



Parliamentary
Internship Programme



Canadian Political Science Association
Association canadienne de science politique



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Parliamentary Internship Programme

Bulletin



2020-2021



Interns' Message

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-2021 Bulletin.

The bulletin is a way to share the experiences we had over the past year. This year is surely to be remembered, and even if all years are significantly different in one way or another, this one probably makes it into the top of the "most unlikely to happen" list. We learned to adapt, and made the most out of our time on the Hill.

We would like to thank the friends and sponsors of the Programme as well as our Director, Dr. Paul Thomas who had a trial by fire for his first year as director. He succeeded in supporting us adequately and we wish him a long and fruitful time as head of the Parliamentary Internship Programme.

A Word From the Director

Dr. Paul Thomas



The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reshaped the experience of the 2020-21 interns relative to previous years. Such changes began with a mostly-virtual orientation, and continued with remote work in their MP placements, virtual study tours, and Brown-Bag lunches over Zoom.

Yet while limiting some aspects of the PIP experience, the pandemic provided opportunities as well. The interns took full advantage of the virtual format to meet with academics, politicians, and other public figures who were inaccessible to previous cohorts relying on in-person meetings. They also learned new skills for online engagement that will serve them well in the hybrid work environment that is emerging as COVID-19 recedes.

One thing the pandemic could not change was the steadfast support of the PIP's various partners. We are greatly indebted to our sponsors who chose to prioritize their contributions to the PIP despite the many challenges they faced. Both the PIP's House of Commons Liaison, Scott Lemoine, and the Programme Assistant, Melissa Carrier, also worked tirelessly to ensure that the interns were kept up to date on the changing COVID guidance at Parliament and had access to the resources they needed for remote work.

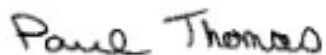
The PIP's Patron, House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota, similarly gave freely of his time, not only meeting with the interns during their orientation but also organizing a special event where he and Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the British House of Commons, shared with the interns about how the two chambers had adapted to COVID-19.

The Clerk of the Commons, Charles Robert, has likewise continued to share his expertise and enthusiasm interns and has been an ongoing source of guidance. Our host MPs also went out of their way to help the interns integrate into their offices despite the challenges of distance and technology.

I am also grateful for the ongoing support of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). The CPSA staff, including Executive Director Silvina Danesi, Administrator Michelle Hopkins, and Financial Coordinator Tim Howard, have been very patient as I learned the Director's role. The Board of Directors, and especially CPSA President Joanna Everitt, Vice-President Cheryl Collier, and Treasurer Martin Papillon have also provided invaluable guidance as we adapted PIP to the pandemic.

Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to thank this year's interns – Somaya Amiri, Amélie Cossette, Gabrielle Feldmann, Valere Gaspard, Olga Goulet Doyon, Hanna Hughes, Daniel Lukac, Samuel MacLennan, Tristan Masson, and Christelle Tessono – for their resilience and flexibility as we adapted to the pandemic, and their patience with me as I took a new role in less than ideal times. I can't wait to see where the future will take them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul Thomas". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Thomas" clearly distinguishable.

*Dr. Paul Thomas
Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme*

Thank you to our MPs

The Parliamentary Interns, the Parliamentary Internship Programme and its stakeholders thank the more than 50 MPs who applied for interns this year, and, most especially, those hosting interns in their offices.



Amélie Cossette and MP Virani in Toronto

Somaya Amiri

- Robert Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West (Liberal)
- Alain Rayes, MP for Richmond-Arthabaska (Conservative)

Amélie Cossette

- Arif Virani, MP for Parkdale-High Park (Liberal)
- Stéphane Bergeron, MP for Montarville (Bloc Québécois)

Gabrielle Feldmann

- Sameer Zuberi, MP for Pierrefonds-Dollard (Liberal)
- Greg McLean, MP for Calgary Centre (Conservative)

Valere Gaspard

- Marilène Gill, MP for Manicouagan (Bloc Québécois)
- Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour (Liberal)

Olga Goulet-Doyon

- Lianne Rood, MP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex (Conservative)
- Kody Blois, MP for Kings-Hants (Liberal)

Hanna Hughes

- Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP for Beaches-East York (Liberal)
- James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman (Conservative)

Daniel Lukac

- Earl Dreeshen, MP for Red Deer-Mountain View (Conservative)
- Rachel Bendayan, MP for Outremont (Liberal)

Samuel MacLennan

- The Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner, MP for CalgaryNose Hill (Conservative)
- Iqra Khalid, MP for Mississauga-Erin Mills (Liberal)

Tristan Masson

- Ali Ehsassi, MP for Willowdale (Liberal)
- Leah Gazan, MP for Winnipeg Centre (NDP)

Christelle Tessono

- Matthew Green, MP for Hamilton Centre (NDP)
- Greg Fergus, MP for Hull-Aylmer (Liberal)



*Hanna Hughes and James Bezan,
MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman
(Conservative)*



*Christelle Tessono and Matthew Green,
MP for Hamilton Centre (NDP)*



*Amélie Cossette and Arif Virani, MP for
Parkdale-High Park (Liberal)*

Highlights & Insights

Somaya Amiri

Highlight: The highlight of my work as a Parliamentary Intern was participating in various stakeholder meetings with my Members of Parliament. It was interesting to see how different community organizations, companies, and even individual constituents influence policy outcomes. Whether through providing amendments to a bill, giving ideas for a new Private Members' bill, or presenting general policy insight, it was beautiful to see how different actors come together to strengthen our democracy and improve the lives of our community members.

During this process, I learned how these actors could effectively provide policy proposals to elected members with very busy schedules.



Insight: Working closely with the constituency offices allowed me to understand and appreciate the powerful machinery behind Members of Parliament. Representatives are supported by their staff on Parliament Hill and their constituency offices.

The team works under constant pressure, during unimaginable hours, to organize events, inform constituents about various policy matters, and notify the MP with the latest political updates. An MP is bombarded with endless briefs, meetings, and incomprehensible problems, and they wouldn't be able to do their work as our representatives without the support of their staff.

Amélie Cossette

Highlight: Obviously, it is difficult to choose just one highlight since the Programme has been full of rewarding exchanges, key moments and solid friendships. However, the trust placed in me by the two Members I had the pleasure of working with will always be a highlight for me. These two Members understand the potential of parliamentary interns and the significant contribution they can make since that is how they both began their own careers.

Throughout my placements, I was given a great deal of latitude, including committee preparation and speech writing. Supporting their parliamentary work and knowing that my work was valued gave me confidence in my professional abilities that will serve me well in my future career. I am very grateful to those Members and their respective teams for including me as a full-fledged team member in their day-to-day work.



PS: Sometimes, words cannot do justice to the best moments. For example, in a Foreign Affairs Committee meeting attended by Mr. Bergeron, two individuals pretending to be Leonid Volkov (then chief of staff for Russian prisoner Alexei Navalny's campaign) and his assistant pranked the committee. The whole thing lasted about 25 minutes before the Members ended the call. Even for Mr. Bergeron, first elected in 1993, this was a first!

Insight: Our experience as parliamentary interns was deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Observing and experiencing the parliamentary process from the inside during these unique times allowed us to see that, despite all the traditions and processes inherent to the functioning of the House of Commons, it was possible to come up with innovative approaches to keep Parliament working.

These changes, including the implementation of a hybrid format and e-voting, enabled Members to perform most if not all their duties from their ridings, which allowed them to be closer to their constituents. The hybrid format also allowed for better work-life balance in certain cases along with a more efficient use of the Members' time by saving them long trips across the country. It will be interesting to see the changes that remain after the pandemic.

Gabrielle Feldmann



Highlight: The highlight of PIP for me was the opportunity to meaningfully deepen my perspective on Canada and the issues that fuel and divide people within it. I had the opportunity to work with two very different MPs who were both deeply knowledgeable and passionate about the issues that mattered to them and their communities.

Being able to work with them as they tried to effect change was incredibly enlightening; the experiences gave me a deeper understanding of the nuances of these issues, insight into *why* they animate the political life of our country, and - most importantly - empathy for those working on all sides. PIP is a rare opportunity to engage not only in a breadth of issues, but with a breadth of perspectives, and I am richer for the experience.

Insight: Canada's democratic institutions and the actors within them are simultaneously resilient and malleable. It was fascinating to observe the goings-on of Parliament, parties, and MPs throughout the pandemic and to see how they adapted to new constraints and opportunities. Democracy has been adapting to digital technologies for decades, and even relatively recent innovations like social media and MPs' WhatsApp group chats have changed the ways our democracy operates significantly and meaningfully. The effects of these changes will only be fully seen in hindsight.

I expect the pandemic to be a major inflection point for how the work of democracy is done, and while many elements of our institutions will snap back, others will evolve from this point in new ways. All of this will have significant implications for how our democracy works. Being at the centre of such a massive change has been fascinating, and I look forward to gaining perspective in hindsight on the implications of these tectonic shifts.

Valere Gaspard



Highlight: Choosing a single highlight for the Parliamentary Internship Programme is more of a challenge than the annual MP selection process – there are just so many great things/people to choose from! Whether it was learning about different systems and policy priorities during our virtual trips, taking a deeper dive into Canadian politics through our academic seminars and meetings with our Sponsors, or being able to work with two intelligent and hardworking MPs, the internship offered numerous opportunities for both professional and academic development.

What stood out to me in particular was being able to gain a deep understanding of local affairs and issues in both of my MP offices. In MP Gill's office, I had the opportunity to visit the Côte- Nord of Quebec and gain a better understanding of the needs of the people living

in this region (for example, access to postal services in remote places in the riding). With MP Beech, I was able to gain this understanding by analyzing the concerns of citizens through outreach activities or receiving feedback from constituents on products we sent them; like the team's mailer to small businesses to see how else the MP can advocate for the riding. I was fortunate to have worked in the offices of such excellent MPs. Thank you again to Marilène and Terry for a fantastic year, and a special thank you to Paul for his work and diligence as Director.

Insight: To understand a theory in its entirety, you must also experience it in practice. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I placed a lot of focus on studying federalism, in hopes of comprehending and appreciating how the Canadian system works. This created an excellent foundation of understanding, but the missing piece was being able to live it for myself. After working in two offices with inherently different views on Canada's Parliamentary System and alongside people with contrasting opinions and understandings of the role of the state, I gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of Canada's system.

The best insight I can provide from this year is to create opportunities that allow you to test and experience the things you are most interested in. It may just help you become a better professional, academic, researcher, practitioner, or even citizen.

Olga Goulet Doyon

Highlight: As is the case for all my fellow interns, it is impossible for me to pick just one. My highlights this year can be put in two categories: connections made and knowledge gained.

I was able to develop my knowledge of politics and agricultural issues throughout the year thanks to my two placements, first with the Conservative Agriculture and Agri-food Critic, Lianne Rood, and then with the Chair of the Liberal Rural Caucus, Kody Blois. What I learned helped me understand some of the core issues in the lives of so many Canadians. As for the connections I made, I am lucky to have met influential people in our society in situations that allowed for open and honest discussions.



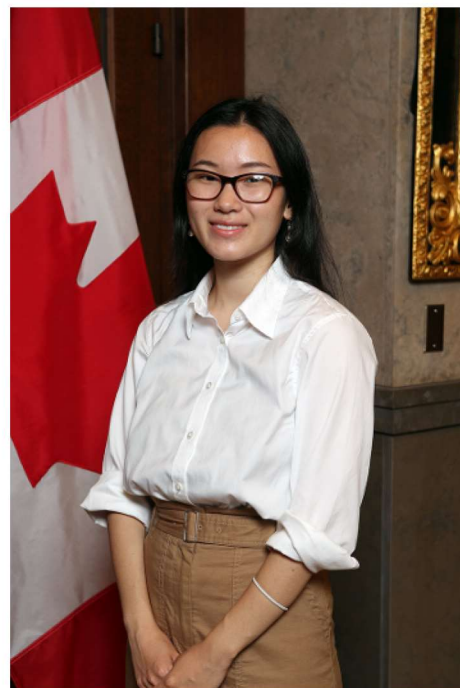
I am extremely grateful for the friendships I made with my fellow interns and for getting to know our counterparts in other provinces and the United States. Lastly, it was a lot of fun co-managing social media engagement with my colleague and friend Valere.

Insight: The relationship between politicians and the outside world is a mystery to many. During my two placements, I was able to observe and, for the most part, understand the connections between the MPs and the stakeholders representing agriculture and agri-food companies. This dynamic is the same in all portfolios. When members of the public communicate using the right channels, they can have an impact on their representatives, public policy and, ultimately, our society as a whole.

Hanna Hughes

Highlight: There were many great moments this year to choose from, from working for our MPs to meeting with a wide range of speakers across the political spectrum. However, the highlight of the year for me was the PIP friends I made. While it was difficult keeping in touch with everyone during the lockdown period and via Zoom, I am grateful for the life-long friendships that I have made throughout the Programme.

Insight: The virtual nature of Parliament during the pandemic has largely made the institution more accessible for MPs. For MPs whose ridings are far from Ottawa, MPs who have health concerns, or for MPs who have child-rearing responsibilities, the capacity to join the House virtually has allowed them to participate in our democracy despite these challenges. At the same time, Zoom remains an imperfect substitute for in-person interactions. A lot of the connections that are built on the Hill and issues that are raised happen during impromptu run-ins in the corridors and lobbies of Parliament. It will be interesting to see how the pandemic will shape the future of Parliament and whether the hybrid model will endure.



Daniel Lukac

Highlight: The highlight of PIP was definitely that it surrounded me with a diverse range of politically engaged individuals, within both my MP offices and the intern cohort. Given that my interests (and background) lie more in political philosophy than in applied politics, I had a lot to learn about things like political strategy, contemporary political issues, and the inner workings of Parliament. The PIP experience as a whole - from the detailed orientation on Parliamentary procedure, to the weekly academic seminars, to extended placements in two very different MP offices - of course helped me considerably in building this knowledge. But I gained the most value from the many conversations with colleagues - both related and (more frequently) unrelated to my actual work - and the relationships built around them.



This brings me to my (closely related) second highlight. Namely, that I *do* feel I've gained a much better understanding of how politics is done in practice. Interns have the privilege of observing first hand internal party dynamics, and interacting closely with Committees and other important Parliamentary processes. They also by necessity must become subject matter "experts" on a wide range of issues on the political agenda in a very short timespan. Thus, I think PIP has significantly enhanced my ability to efficiently research, dissect, and analyse political issues and controversies while understanding the structures, institutions, incentives, and relationships which shape them. Finally, having interviewed a large number of MPs for both the selection process and my own research paper, I now "know" and recognize the MPs involved in the legislative process; this personal connection has, if nothing else, made following politics a far more fulfilling pursuit.

Insight: As is no doubt obvious, PIP is an experience engendering a veritable battery of insights. Distilling these all into a single, fundamental takeaway is nearly impossible. Instead, I will highlight one insight among many. That is, despite the constraints of national political pressures and party discipline, MPs are deeply sensitive and responsive to their constituents' concerns. Not only are they (of course) an essential and effective link to government services and information; they also take very seriously constituents' policy priorities, and will often find ways to champion these within their parties. Things like letter-writing campaigns really do shape what issues Members are thinking about and even how they are thinking about them, and can make a real difference to policy outcomes - even if this is not always obvious from the outside.

Sam Maclennan



Highlight: The Programme has been an unforgettable experience. Between the incredible access interns are afforded to the operations of Member's offices and the chance to work for two different parties, this unique opportunity has helped me develop a much stronger grasp of the complex political dynamics on the Hill.

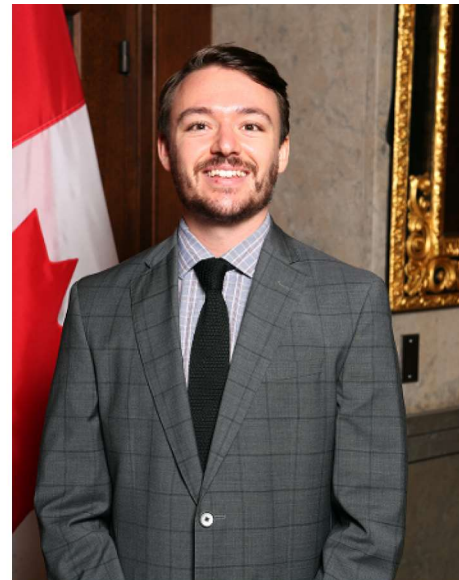
I'm very grateful for it, and I'm so thankful to the many people who made it possible: my fellow interns, our stalwart director, Paul, our MPs and their staff, and the many friends and alumni of the Programme!

Insight: There is a remarkable diversity of political orientations *within* party caucuses that is often effaced or obscured in public-facing communications. As an intern, it was fascinating to be privy to some of the debates amongst members of the same party. In these debates, regional, linguistic, and ideological differences - often entangled - became apparent, in contrast to the unified image parties project (or try to project) to the Canadian electorate.

Tristan Masson

Highlight: My highlight would have to be the general experience of putting my skills and knowledge to work in the service of democracy. As a student of politics, you attend lectures, participate in seminars, and write essays within an academic institution with little experience or understanding for how this connects with the practice of politics.

During PIP, I realized the value of my skills and knowledge from conversations with MPs, staffers, and stakeholders to drafting briefing notes, editorials, and research briefs. In other words, I had the chance to reflect on and hone my political praxis.



Insight: For my internship research paper, I studied the historical and intellectual processes in economic policy-making during the Global Financial Crisis. A key analytical point is to understand the origins, uptake and implementation of ideas in public policy through political parties, Parliament and the Government of Canada. As a participant-observer, I saw in real-time these processes play out while Parliament and the Government of Canada dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ultimately, crises have a funny way of showing us what works and what doesn't. Back in 2007-2008, the widely held belief was the budget needed balancing and the expectation was that this could be accomplished by 2015 or sooner. This didn't happen. In fact, in 2021 we've introduced the largest budget deficit in history. The sky hasn't fallen on our heads. Sometimes entrenched beliefs constrain our perceived scope of action. I hope this lesson motivates more imagination as we focus on the inter-related crises of climate change, racism and decolonization.

Christelle Tessono

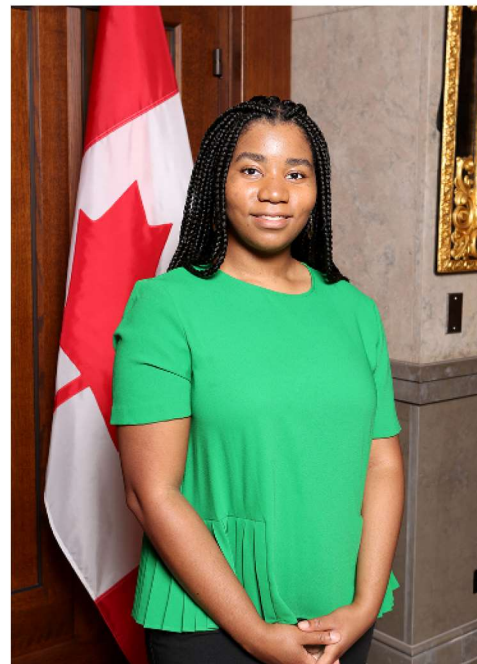
Highlight: Through the Programme, I've been able to challenge myself, while also contributing meaningfully to Canadian democracy. Picking my favorite moment for this internship is therefore quite hard, I've had so many fascinating experiences with both of my placements and the Programme's activities! To keep it somewhat short, I thoroughly enjoyed the seminars, most notably the ones we've had with Dr. Debra Thompson, Dr. Larry Savage, and Dr. Brock Pitawanakwat. Crossing the floor is a privilege I do not take lightly.

Gaining parliamentary experience from the opposition and government side has allowed me to develop important research and communication skills.

I've been able to draft briefing memos on a wide variety of topics, draft speeches for different occasions, support the work of the Parliamentary Black Caucus, attend meetings with multiple community organizations, and also respond to concerns of constituents directly. Above all, what I enjoyed the most was the opportunity to regularly chat with my MPs and their staffers, what I have learned from these casual discussions are key lessons I will carry with me. I come out of PIP feeling wiser and more empowered in my ability to contribute to political processes.

Insight: Being up close to Parliament in these historical times allowed me to better understand the role of our elected officials and how our political infrastructure is able to transform itself to respond to crises. Additionally, the power of institutional memory is underestimated.

When cultivated critically, it is an anchoring force for progress. It teaches us how we failed, how we succeeded, and how we can improve. It is much needed in times of crisis, and even more so as we plan our recovery. That is why the work of clerks, analysts of the Library of Parliament, and political staffers is so important. They know so much, if not everything!





*Photo by intern Valere Gaspard,
Côte-Nord, Quebec*

Riding Visits

Valere Gaspard

During my first placement, I had the opportunity to visit the Manicouagan riding in Quebec with MP Marilène Gill. It was one of my favourite parts of this year. My trip started when I flew into an airport near Sept-Îles, where Jeff (a member of Marilène's team) was there to pick me up. After a three-hour drive from the airport through beautiful rural Quebec, we got to Baie-Comeau. Throughout the week, I was able to attend the local Remembrance Day ceremony with Marilène, work with the constituency staff on the team, and visited numerous places in the riding.

Riding Visits

Some of my favourite moments was eating fish at a local restaurant, Microbrasserie St-Pancrace, going on hikes outside of town and being able to learn more about the Côte-Nord by chatting with people around Baie-Comeau.

At the end of the week, we drove (and took a ferry) through other parts of Quebec on our road trip back to Ottawa. I highly recommend visiting the Côte-Nord. I will definitely be going back for another trip!



Valere at the Manicouagan riding in Quebec

Hanna Hughes



Hanna and Amélie in Toronto

During my first placement, I had the opportunity to visit the riding of Beaches-East-York in Toronto. To get there, Somaya, Amélie, and I drove down together as all of our MPs were located in the Toronto area. We stopped at Niagara Falls (which I had never seen before) on our way. The Falls were absolutely breathtaking and I hope to go again when boat tours are available.

Afterwards, we spent the week in Toronto in an Airbnb and worked at our constituency offices during the day. At night, we had some free time to explore the city and discover some great places to eat. All in all, it was an incredibly enjoyable trip.

Amélie Cossette

In the first half on my internship, I had the chance to visit the busy riding of Parkdale–High Park. At the time, public health rules allowed that trip, so I took advantage of it together with Somaya and Hanna. That week spent in Toronto gave me a better understanding of the day-to-day life of the MP I was working with, Arif Virani. One of the things I saw was just how important it was for him to be near his constituents.

I also got to know him better over many shared meals. Those days in Toronto were made even more special by the great times I had with Somaya and Hanna. We went to Niagara Falls, visited Toronto and strengthened our friendships that I'm sure will last a very long time. I would have liked to visit the riding of Montarville, but the pandemic during our second placement really threw a wrench into things. Next time, then!



Amélie, Somaya and Hanna at Niagara Falls

Sam MacLennan

I was fortunate to be able to visit MP Rempel Garner's riding of Calgary Nose-Hill in my first placement. Despite COVID-19, I was able to work out of the constituency office and meet the staff there. An added bonus: my family is from Calgary, so I got to spend time with them!

A Word From The Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association

For the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA), this year will forever stand out given that – like everyone else in Canada and around the world – our activities have pivoted to a virtual format in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties, PIAA's executive team, Board and Subcommittee members worked tirelessly to provide our alumni with opportunities to continue engaging and giving back to the PIP.

To sum up, PIAA organized various programs and events: from connecting prospective PIP applicants to alumni for advice, hosting a networking event with new and former parliamentary interns, coordinating two BBLs with guest speakers, and offering a Holiday food drive. To increase our visibility, we undertook bold initiatives to enhance PIAA's communications efforts. For instance, we sent out our triannual eNewsletter (December, February, June), created a PIAA welcoming package to onboard new parliamentary interns, and promoted inspiring "Alumni of the Week" profiles on our Facebook and LinkedIn groups.

Among our novelties, our Mentorship Subcommittee launched its first ever PIAA Mentorship Program, which aims to pair experienced mentors with curious mentees. An impressive total of 54 participants have indicated their interest, with several among them cumulating over 20 years of professional experience. Alumni enthusiasm for this mentorship opportunity was utmost heart-warming and we are very much looking forward to seeing what will result from these meetings.

To end our year on a high note, we co-hosted a PIP Farewell Ceremony and the 80th Birthday of our PIP founding director, Dr. James Ross Hurley, known as a political enthusiast, an inspiring mentor and a long-standing supporter of the Programme.

As a token of our gratitude, we gifted Dr. Hurley a souvenir album with some of his most precious memories in the House of Commons. Parliamentary interns, alumni, MPs, sponsors, family and friends all gathered for the virtual celebrations.

We are grateful to everyone who has connected with us in the last couple of months and we are truly delighted to welcome the 2020-2021 interns to our beloved alumni community.

Yours sincerely,

PIAA Executive 2020-2021

Enya Bouchard, President
Shona Moreau, Treasurer
Madison Pearson, Secretary

In May 2021, PIAA hosted a panel discussion on *Diplomacy in Times of COVID-19*, with keynote speakers Graeme C. Clark (1986-87), Deborah Paul (1992-93), Ariel Delouya (1984-85), and moderated by Robert Peck (1981-82) and Alan Freeman (1973-74).



Alumni, family and friends pay tribute to Dr. James Ross Hurley, our PIP founding director, on the occasion of his 80th birthday. PIAA notably gifted him a souvenir album with photos, messages, and anecdotes of his time on the Hill and contributions to the Programme over the past fifty years.

Legislative Study Tours

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the interns' legislative study tours were conducted in a virtual format this year. Nevertheless, thanks to our valued partners we were able to visit six destinations: Quebec City, Toronto, Washington, Brussels, the United Kingdom and Nunavut.

We would like to thank the Parliamentary Interns from the Ontario Legislature who hosted us in Toronto during the fall of 2020.

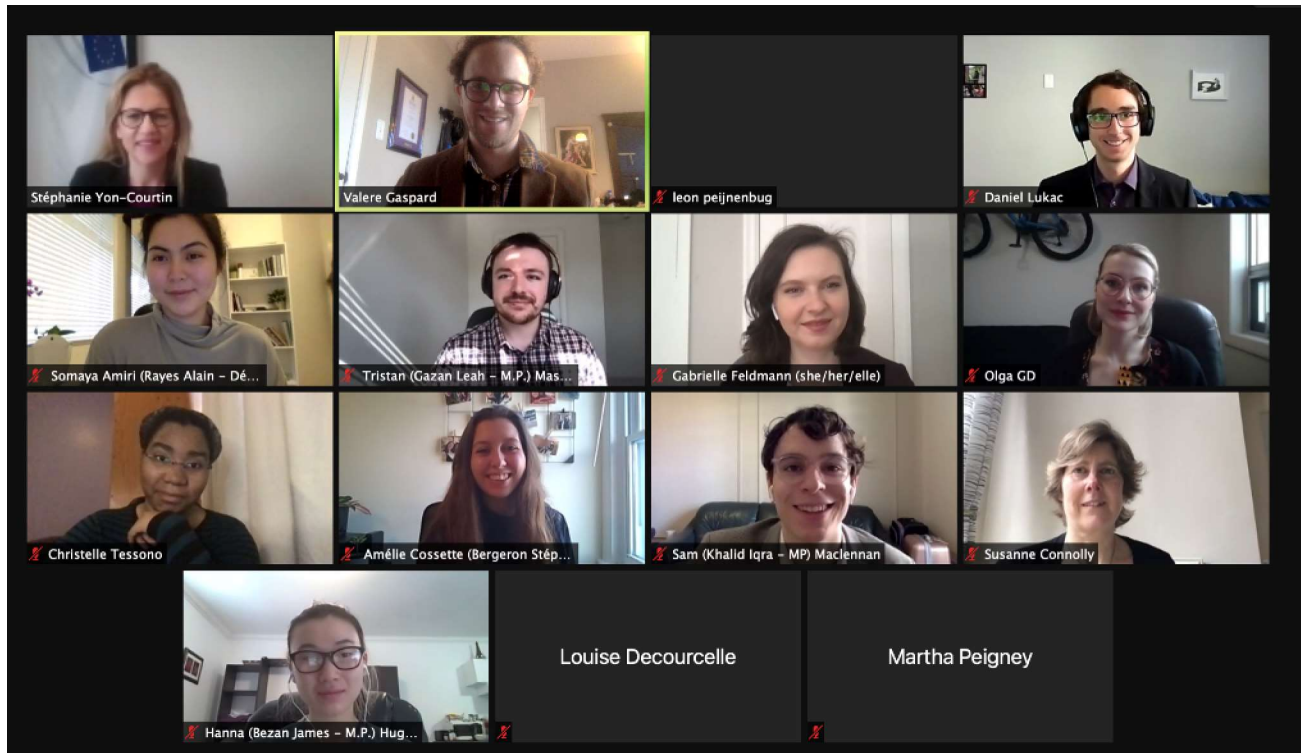
Thanks to the collaboration of our counterparts at the Jean-Charles Bonenfant Foundation, we enjoyed a very insightful visit to the National Assembly of Quebec in January 2021.

We thank our collaborators, including the British High Commission and the European delegation, who went to great lengths to ensure that, despite the time difference, we were able to carry out our visits to the United Kingdom and the European Union in early 2021.



The Interns with UK Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle and Canadian Speaker Anthony Rota

Finally, many thanks to the Congressional Fellows from the American Political Science Association and the US Embassy for allowing us to experience the American political realm in May 2021.



The Interns with Stéphanie Yon-Courtin, MEP (Renew Europe Group, France), Chair of Delegation for Relations with Canada



The Interns with US Congressman Matt Cartwright

Incoming Study Tours

Every year the interns host several of our peers. This year the visits to Ottawa were all virtual. We were delighted to receive the Ontario Legislative Internship Program, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation from the National Assembly of Quebec, the Congressional Fellow from the American Political Science Association, the Manitoba Legislative Internship Program and the British Columbia Legislative Internship Program.

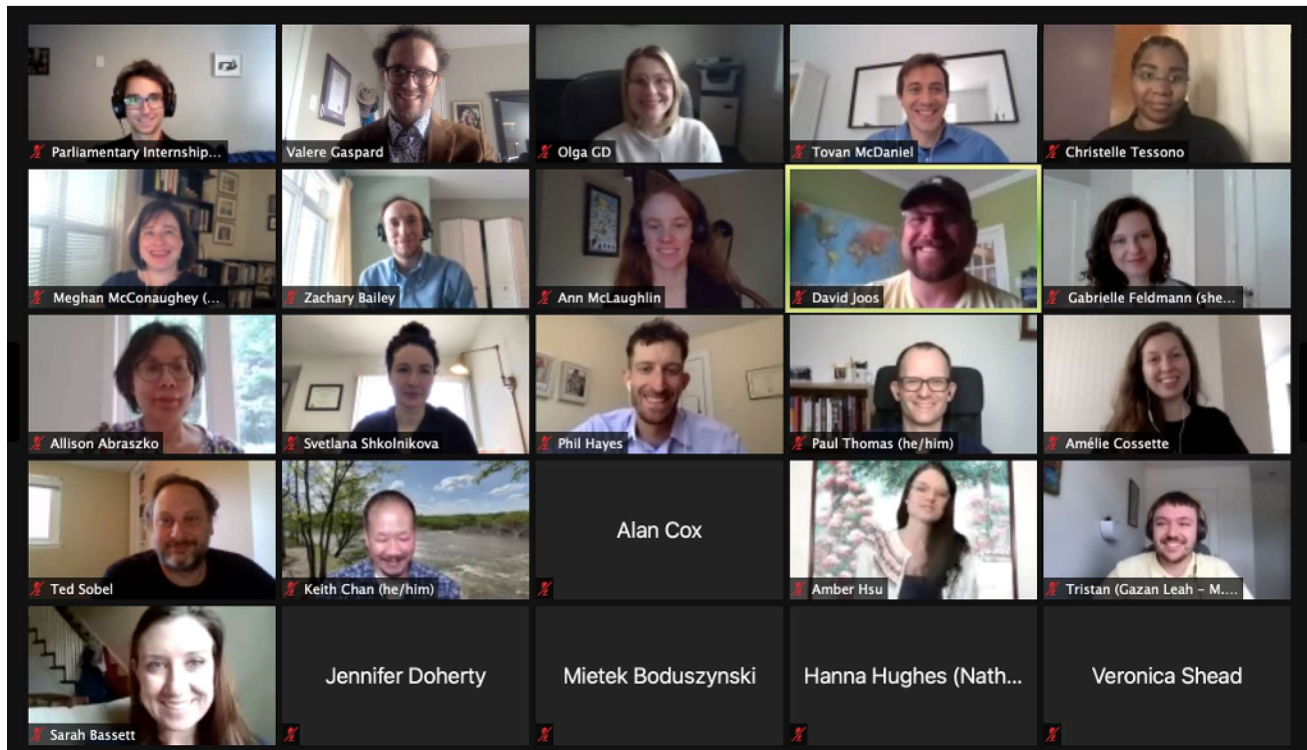
They met with a variety of actors from the political sphere, including members of parliament, political staff, academics, public servants and journalists. We sincerely hope these visits were insightful and engaging. We are honored to participate in keeping these partnerships alive.



Joint PIP and OLIP meeting with Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole



BC and Manitoba interns meeting House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota



Interns and Congressional Fellows having a joint briefing with the US Embassy in Ottawa

PIP activities by the numbers 2020-2021

The interns and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



- 19** seminars with guest lectures
 - 9** skills training sessions
 - 4** meetings with party leaders
 - 14** brown bag lunches
 - 7** virtual legislative study tours
- 5** Canada-US policy discussion sessions
- 6** Statistics Canada training sessions
 - 5** incoming legislative visits
 - 4** sponsor webinars

Research Corner

The 2020 Alf Hales Prize

Every year, PIP awards the Alfred Hales Prize to recognize the best paper submitted by an intern in the previous cohort. The Prize is named for the late MP Alfred Hales, who proposed the PIP's creation. The Samara Centre for Democracy sponsors the Prize, providing a \$1,000 award to the winner, and \$500 each to the two runners up. This year's prize jury included representatives from the Samara Centre, the House of Commons, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Canadian Political Science Association.

Congratulations to Caroline Woodward for her 2021 Hales Prize winning paper *"National Identity in Crisis: A Case Study of Canadian "Nation-Ness" During the Covid-19 Pandemic"* and to the runners up Myles Goodman-Vincent and Chris Coulson.

This Year's Research Papers

This year's interns produced an incredible set of innovative research projects that used a variety of methods (discourse analysis, interviews, data analysis) to explore a diverse range of topics.

The 2020-21 Intern Research Papers

Amélie Cossette

Nothing About Us Without Us : Une analyse de la représentation des personnes vivant avec une déficience intellectuelle et de leurs intérêts à la Chambre des communes et dans les bureaux de députés fédéraux

Gabrielle Feldmann

Whose Interests Matter? Representational Priorities among Members of Parliament in communities with high rates of COVID-19

Valere Gaspard

Messaging, Partisanship and Politics: Discourse in Standing Committees in a Minority Parliament

Olga Goulet Doyon

L'adoption de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones comme cadre de référence pour la réconciliation au Canada

Hanna Hughes

Representation by Zoom: The Representational Work of Members of Parliament During The Pandemic

Daniel Lukac

Rooted in the West: Visions of Nationhood and Western Alienation in the Conservative Party of Canada

Samuel MacLennan

Parliamentary Conceptions of Religious Freedom

Tristan Masson

"Canada is not an island" A Historical and Discourse Analysis of Canada's Economic Policy during the Global Financial Crisis, 2007 to 2010

Christelle Tessono

Systemic Racism and the House: A Discourse Analysis of Parliamentary Debates Held in 2020

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Forest Products Association of Canada
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Canadian Canola Growers Association
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Canadian Credit Union Association
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