

# Parliamentary Internship Programme



2021-2022 Bulletin



Parliamentary  
Internship Programme



Canadian Political Science Association  
Association canadienne de science politique



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# Interns' Message



On behalf of the Parliamentary Interns, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2021-22 PIP Bulletin.

The Bulletin reviews our activities of the year and explores our reflections and insights as interns. This year has been characterized by the outstanding gratitude that we have to have been able to experience in-person activities, events, MP and sponsor placements, and life on the Hill in general. The year has been unlike anything we could have imagined and we would like to extend our thanks to our Director, friends and sponsors of the programme, our MPs, and all those who have contributed to the success of this year!

Happy reading,

The 2021-22 Parliamentary Interns

# A Word From The Director

Dr. Paul Thomas

Between the 2021 election, the Omicron wave of COVID-19, and the extended protests around Parliament in early 2022, the 2021-22 Parliamentary Interns were regularly challenged to adapt to new circumstances. Yet despite these disruptions, the Interns also experienced a gradual return to “routine proceedings” as the pandemic finally began to recede.

While working virtually when required, the Interns largely completed their MP placements in person and were able to complete legislative study tours to the Welsh, British, and European Parliaments, the US Congress, and the legislatures of Ontario and Quebec. They also once again welcomed in-person visits from US Congressional Fellows and the provincial internship programs, and the PIP resumed the series of lunches and receptions for the Programme community hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

At the same time, it has also become clear that several practices and skills developed during the pandemic will remain vital to the PIP going forward. The Interns continued to host virtual meetings with leading academics, politicians, and other public figures outside of Ottawa. They also learned new skills for online engagement that will continue to be in high demand in the new post-COVID hybrid work environment.



*The Interns with Director Paul Thomas at the European Parliament buildings in Brussels, Belgium in March 2022*

One constant throughout the pandemic was the dedicated support of the PIP’s various partners. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our sponsors, who continued to support the Programme despite the many pressures they faced.

We are especially indebted to those sponsors who hosted interns for placements during the 2021 election, and the year was enriched by the many invitations to receptions, galas, and other events that the sponsors provided. Our host MPs likewise went out of their way to help the Interns integrate into their offices despite the disruptions noted above, and I’m grateful that nearly all of the Interns were able to visit their MPs’ constituencies as well.



Our Patron, House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota, continued to be one of the Programme's greatest champions. This commitment was most clearly visible in his determination to resume hosting the Speaker's luncheons for the Interns, sponsors, and host MPs, as well as the Spring reception. We cannot fully express our gratitude for the flexibility that he showed to fit the events between the various waves of the pandemic, the busy House of Commons schedule, and his own health challenges. We are also indebted to Deputy Speaker Chris D'Entremont, and Assistant Deputy Speaker Carol Hughes, for stepping in to host the Winter luncheon during Speaker Rota's absence.



*The Interns with House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota and Anthony Polci of the Canadian Bankers Association*

Charles Robert, the Clerk of the House of Commons, was similarly a source of steadfast support throughout the year, helping to advise the interns on their research projects and providing guidance as the CPSA and the House renewed the PIP Service Agreement. The House of Commons staff who supported the PIP, including the PIP Liaison, Danielle Labonté, her successors Jeffrey Leblanc and Stéphanie Haché, and the Programme Assistant, Melissa Carrier, also worked tirelessly to help the PIP function throughout the changing COVID measures at Parliament, and to renew the PIP-House of Commons service agreement.

I am also very grateful for the ongoing support of the CPSA. The CPSA staff, including Executive Director Silvina Danesi, Administrator Michelle Hopkins, and Financial Coordinator Tim Howard, continue to find innovative ways to help the PIP adapt to the pandemic and the PIP's changing administrative arrangements. The Board of Directors, and especially CPSA President Cheryl Collier, Vice-President André Lecours, and Treasurer Jörg Broshek also provided much-needed guidance, often at very short-notice, as we began to resume in-person activities.

Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to thank this year's Interns – Élisabeth Bergeron, Charles Bernard, Anne Campbell, Harriet Crossfield, Jonathan Ferguson, Annyse Hawkins, Ryan Jamula, Angelica Kalubiaka, Wynn Rederburg, and Rayna Sutherland – for their resilience and flexibility as we adapted to the pandemic, and began to figure out what the PIP's post-pandemic "normal" might look like. You have already proven that you can handle whatever life may throw at you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Thomas".

Dr. Paul Thomas  
Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme



# Thank you to our MPs!

The 2021-22 Parliamentary Interns, the Programme Parliamentary Internship Programme, and our many stakeholders would like to express our sincere gratitude to the 20 Members of Parliament who hosted Interns this year. Thank you for opening your offices and giving the Interns the incredible opportunity to support your work on behalf of your constituents and all Canadians.

We are also grateful to the more than 50 other MPs who applied to host an Intern this year but were not selected. We hope you will apply again in 2022-23, and are grateful for the time you took to meet the Interns in an interview.

## Élizabeth Bergeron

Marilène Gill, MP for Manicouagan, QC (Bloc Québécois)  
Julie Dabrusin, MP for Toronto-Danforth, ON (Liberal)

## Charles Bernard

Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North – Seymour, BC (Liberal)  
James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, MB (Conservative)

## Anne Campbell

Blake Richards, MP for Banff-Airdrie, AB (Conservative)  
Pam Damoff, MP for Oakville North-Burlington, ON (Liberal)

## Harriet Crossfield

Rachel Bendayan, MP for Outremont, QC (Liberal)  
Larry Brock, MP for Brantford-Brant, ON (Conservative)

## Jonathan Ferguson

Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP for Beaches-East York, ON (Liberal)  
Stéphane Bergeron, MP for Montarville, QC (Bloc Québécois)

### Annyse Hawkins

Mike Lake, MP for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, ON (Conservative)  
Randeep Sarai, MP for Surrey Centre, BC (Liberal)

### Ryan Jamula

Jenica Atwin, MP for Fredericton, NB (Liberal)  
Matthew Green, MP for Hamilton Centre, ON (NDP)

### Angelica Kalubiaka

Andy Fillmore, MP for Halifax, NS (Liberal)  
Melissa Lantsman, MP for Thornhill, ON (Conservative)

### Wynn Rederburg

Greg McLean, MP for Calgary Centre, AB (Conservative)  
Soraya Martinez Ferrada, MP for Hochelaga, QC (Liberal)

### Rayna Sutherland

Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut, NT (NDP)  
Gary Anandasanagree, MP for Scarborough—Rouge Park, ON (Liberal)



*Intern Harriet Crossfield and Larry Brock, MP for Brantford-Brant, ON (Conservative)*



*Intern Anne Campbell and Pam Damoff, MP for Oakville North-Burlington, ON (Liberal)*



*Intern Élizabéth Bergeron and Julie Dabrusin, MP for Toronto-Danforth, ON (Liberal)*

# Highlights & Insights

## Élizabeth Bergeron

The Parliamentary Internship Programme: An Experience with a Lifelong Impact



Because of its non-partisan nature, the Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP) offers a unique opportunity to understand Canadian politics through an objective lens as an avid learner. In my opinion, an open mind is developed through exposure to different opinions shaped by unique experiences and, in a country that encompasses a variety of very different backgrounds, the Parliament of Canada is a fantastic laboratory for understanding this dynamic and developing this attribute.

Over the past 10 months, we had opportunities to meet many people with their own ideas and political visions. These opportunities, which are available only through the PIP, allowed us to delve into a wide range of topics, each with its own political importance and implications. For me, this constant flow of information served as a wellspring of inspiration for the future.

Whether I was meeting with a member of Parliament, a senator, a journalist, a diplomat, a lobbyist or a professor, I knew that I would hear something worth remembering, a new piece of information, an opinion or even a good piece of advice. I will treasure my notes from these meetings because I am sure that they will prove extremely helpful to me in my career.

Ultimately, through discussions I had as an intern, especially with other interns, the PIP provided me with a key tool in terms of exposure to and respect for different opinions and points of view. All in all, the PIP presents an opportunity to interact with other young people who are passionate about politics, who bring their experiences with them and offer new ideas, and this has helped me improve my knowledge of our great country. I am leaving ready and able to take on a new challenge, and I will carry with me this curiosity about human beings, as well as their challenges, successes and complexities. •



# Charles Bernard



It is very difficult to boil the internship experience down to a single moment or encounter, as the beauty of the Parliamentary Internship Programme lies in the wide variety of opportunities it offers. The PIP is an unending source of information, and I firmly believe that it is up to each candidate to take advantage of it. It is no coincidence that curiosity is one of the character traits sought during the admission process.

I loved seeing how this curiosity was expressed differently by each group member; it was a unique way to observe my colleagues as they went through their respective learning processes and, ultimately, it was a privileged way of learning more about them. For me, the highlight of going through this unforgettable experience and having full access to Parliament was working with the interns, colleagues and members of Parliament.

This year, I learned that despite ideological divisions and partisan bickering, there will always be a place in politics for humanity, compassion and listening to others. In my view, the Parliamentary Internship Programme is the best place to study and obtain a better understanding of the role that interpersonal relationships play in the context of intellectual debates and in advancing political ideas.

In the same vein as my highlight, my most striking realization during the internship was that members of Parliament represent legitimate interests, based on personal beliefs that deserve to be respected and understood. Since I come from the academic milieu, I sometimes have the unfortunate tendency to consider an issue or a problem from a perspective that is heavily influenced by scientific literature and by experts' arguments on the subject. This means that I often fall prisoner to a particular idea and become adamantly convinced that I have the right answer to a question.

Parliament's approach actually differs completely from mine. The purpose of committee meetings and House of Commons sittings is not to identify the truth, but to ensure that multiple perspectives are respected. During my year in Ottawa, I learned that citizens and politicians have valid reasons for thinking and acting in a certain way. Even if I am intrinsically and completely opposed to someone else's view, Parliament has shown me that there is always something to explain why the other person views the world in a completely different way than I do. My study tours in British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba provided me with fundamentally different perspectives of what Canada is. The Parliamentary Internship Programme has made me realize that what matters is not to determine the right perspective; what matters is to value and promote the fact that various perspectives all coexist simultaneously in the same place. •

# Anne Campbell



This past year has reinforced that everyone comes to Parliament Hill wanting to make Canada a better place. Individuals may disagree on the ways to improve the country; yet, the overarching sentiment on Parliament Hill is a fierce desire to fight for Canadians. Not many people get the opportunity to cross the ideological floor. As I reflect on the year, I wish more people had a similar opportunity as it helps to humanise political debates and challenge individual bias.

No political party is a monolith and getting to know MPs and staffers from all political parties reinforced that Canadians have more in common than may be believed. Having the opportunity to work with MP Blake Richards (Banff-Airdrie) and MP Pam Damoff (Oakville North—Burlington) over the past year has renewed my faith in Canadian politics.

MP Richards cares deeply about the residents of Banff-Airdrie. Having the opportunity to visit the riding reinforced MP Richards's dedication to his community, which was highlighted by his strong understanding of the needs of his constituents. I had previously visited the area as a tourist with my family, but getting to learn more about the concerns of his riding helped me develop a more nuanced understanding of Banff-Airdrie and Alberta more broadly. I will always be grateful for our conversations about hockey and the hours driving through the riding.



When I started in MP Damoff's office, I could have never imagined where the placement would have taken me. From planning a multi-party reception focused on the destigmatization of the terms vulva and vagina to coordinating a visit to a GTA correctional facility with MP Damoff and other MPs, working with MP Damoff and her team highlighted the wide array of ways MPs can make a difference. MP Damoff led her office through care and compassion, something which I hope to bring with me as I progress throughout my career. This year has highlighted the importance of actively listening to the people around you. Whether it is through conversations with constituents, staffers, sponsors or MPs, there are multiple ways of approaching an issue and there is value in seeing a situation in greys, rather than black and white. •

# Harriet Crossfield



While much of our hours are spent in MP offices, a big chunk of our job as PIPs is helping our Director make the programme run! At the beginning of the year, we divided up a variety of tasks amongst ourselves, such as organizing outgoing and incoming study tours, doing various activities with our sponsors, organizing the MP selection and interview process, and more.

The list of tasks that interns complete on the side is significant and could be hard to juggle given the competing priorities in our offices and personal lives. With that being said, working with colleagues was a pleasure and brought us closer together.

In my opinion, the term the “Ottawa bubble” is not an exaggeration! On the Hill and in adjacent industries, folks know each other and cross paths in many ways. Most folks in GR worked on the Hill at some point, and the network between staffers are strong. In a sense, Ottawa oftentimes feels like a small town, which was not necessarily something I had anticipated. Our cohort was lucky that especially in the Spring, receptions were back in full swing, meaning we could take advantage of our positions as staffers and go to different events, learn about new industries, meet new people and socialize with friends. •



# Jonathan Ferguson



Like the rest of my cohort, I knew this year would be a gamble; while no two years in our programme are the same, our cohort applied for PIP one year into a global pandemic that had no clear end-date in sight. We knew that the re-opening we were witnessing in the summer of 2021 might be set back by a variant and we knew that a snap election was on the horizon. Much of what the year ultimately had in store, though, we could have never predicted.

Personally, anything and everything we were still able to find a way to do were major highlights for me. I wasn't sure if I would be able to work in-person with my sponsor or MP placements and ended up being able to work fully in-person for all three. I was skeptical any of our trips would happen in person and yet nearly all of them did. Ultimately, we found safe, effective ways to have the programme run in a largely "normal" way during not-so-normal times. That in and of itself is not only a highlight, but also insight into the resilience of our programme and its supporters.

My placement with MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith taught me how impactful the role of a backbencher can be. Nate is a passionate legislator, always speaking with experts, looking to identify problems in legislation and find ways to address them through PMBs, motions or above all, amendments. While I knew going into the placement that Nate was passionate about certain issues, the insight I gained into how he and his team go about effecting change directly inspired me; it also directly resulted in me reconsidering applying to law school.



My placement with MP Stéphane Bergeron was equally insightful. It is not every day that a Maritimer has the chance to work for an MP in the Bloc Québécois. What's more, as an International Relations student, I was thrilled to be working with an MP who was so passionate, engaged and knowledgeable about Québec, about the role the federal government plays in international relations, and above all about the role Québec plays in international relations. From witnessing and working on the Bloc Québécois's foreign policy stance and response to Ukraine, to attending events like the Catalonia-Québec friendship celebration, and much more, I gained more insight than I could have ever hoped for, and am incredibly grateful to Stéphane for taking this anglophone Maritimer under his wing!

There are so many other highlights of this year, including my incredible placement at the British High Commission (thank you Sam and Kevin!), my constituency visits where I learned so much about Toronto and Québec, and our several study tours. I will be unpacking these highlights and insights for years to come! Thank you to our Director Paul, to Nate, Stéphane, Sam and Kevin, and to our sponsors for making this year possible. Above all, thank you to my fellow interns; you made this year what it was. •

# Annyse Hawkins



Arriving in Ottawa receiving your Hill pass for the first time and entering the House of Commons as a staffer is a surreal moment, one that not many can say that they experienced. The Parliamentary Internship Programme offers ten individuals from across the country an opportunity to better understand Canadian politics in its foundation.

Never had I thought prior to being a part of the program that I would write something that would then be said in the House of Commons by a Member of Parliament and transcribed in Hansard where it will remain available. When I arrived on the Hill, I quickly became aware of the work required by Members, their staff, and public servants to ensure that Canadians are represented, which is something I think often goes unnoticed and unrecognized.

Our legislative study tour to the United Kingdom and European Union was something that felt out of reach. Three weeks before we were to leave a new wave of COVID-19 halted our travel plans and suggested that travel for the rest of the Programme would not be an option. Thankfully in March we received notice that we could cross international borders and travel across the pond. We had the opportunity to meet with so many interesting people and organizations that would not have been possible if it were not for the Parliamentary Internship Program. The trip brought us closer together as a cohort being able to bond outside of the office and experience new adventures together. •

# Ryan Jamula



I arrived in Ottawa last September excited to gain experience on the Hill and learn about how Parliament works. And the year certainly did not disappoint. My sponsor placement and two MP placements, each offered me the opportunity to learn different skill sets and each of them had highlights and gave me new insights.

During the sponsor placement, I had the unique opportunity to work with former Cabinet Minister the Hon. Lisa Raitt at CIBC. In this placement I assisted in preparing for the first policy summit of the Coalition for a Better Future, whose mandate is to focus on sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Being able to attend the summit in person and act as a staffer to Lisa was an incredible experience. I was able to get the “behind the scenes” view into the preparations for the event, media interviews, and meet with people from across the country who were all interested in economic growth.

When I first stepped foot into MP Atwin’s office for my first MP placement, I wasn’t sure what to expect. However, I was soon drafting constituent correspondence, conducting research, and helping to write speeches and members’ statements. One of the highlights was seeing something I worked on being read in the House of Commons for the first time!

During my second MP placement with Matthew Green, I spent a lot of time working on committee briefings for both the Ethics Committee and the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency. This was a fascinating experience. I never expected to learn so much about facial recognition technology and privacy law this year! Over time I also developed confidence in my ability to draft effective questions and provide MP briefings for the committee. Learning how to effectively prepare for parliamentary committees was definitely a highlight. Based on my experience on the hill these past 10 months I wanted to share a few insights.

First: spend time speaking with and asking questions of the staff in your office. I learned so much talking to the staffers in both Ottawa and the constituency. They have a lot of experience and knowledge.

Second: Sometimes you have to be flexible. This year was unpredictable at times - from the Omicron wave, to the freedom convoy, we had to adapt work arrangements at different points in the year. Things can also change quickly on the Hill and priorities may change. Events sometimes get canceled and speeches sometimes get changed. Learning how to quickly adapt is important.

Third: Be open to opportunities. It may surprise you what you learn when you say yes to unexpected opportunities that arise! Don’t be afraid to work on an issue you may not know much about. Fourth: You learn a lot from your PIP colleagues! You go through a lot together over the course of 10 months and have a unique shared cohort experience. •



# Angelica Kalubiaka



I am very grateful for all the experiences that I have had in the context of the 2021–22 Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP). These experiences have further shaped my character and my values, as well as my perspective on the Parliament of Canada. I have met some incredible people, who have further clarified my vision of our country and the world.

As an intern, I have learned that there is a lot to discover behind the scenes of the Canadian Parliament. Of the many unique and memorable experiences that I had, I will never forget the memories I shared with my dear friends and fellow interns, as well as with the Director of the PIP. Our adventures, our team projects and all the laughs we shared are experiences that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

The PIP also shaped my perspective on the role of members of Parliament in government and in opposition. I am leaving the internship with a better understanding of their roles, skills and life experiences. I have always been fascinated by the Parliament of Canada, and I look forward to pursuing my passion for Canadian politics in the years ahead.

My internship experience has opened my eyes to the little-known realities of the role of a member of Parliament. On Parliament Hill, I witnessed the long hours that Canadian members of Parliament work. They make tremendous sacrifices in order to defend their communities and ensure their constituents' well-being. In addition to participating in question period, their role extends to parliamentary committees, caucus meetings, constituency work, meetings with dignitaries, and more. It is a role that calls for people who love serving others and who are able to put themselves in the shoes of those who have had all sorts of life experiences. The ability to quickly brush up on emerging issues is a very important skill for MPs to acquire. Moreover, behind every MP is a team of devoted, passionate, hard-working political staffers. In most cases, they are prepared to do everything within their power to ensure that their MP can put his or her best foot forward at all times on Parliament Hill. Like MPs, they also work long hours. As I look back on my experience, my takeaway is that work-life balance is important in politics, so that MPs and their staffers can perform at optimal levels and keep pace with parliamentary life. •

# Wynn Rederburg



A highlight of participating in the Parliamentary Internship Programme this year, for me, was to be able to build relationships as an intern cohort. Especially following the isolating first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, this group of interns was prepared to be physically close again and to get to know one another through in-person meetings.

Because we had not necessarily been able to be close to family, friends, peers, or community throughout lockdown periods, there was a grateful spirit and willingness to be close that provided a backdrop to the year. As such, this was a year defined by the love and support shared between the interns in the cohort. This underpinned our ability as well to adapt to changing circumstances, including but not limited to changing pandemic restrictions, the occupation of downtown Ottawa by the trucker convoy, and several COVID-19 cases amongst the group.

What I will look back on and remember from my year in PIP is how grateful we were to be able to travel, to work in-person, or to meet with one another in-person, and how we cared for one another as an intern cohort. Our shared care, love, joy, and gratefulness was the highlight for me.

One thing I learned this year is that every high-level decision made in Parliament is made by smart people in a room having a discussion. I grew up with the idea that Parliament was intimidating and complex, and it is, though what builds it are the people who work within it. The culture, the decision-making apparatus, the legislation, the policy, are all built by the individual people that work within Parliament. Even the most important decisions are the result of a few people in a room trying to do what they think is the best for the country. For me, this demystified Parliament and reminded me that the institution exists to serve Canadians first and foremost. •

# Rayna Sutherland



After having worked mostly in non-profit organizations engaging in policy and legal advocacy, through PIP, I was keen to see how policy and legislation is centrally built, shaped and maintained on the inside and at the centre of power. I was fortunate that both my placements allowed me to witness this from different vantage points. While working with new MP, Lori Idlout, I was privy to witness her not only navigate the Hill with a fresh pair of eyes, but a keen commitment to do things differently and challenge the established power that is, and is within, Parliament.

I watched her develop her maiden speech and deliver the full 20 minutes in Inuktitut. I watched her challenge not only the BC provincial and federal government, but also the federal NDP, to stand on the side of justice and recognize Aboriginal title, self-determination and self-governance and respect Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Wet'suwet'en.

Lori showed me that one can, both, critically hold the government to account with a watchful eye and work across party lines to meet the pressing needs of communities. In the often, competitive, fast-paced and transactional culture of the Hill, Lori set the example of standing firm in one's sense of self and cultural values to lead with traditions of reciprocity, integrity, kindness and grace. Working with Lori was a gift, but the relationship forged with her, and her team is one I will hold onto and cherish even more.



Working with MP Gary Anandasangaree, I witnessed how one can leverage a commitment to justice and policy objectives and mobilize networks to get things done within government. Walking around the Hill, everyone and everywhere not only knows Gary, but reacts with joy, gratitude, and admiration when he is mentioned. Ministers, MPs, political and House staff alike always have a story to share how he has gone out of his way to affirm or support them or show them kindness. Gary showed me the importance of networks, not as transactional resources, but in terms of leading with generosity and care to develop genuine relationships. With a community of colleagues built with trust and intention, there is a web of opportunity to push for justice and affirm one another and the work at hand. In just three months, Gary and his team organized people on and off the Hill to have the Canadian Parliament become the first legislature in the world to recognize the Tamil genocide in Sri Lanka and has nearly passed Bill C-5 to report stage to repeal many mandatory minimums and further conditional sentencing orders, among many other steps towards justice. •

# Sponsor Placement Spotlight:

## Canadian Automobile Dealers Association

By Harriet Crossfield

Given the election year, we each had the unique opportunity to complete a 5-week placement with one of PIP's amazing sponsors. Coming into the process of choosing our placements, I wanted to learn about a new industry and get an insight into the elusive world of government relations. The Canadian Automobile Dealers Association seemed like the perfect fit! Growing up in an urban bubble in Vancouver, cars were not a big part of my life. I don't even have my full driver's license (working on it!) and the world of car dealers was not something that had crossed my mind. On top of that, I did not even know what "GR" stood for upon arriving in Ottawa.

Being warmly welcomed by Huw and Brianna, I quickly got up to speed on some of the biggest issues facing the industry. From Right to Repair, zero-emission vehicles and the luxury tax, I delved into key policy issues and sought to understand what was at stake for CADA's thousands of members and how to convey that to those in power. I also learned about the various services provided to the members and the importance of associations to represent their members.

In the post-election period, all the industries and groups are trying to make their case to the federal government as to their priorities and goals, and it was fun and rewarding to play a part in CADA's efforts doing so. From researching and writing briefings on new members of Parliament, to writing letters to ministers, to helping with advocacy strategies, I was grateful to learn some tricks of the trade when it comes to lobbying. I also had the chance to write a briefing on the issue of Right to Repair, a key concern to the industry right now. •



*Huw Williams and Brianna Workman of CADA  
with Intern Harriet Crossfield*



# Constituency Visits

## Edmonton-Wetaskiwin

Annyse Hawkins

My constituency visit happened during a period of uncertainty, the day I left Ottawa for Edmonton the government entered debate on the implementation of the “Emergencies Act.” At this time, I was working in the office a Conservative Member of Parliament, and this was considered one of – it not the most – important debate of the session. Visiting the constituency of Member of Parliament Mike Lake, was the first time I had traveled to another province, having spent my entire life in Ontario. It was important to both Mike and me, that I travel to the riding not only to meet the people he serves every day in the House of Commons, but to also meet the staff that contributes to his success.

When I arrived in Edmonton, I was finally able to meet the constituency staffers who had so warmly welcomed me to the team and taught me the importance of the work that happens behind the scenes. I had the privilege to work in the constituency office for a few days where I experienced first-hand the immeasurable difference these staffers make in the lives of constituents. Something I was told from the moment that I entered the office was that people don't contact the office unless they feel like they have no where else to turn, you are helping people on their worst days.

The highlight of my trip was meeting Mike's son Jaden. Since I met Mike, he has spoken about Jaden and their journey within the autism community. Although Jaden is in his late twenties, he is unable to communicate, often relying on his phone or physical gestures to interact with people. Spending time with Jaden after hearing from stakeholders, advocates, and athletes within the autism community solidified that what I learned during the placement will be something I carry with me for the rest of my life. •

# Nunavut

Rayna Sutherland



Visiting the Nunavut was one of the highlights of my PIP experience. Lori Idlout was incredibly kind and generous to share so much of her riding with me. After many months of liaising virtually, we spent some time with her team at the constituency office, putting in a team effort to continue to set up the office.

Combining the all-female Hill and constituency teams, sitting together drinking tea, planning and strategizing the weeks ahead, felt equally warm and familiar as well as challenging and powerful.

Lori hosted us for meals in her home and drives around the colourful and serene community that is Iqaluit. We also visited the fly-in community of Kimmirut to visit with school classes, speak on the local radio station and meet with the Hamlet Council and Hunter and Trappers' Organization, among others.

Everyone we met with welcomed us with unparalleled generosity and engaged with Lori on issues ranging from food insecurity and mental health to infrastructure and climate change. •



*Intern Rayna Sutherland and Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut, NT (NDP)*

# Fredericton

## Ryan Jamula

In February I had the opportunity to travel to Fredericton before the end of my first placement with Liberal MP Jenica Atwin! I was so grateful to have the opportunity to travel after getting through the Omicron wave of COVID and the Ottawa occupation, which had me working from home for several weeks. I was especially excited to visit the riding, as it was my first time ever visiting the Maritimes.



*Intern Ryan Jamula with Jenica Atwin, MP for  
Fredericton, NB (Liberal)*

It was a great opportunity to see the differences in the type of work that happens in the constituency office versus the hill office, and to have the opportunity to see the community that Jenica represents in Ottawa.

While I was in Fredericton, I had the opportunity to meet all of the constituency staff and explore different areas of the riding. We also had a roundtable with the Black business community in Fredericton, which was attended virtually by Minister Petitpas Taylor, who is responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. It was interesting to see community stakeholder meetings take place in person in the community, after attending numerous meetings virtually earlier on in the placement. •

# Legislative Study Tours



*The Interns meet with Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the British House of Commons at the Palace of Westminster*

Discussions during our European Union meetings in Brussels were dominated by the response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which had begun just weeks earlier. While we were unfortunately unable to visit NATO headquarters, we are grateful to the many EU officials who made the time to meet us despite the crisis. It was also a pleasure to visit the Belgian Parliament and learn of the parallels between our two bilingual federal countries.

Despite some rescheduling caused by the Omicron variant, the PIP finally returned to in-person travel in March 2022 with our study tours to the United Kingdom and the European Union. The UK tour began with an incredibly warm welcome from the Welsh Parliament and Government in Cardiff, where we learned about the evolution of devolution in the country. We then spent three fascinating days visiting the Houses of Parliament, think tanks, and government departments in London.



*The Interns in the Senate Chamber at the Belgian Parliament*



*The interns at the Welsh Parliament in Cardiff*



In April, we visited the Legislative Assembly of Ontario shortly before the start of the province's election, giving a unique chance to take stock of all that the province faced through the pandemic and to see tributes to several long-serving MPPs. We then took the train directly to Quebec for our visit to the National Assembly, providing the group with the perfect chance to explore the differences and similarities between the two provincial legislatures.



The final trip of the year then took place in June with our visit to Washington, DC, where we were had fascinating meetings exploring the congressional system and learning more about American perspectives on bilateral issues.

Undertaking these study tours would have been impossible without the financial support of our partners, namely the British High Commission in Ottawa, the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, VIA Rail, and the United States Embassy to Canada. Thank you for giving us these incredible opportunities to learn more about how democracy operates in different settings.

We are grateful to the Welsh Government Office in North America, the Canadian Mission to the European Union, the Ontario Legislative Internship Programme, the Interns from the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant at the National Assembly, and the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellows for helping to arrange our itineraries during these visits. •



*The Interns meet with Alain Gendron, Ambassador of Canada to Belgium*



*The Interns visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto*

# Study Tour Spotlight: Washington, D.C.

By Angelica Kalubiaka

From June 19 to June 24, the PIP interns had an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. We were warmly welcomed by the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellows. During this study tour, we got to learn more about the various political institutions in the nation's capital. We really appreciated our guides' explanations about the similarities and differences between Canadian and U.S. politics. Our visit started with a quick tour of Washington, D.C., taking in local museums and historical monuments.



The PIP Interns were able to immerse themselves in different cultures by sampling unique dishes and conversing with the residents of this wonderful city. The next few days were very busy. We had our first meeting at the West Health Policy Center, a non-profit organization, where we learned more about the American health system. In addition to academics, the Interns again met with the Congressional Fellows, who facilitated a visit to the U.S. Library of Congress.

The interns were fascinated by the famous library of former U.S. president Thomas Jefferson. We also saw an exhibit about Americans who influenced U.S. history. Our study tour also included memorable meetings with politicians. For example, we had an opportunity to meet and talk with members of the United States House of Representatives, including Jan Schakowsky, Ayanna Pressley, and Brian Higgins.

Our study tour wrapped up with meetings with representatives of the National Reconnaissance Office, political staffers, lobbyists and representatives of the Bureau du Québec, the Quebec government office in Washington. The study tour of Washington, D.C., gave us a better understanding of American politics from different perspectives. We will forever cherish the memories of anecdotes shared by the political figures that we met. Tim Barge of Atlanta deserves a special thank you for showing us all the amazing little secrets hidden around Washington. His generosity, humour and warm personality made us feel like welcome visitors. Lastly, we are eternally grateful to the Congressional Fellows and the American Political Science Association, without whom this study tour would not have been possible. Until next time, Washington! •

# Incoming Study Tours

Every year, the PIP hosts several of our counterpart programs at the provincial legislatures and US Congress during their study tours to Ottawa. This year PIP was pleased to host interns from five programs, including in-person visits by the Ontario Legislative Internship Program, the British Columbia Legislative Internship Program, and the US Congressional Fellows, and virtual visits by the Manitoba Legislative Internship Program and the Stagiaires de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant at the National Assembly of Quebec.

Each group enjoyed a packed itinerary of meetings with MPs, ministers, opposition critics, journalists, academics, public servants, and House of Commons officials. Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with our guests!



*The Ontario Legislature Interns at West Block*



*US Congressional Fellows with House of Commons Clerk Charles Robert*



*The British Columbia Legislative Interns with the Centennial Flame*



# Another Reason to Participate in the PIP: The Research Project!

By Élisabeth Bergeron

The Parliamentary Internship Programme opens a window on the academic world. We had an opportunity to study a specific topic of personal interest in depth and produce a research paper, while benefitting from support throughout the process. Each intern focused on a topic of their choice and discuss it throughout the year with fellow interns as well as with professors and politicians, since political circles are well aware that the PIP offers this activity every year.

For my project, I decided to combine my studies in law with the policy world. I viewed this project as an opportunity to present a subject that is close to my heart: the use of both official languages when drafting bills. Understanding the grounds for certain legal decisions based on legislation passed by members of the House of Commons and the Senate was fascinating to me.

In the process, I realized that in addition to providing an opportunity to develop knowledge about a specific subject, the research project also enables interns to offer a special, concrete contribution at the end of the PIP. Due to the specific structure of the PIP, we have access to unique sources of information, since members of Parliament and senators are open to participating in discussions with non-partisan interns. My meetings with people who have different opinions and political views were very rewarding from both a personal and professional perspective. I believe that it is important for interns to invest time in this part of the PIP; it is certainly an experience that helps develop new skills that could prove useful in the future. •



# Learning Through Social Connection: The Importance of the PIP Cohort

By Anne Campbell

To loosely quote the Ghostbusters theme song:

*"If there's somethin' strange in the neighbourhood  
Who ya gonna call (your PIP cohort)  
There's somethin' weird and it don't look good  
Who ya gonna call (your PIP cohort)!"*

After graduating in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic (over Zoom in my room), the importance of learning as a social experience became apparent. For me, the pandemic highlighted that my learning is rooted in connecting to and growing with the people around me.

The PIP provides interns with an extraordinary learning experience, whether that is through crossing the political aisle, travelling around the world, or hearing from expert lecturers. To me, the most important aspect of PIP has been the opportunity to build strong and supportive bonds within our PIP cohort. Each one of the PIP interns brought something exceptional to the group. Whether it was Wynn's unmatched charisma, Ryan's calm, cool and collected demeanour or Angelica's scientific expertise, I have learned just as much from the Interns as from the formal aspects of the program.



The cohort-based nature of the program reinforced the value of seeking alternative solutions to problems, as we all used different strategies for planning, communicating, and dealing with pressure. Some of my most important moments of growth over the year were in the small moments between meetings when Jon would share a fun fact to decrease the hecticness of the moment or watching Annyse and Élizabeth morph into twins despite the linguistic differences as we adventured through the streets of Europe.

When the days started to get long or the meetings began to pile up, I could feel myself taking a page out of other interns' playbooks to manage my own stress levels and support those around me.



I don't know when it happened, but at a certain point in the year, we transitioned from work colleagues to great friends. Our vulnerability as a group became the strength of our friendship, which allowed us to get to know each other on a deeper level.

As I look towards the end of the Programme, it makes me sad that I won't be surrounded by this year's PIP cohort every day, as I have learned so much about myself through our friendships. I am going to miss Rayna's ability to make everyone around her feel special, Harriet's zest for life, and knowing that Charles always has our backs. At the root of it, I am going to miss experiencing and learning about life with the interns. Caring about the people that you work and learn with makes the experience a hundred times more rewarding. I am grateful that PIP brought the ten of us together. I wouldn't have wanted to take on this year with anyone else. •

# A Historic Year On The Hill

By Jonathan Ferguson



*The Interns meet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau*

Did that year really happen?

Looking back on this last year, it's both startling and humbling to think about what our cohort witnessed. It started with a snap election. As we attentively awaited the results – results that would shape our placements and our year – we became one of a limited number of cohorts to complete sponsor placements. Then, almost as soon as our placements began, the Omicron wave of COVID-19 hit, forcing us back inside before our screens. Not long after, Ottawa endured a month-long occupation of its streets which impacted our work in a range of ways; during this time we witnessed the first use of the Emergencies Act, and the first use of the *Reform Act* to remove a party leader. Then as soon as that ended, the invasion of Ukraine took place.

At the beginning of our term, our Programme couldn't even book a room on the Hill to meet in-person on the Hill. Yet as our placements ended, the public could be seen back on the Hill, attending Question Period, taking tours and meeting with MPs; in the last week of our placements, even the House's mask mandate was lifted.

It begs the question: did that year really happen?

We witnessed historic events unfold these last ten months. However easy it is to say, it will take time for us to fully appreciate that fact. While we will value the insight we gained experiencing this all through the perspective of an MP's office, we should also be thankful to each other, to our Programme Director, to the supporters of the programme and the MPs who took us in, for being there for each other during less-than-relaxing times. These events, which took place in and around the two year-mark of a global pandemic, were at times exhausting. That is part of PIP: the year in store is never set in stone. Just as experiences vary intern to intern, they vary cohort to cohort. We knew we had an interesting year in store when we signed up; the insight and experience we gained was more than we could have imagined. The opportunity to be here during it all is one we appreciate, and the experience one we will not soon forget. •

# A Word From the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association

The year 2021-22 has been a whirlwind for the Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association (PIAA) which continue to provide opportunities to our alumni to engage and to give its unconditional support to the PIP. For instance, PIAA organized many activities and events, such as a networking event for new Parliamentary Interns to meet our alumni, giving advice to prospective PIP applicants, coordinating BBLs, scheduling the general assembly and board meetings, and much more.

The Mentorship Subcommittee coordinated the PIAA Mentorship Program, launched last year, which pairs experienced mentors with eager mentees. A “Mentoring Meet & Greet” panel was organized as part of this initiative to share insightful advice and tips.



*The Alumni 5 à 7*



The Communications and Engagement Subcommittee promoted PIAA's activities, alumni's profiles and job opportunities. To achieve this goal, we use various communications goals, such as our eNewsletter and social media posts. We launched a PIP alumni survey to provide an update of the record achievements built by PIP alumni in various sectors, including but not limited to politics, public service, academia, business, civil society, journalism and law.

The Fundraising Subcommittee is working hard to help secure the Programme's future by launching the [250 in 2025 Campaign](#), which aims to grow the Hales and Hurley Parliamentary Foundation's endowment to \$250,000 by the end of 2025. We are extremely grateful to our generous donors, who contribute to the long-term support of this once-in-a-lifetime experience on Parliament Hill.

Let us remember that all this is made possible thanks to our alumni who volunteer to be part of our executive team, subcommittees, and Board of Directors. We are extremely grateful for their generosity of time and ideas.

Finally, from this day forward, we are very pleased to welcome to our tight-knitted community this year's cohort of Parliamentary Interns.

Yours sincerely,

PIAA Executive Team 2021-22

Enya Bouchard, President  
Shona Moreau, Treasurer  
Caroline Woodward, Secretary



# Research Corner

## The 2021 Alfred Hales Prize

The Alfred Hales Prize is awarded each year to recognize the best paper submitted by an Intern in the previous cohort. The Prize is named for the late Member of Parliament Alfred Hales, who proposed the creation of the Programme and was one of the first hosts. The winning paper receives a \$1,000 prize, while two runners up each receive \$500. The 2022 Hales Prize Jury included representatives from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the House of Commons, the Canadian Political Science Association, and the PIP Alumni Association. The Programme would like to congratulate this year's prize winner and runners up for their thought provoking research!



Winner: Gabrielle Feldmann

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



Finalist: 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"*



Finalist: Daniel Lukac

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

## Publication update

Two of the papers by the 2020-21 Interns have already been published by the Canadian Parliamentary Review and can be accessed at the links below. Gabrielle Feldmann's Hales Prize winning paper will be published in the Review this fall.

Amélie Cossette. 2021. "Nothing About Us Without Us: Representation of People with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Interests in Parliament." [Canadian Parliamentary Review 44\(4\): 36-45.](#)

Valere Gaspard. 2021. "Messaging, Partisanship and Politics: Discourse in Standing Committees in a Minority Parliament." [Canadian Parliamentary Review 44\(4\): 28-35.](#)

# The 2021-22 Intern Research Papers

The 2021-22 Parliamentary Interns used innovative approaches and diverse methods, including surveys, interviews, and textual analysis, to explore a series of timely questions. The Interns have already presented their findings at the PIP's 2022 Gaboury Symposium as well as the 2022 Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association. Several will also be pursuing publication in academic journals in the coming months.

Élizabeth Bergeron

"Rebâtir un Canada législatif bilingue ; une feuille de route solidifiée par et pour les législateurs"\*

Charles Bernard

"Qu'est-ce qui motive les staffers derrière l'épuisant moulin politique d'Ottawa ? : Une exploration du concept de loyauté au sein du personnel des partis."

Anne Campbell

"Regional Identity, Western Alienation and Manitoba MPs: Yay or Nay"

Harriet Crossfield

"What do land acknowledgements acknowledge? Their usage in the House of Commons by Members of Parliament"

Jonathan Ferguson

"Members of Parliament's Security and Threats in the COVID-19 Era"

Annyse Hawkins

"Measuring Parliament's ability to address security threats in the 21st century"

Ryan Jamula

"Pandemic Impacts: Parliamentary Perspectives on Fiscal Policy Priorities"

Angelica Kalubiaka

« La place des diplômés en STIM (sciences, technologies, ingénierie et mathématiques) dans la Chambre des communes et le Sénat du Canada »

Wynn Rederburg

"How did 'Lobbying' become 'Government Relations'? : An Exploration of the Trajectory of the Lobbying Industry in Canada"

Rayna Sutherland

"Liberatory Intimacies: Constellations of Co-Resistance in Parliament"

*\*Note: Élizabeth Bergeron won second place in the Poster Presentation contest when presenting this research at the 2022 Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association*



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