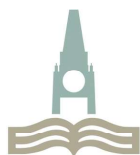




PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

BULLETIN

2022 – 2023 : Our Year In Review



Parliamentary
Internship Programme



Canadian Political Science Association
Association canadienne de science politique



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

A Message from the Director

The 2022-23 Programme year will be remembered as a time of new beginnings. The improving public health situation meant that the Interns not only spent the entire year working in person, but were able to undertake all of their usual activities for the first time since the pandemic began. The interns were especially excited to resume the study tour to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, which had not taken place since 2019.

Major changes have also begun in the operation and administration of the Programme. In November, the House of Commons Board of Internal Economy approved a transformative package of new support for the PIP, including \$930,000 over five years to increase the Intern salary to \$35,000 AND to completely fund two new Intern positions. These two additional Interns mark the PIP's first expansion since its founding in 1969, and will allow the Programme to support four additional MPs per year. The House of Commons has also agreed to equip all of the Interns with House computers, ensuring that they will be ready for the new hybrid working practices on the Hill.

Another significant development came in April, when the Board of Directors of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) decided that the Association would not renew its role as the PIP's administrative host after the CPSA's current agreement with the House of Commons ends in December 2024.



No other organization has administered the PIP since its creation, making this an excellent opportunity to explore what administrative arrangements would best suit the Programme as it expands. The PIP is also well positioned to make the most of this transition, with committed support from the House of Commons and Programme stakeholders, strong interest from applicants and host MPs, and a significant reserve fund to offset any associated costs.

The CPSA will continue to operate the PIP as normal for the 2023-24 year, and is committed to ensuring a transition. House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota has tasked senior officials in the House administration to examine potential new administrative arrangements for the Programme and to make recommendations for consideration by the Board of Internal Economy this fall. As PIP Director, I will support this process by advising on how different options might affect Programme's operations and by liaising with the various organizations have expressed an interest hosting the PIP going forward. While the formal transition will likely not take place until 2024, the goal is for the PIP's new administrative model to be identified by November 2023.

This timeline will ensure that applicants to the PIP's 2024-25 recruitment campaign, which opens in December, can have certainty about how the Programme will operate during their time as Interns.

The 2022-23 year also saw many changes among the PIP's personnel and partners. In December, we said farewell to Michelle Hopkins, the CPSA's Administrator, who retired after supporting the PIP for over 30 years. We look forward to working with her successor, Chimène Woktcheu, for the remainder of the PIP's relationship with the CPSA. Charles Robert, the Clerk of the House of Commons, also retired in January after a distinguished career during which he was a strong champion of the PIP. Acting Clerk Eric Janse has a long history of engagement with the Programme, and gave the keynote presentation to this year's Gaboury Symposium. Our Programme Assistant Linda Brunet also moved to a new role in February, and we have been delighted to work with Gabrielle St-Juste, who took on the position in March.

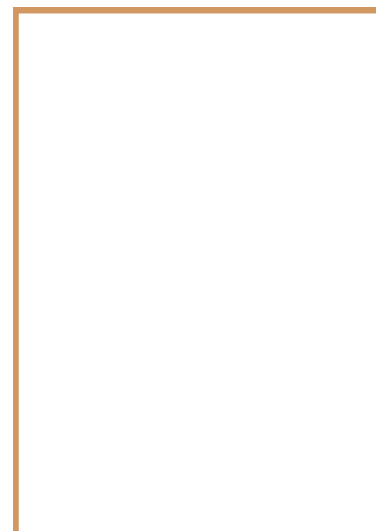
The PIP is continually indebted to our Patron, House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota, who never fails to find time to meet with the Interns and host Programme activities. Our House of Commons Liaison, Deputy Principal Clerk Stéphanie Haché, also worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth implementation of the new support approved by the House of Commons. Many thanks must also go to the 20 host MPs who mentored and supported the Interns during their placements. Without you there could be no Programme.

Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to thank this year's Interns – Melanie Bartosh, Benoit Dupras, Philippe Fleury, Madeleine Martin, Nathan Mendel, Nikhil Pandeya, Sarah Rollason-MacAulay, Alyth Roos, Nina Sartor, Sonja Tilroe. You have achieved more this year than I could ever have imagined, not only resuming the activities put on hiatus by the pandemic, but launching new initiatives that will help to strengthen the Programme for years to come.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Thomas
Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme



MELANIE BARTOSH

FIRST PLACEMENT: Lori Idlout, Nunavut (NDP)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Jenna Suds, Kanata–Carleton (LIB)

I don't think I can fit my gratitude for this program into one paragraph. I'm still processing all of the amazing opportunities I have been afforded over these last 10 months. The amount of places I have been able to travel to is one of these opportunities and has provided a priceless firsthand experience of learning from differing governing structures. I have also learned an incredible amount from the numerous accomplished people who were kind enough to share their time and experience with us. However, I am most grateful to PIP for the lifelong friendships and wonderful memories from them that have been created.



What was your favourite part of PIP?

My favourite part of the program was my riding visit to the High Arctic and being able to meet with so many different Inuit communities. I also really appreciated how much I learned from Senator Kim Pate during our prison visit with her and her advocacy work for the rights of the incarcerated.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

I would definitely tell myself to journal or record the memories in some way because the time flies so fast.

BENOIT DUPRAS

FIRST PLACEMENT: Arif Virani, Parkdale–High Park (LIB)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Greg Mclean, Calgary Centre (CPC)



What a year! I will always be grateful to have had the extraordinary experience of participating in the PIP. This year, I gained an in-depth understanding of how our federal Parliament and the various parties that guide it work. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get an insider's perspective on how our democracy works from both an opposition and government perspective. Thank you to all those who helped make the 53rd PIP cohort's experience such a resounding success!

What was your favourite part of PIP?

The legislative study tours, particularly the one to Nunavut!

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

That it is important to understand that the MPs are opening their offices to us so that we can have a meaningful experience, not just so that they can have an extra employee.

Anything else you would like to add?

(Funny story) It's not just all work on Parliament Hill! I will never forget the time that I scored the winning goal in the soccer game between the parliamentary pages and the MPs. The MP from my home region even mentioned it in his speech in the House that night!



PHILIPPE FLEURY

FIRST PLACEMENT: Patrick Weiler, West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country (LIB)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Stéphane Bergeron, Montarville (BQ)

I am extremely grateful for the tremendous opportunity that I had to participate in this program on Parliament Hill. I learned so much about environmental management, international affairs and reconciliation with indigenous peoples, subjects that I care a lot about and that I believe play a key role in Canada's future. My mentors, Patrick Weiler and Stéphane Bergeron, were a big help to me, and I was constantly inspired by their passion and dedication, which made a big difference in my professional development. I also want to thank my fellow interns and Paul Thomas, with whom I had many spirited conversations, unique adventures and constructive debates that made this group experience unforgettable. I will always remember this parliamentary internship as a particularly intense, rewarding and unique experience that gave me an opportunity to understand the importance of public policy and dialogue in shaping a better future.

What was your favourite part of PIP?

Definitely the legislative study tours, which were an extraordinary opportunity to open ourselves to others.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

Get a haircut before the official photo! All joking aside, I am really happy with how the year went, but if I had to do it again, I would take more time to absorb everything I was experiencing.



MADELEINE MARTIN

FIRST PLACEMENT: Greg Fergus, Hull–Aylmer (LIB)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Laurel Collins, Victoria (NDP)



It is hard to grasp the impact that this year has had and will continue to have on our lives in the coming years. A simple thank you does not seem adequate, considering the great privilege we had to be a part of the parliamentary community, to be welcomed by incredible MPs and to travel within Canada and abroad for the sole purpose of learning, educating ourselves and enriching our perspectives on democracy and the parliamentary system. I could not be more grateful for these past 10 months, for all the people that I met, for the ideas that I constructed and deconstructed, and especially for the nine other interns with whom I was lucky enough to share it all. Thank you to Paul and all those who make this program a reality.

What was your favourite part of PIP?

My favourite part of the program was definitely the connections that I made with so many incredibly intelligent and thoughtful people who were willing to share their knowledge.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

I would remind myself to take more time to soak it all in! Time really does fly when you're having fun!



NATHAN MENDEL

FIRST PLACEMENT: Michelle Rempel-Garner, Calgary Nose Hill (CPC)
SECOND PLACEMENT: Terry Beech, Burnaby North-Seymour (LIB)

What a life-changing opportunity! We have gotten to visit cool places, meet incredible people and make so many memories. I am leaving the programme with a better sense of politics and Canada as a country. I know I will carry everything I have learned with me as I take my next steps. Thank you to everyone who supports the programme!

What was your favourite part of PIP?

The Brown Bag Lunches were definitely my favourite! The variety of guests allowed us to explore topics from different perspectives and really open my mind to issues I would never have known about.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

Buy the breakfast special from Confed caf more often (the food is subsidised)!



NIKHIL PANDEYA

FIRST PLACEMENT: Larry Brock, Brantford–Brant (CPC)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Iqwinder Gaheer, Mississauga—Malton (LIB)



Where do I even start!? My ten months with the Parliamentary Internship Programme have been formative. Working for a government and opposition MP in the same session, travelling to other legislatures across North America and Europe, and meeting with leaders from all parts of Canadian public life have helped me solidify my understanding of how I can effect meaningful change. I am leaving Ottawa with a better understanding of Parliament's role in governing such a vast and diverse country. Of course, experiencing this whirlwind with 9 new friends made the year truly unforgettable!

What was your favourite part of PIP?

Nonpartisanship is a true gem. It allowed us to work on policy issues from the government and opposition sides, and meet with public leaders such as Supreme Court justices, ambassadors, and politicians of all stripes. This part of PIP is what makes it a truly unique training experience.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

Remember that everything you get to do in PIP is a learning opportunity, and be open to every lesson that these 10 months will bring to you.



SARAH ROLLASON-MACAULAY

FIRST PLACEMENT: Andy Fillmore, Halifax (LIB)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Stephanie Kusie, Calgary Midnapore (CPC)



PIP was an amazing experience that I will carry with me throughout my life. I was not only able to learn about and see different parts of Canada, but also learn about Canada's role on a global stage and how we cooperate with other countries. I was able to talk to many different stakeholders about their industries and the issues they face, as well as being able to peel back the curtain as an insider to see what happens on Parliament Hill and what MPs and their staff do on a day to day basis. Best of all, I was able to make nine new friends! I'm now on to the next adventure, but my time at PIP has made me more confident about what I can accomplish in my future.

What was your favourite part of PIP?

My favourite part of PIP was what I learned about the different problems facing people from other areas of the country. I was able to be exposed to these problems through trips, BBLs and stakeholder meetings in my MPs offices. I now see a bigger picture of my country in a way I never would have otherwise.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

To calm down and not worry so much, it'll all work out in the end and you learn on the job.



ALYTH ROOS

FIRST PLACEMENT: Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Beaches-East York (LIB)

SECOND PLACEMENT: James Bezan, Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman (CPC)

When I began the internship program, I never could have anticipated the connections, growth and opportunities I would have over the next ten months. Whether it was through the kindness of our sponsors or the mentorship within our offices, each moment gave me the ability to see Ottawa, politics and Canada in a whole new light. PIP not only shows you that change is possible but provides you with the skills and empowerment to be a part of that change. Thank you to the incredible teams I had the pleasure of joining, the kind and inspiring people who gave their time to meet with us, our wonderful director Paul and the amazing interns who I was able to learn from each and every day. I know this internship has changed my life and I cannot wait to see where this new experience will take me next.

What was your favourite part of PIP?

My favourite part of PIP was what I learned about the different problems facing people from other areas of the country. I was able to be exposed to these problems through trips, BBLs and stakeholder meetings in my MPs offices. I now see a bigger picture of my country in a way I never would have otherwise.

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

Everyday you go into work, remember that having the opportunity to simply learn and explore politics for ten months is truly a gift worth embracing. Trust yourself and remember that you are exactly where you are meant to be.



NINA SARTOR

FIRST PLACEMENT: Luc Berthold, Mégantic—L'Érable (BQ)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Kody Blois, Kings—Hants (LIB)



I still can't believe I had the chance to do everything I did this year. Before PIP, MPs were intimidating, parliament was inaccessible, and working in the government was unfathomable. Through PIP, I was able to do and see things few people ever experience - I mean, who gets to sit down and talk with the Prime Minister for over an hour? I also cannot stress how valuable the nonpartisan aspect of this experience was for me. I wouldn't trade the chance to work for "both sides" for anything, and I know I will always count PIP as one of the most eye-opening and educational years of my life.

What was your favourite part of PIP?

Brown Bag Lunches!

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

I would tell myself to not sweat the small stuff - just learn and have fun, you don't need to worry so much.



SONJA TILROE

FIRST PLACEMENT: Sébastien Lemire, Abitibi—Témiscamingue (BQ)

SECOND PLACEMENT: Terry Duguid, Winnipeg South (LIB)

I barely recognize the girl from September who boarded that Calgary flight to Ottawa with two ridiculously overweight suitcases. She had no idea of the personal, professional, emotional, and gastronomical growth that awaited her. She would not recognize the confident girlboss that stands before you today who knows how to write up SO-31s and householders, who seems to have a friend or connection under every manhole cover in Ottawa, who understands what the heck house procedure is, and who has developed an unhealthy relationship with the Parliamentary cafeteria. My heart, brain, calendar, and stomach are all full, and it is thanks to PIP. I have loved my time as a "pipster" and I can't wait to welcome the newest generation of pipsqueaks!

What was your favourite part of PIP?

The time and access we are granted with individuals that would I never have met before in a million years, whether that be members of parliament, ministers, Supreme Court Justices, senators, journalists, ambassadors, a lieutenant governor, and even a Prime Minister! It is such a gift to have met and learned from each and every one!

If you could time travel to the first day of the Programme, what is one piece of advice you would give to your past self?

The extraordinary kindness and support that comes from the extensive PIP alumni network. It is not an exaggeration to say that I would not have the apartment, job opportunities, know-how, or connections I do without their help.



STUDY TOURS

By Nikhil Pandeya

At the end of the Parliamentary Internship Programme, all of the interns are thinking about the many extraordinary opportunities they were given and the privilege they had to learn so much about Canadian and world politics. We already documented our incredible trip to the National Assembly of Quebec in the PIP Blues last December, and so this article focuses on the six different cities we visited during the second half of the Internship to learn about North American and European governments and legislatures.



In late February and early March, we visited London, Edinburgh and Brussels. Our visit to London was an incredible opportunity to discover the parliamentary model on which our own system is based and to see how different the Canadian and British parliaments have become, whether because of our federal constitution, the fact that we are located on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean or the multiculturalism that our country is known for. Next, in Scotland, we learned about the devolution process, relations between the UK's devolved governments and Westminster itself, and what makes this confederal arrangement unique compared to a federation like Canada. Finally, our last stop in Brussels took us to the European Parliament and NATO, where we learned more about international co-operation, multilateral diplomacy and the way other nation states see Canada's role on the international stage. Our visit to the Belgian Parliament also reminded us that every federal system has its own complexities and that understanding how a federation is organized can provide insight into the society that it governs.





In late March (at the height of cherry blossom season!) the interns then travelled to Washington, where we saw many historic monuments, took a guided tour of the Capitol, visited the Politico offices, and sat in on a Supreme Court hearing. Our meetings with former members of Congress and the teams who work for current members of the House of Representatives helped us to understand the challenges associated with governing a country with such a large population. Our morning at the Canadian embassy also reinforced the importance of maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours to the south.



Back in Canada, our visit to Iqaluit in May was a real highlight of the year. For most of us, it was our first time visiting that part of the country. Our meeting with several government ministers and attendance at a sitting of the Nunavut Legislature helped us to understand how big Canada is and how varied priorities can be in different parts of the country. Knowing that the Nunavut Legislature does not meet as often as the federal Parliament, we all felt very lucky to have witnessed the parliamentary debates during our visit. During an afternoon spent at the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, we learned about historical and current challenges facing those who live in northern Canada, something that is vital to consider in Canada's future policies.



Our last trip took us to Toronto. We spent our first day at the Canadian Political Science Association conference where Alyth, Nina, Nathan, Sarah and Melanie presented their research projects as part of a panel, and Sonja exhibited a research poster. That was a very proud moment for our PIP cohort! We spent the next two days at the Ontario Legislative Assembly, where we met several MPPs, the Lieutenant Governor and even Premier Doug Ford and the Leader of the Official Opposition, Marit Stiles. Visiting one of the largest provincial governments in Canada helped us to better understand the political debates that we do not hear about in the federal Parliament.

February to June was a real whirlwind for the parliamentary interns, and we certainly would not have learned as much without all of these study tours. Thank you to our partners and sponsors who made these experiences possible!



Study Tour HIGHLIGHTS

SONJA TILROE

"Our last evening in Scotland, we found a packed postage-sized bar off the beaten path in Edinburgh that had a guitarist crammed into one corner. There wasn't a seat to be found but singing folk songs with a bunch of random Scots was a wonderfully cathartic way to end our trip."

PHILIPPE FLEURY

"It is hard to choose between Iqaluit and Edinburgh. I would say Scotland because I found it was similar to Quebec in many ways and it has an astonishing history."

MELANIE BARTOSH

"My favourite moment was doing the late night bike ride with friends around the DC monuments while the cherry blossoms were in full bloom."

ALYTH ROOS

"A favourite moment of a study tour is visiting Canada House in the heart of Trafalgar Square during our first meeting in London. It not only was emblematic of how important the Canada-UK relationship is, but also made me very cognizant of how lucky we are to be able to access these famous political spaces."



MADELEINE MARTIN

"A study tour highlight was our evening bike ride in Hyde Park while in London!"



SARAH ROLLASON- MACAULAY

"On our day off in Brussels I went to the Bruges Lace Centre. On the 2nd floor they have a room where people in the community come for several hours to make lace so that visitors can ask questions and watch. As someone who is learning to make bobbin lace it was a very cool experience!"

NATHAN MENDEL

"When Nicola Sturgeon used us as a human shield against reporters in the Scottish Parliament."

NINA SARTOR

"Me literally breaking my shoe in Brussels and having to limp to the mall to get a replacement during meetings."



BENOIT DUPRAS

"I loved our meeting with former members of the US Congress. Our two guests reminded me that there was a time when representatives could work together, regardless of political affiliation."

NIKHIL PANDEYA

"Getting myself, Sonja, and Nathan lost in Toronto despite being a lifelong resident of the GTA. Major flop."



Brown Bag Lunches

The Hidden Gem of PIP

By Nina Sartor

One of the most rewarding parts of this internship was the opportunity to meet some of the most interesting people in Canadian politics and society today. This year, we had the chance to meet people from Parliament Hill, the Bank of Canada, the private sector, the foreign service, journalism, academia, and the civil service to pick their brains for stories, advice, life lessons, and ideas about Canada past and present. These were our “brown bag lunches”. (They were, ironically, lunch-less, as we discovered it’s difficult for someone to simultaneously eat and answer a barrage of questions).

Think of someone you really admire, and then imagine getting to pick their brain for an hour (under Chatham House Rules!). Then, imagine them being excited to talk to you, thinking that this conversation was valuable for them as well. As a PIP, these are the kind of discussions we were able to have with our guests. The standing of the Programme within the House gave us access to the most incredible - and incredibly busy - people who were willing to make time for us because they understood we took these meetings as a serious opportunity for professional development.

How do you deal with failure in your career, especially when it’s something you always wanted? How do you deal with the day-to-day minutia of success? Our guests talked about it. How do you communicate something complicated to 40 million people? How do you find your people? We heard from people who spent a lifetime doing just that. What does doing what you love actually mean? What is meaningful work? And that perennial question - how can I make a difference? While our guests didn’t have all the answers, they definitely had a few, and we’ll carry them wherever we go.



RESEARCH PAPERS

One of the central components of the Parliamentary Internship Programme, is the opportunity to complete a research paper on parliamentary topic of their choosing. This year, the interns completed ten research papers on topics ranging from representation to partisanship.

Madeleine Martin

The centralization of political parties in Canada and the United Kingdom: Toward a greater divergence between the two Westminster systems?

Nikhil Pandeya

The Impact of the Reform Act on Canadian Politics

Sarah Rollason-MacAulay

The Usage of Messaging Apps by Parliamentarians and their staff

Benoit Dupras

Office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE): A case study on how parliamentary committees influence the House of Commons of Canada

Philippe Fleury

Critical analysis of the codification of the right to a healthy environment in Canadian law

Nathan Mendel

"Sober Second Thought" How Senators Understand their Role in 2023

Melanie Bartosh

Arctic Sovereignty and Reconciliation in the Context of the Northwest Passage

Alyth Roos

Fighting Two Fires: The Impacts of Gender on Security Threats for Members of Parliament

Nina Sartor

Regional Caucus Dynamics on Parliament Hill

Sonja Tilroe

The Motivations of Municipally Minded Members of Parliament



ALFRED HALES PRIZE

Each year, the top paper from the previous cohort is awarded the Alfred Hales Prize, which is named for the late Alfred Hales, the MP for Wellington who initially proposed the parliamentary motion that led to the PIP's creation.

The Prize is sponsored by the Institute on Governance, with the author of the winning paper receives \$1,000 and the runners up each receiving \$500.

This year's Hales Prize was awarded to:

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”

This year's Hales Prize runners up were:

Élizabeth Bergeron

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

Rayna Sutherland

Liberatory Intimacies: Constellations of Co-Resistance in Parliament

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THANK YOU

Thank you for following us along our journey and to the many supporters that provided us with this opportunity. We are eternally grateful to the people we met, the skills developed and the lessons learned.

Best of luck to the interns of 2023-2024!

