, and Ridings in Canada's 42nd Parliament"
- Josh Regnier: "Cross-Party Cooperation: Exploring Participation of Canadian Members of Parliament in All-Party Parliamentary Groups"
- Anna Rotman: "A Textual Reading of M103"
- Claire Sieffert: "Two-Way Networks: Evaluating the Linkages between Canadian Senators and Civil Society"

- Ryan van den Berg: “Theatricality and Dissent: Regulating Public Engagement on Parliament Hill”

Intern Ryan van den Berg has also been working with Samara Canada to revise and redistribute the heckling survey first designed by 2010-11 Parliamentary Intern Mackenzie Grisdale. Ryan will be working with Samara during the summer of 2017 to produce a report based on the results of this survey.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series

The Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series allows the interns to meet informally with policy makers and political actors in their areas of interest. This year, the interns met with Rosemary Barton, Perry Bellegarde, Cindy Blackstock, The Hon. Ed Broadbent, Heather Conway (PIP 1984-85), Julie Gelfand, Kirsten Hillman, James Ross Hurley, Senator Grant Mitchell (PIP 1974-75), Charles Robert, MP Arif Virani (PIP 1994-95), and several other notable individuals.

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 by the Fednav, Via Rail, UK High Commission, the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, the United States Embassy and the US State Department, as well as other friends and sponsors of the program.



Labour MP Diane Abbott explains her role to the Parliamentary Interns during their legislative study tour to the United Kingdom.

This year the interns took part in six legislative study tours:

- National Assembly of Québec, November 6-11, 2016
- European Parliament, January 8-13, 2017
- United Kingdom Parliament, January 14-18, 2017
- Assembly of Northern Ireland, January 18-21, 2017
- United States Congress, March 12-17, 2017
- Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 28-June 2, 2017

In addition, PIP hosted interns and fellows from other legislatures, giving PIP interns an opportunity to learn about provincial politics and compare experiences with keenly interested colleagues. The interns organized and chaired over 120 meetings with MPs, ministers, scholars, journalists, and legislative experts for their visiting counterparts. The interns and director also scheduled time to discuss their respective programs and best practices with the visiting groups.

- *Boursiers* from the National Assembly of Québec: December 11-16, 2016
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario: November 30-December 2, 2016
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: February 6-9, 2017
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: February 13-17, 2017
- APSA Congressional Fellows from the US Congress: April 30-May 5, 2017
- Interns from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, June 2-5, 2017

Professional Experience and Skills Training

Orientation

The director and the House of Commons organized the 2016-17 PIP orientation program, an intensive two-week training period September 6 to 19. The Library of Parliament also provided welcome support. The orientation program included 50 meetings and activities that prepared the interns for their work in the offices of Members of Parliament. Luncheons and other meetings with sponsors also offered interns the chance to learn about government relations and key issues in Canadian policymaking. This year's orientation included meetings with PIP alumni working for each of the three largest parties. These meetings gave interns the opportunity to discuss the varying dynamics of opposition and government placements. The interns emerged from their intensive training with a firm grasp of House of Commons procedure and the program's academic goals.

Special Skills Training

The interns benefitted from specific training from past interns and friends of the program who taught them about writing briefing notes and other practical skills necessary for Parliamentary and bureaucratic work. The interns also received training on research methods, participant observation, social media, communication, project management and delivery, workplace issues, and protocol. An alumnus also explained the federal government application process the Parliamentary Interns and visiting interns from provincial legislatures.

In the Office

In the office, the interns helped MPs 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 Private Members Bills and Motions in consultation with expert procedural clerks. They assisted MPs in committees and shadowed them in meetings with colleagues, media, departmental, interest groups, and community representatives. Many also visited constituencies and contributed to town hall meetings and outreach projects in the riding.

Specific highlights include:

- Assisting with the Procedure and House Affairs Committee during Parliamentary and electoral reform debates
- Providing administrative support to the Parliamentary Genocide Prevention Group
- Writing a special Interim Report for members of the Status of Women Committee
- Assisting the Indigenous Caucus
- Creating special podcasts with MP interviews for MPs' constituents
- Developing a special program for constituency youth (*Young Women in Leadership Program #YWIL*)

Sharing the Experience

Everyday Political Citizen Project

The interns once again served on the jury of the Everyday Political Citizen project, a Samara Canada initiative, that celebrates citizen engagement across Canada. This year, three remarkable women were [awarded the EPC prize](#) and it was an honour for the interns to be a part of this process.

Engaging Younger Canadians

The interns organized a workshop on the role of the MP for 120 secondary students from across the country. The interns drafted a bill on a Youth Parliament and encouraged the students to debate the bill in Question Period, committee, and caucus before finally voting on the bill. All in all, the interns ran 18 sessions on April 10, 2017. The workshop was organized in cooperation with Encounters with Canada, in advance of the students' visit to Parliament.

Three interns participated in the Library of Parliament's Teacher's Research Fair in November. They spoke about the program and their research to teachers across the country and have subsequently been invited to deliver talks to high school students in northern British Columbia via Skype.

Interns continue to be involved in extra-curricular activities that promote youth engagement and knowledge of Parliament. For example, intern Alec Boudreau volunteered with the *Parlement Jeunesse de l'Acadie* in early January 2017.



Interns Josh Regnier and Alec Boudreau explain the legislative process to high school students from across the country at Encounters with Canada, April 2017

Social Media

Thanks to the determined efforts of the 2016-17 interns, the program now has 1,111 “likes” on Facebook and 719 “followers” on Twitter. Both social media platforms have helped interns share their experience, connect with younger Canadians, potential applicants, alumni, sponsors and MPs, helping to raise the program's profile both on and off Parliament Hill. The interns tweet, post Facebook updates, and create videos to share awareness about Parliament and the intern application process. Program updates were retweeted by The Right Honourable Kim Campbell and comedian Mark Critch, among others.

Communication of Research

The interns' research projects contribute new perspectives on the work of different MPs and committees, on the institution of the House of Commons, on the state of democratic reform, and on pressing issues facing Canadian society. 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 9 and June 16, 2017
- Presentation, Alfred Hales Prize Winner, 2015-16
 - Third Speaker’s Luncheon, House of Commons, June 13, 2017
- Jean-Pierre-Gaboury Symposium
 - Institute on Governance, Ottawa, June 21, 2017

Intern alumni publish their PIP research in more accessible forms, such as blogs and newspaper articles. The program also actively supports efforts of stakeholders such as the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and Samara Canada to disseminate knowledge of Parliament and Canadian politics.

Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA)

The PIAA continues to connect former interns, fundraise for the program, develop new sponsor relationships, and provide space to debate matters of public interest. The program assists the PIAA with its membership database and provides electronic services for Association communications and events.

This year, the Association organized three networking events and two brown bag lunches with former interns Heather Conway, Senator Grant Mitchell, and MP Arif Virani. Executive members of the PIAA helped organize the annual Alumni Reception in November 2016, where former CPSA President Professor Bill Cross joined MP Bruce Stanton, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons to celebrate alumni and sponsors. Led by Chair Dr. Erin Crandall (PIP 2006-07) and Innessa Colaïacovo (PIP 2014-15), the annual PIAA charitable campaign surpassed expectations and raised a record amount for the program.

PIP alumni also recently created a foundation to support the long-term financial sustainability of PIP, the *Hales and Hurley Parliamentary Foundation / Fondation parlementaire Hales et Hurley*. The foundation is named for Alfred Hales, the MP who spearheaded the launch of the program in 1969, and James Hurley, its architect. Alumni decided upon this course of action after a long-time friend of PIP expressed interest in leaving PIP a bequest. Previously, there was no system in place for legacy giving. The number of bequests will increase as PIP approaches its 50th anniversary.

Over the past five months, Robert Peck (PIP 1981-82) and Alan Freeman (PIP 1973-74) explored how to accommodate such bequests. In consultation with Sara Krynitzki (PIP 2008-09), Peck and Freeman partnered with the [Ottawa Community Foundation](#) (OCF) and raised \$5,000 for the Hales and Hurley Parliamentary Foundation. Created in 1987, the OCF is dedicated to helping communities achieve charitable objectives through well-managed endowments. The OCF manages over \$112 million in support of projects and was the first Canadian public foundation to sign on to the UN Principles for Responsible Investing.

The Hales and Hurley Parliamentary Foundation can be expected to provide an average annual return [of at least four per cent](#) after the payment of all fees and administrative costs. The Fund's advisors will then approve annual interest going directly to PIP. No additional administrative work is required of PIP or the CPSA.

Looking Forward: Long-Term Strategic Planning

MP Engagement

The program has set up an informal caucus of current Members of Parliament: Arif Virani (former Parliamentary Intern, representing the Liberals), James Bezan (representing the Conservatives), and Hélène Laverdière (representing the New Democrats). The MPs will meet briefly once a year to provide advice to the program and a letter of support to promote PIP to MPs in their respective caucuses. All three MPs have hosted interns in the past and the program appreciates their engagement along with the ongoing input and support of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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 Association's insurance policy is sufficient to cover the program. At the program's expense, PIP is included in CPSA policies for property and injury insurance and errors and omissions insurance.
- The interns have been offered counselling services through the Employee and Family Assistance Program at the program's expense.
- 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 (CSO). 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.

Institutional Arrangements

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

In early 2017, the CPSA renewed its agreement with the House of Commons. The House of Commons Service Agreement, first signed in 2014-15, provides a stable level of staff support for the program that includes the continued engagement of senior management while focusing House resources on access to meeting space, translation services, language training and administrative support for activities on Parliament Hill. The agreement is for two years.

The program's Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is also on track for a three-year renewal. In January 2017, the director submitted a report on program activities to assist with this effort. SSHRC's involvement helps the program retain its academic focus, non-partisan credibility, and also differentiates PIP from other (often partisan, part-time) internship programs in Canada.

Staffing

The new 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, chairs and facilitates the selection committee, and plans the orientation program, teaches the weekly seminar, 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 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 PIP activities in the House, as well as CPSA Administrator, who handles payments, and CPSA Executive Director Dr. Silvina Danesi, who provides guidance and oversight on the long-term direction of the program. Dr. Jonathan Malloy has also been an active advisor to the program. The PIP Advisory Board, comprised of representatives of the CPSA, SSHRC, sponsors, the PIAA, and friends of the program meets twice annually and provides feedback and advice to the director.

More than 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.

Communications and Website

The program is reviewing key website functions, such as the application system, alumni relations, and activity invitations and content to support PIP’s core activities. The program and the PIAA are in the process of updating alumni and stakeholder databases, again largely thanks to alumni support and volunteering. The director provided business cards and email addresses for the interns.

Diversifying Recruitment and Outreach

The program continues to seek ways to ensure that all potential applicants are made aware of the program and receive advice on the application process. The director shared the call for applications with the CPSA and appreciates Dr. Silvina Danesi’s assistance and that of Michelle Hopkins in disseminating the information through POLCAN. The CPSA and other stakeholders have identified the importance of developing a diverse PIP recruitment base and the director, the 2016-17 interns, the CPSA, and PIP alumni have been proactive in their recruitment efforts.

In an effort to raise the program’s profile and encourage intern applications next year, the program again used more targeted communications to ensure that key groups are aware of the opportunity to participate in the program.

- The director, in conjunction with over 25 volunteer alumni, developed a detailed list of contacts of underrepresented groups in the applicant pool.
- The program developed a new special applicant-mentoring program: over 35 alumni volunteers provided advice to prospective applicants who were less familiar with the application process and program.
- Alumni support and editorial assistance also helped the director create an accessible PowerPoint presentation in English and French to share with potential applicants and political scientists across Canada.

- In October 2016 the director spoke to over 40 students in Alberta about opportunities to work on Parliament Hill and hopes to do the same in Manitoba and/or Saskatchewan during the 2018-19 application period.
- The program secured funding for a PIP recruitment video for the 2018-19 competition.
- Former interns hold faculty positions at universities across the country and many international institutions. The program is currently developing an informal network of academic alumni to support recruitment and intern research, as well as deepen our long-standing research networks in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

50 Years of the Parliamentary Internship Programme in 2019

Over the years, PIP has supported 470 young Canadians and assisted hundreds of MPs. For interns, it is a remarkable learning experience. As the 50th anniversary approaches, the program and PIAA are exploring ways to celebrate this legacy while also promoting civic engagement and knowledge of Parliament across Canada. The PIAA and program will develop a strategy for the 50th anniversary celebrations and seek ways to further involve alumni across Canada and abroad. In addition, they are in the process of creating an online archive for the program and conducting interviews with the program's architect, Professor James Ross Hurley.

Name Change

The program's name has been an ongoing cause for concern amongst alumni, in part because of the proliferation of other internships on Parliament Hill. These newer internships are often for students rather than graduates, and they are frequently unpaid and/or partisan, leading to confusion. In response to concerns raised by the 2015-16 cohort, the CPSA asked the director to undertake a broad consultation with PIP stakeholders, including the House of Commons, MPs, sponsors, and alumni.

As a part of this initiative, the PIAA Governance Sub-Committee launched an extensive consultation with alumni. More than 200 alumni responded to the PIAA's survey and roundtables. The PIAA's subsequent report recommended that the program establish a process to change its name that more accurately reflects the professional and academic nature of the program. Respondents also emphasized PIP must ensure the new name is bilingual, with an appropriate translation between English and French. As the report concludes, "The very high response rate to the survey and the successful roundtable discussions demonstrate an engaged alumni with great pride and interest in the programme and an immense appreciation for its value and the experience it offers."

The director would like to thank the many stakeholders who have spent countless volunteer hours providing feedback and advice on this issue. The director will continue to consult with stakeholders and will submit a final recommendation to the CPSA in November, 2017.

Funding

The program really appreciates the longstanding support of its sponsors and welcomes their enthusiasm for the program.

Alumni attracted the following new sponsors for 2016-17 and onwards:

- CN (Gold), a five-year commitment
- BIOTECanada (Silver)
- Capital One Bank (Canada Branch) (Silver)

- Fondation Desjardins (Silver), a three-year commitment
- International Union of Operating Engineers (Silver)
- Universities Canada (Silver)
- Rogers Communications (Bronze)

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 the PIP recruitment video.

All platinum and gold positions are filled, and the remaining silver position will likely be filled by September 2017, providing a reasonable assurance of stable and sufficient funding for the foreseeable future. Sponsors are also being asked to switch from January invoicing to July invoicing in order to make the budgetary cycle more predictable.

Opportunities for sponsorship at the bronze level and for friends of the program remain available and the director and alumni are currently seeking to fill these positions.

Long-term Funding

Parliamentary internships are often vulnerable to insecure funding. Although PIP has a sound sponsorship structure based on annual commitments from sponsors, project contributions from friends of the program, alumni donations, and our annual SSHRC grant, the program would benefit from a more diverse funding base.

For the past four years, thanks to the careful stewardship of former director Garth Williams, PIP has had small annual surpluses in addition to the accumulated contingency fund. Some of the existing surplus not required for contingencies, in addition to a proportion of future surpluses, will be invested at a higher rate of return in a way that does not place an administrative or legal burden on the CPSA or PIP. The funds will be placed in a fund of the Ottawa Community Foundation (OCF). This approach provides a reasonable balance in terms of growth potential, risk management, and flexibility. The bilingual OCF is run in a sustainable, equitable, and transparent way, and money raised specifically for PIP will continue to support the program in the future.



The 2016-17 Parliamentary Interns were invited to discuss politics and journalism with Bob Woodward thanks to the Canadian Real Estate Association.

Budget

The program will end the year 2016-17 with a small surplus and projected a similar budget for 2017-18. The 2016-17 budget, approved by the CPSA Board in June 2016, reflects relatively stable revenues. Since the approval of the budget, PIP lost four sponsors due to budgetary constraints. Additional costs for 2016-17 included website support activities, recruitment outreach efforts in western Canada, a diversity promotion video, and funding for the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA) for alumni outreach and 50th Anniversary activities.

Alumni helped the program secure two new Silver Sponsors (the International Union of Operating Engineers and Universities Canada), one bronze sponsor (Rogers Communications), and special contributions for a PIP Recruitment Video (Canadian Credit Union Association) and the Nunavut study tour (Fednav). The program also saw reduced costs in the director's honorarium and outgoing international study tours. As a result, PIP anticipates a healthy positive balance for 2017-18.



Parliamentary Interns welcomed their “cousins” from the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme to the 2016 PIP Alumni Celebration.

The Year Ahead

The 2017-18 Selection Committee

PIP received close to 200 superb applications this year. The program would like to thank the applicants and referees who submitted documents through our online application system. The selection reviewed the applications and selected the ten 2017-18 interns based on interviews with the top 24 candidates in March 2017.

PIP is grateful for the tireless work of the Selection Committee:

- Madalina Chesoi, Library of Parliament
- Dr. Anne Dance, Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme
- Johanna Mizgala, Curator, House of Commons
- Professor Geneviève Tellier, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa
- Dr. Paul Thomas, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, Carleton University

The 2017-18 Parliamentary Interns

Next year's Parliamentary Interns are:

Patrick Butler (Conception Bay South, NL)
BA (Journalism and Political Science), Carleton University

Ronald Hoffman (Barrie, ON)
BA (Linguistics and Language Studies), York University

Emily Jensen (Stratford, PEI)
BA (Political Science), McGill University

Ross Linden-Fraser (Oakville, ON)
BA (International Relations), University of Western Ontario
MA (International Relations), London School of Economics

Andrew Merrell (Edmonton, AB)
BSc (Human Ecology), University of Alberta
MA (Political Science), Memorial University of Newfoundland

Alex Miller-Pelletier (Québec, QC)
BA (Science politique), Université Laval

Kim Paradis (Montréal, QC)
BA (Études internationales), Université de Montréal
MA (Science politique), Université de Montréal

Avnee Paranjape (Regina, SK)
BA and BSc (English and Biology), University of Regina
MA (English Literature), University of Toronto

Aurélié Skrobik (Montréal, QC)
BA (International Development, minor Political Science), McGill University

Rose St-Pierre (Saint-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu, QC)
BA (Communication, politique et société), Université du Québec à Montréal

PIP 2017-18

The year ahead promises to be exciting as the two largest opposition parties field new leaders and the government, in the third year of its mandate, responds to a complex and rapidly changing international context. The 2017-18 interns will be the last cohort to work in Centre Block until 2028, when it reopens after renovations. There is no doubt that the ten interns will have a fascinating, memorable, and educational year, and alumni, friends, and sponsors are looking forward to welcoming them to Parliament Hill.



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