

Backgrounder: Selection of a new host organization for the Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP)

Context

Member of Parliament Alfred Hales first proposed the creation of the PIP in a House of Commons motion introduced in 1969. MPs unanimously referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Operation, [which recommended](#) that the PIP be jointly operated by the House of Commons and the [Canadian Political Science Association](#) (CPSA), a charitable organization dedicated to promoting the study of government and politics in Canada.

This arrangement between the House and the CPSA continued without interruption until April 2023, when the CPSA Board decided that it would not renew its role as the PIP's host organization after its Service Agreement with the House expired on December 31, 2024.

To facilitate a smooth transition, the CPSA later agreed to a request from the House of Commons to extend its management of the PIP to June 30, 2025. This extension will allow the move to the new host to take place at the end of both the 2024-25 internship cycle and the PIP's financial year, greatly simplifying the transition process.

Selection a new host organization

On November 23, 2023, the House of Commons [Board of Internal Economy](#) (BOIE) considered different options for managing the Internship following the end of its administrative relationship with the CPSA. The BOIE decided to task the House of Commons administration with issuing a Call for Interest to identify a Canadian university that could serve as the PIP's new host.

The [Call for Interest](#) was issued in February, with submissions due by March 15, 2024. House of Commons staff evaluated the applications over the following months before ultimately deciding to recommend the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) as the PIP's new host organization. The Board of Internal Economy then ratified this decision at its meeting on May 23, 2023.

Transition process

The PIP's transition from the CPSA to uOttawa will take place on 1 July 2025. The CPSA and uOttawa will negotiate a transition agreement in the coming months to ensure that the PIP can launch the recruitment for the 2025-26 Intern cohort in December 2024 as usual.

The objective of the transition is to increase the resources available to the Programme and the Interns without changing the PIP's position as Canada's leading non-partisan legislative work-study experience.

The PIP Director will provide regular updates on the transition process and will seek input from PIP sponsors and partners whenever possible. Please contact the PIP Director at paul.thomas@pip-ppsp.org if you have any questions about the transition process.