

B.C. LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

THE GAZETTE

January - June 2022





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Altogether, we respectfully acknowledge the ɫəkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territory the Parliament Buildings stand. We recognize, honour, and respect their longstanding relationships with the land, as well as their rich cultural traditions and identities.

Gratefully, we also acknowledge the First Peoples of each unceded and traditional territory we had the honour of visiting during our travels across the province. We recognize that each community holds unique connections to the land and its resources, and value their respective histories, cultural traditions, and identities.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



*THE 2022 COHORT WITH THE HONOURABLE RAJ CHOUHAN,
DR. JAMIE LAWSON AND MATTHEW CRESWICK*



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

IRELAND BELLSMITH, TIFFANY LEE & CORIE KIELBISKI

How do you capture six months in a single publication?

Between the countless meetings, inspirational *a-ha!* moments and heartwarming intern bonding, there is so much to say and show. Each intern has their own unique set of experiences and stories to share from the internship. Between ministry and independent office placements, caucus placements and leadership projects, we were never at a loss for opportunities.

Being the first intern cohort emerging out of pandemic restrictions, we also experienced a greater sense of normalcy. For the first time in two years, we travelled the province for our constituency weeks, taking us as nearby as Victoria-Beacon Hill and as far as Fort St. John in Peace River North.

Throughout our internship, we were supported by incredible mentors, staff and MLAs who made immeasurable impacts on our experiences. Between patiently answering all our questions and providing freedom to grow and learn, we could not have done it without them.

Most importantly, we supported each other. Although each of us had different work to do, we found ways to connect as a group by gathering on the back steps for lunch, attending QP, biking, hiking, and meeting for mid-week happy hours. Our cohort quickly established a powerful sense of camaraderie and the respect we have for one another is everlasting.

As the Gazette co-editors, we've been huddled in the Legislative Library discussing article timelines, learning InDesign on the fly and collecting photos throughout the internship. But ultimately, this Gazette is the culmination of all 12 interns' efforts. We hope you all enjoy hearing each intern's authentic voice as you read our stories.

DIRECTORS' CORNER

KAREN AITKEN & DR. JAMIE LAWSON



Karen Aitken
Program Director

Each June, it is hard to believe that another cohort of Legislative Interns are winding down their program. Each January, I always share with the slightly nervous and very excited interns that their program will fly by and to cherish it all, but it still amazes me how quickly the 25 weeks of learning comes to an end each June.

The 2022 interns have almost had a normal year. As each week passes, COVID restrictions are fading and it is the first time since 2019 that the Interns could meet with their federal counterparts in Ottawa for three days of intense learning. I am so pleased that this educational opportunity could happen. Although heading to Olympia in the spring was not possible, working in constituency offices around the province was also back so this year's interns have a lot to be thankful for compared to their 2020 and 2021 alumni.

Although I am no longer responsible for the day to day operations of the program, and would like to thank both Esther Rzeplinski and Matthew Creswick for so ably managing the program this year (both alumni themselves), I have still had the opportunity to support this resilient 2022 cohort. Right from the start, there was a need for their flexibility - a great skill these days. They adapted to working from home during their ministry and independent office assignments, demonstrated patience in learning if their constituency placements were going to transpire and then persisted in reaching out to MLAs and CA's to plan their weeks away. There have been last minute changes to their leadership assignments, dates and locations of events and so much more. Their joint efforts to complete all of their responsibilities with commitment and grace have been both recognized and appreciated.

I know some will head back to university for law school and masters' programs, some will travel and some already have great jobs lined up, but long term, I also know they will contribute to making BC an even better place to live with their determination and enthusiasm for social justice, fairness and equality.

All the best to the 2022's! Thank you for all you have accomplished this year for the program, for yourselves and for the Members. I look forward to staying in touch and watching your professional careers blossom.

- Karen Aitken



Dr. Jamie Lawson
Academic Director

Ottawa, June 2022. Front foyer, third check today. English, en français? Vaccine passport, government ID. (Mask off please. Face check, official list; perfect match, temporary pass.) Belt off, jacket off. Laptop, cellphone, metal objects on a tray. Purses and packs right behind. (Any coins or jewelry?) Metal detector. (Stretch out your arms, please, sir.) Don jacket, coat, belt; everything else back in the pack. Are we through? 10, 11, 12 – who's missing? A problem, officer? Oh boy. (Got it: thanks, Denise. It's okay, sir, you're cleared to go.) Are we late? Room 35B. Pack the elevator: SQUISH! To the right? No, left! Hustle! Made it. BIG breath. Take it all in. What'd you think? Great talk! Repeat.

The B.C. interns are back with a vengeance. After two grounded cohorts worked from home, the 2022 cohort worked face-to-face. What a team! In year two as Academic Director, I feel again how lucky the province is to have these talents at the Legislative Assembly early in their careers. I am

lucky, too: present as twelve extraordinary individuals come into their own, and as the Legislative Assembly's fine education program (not me!) irons out the wrinkles that always come up.

And the 2022 interns travelled! Ottawa was another unique encounter with busy, effective, and responsible people who make Parliament work. Our interns managed the visit's complexity with the skill, humour, and social grace they have demonstrated since January. Thanks to our wonderful hosts, the Parliamentary staff, and the federal interns.

I close, though, considering the insecurities behind all that security. The convoys, the pandemic, the lone shooters. In Ottawa, we repeatedly passed the site on Sparks Street where D'Arcy McGee was assassinated in 1868. Insecurity is not new, but it lends clarity to what we do at BCLIP.

- Dr. Jamie Lawson

MANAGER'S NOTE

MATTHEW CRESWICK



Matthew Creswick
Program Manager

When I first entered the Parliament Buildings as a fresh-faced intern in January 2018, I couldn't imagine the impact the BCLIP would have on me. I was an eager intern ready to experience life outside of university, and thought of the BCLIP as a fun, albeit brief, opportunity to learn about provincial politics, build my resume, and meet some cool people before I head off to grad school in the fall.

Of course, the internship did provide me with all those experiences, but it also gave me something else. Something I could never really articulate, as I only seemed to feel it when I was working with my fellow interns in the Buildings' basement. Now in 2022, after almost six months of being the acting BCLIP Program Manager, I think I've narrowed that feeling down.

The 2022 interns have been some of the brightest and most dedicated people I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. The challenges they had to overcome were impressive: the rise of Omicron and the constant threat of COVID; being thrown headfirst into the heart of BC politics with little time to catch your breath; having to hike up a steep and oftentimes demanding learning curve surrounded by deadlines and high expectations. These difficulties were overcome through the interns' fierce commitment towards their work and their authentic desire to see each other succeed. I've only been able to coordinate their meetings and offer the occasional word of advice, but they've been able to help me articulate the feeling I first had in 2018, as I experience it all again whenever I'm able to observe them in their work. That feeling is an optimism towards the future, as this cohort of intelligent and enthusiastic young adults will no doubt change the world for the better.

NOTE OF THANKS

TO ESTHER RZEPLINSKI

While she was only with us for a short time in January, our former program manager Esther was instrumental in our introduction to working in the Legislative Assembly. Her bright smile and joyful energy made us all feel reassured during the first week of orientation as we embarked on this new journey full of unknowns.

As a former intern and BCLIP alumnus, Esther continued to provide us with the sincerest support and advice throughout the last six months, even as she embarked on a new journey herself.

Esther, thank you for everything!

INTRODUCING THE 2022 INTERNS



AIDAN GUERREIRO

BY IRELAND BELLSMITH



Aidan Guerreiro is best known for his passion for the arts, tour guide expertise, superior vocal skills, and being the intern capable of captivating any audience. His charismatic nature and effortless humour brought a lively and amusing energy to the seemingly unremarkable Gov-tern den. Whether he was belting out a Cape-Breton tune at music night or delivering an impromptu presentation on the enchanting intricacies of stained-glass windows, he always kept us joyfully entertained. Complementing his illustrious skills as an actor and poet is his conversance with parliamentary procedure, all of which prepared him perfectly for his outstanding performance during our Model Parliament. Conscientious and caring, Aidan always stepped up to support his fellow interns (especially during our frantic attempts to navigate the buildings). We are all so thankful for our dependable guide who never failed to lead the way. As Aidan would say, toodles!

Hometown: Victoria, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Political Science (Double Major), University of Victoria

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport - BC Arts Council

Caucus Placement: Government

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Challenging, illuminating, friendly.

Favourite Memory: Aidan's constituency week in Nelson-Creston was a highlight of the internship. Having never been to the Kootenays, it was wonderful to explore B.C.'s interior and learn more about the region.

Post-Internship Plans: Aidan will walk directly from the gov-tern den to opening night of *As You Like It* with the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival, where he'll be playing Orlando. Beyond that, Aidan's plans are hazy, but will likely involve theatre, education or (to the surprise of his caucus colleagues) library science.

CORIE KIELBISKI

BY JERIKA CADUHADA



Corie Kielbiski is unrivalled when it comes to nurturing true community spaces. She never fails to congratulate someone on a job well done, and when she asks you how your weekend was, you know that it is with genuine curiosity rather than mere politeness. In these ways, our intern cohort is even more of an authentic, kind, and empowering space because of her. Her intelligence is nuanced and undeniable. Evident in all her work, to which she dedicates herself passionately, is that her intellectual power is rooted in a deep care for the world around her. Generous, perceptive, and refreshingly bold, it has been a wonder to see Corie's brilliance at work over these past few months. I only hope that you get a taste of it as well, whether it be through her soon-to-be published master's thesis on municipal governance, statue removals, and democratic theory or the exciting Veg Fest that she plans each year.

Hometown: Peachland, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English (Double Major), with Distinction, University of Victoria. Master of Arts in Political Science at University of Victoria, ongoing.

Independent Office Placement: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Caucus Placement: Government

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Fascinating, impressive, memorable.

Favourite Memory: The earnest discussions and quality time spent with MLAs. She also enjoyed taking part in the rural caucus tour during one of her constituency weeks – a highlight was touring Tolko Lumber Mill in Vernon, B.C.

Post-Internship Plans: After the internship, Corie plans to travel to England to meet her beloved nephew and niece, both born over the pandemic. After her trip Corie plans to finish her master's thesis before pursuing a job in the public service.

IRELAND BELLSMITH

BY CORIE KIELBISKI



Ireland Bellsmith is as brilliant as she is kind. She has a passion for social justice and is a remarkably hardworking and driven individual. Throughout the internship, Ireland has proven her capacity to rise to any challenge, from video editing, digital design, and even learning to expertly navigate VIP guests throughout the Parliament Buildings. When she's not trying to make positive change, Ireland enjoys being outside, reading, and connecting with family and friends. One of her greatest strengths is her empathy for others. Ireland approaches conversations with genuine curiosity and humility that makes people feel heard and at ease around her. Ireland also has a keen sense of humour. We are all privileged to have shared many laughs with her, seemingly over nothing, and usually at inopportune times. The interns have no doubt that whatever career path Ireland pursues she will excel and that everyone will benefit, as we certainly have, from her intellect and charm.

Hometown: Langley, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, with Distinction, University of the Fraser Valley

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Caucus Placement: Government

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Inspiring, experiential, *cool*.

Favourite Memory: Meeting with Senator Kim Pate and our biking adventure along the Rideau Canal in Ottawa.

Post-Internship Plans: Ireland will be starting her career in the public service before someday returning to academia to pursue further studies. Having never visited Ireland herself, she also looks forward to travelling overseas in the near future.

JERIKA CADUHADA

BY KATE KORTE



Jerika Caduhada is fearless, reflective, and incredibly intelligent. Throughout the internship, it was abundantly clear that she was committed to tackling systemic issues with creativity. Together with her non-profit and student leadership background, her multi-disciplinary degree allowed all of us at the internship to benefit from her compelling insights. Jerika lifts others around her by creating a non-competitive atmosphere and encouraging everyone to take on opportunities, face their fears, and enjoy a bit of chaos. One of Jerika's most memorable traits is her curiosity in asking inquisitive questions. She was unafraid to be critical, which led to genuine connections and insightful conversations. We are all lucky to have worked with such a positive and empowering spirit. Jerika aspires to be a lawyer and I'm confident that she will be a passionate advocate for her future clients.

Hometown: Bacolod City, Philippines and Richmond, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Language & Literature, Spanish (Gold Medals), Minor in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Western University

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Caucus Placement: Government

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Inspiring, serendipitous, curious.

Favourite Memory: Professionally, my Ministry placement will forever hold a soft spot in my heart. Personally, the bright, unexpected moments of connection with the interns are indescribably special to me – from midnight conversations on a blue-lit bridge, to roasted lavender marshmallows around a smoky fire, to that beloved “happy hour today?” text at 4pm on a Tuesday.

Post-Internship Plans: Jerika is off to law school at the University of Victoria. Though her current interests center on the fields of family, international, and labour law, she knows that she is at the mercy of life's ever unpredictable whims. She'll find steadiness, as always, in her passion for working at the intersection of art and community-driven change.

JERRAM GAWLEY

BY ROSE WILLIAMS



Jerram Gawley's diverse talents, skills, and breadth of experiences are just a few outcomes of his extensive wonderment and curiosity of the world. In the Third Party Caucus, Jerram took on the difficult task of preparing for Estimates and did so with immaculate organization and a deep thoughtfulness of incorporating the voices and concerns of our MLAs' constituents. Articulate, with a vocabulary almost as expansive as his heart, an excellent singing voice (which he refuses to admit), and humble almost to a fault. From playing cello to building canoes, discussing complex political philosophies to Latin dancing, it can be hard to find things Jerram hasn't done. It is truly a testament to his ever-growing desire to experience life in all its glory. It is no doubt that Jerram will bring an inspiring level of support, intelligence, humour, and kindness in whatever path he chooses to take. Shine on, Jerram.

Hometown: Comox Valley, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Neurobiology and a Minor in Political Science, University of Victoria

Independent Office Placement: Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Caucus Placement: Third Party

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Insightful, experiential, diverse.

Favourite Memory: The awkward tension of our first orientation week. The spectacle is entirely humorous in retrospect and is a stark contrast to the comfort with which my fellow interns interact with each other as we near the end of the program.

Post-Internship Plans: Jerram plans to hide from adult life for a little longer and ride his bike down the Great Divide Trail from Banff to New Mexico before spending some time in South America visiting friends, working, traveling, and running. After that, he will consider going to medical school, maybe.

KATE KORTE

BY AIDAN GUERREIRO



Kate, or "The Famous" Kate Korte, more than deserves the recognition she received from journalists and staffers alike throughout the internship. Drawing from her experience as editor of UVic's student newspaper The Martlet, Kate always knew the most insightful questions to ask MLAs and Ministers. Intelligent, hardworking, and witty, Kate was a constant source of knowledge and entertainment to the denizens of the Govern dungeon. Her willingness to lend a helping hand or provide an astute second opinion on a project made us feel welcomed and supported in our work with caucus. Not to mention that she makes the absolute best lemon cake in the entire universe. We are certain that Kate's dedication to her work will take her far in law school and beyond. And maybe, just maybe, she'll finally convince some of the interns to visit Edmonton.

Hometown: Edmonton, A.B. and Victoria, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honours), University of Victoria

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Caucus Placement: Government

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Exciting, enlightening, memorable.

Favourite Memory: The interns bonded at the beginning of the internship by heading to Witty's Lagoon for a hike and enjoying some lavender smores at Bilston Creek Farms afterwards. It was great to meet everyone before caucus placements began!

Post-Internship Plans: Kate will be going to law school at UVic in September where she hopes to merge her journalism experiences in social media with her legal studies and research technology law. She is looking forward to taking a break over the summer to travel and delve into her hobbies, which include polar dipping (see 'Taking the Plunge' by Corie Kielbiski), running, hiking, and biking.

MARGARITA SIMON

BY MITCHELL ROBINSON



Margarita Simon, aka ‘Beverage’, aka ‘Klarg’, aka ‘Margarite’, aka ‘LNG-Gal’, is otherwise known to all as an amazing, wonderful and intelligent person. Whenever one needed a pick-me-up, Margarita could reliably uncover some topic or event, personal or otherwise, sure to lead to an engaging and humorous conversation. Meanwhile, informative descriptors such as “windy” to describe being in the presence of a wind farm definitively highlights her situational awareness. Despite numerous injuries and illnesses, Margarita always maintained an open and embracing presence allowing for many emotional and meaningful moments. Further, her steadfast commitment to women’s health issues led her to work on a public awareness campaign by the Official Opposition on In-Vitro Fertilization access in BC. All in all, whatever it is you know her by, this sorority girl from around the world is an absolute pleasure to get to know, work with, and befriend.

Hometown: White Rock, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, with Minors in Legal Studies and Dialogue in Communications, Simon Fraser University

Ministry Placement: Ministry of the Attorney General

Caucus Placement: Official Opposition

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Quick-paced, and remarkably memorable.

Favourite Memory: Margarita’s favourite memory was easily getting to work on IVF policy during her time in Opposition Caucus. She was able to learn about the meticulous logistics of Government policies while working with different members of the caucus team

Post-Internship Plans: Margarita will be pursuing a legal education at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is interested in pursuing a career in either commercial, criminal prosecution, or public law. She hopes to be a litigator and practice law for a few years before returning to politics and eventually running for office. She hopes to be the first woman of Latin descent to be elected to BC’s Legislative Assembly.

MARY HEEG

BY OLIVIA BOTELHO



Mary Heeg is brilliant, funny, and endlessly passionate about politics. Over the course of her time in this internship, she has most certainly held government to account with the insightful estimates questions she has written and has helped the Opposition Caucus to highlight important issues relating to Health and Mental Health and Addictions. You can tell Mary has a background in journalism because she always has an interesting question to ask or a witty remark to make about question period, new government policies, or the nature of politics. One of our favourite elements of the internship has been ranting about the state of the world with her and making acerbic comments and/or frustrated noises (AARGH!) about the many hours of debates we have watched while locked in our broom closet office in the basement. Whichever organization is lucky enough to hire her in the fall will be infinitely better for it.

Hometown: Calgary, A.B. and Victoria, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honours), University of Victoria

Ministry Placement: Office of the Ombudsperson

Caucus Placement: Official Opposition

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Thought-provoking, fun, chaotic.

Favourite Memory: Mary's constituency weeks in Prince George-Valemount and Abbotsford West were a highlight of the internship. She loved getting to know new communities and being able to ask MLAs lots of questions but would like to give a special shoutout to the Vanderhoof swans.

Post-Internship Plans: Mary will be taking a break! After a summer of camping and a road trip down the West Coast, she will be looking for work in a non-profit, independent office, or the public service.

MITCH ROBINSON

BY MARGARITA SIMON



Mitch Robinson is arguably the face of this cohort. It is unlikely that you will find even one individual at the Legislative Assembly that has not heard of Mitch Robinson. His witty demeanor and dad jokes alongside noteworthy facial reactions at every QP, make him a celebrity in the Parliament Buildings. Throughout his time as an intern Mitch has also taken on some creative endeavors: he has tried to advertise corn syrup on ice cream (but no one seems to be on board), he has reimagined the political spectrum as 3-dimensional cube to replace the traditional left to right spectrum, and he has engaged with more hydrogen policy on his own time than anyone else in British Columbia. I leave you with a recent Mitch quote “I love Tim Hortons, but Tim doesn’t love me back.”

Hometown: Delta, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (Honours), with Minors in Dialogue in Communications and International Affairs, Simon Fraser University

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Caucus Placement: Official Opposition

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Interesting, informative, and communal.

Favourite Memory: Mitch has famously become a verb around the Parliament Buildings. Due to his exuberant facial reactions and body language “Mitching” is now a common term used around the Buildings. “Mitching” is often a facial/body expression of disbelief and extreme interest in the topic at hand. His favourite memory was when he was famously stopped in the hallway by Leader of the Third Party, Sonia Furstenau and asked about his “Mitching”.

Post-Internship Plans: Mitch will be attending the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs to pursue a Master’s Degree in International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. He hopes to later pursue a career in global affairs or municipal politics in his home community.

OLIVIA BOTELHO

BY TIFFANY LEE



Olivia Botelho is one of the wittiest people you'll ever meet, especially with her sharp analytical mind and truly fantastic sense of humour. Whenever a fellow intern wanted to better understand a complex policy issue, Olivia was quick to provide an impassioned explanation with incredible nuance and insight. If you gave her enough time, she may even include an ECON 101 lesson! She soon became known for her never-ending source of puns, which never failed to make her fellow Opp-terns laugh and groan. Her love for puns is no surprise considering her ability to think quickly and refer to any number of topics within her vast knowledge. Whether it was her excitement for Ottawa's "Diefenbunker" or her experiences as a theatre kid, Olivia always had fun facts and stories to share. Olivia is truly remarkable and we have no doubts she will succeed in whatever lies ahead of her.

Hometown: Vancouver, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management (Honours), with a focus in Public Policy and Administration and a Minor in Economics, Carleton University.

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Education

Caucus Placement: Official Opposition

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Constantly evolving experience.

Favourite Memory: Olivia's favourite memories throughout her caucus and constituency placements were bonding with her fellow Opposition interns about their shared passion for and frustration with politics. Whether it was post-QP debriefs in Siberia, sharing of political memes on WhatsApp, or heckling Hansard during Estimates, it was always cathartic and interesting to rant with them about the issues of the day.

Post-Internship Plans: Olivia will be starting a Temporary Assignment as a Policy Analyst at the Crown Agencies Secretariat within the Ministry of Finance. She is hoping to pursue a career in the public service, exploring the intersecting worlds of social policy and economics.

GUD TAKIN JAAD ROSE WILLIAMS

BY JERRAM GAWLEY



Rose Williams, much like the oceans she often swims in around her home of Haida Gwaii, is at once imbued with a welcoming serenity, vast depths of wisdom, and the passions of a winter tempest. Deeply grounded as she moves through the world, Rose is strong in her tenderness, insightful in her inquiry, and unforgiving in her pursuit of justice. Rose brought all of this and more to her work in the internship as she navigated tasks ranging from detailed policy analysis to snappy tweet curation and critical question period writing to impassioned op-ed composition. But Rose is so much more than the 9 - 5 grind. A culinary sensation, a dog enthusiast, an artistic visionary, a talented musician, a coffee connoisseur, a gregarious comic, and a late-night dancing legend, she evades singular definition and categorical silos. Ultimately, with a heart as full with compassion as the cup with coffee ever clasped in her hand, Rose is a bright light for us all. Shine on, Rose.

Hometown: Masset, Haida Gwaii, B.C.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Global Studies & Political Studies (Double Major), Vancouver Island University

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions

Caucus Placement: Third Party

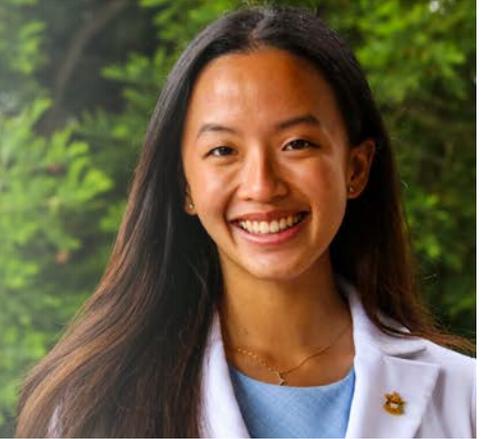
Describe the Internship in 3 words: Challenging, rewarding, inspiring.

Favourite Memory: Each day was filled with rich memories, but Rose's favourites were the sweet moments of (necessary) comic relief. Playing competitive Tetris in the Sidney Constituency Office, enjoying the slew of puns from the other interns, and Rob Buffman's commentary "it's like a clown car in there!" as Green Caucus staff filed out of the office.

Post-Internship Plans: Rose is going to take some time working and living back home on Haida Gwaii: slinging coffee, picking berries, canning and smoking salmon, hiking, and volunteering for the local Legion. In September, Rose will return to the political world as a Constituency Assistant for MLA Furstenau in the Cowichan Valley.

TIFFANY LEE

BY MARY HEEG



Tiffany Lee is both one of the most driven and most thoughtful people the interns have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Her formidable work ethic and commitment to systemic change is deeply admirable. After working on the launch of the government's economic plan during her Ministry placement, Tiffany hit the ground running in the Official Opposition Communications Office. From writing lengthy speeches on bills to filming TikToks with every member of the Official Opposition, Tiffany's high-quality work has left its mark on this caucus. Tiffany spent one of her constituency weeks in Prince George-Valemount with me, where I appreciated her thoughtful reflections on everything we were learning, her willingness to make silly crafts, and her shared appreciation for donuts and soup. At the end of the internship, Tiffany will be taking her communications expertise to the Ministry of Education and Childcare, which will be lucky to have her.

Hometown: Coquitlam, B.C. and Calgary, A.B.

Education: Bachelor of Arts (Major in International Relations, Minor in Asian Canadian & Asian Migration Studies) with High Distinction + Master of Management dual degree, University of British Columbia

Ministry Placement: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation

Caucus Placement: Official Opposition

Describe the Internship in 3 words: Thrilling, engaging, unpredictable.

Favourite Memory: Tiffany became known as the TikTok intern for the Official Opposition and thanks to the trust and good humour of the MLAs and staffers, filming was never a dull moment! Her fellow interns, particularly Margarita, were always good sports in filming concept videos.

Post-Internship Plans: Tiffany plans on pursuing a career in stakeholder engagement and public relations. She will be joining the BC Public Service immediately after the internship and looks forward to whatever else may follow!



MINISTRY PLACEMENT

JANUARY 10, 2022 - FEBRUARY 4, 2022

A NEW ECONOMIC PLAN

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC RECOVERY & INNOVATION

By Tiffany Lee

With only a theoretical understanding of business management from my business degree, I wanted to observe first-hand the intersections between business and government. It seemed especially fitting that I ended up in the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation's Economic Narrative team. This team was working hard to deliver a 10 year vision for B.C.'s economy through the new StrongerBC Economic Plan. It was the perfect place to learn about the ministry's strategic initiatives and see a high-priority government project in the works.

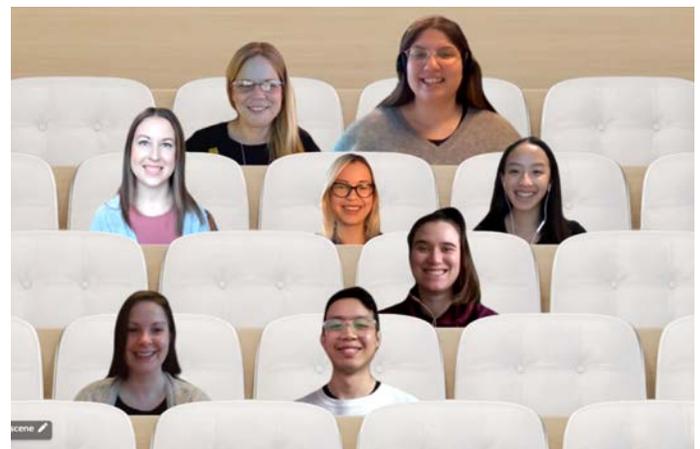
Prior to the internship, I had never read an economic plan or had many expectations for what it would include. On my very first day, I was assured many times that this was an economic plan like no other. I shared with my mentor that I was interested in stakeholder relations as a future career and was quickly assigned to help coordinate stakeholder communications leading up to the plan's launch. This not only familiarized me with the who's who of the B.C. business world, but also introduced me to many of the province's most influential community organizations, academic institutions, unions, and First Nations representatives. One of the biggest lessons learned through this experience is that we need a holistic understanding of the economy, which means consulting with a diverse range of organizations and sectors – not simply with those in industry.

One of my favourite things about the ministry placement was getting the chance to meet with high-level public servants. My mentor Wendy Magnes was a never-ending source of enthusiasm, while DM Bobbi

Plecas (a former intern!) and ADM Tim Lesiuk were very gracious in taking me under their wings and inviting me to various executive meetings.

One of the biggest lessons learned through this experience is that we need a holistic understanding of the economy, which means consulting with a diverse range of organizations and sectors – not simply with those in industry.

This was the perfect place to see a high-priority government project in action. People joke that the public service moves slowly, but it was never a dull moment in JERI and it was a true privilege witnessing the exemplary leadership and hard work of the ministry's staff.



JERI's Economic Narrative Team

WHERE THE SKY IS BLUE AND A NEW DAY IS BEGINNING

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

By Jerika Caduhada

In order to create something new, we must first be able to imagine it, and then we must believe in it enough to fight for it.

With BC's adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the Ministry of Children and Family Development was tasked with reforming the province's child and family service system to meaningfully honour Indigenous communities' inherent rights to jurisdiction. I had the privilege of stepping briefly into all of the bustle that came with meeting this task, and that bustle began, as many other bustles do, with a round of introductions: "I'm calling from the territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples. The sky here is unexpectedly bright and blue, and I even see a few clouds." In this casually endearing way, everyone in the Strategic Child Welfare and Reconciliation Policy branch of the Ministry became new and well treasured connections of mine from the Legislative Internship.

Over the next four weeks, they brought me in on their work to reform the Child, Family, and Community Service Act. With the support and guidance of my brilliant and generous mentors Wendy Norris and Jas Brown, I helped to prepare a presentation on the reform approach to the Modern Treaty Nations, attended national working group meetings discussing reconciliation work across the country, wrote a briefing note to the Assistant Deputy Minister on the reform engagement process, and, most notably, was spoiled with insightful conversations that stayed with me long after the Zoom meeting window closed.

In one particularly memorable Zoom call, Chief Cadmus Delorme of the Cowessess First Nation spoke about the need to build believers in this country. In order to create something new, we must first be able to imagine it, and then we must believe in it enough to fight for it. With the Ministry of Children and Family Development, I learned to believe in the people who are fighting. Months later, I still believe in their sincere compassion and determination. More than that, I have walked away from my time with them both imagining and believing in new ways of understanding family—family between generations, beyond blood, healing and dreaming with love for the young ones who carry the future forward.



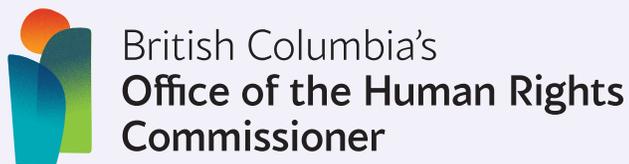
MCFD's Strategic Child Welfare &
Reconciliation Policy Branch

WORKING AT WHAT NOW?

INDEPENDENT OFFICE PLACEMENTS

By Jerram Gawley, Mary Heeg & Corie Kielbiski

There are nine independent officers, also known as statutory officers, in British Columbia that perform the important function of holding the government accountable to both the Legislative Assembly and to the public. The BCLIP only started placing interns at Independent Offices in 2021 and three of us from the 2022 cohort had the opportunity of engaging in this unique experience: Mary with the Office of the Ombudsperson, Jerram with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC) and Corie with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). Below are a few words about each of our experiences.



BCOHRC's Communications Team

By Jerram Gawley

My time in the BCOHRC was an immense privilege. Indeed, I felt humbled by the breadth of talent, wisdom, compassion, and dedication contained within the small team. Everyone at BCOHRC carries a deep passion for their work – a passion often rooted in lived experience – that shapes not only the work they do, but the Office they are establishing. BCOHRC is small but mighty, young but well rooted, and the work it does has become a source of hope and optimism for me.

A special thank you to Lindsey, Charlotte, and the entire communications team for introducing me to the world of communications and allowing me to engage in a fascinating project focused on the intersections of language and human rights.



OMBUDSPERSON BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Mary Heeg

While I never set foot in the office itself, my four weeks at the Office of the Ombudsperson truly made me feel like I was part of the team. I am sincerely grateful to my mentor, Zoë Jackson, as well as the rest of my team and everyone at the office who took the time to speak to me about their work and experiences. I chose the Office because I was interested in learning about the role of independent officers and am passionate about government accountability. During my placement, I was lucky enough to work on the systemic investigations team—the Office’s investigation team that focuses on system-wide issues. I conducted research, participated in a consultation circle on the Office’s Indigenous community services plan, and attended meetings with different teams across the Office. My time at the Office deepened my understanding of the nuance and importance of fairness as public organizations develop and implement policies, and it will be something I carry with me for the rest of my career.



OFFICE OF THE
**INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER**
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Corie Kielbiski

I am grateful for being welcomed by such an enthusiastic and kind group of people at the OIPC, especially my mentor and former intern, Ethan Plato. I did not know much about the work of the Office before my placement, but I was fascinated to learn more about privacy and access laws in our province. I was placed within the policy branch, and it was an exciting time to be there following the recent changes to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). Although my placement was entirely online, a highlight was attending the virtual presentation that the Commissioner gave to the Legislative Assembly’s Special Committee to Review FIPPA. I also really enjoyed learning more about the intersection of technology and privacy and I certainly left my placement as the staff predicted, slightly more paranoid!



Margarita and her Ministry Mentor (and former intern) Alayna Van Leeuwen



Ireland and her Ministry Mentor Ashlyn from MIRR



Mitch and his ministry mentors at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs



Olivia and her team at the Ministry of Education



Rose and mentor Carolyn Davison at the Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions



Aidan with the team at the BC Arts Council

THANK YOU!

MINISTRY MENTORS & PUBLIC SERVANTS
WHO SUPPORTED OUR MINISTRY PLACEMENT

Aidan Guerrerio

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Allison Bottomley, Erin Macklem, Justine Shore, Clayton Baraniuk, Jennifer Nichols

Kate Korte

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Ben Ferrel, Tess Syrowik, Carol Ribeiro, Matt Dell, Chantal Turpin, Thomas Hunt, Wes Crealock

Margarita Simon

Ministry of the Attorney General

Alayna Van Leeuwen, Natalie Hepburn Barnes, Katie Armitage, Andrea Buzbuzian, Paul Craven, Darrin Thompson

Olivia Botelho

Ministry of Education

Sarah Loveday, Nell Hodges, Tracie Carlson, Karen Loughran, Sophie Bird, Cloe Nicholls, Jeremy Higgs

Tiffany Lee

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation

Wendy Magnes, Bobbi Plecas, Tim Lesiuk, Bianca Wallace, Jade Norton, Brittany Bingham, Jeffrey Leung

Ireland Bellsmith

Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

Ashlyn Schwaiger, Jennifer Melles, Susan Kelly, Ryan Weston

Rose Williams

Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions

Carolyn Davison, Jill Murray, Sam Hudson, Guy Felicella

Corie Kielbiski

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Ethan Plato, Michael McEvoy, Jeanette Van Den Bulk, Nathan Elliot, Caitlin Lemiski

Mary Heeg

Office of the Ombudsperson

Zoë Jackson, Elizabeth Bruch, Sarah Malan, Midori Kaga, Sergio López-Ramos

Mitch Robinson

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Kara Woodward, Danielle Lukovich, Marlinda Cabral, Andrew Johnson, Kevan Letawske, Derek Brennan, Okenge Yuma Morisho, Tara Faganello

Jerika Caduhada

Ministry of Children & Family Development

Wendy Norris, Jas Brown, Andrea Bocskei, Richel Donaldson, Dan Ramroop

Jerram Gawley

Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Lindsey Bertrand and Charlotte Kingston



CAUCUS PLACEMENT

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 - JUNE 3, 2022

GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

THE B.C. NEW DEMOCRATS



By Kate Korte

This year, the Government interns returned to the intern den. Nestled in the basement of the East Annex, the den quickly became a space for interesting conversation and abundant snacking. We learned from each other's experiences and missteps throughout the caucus experience and watched intently whenever a statement or speech was read in the House that one of us had assisted with preparing. The den dwellers included Ireland, Jerika, Corie, Aidan, and Kate.

Ireland is the most calm, cool, and collected of the government interns. Her delightful Esquimalt farmer's market finds were always welcomed additions to our snack stash.

Jerika is bubbly and fearless – she never hesitated to respectfully ask tough questions. Her internship experience was fueled by a small sleeve of baby crackers in her desk.

We learned from each other's experiences and missteps throughout the caucus experience and watched intently whenever a statement or speech was read in the House that one of us had assisted with preparing.

Corie is always incredibly thoughtful and kind. She brightens any room, including the intern den, and baked a yummy vegan apple cobbler with Okanagan apples.

Aidan, a former tour guide, dazzled us with his niche legislature facts. He is also the only government intern willing to eat black licorice.

Kate is our resident social media specialist who always kept us in the loop about the latest trends and developments across the province. In the spring, she made a lemon cake that added a little extra zest to our den.

Each person's story was different. These conversations also allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the province and develop an appreciation towards BC's regional diversity.

Our daily walk to Question Period led us past the wall of notable women in the Hall of Honour, the framed photos of past MLAs, and the canoe in the Lower Rotunda. These areas served as reminders of our unique positionality as interns during a time of change as the Legislative Assembly becomes increasingly welcoming of diversity.



Meeting with Minister Melanie Mark

The Government Caucus is one of the most diverse in the Legislative Assembly's history. We were grateful to hear from MLAs about how their past experiences and passions drove them towards serving as an elected representative. Each person's story was different. These conversations also allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the province and develop an appreciation towards BC's regional diversity.

Minister of Finance Selina Robinson was the most frequent intern den visitor by far. This was followed closely by MLA Dan Coulter. All the visits, however brief, were so welcome. We deeply appreciate that Members took the time to meet us and share their insights about political life.

Lastly, we are extremely grateful to the Government Caucus team for all of their guidance and support.



Tour with Minister Jennifer Whiteside

Thank you to Ed May, Alissa Brandt, Maddie Field, Chelsea Williams, Cailin Tyrrell, Sophia Brownsey, Anmol Swaich, Devon Leathwood, Jesse Gervais, Arjin Toor, Quinn MacTavish, Mahdiyar Biazi, and Kelly Favro.



A peek into the den

CONSTITUENCY PLACEMENTS

BOUNDARY-SIMILKAMEEN AND RURAL CAUCUS TOUR



Corie & MLA Roly Russell in Osoyoos



Corie & MLAs meeting Chief Louis

POWELL RIVER-SUNSHINE COAST



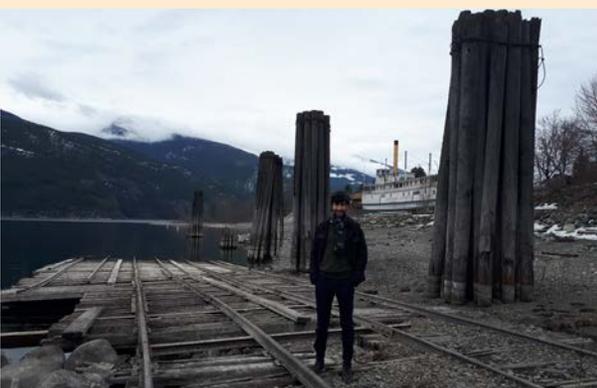
Ireland & Minister Simons in Sechelt

VANCOUVER-MOUNT PLEASANT



Kate & Minister Mark in Vancouver

NELSON-CRESTON



Aidan at the SS Moyie Site in Kaslo

NORTH ISLAND



Jerika's view feat. MLA Babchuk's frog

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

INTERNS IN GOVERNMENT



Okanagan apples from
MLA Roly Russell



Haunted mini golf with Alissa,
Executive Director of BC NDP Caucus



Aidan hanging out in the West Annex



On the back steps with NDP MLAs



MLA Grace Lore with interns



Final day in Government Caucus

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION CAUCUS

THE B.C. LIBERALS



By Olivia Botelho

In the basement of the Parliament Buildings, beyond the Dining Room and behind the BC Liberal Caucus' exercise equipment, in a room known as Siberia, lit only by dim fluorescents and the light of the Hansard screen dwell the Official Opposition interns; five passionate souls who spend their days scouring news articles for relevant statistics and quotes, emerging only to watch question period or film TikToks with MLAs. These are their stories:

Tiffany Lee was a communications intern who quickly became indispensable due to her understanding of the mysterious forces of social media. When she wasn't running around filming TikToks for MLAs, she was writing speeches on everything from housing affordability to gender equality. For her constituency weeks, Tiffany worked with MLA Teresa Wat's office in Richmond North Centre on a variety of anti-racism initiatives and events, and later joined MLA Shirley Bond for a jam-packed week in Prince George-Valemount with meetings, tours and even a day trip to see swans in Vanderhoof!

Mitch Robinson was a research intern who took on a wide array of files including education, child and family development, and agriculture. Thanks to his time with the Official Opposition, he can now quote you on the price of seismically upgrading your local school and tell



Libterns with MLAs Lorne Doerkson, Dan Davies, and Shirley Bond on Dairy Day

you how many childcare centres your community has. For his constituency weeks he learned about rural politics in Peace River South and North with MLAs Dan Davies and Mike Bernier, and how to run a constituency office in Delta South with MLA Ian Paton.



Margarita, Leader Kevin Falcon, and Tiffany

Margarita Simon was a communications intern who solidified her place in the Official Opposition Caucus by dedicating herself to understanding the issues that were important to her MLAs and their constituents. Not only did she write speeches, create TikToks, and send out tweets, but she also found time to make connections with MLAs. For her constituency weeks, she explored Peace River South and North, including the Geopark in Tumbler Ridge, with MLAs Dan Davies and Mike Bernier, and learned about the wide variety of issues a constituency office faces in MLA Trevor Halford's South Surrey-White Rock office.

Mary Heeg was a research intern who took on two portfolios under which were active crises: Health and Mental Health and Addictions. She mastered the art of surfing news catalogues for relevant stories and creating spreadsheets detailing major events. She also provided indispensable support during the Estimates process. For her constituency weeks, she witnessed the impact of last year's flooding in Abbotsford West with MLA Mike de Jong and explored Prince George-Valemount with MLA Shirley Bond.

Olivia Botelho was a research intern who spent her day falling down a variety of rabbit holes concerning

every topic from home heating to non-profit funding to revenue sharing with Indigenous nations to find information for Question Period, bill debates, and Estimates. For her constituency weeks, she got to attend meetings about farming, tourism, and women in business in Surrey South with now-former MLA Stephanie Cadieux and discussed crime and floodwater damage with MLA Ellis Ross's constituents in Skeena.



Libterns with MLA Stephanie Cadieux on her last day in the Legislative Assembly

The Official Opposition interns would like to thank the outstanding Official Opposition Caucus staff who made us feel welcome, supported our work, and passionately taught us more about BC politics than we will (hopefully) ever need to know. We would also like to thank all the MLAs who came to visit us in Siberia to share their stories and advice about life in politics.

Caucus Communications Team:

Sean Roberts, Tracy Grimsrud, Abigail Uher, Stephanie Marshall-White, Sam Arno-Burgess, Siyun Zeng, Raman Bajwa, Ryan Braude

Caucus Research Team:

Derek Cummings, Ryan Mitton, Karen Bill, Jennifer Wizinsky, David Decolongon, Dion Weisner, Parveen Sandur, Marissa Olson

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

INTERNS IN OFFICIAL OPPOSITION



Tiffany filming MLA Kevin Falcon



Chatting with Keith Baldrey



Hanging out with the Lib-tern girls



Mary and Olivia on Beef Day



Libterns on Dairy Day with
MLA Shirley Bond



Tiffany and Margarita filming MLAs Kevin Falcon and
Stephanie Cadieux



Lib-terns with BC Liberal Leader Kevin Falcon



Mitch, Mary, Olivia and Tiffany



Mitch, Olivia and Mary in Siberia



Selfie with the Opposition Caucus MLAs on the last day of session

CONSTITUENCY PLACEMENTS

PEACE RIVER NORTH & PEACE RIVER SOUTH



Mitch & Margarita with MLAs Mike Bernier & Dan Davies



Mitch & Margarita with MLA Mike Bernier at a "windy" wind farm

PRINCE GEORGE-VALEMOUNT

SKEENA



Mary & Tiffany at the Womens World Curling Championship with MLA Shirley Bond



Olivia with MLA Ellis Ross' Constituency Assistants in Terrace

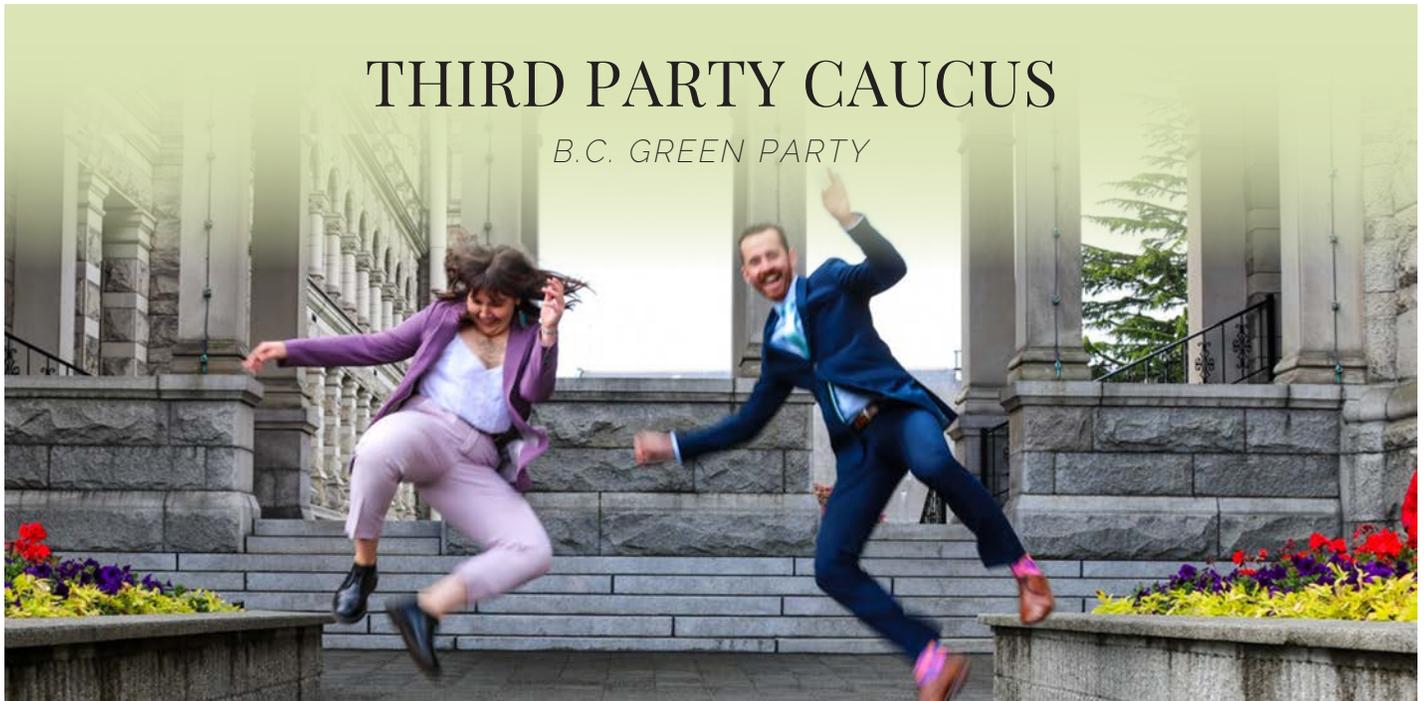


Mary and Tiffany with the iconic Mr. PG

SURREY SOUTH



Olivia with MLA Stephanie Cadieux at event



THIRD PARTY CAUCUS

B.C. GREEN PARTY

By Rose Williams and Jerram Gawley

With a daunting reputation for having long work hours, crazy work requirements, and unruly expectations, we both walked through the door on our first day of our Third Party Caucus assignment with a sizeable dose of trepidation. True to the rumours, that is exactly what it was... kidding!

In reality, what we found was a room full of welcoming, passionate, and inspiring individuals keen to share their knowledge and experience. As the saying goes, good things come in small packages.

A running joke in Third Party Caucus was that the two Legislative Interns increased the staffing capacity by 20%. While we may have increased the population density by 20%, we are fairly certain that we did not improve the operational capacity by the same figure. Regardless, it was clear from day one that we were not considered interns, but essential members of the team. This distinction came with an increased responsibility, but it also enriched our time, opening us to many unique, hands-on opportunities. It wasn't even day two and we were writing an official letter, composing a question for Question Period, and sitting in on a

strategic policy meeting planning out the week ahead. With only two MLAs, the role of Third Party Caucus is challenging. The entire caucus was terrified when we saw that a third section of the House would be opening for the Committee of Supply proceedings.

The MLAs would often joke, “if I’m not back in time, just send Jerram and Rose in a trench coat,” aptly titling us Roserram.

The MLAs would often joke, “if I’m not back in time, just send Jerram and Rose in a trench coat,” aptly titling us *Roserram*. However, despite some longer days, and heavy workloads, the amount of support and encouragement we received—from the caucus staff, the MLAs, and the constituency offices—was unmatched.

Politics for many evokes thoughts of hyper-individualism, selfishness, and greed. Of course, this can be true, but sometimes beneath this veil of political prowess lies a much more beautiful element of relationality and collaboration – and this was the case in the Third Party Caucus.

Sometimes beneath this veil of political prowess lies a much more beautiful element of relationality and collaboration – and this was the case in Third Party Caucus.

In preparation for a big media release, every caucus member would be actively involved with the document—making suggestions, adding quotes, and ultimately sculpting a phenomenal end-product that would have been impossible to accomplish alone. On any given day, individuals in the Third Party Caucus could be found working through tough ideas and debating their merits, supporting each other through long days, and, when breaks from BC politics were needed, playing “Can you name all 196 countries in 15 minutes?” – turns out Hailey can, and Roserram most certainly cannot.



Roserram with MLAs Sonia Fursteneau & Adam Olsen

The passion and fun extended beyond the workplace with occasional events bringing the whole caucus team together for moments of laughter-filled conversations and essential political decompressions.

On occasion we would even band together for an aggressive game of street basketball behind the Parliament Buildings. While our professional relationships were placed on thin ice in pre-game trash talk and during heated matches, the experiences ultimately brought us all together. The added benefit, of course, being that we can safely say that Third Party Caucus can field the best basketball team on the Parliamentary Precinct (We welcome anyone that wishes to challenge our title).

We reflect on our time in the Third Party Caucus with a deep fondness. We admire each member of the team for the difficult, yet phenomenal work they undertake daily to hold government accountable, and we feel immense gratitude for the introduction to a world of politics that embraces humanity in its authenticity, boldness, and compassion.



THIS IS ROSERRAM!

Thank you to Maeve Maguire, JoJo Beattie, Federico Cerani, Stephanie Siddon, Hailey May and Laura Ferreira for their phenomenal support and inspiring work ethic.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

INTERNS IN THIRD PARTY



Lunch on the back steps



Rose in MLA Sonia Fursteneau's office



Jerram & Rose at the Leg



Jerram on Salt Spring Island



Roserram on vacation



LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

JANUARY 10, 2022 - JUNE 24, 2022

LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

INTERN ASSIGNMENTS



Washington Exchange
Corie & Jerram



Ottawa Exchange
Olivia



Academic Day
Kate



Reynolds High
Mary & Aidan



Student Education Day
Olivia & Aidan



Model Parliament
Mitch & Rose



Judicial Day
Jerika & Margarita



The Gazette
Ireland, Corie & Tiffany



Canadian
Parliamentary Review
Kate & Jerika

WASHINGTON EXCHANGE

LEARNING, RE-LEARNING & QUESTIONING

By Jerram Gawley

The Washington presentation was an opportunity to connect with interns of a similar program in Washington State Legislature and share in an educational exchange about our respective political systems, and countries more generally. In previous years the exchange has happened in person; however, for the last few years the event has been held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a recent university graduate it may be surprising to note that, prior to prepping for the Washington Presentation, the last time I discussed the structures of provincial government was sometime around Grade 5. That is not to say I haven't been politically engaged, but rather that discussions of these formal governance structures can be infrequent and often taken for granted.

Prepping for the Washington Presentation with my co-presenter and ever-valued critic, Corie Kielbiski, provided me with a much-needed opportunity to re-learn the nuances of provincial government. Although the revision was useful, it was the morning of the presentation – which included listening to a presentation from the Washington Interns and sharing in a dialogue – that the greatest value emerged.

In an informal sense, the morning offered an opportunity for comparative system analysis. As we discussed topics spanning governance structures, tax law, policymaking and regional quirks, there were many moments that revealed crevasses of difference; however, there were also moments that sparked an increased affinity.

Both groups of interns incorporated a discussion of pertinent current events, ranging from gun legislation to climate change policy, the toxic drug supply crisis to COVID-19. Set on the backdrop of our systems-level discussion, the unique and idiosyncratic nature of our systems were highlighted in the events and the responses to them. For me, this insight spurred a more thorough reflection on the Canadian system, its potential, as well as its limitations.

In this way, I found the morning that we shared with the Washington interns to be an important foundation for the internship. As we began our caucus placements and spent more time learning about and engaging with the structures of government, I have found a greater appreciation for the unique qualities of our provincial government and grappled more passionately with their implications. I am more pointed in my identification and criticism of imperfections, but more celebratory of the apparent strengths.

A great deal has changed for me since Grade 5 (one should hope), but the Washington Presentation and the internship more broadly reminded me of that same child-like process of exploration, of learning and re-learning, and of questioning, always questioning.



OTTAWA EXCHANGE

BCLIP ON THE HILL

By Olivia Botelho

Canada's national capital is primarily located in Canada (though for legal purposes one maternity ward is sometimes located in the Netherlands). It is also located in Ontario (though for national unity reasons it is also kind of in Quebec). Under international law, the capital of Canada does not actually belong to the Canadian government at all but rather the Algonquin people, as the Algonquin never signed a treaty with the Crown for the land on which the city was built.

While in Ottawa, we met with officials from all three branches of government. To begin with, we had a tour of the Supreme Court of Canada and met with Supreme Court Justice and 1988 BCLIP alumni, the Hon. Russell Brown, who spoke to us about his experience both before and during his tenure at the SCC and his insights into Canada's laws.



Meeting the Hon. Justice Brown at the Supreme Court of Canada

The rest of our trip was taken up learning about the complexities of the legislative branch of government. Within the House of Commons, we met the Clerk of the House, as well as the Speaker of the House and his staff. We spoke to them about their roles, the evolution of Parliamentary language and codes of conduct, and Mitch's hometown of North Bay, Ontario, which falls within the Speaker's riding. We were also able to meet with MPs from four of the five federal parties: with Liberal MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Gary Anandasangaree, Conservative MP Brad Vis, NDP MP Matthew Green, and Green MP Elizabeth May. It was very interesting to hear about their different perspectives on politics, the role of MPs, and the issues facing the Canadian government today. The Speaker also invited us to watch Question Period, and we enjoyed comparing QP at the House of Commons to the version we were familiar with in BC.



Meeting with Minister Leboutillier

In addition, we also got to explore the Senate, guided by SENgage's Amely Coulombe. We learned about the history of the Senate and met two sitting Senators: Independent Senator Kim Pate and Conservative Senator Yonah Martin. They spoke to us about their experiences and their own personal projects and bills. It was interesting to contrast their paths to the Senate, before and after the recent reforms.

We also got to learn about work done by officers of parliament through meetings with the Chief Statisticians and Assistant Chief Statistician and learn about the present and future of Statistics Canada as well as from

staff in the Office of the Intelligence Commissioner, who taught us about their work providing oversight of Canada's intelligence organizations.



Meeting with the Usher of the Black Rod in the Senate of Canada

We would like to thank all the politicians and staff who shared their time with us and answered our many questions. Special thanks to Faizel Gulamhussein for organizing a last-minute meeting with the Minister of National Revenue. We would also like to thank the Parliamentary Interns, particularly Wynn Rederburg and Harriet Crossfield, for helping to organize such a wonderful experience for us.



Meeting with Liberal MP Gary Anandasangaree



Our future lawyers at the Supreme Court



Outside the Canada Revenue Agency office



Meeting the Speaker of the House of Commons

MOVERS & SHAKERS

OUR MEETINGS AND TOURS
SCHEDULE IN OTTAWA

Supreme Court

Hon. Justice Russell Brown

Senate of Canada

J. Greg Peters M.V.O.- Usher of the Black Rod
SEngage - Amely Coulombe

Senators

Hon. Kim Pate
Hon. Yonah Martin

House of Commons

Hon. Anthony Rota - Speaker
Charles Robert - Clerk

Members of Parliament

Matthew Green - Hamilton Centre
Elizabeth May - Saanich-Gulf Islands
Gary Anandasangaree - Scarborough-Rouge Park
Brad Vis - Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon
Hon. Diane LeBouthillier - Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Minister for National Revenue

Public Service

Intelligence Commissioner

Senior Counsel - Marc Pilon
Legal Counsel - Josee Thibault

Statistics Canada

Chief Statistician - Anil Arora
Assistant Chief Statistician - Jacques Fauteaux

ACADEMIC DAY

LEARNING FROM LEADING B.C. ACADEMICS

By Kate Korte

This year, the BC Legislative Internship Program hosted a hybrid Academic Day featuring various speakers from across the country. The speakers offered their diverse perspectives on topics relevant to the internship program.

In previous years, the internship program has hosted academics for presentations biweekly. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we pivoted to offer a full hybrid day of presentations in the final week of the program. This allowed us to have more time to schedule the presenters and ensure that they could be welcomed into the building. On Academic Day, interns were able to reflect on their learnings during the program and couple those learnings with a stronger academic understanding of issues and topics in politics.

Each speaker was recommended by someone within the program as a compelling presenter. They all exceed our expectations on this front, and we are so grateful they decided to join us for the day.

On behalf of the 2022 Legislative Interns, thank you to each of our presenters for sharing their insights and wisdom with us. We so appreciated the opportunity to learn from you.

Thank you, also, to Dr. Jamie Lawson and Matthew Creswick for their assistance in organizing Academic Day.

REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL

A FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS

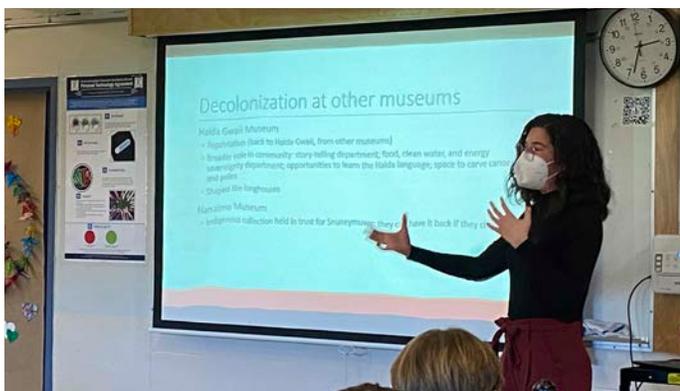
By Mary Heeg & Aidan Guerreiro

We first met with the Reynolds High School Flexible Studies students in early March. After a flurry of preparation and many worries that these Grade 9 and 10 students wouldn't be excited to listen to two political science nerds talk about parliamentary procedure for an hour, we were blown away by how engaged, aware, and passionate they were! They asked us so many questions during our first visit that we could have easily spent the remainder of the school day chatting with them. That set the tone for the rest of the parliament: the Reynolds students were consistently fascinated by challenging systemic problems.

On our second visit, the students learned about the rules of debating in a parliament and practiced writing bills. We used a silly example: what if legislators required every British Columbian to have a Steller's Jay (BC's provincial bird) as a pet? The students ran with our unrealistic concept and created the Steller Way Act/ Provincial Avian Integration Act/Bird Flew Act. "Any British Columbian who does not take a Steller's Jay as a pet," clause three of their bill stated, "must become the pet of a Steller's Jay."

Our next workshop, near the end of May, had the students working on their own bills and media projects. The Government, Official Opposition, and Third Party drafted bills on supporting unhoused people, making sanitary products tax-exempt, and renaming BC schools, respectively. The student journalists wrote creative and critical articles, interviewed the "politicians," and even created a TikTok—perhaps sensing that TikTok has been a theme for our intern cohort.

That set the tone for the rest of the parliament: the Reynolds students were consistently fascinated by challenging systemic problems.



Mary leading a presentation



Aidan and Mary at Reynolds

The Model Parliament itself, despite being unable to use Legislative Chamber in BC's Parliament Buildings, went off without a hitch. During our first sitting, the students thoughtfully debated the substance of their bills during second reading. On the second day, they engaged in a spirited but respectful Question Period based on the work of the Press Gallery, and completed third reading.

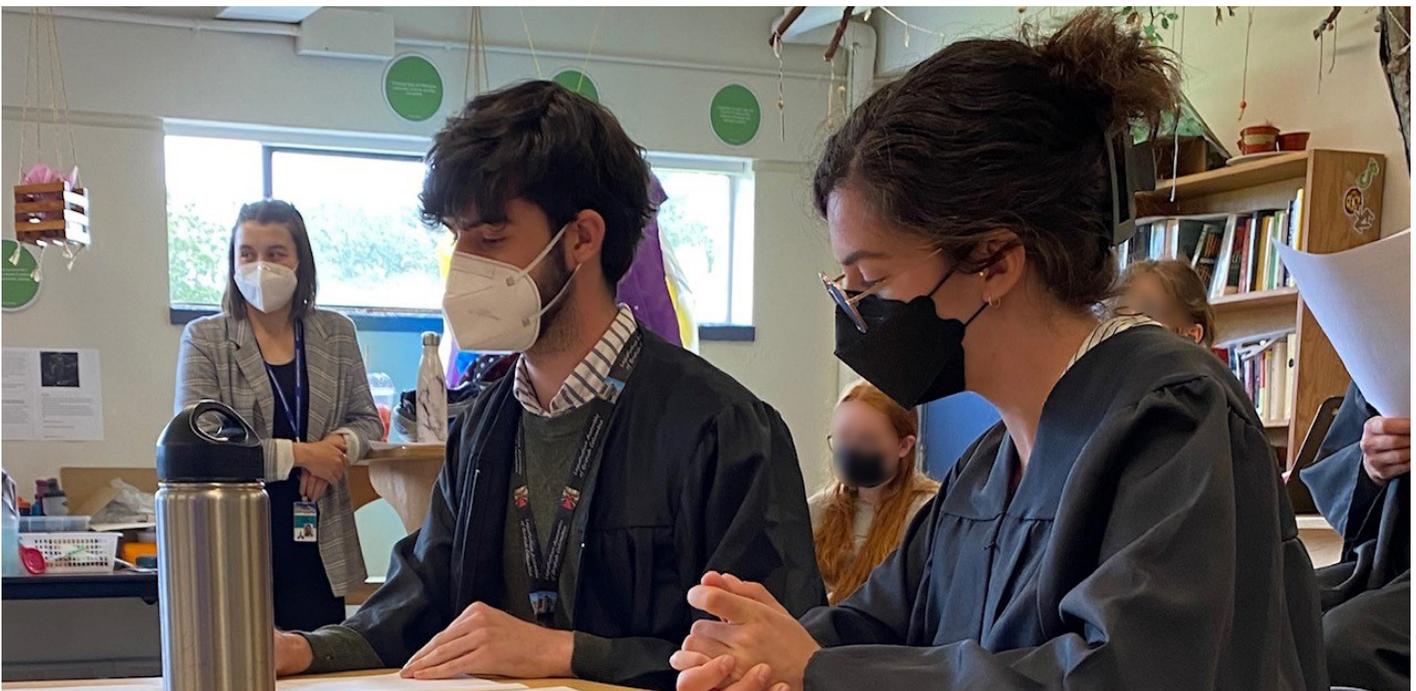
They are passionate, curious, and deeply concerned with equity and helping their communities. We look forward to a future that is in their hands.

We joked a few times that we should be letting the students write the laws of this province. They are passionate, curious, and deeply concerned with equity and helping their communities. We look forward to a future that is in their hands.

Special thanks to Brad Cunningham from Reynolds; Corie and Kate for supporting the workshops; all the interns for helping on the days of the model parliament; and Matthew and Karen for advice.



Corie and Kate serving as advisors to Government and the Press Gallery



Aidan and Mary serving as the clerks for Reynolds High's Model Parliament

STUDENT EDUCATION DAY

LANSDOWNE LANDS AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

By Olivia Botelho & Aidan Guerreiro



Aidan leading an activity at the Speaker's Chair

As young people interested in public policy, we are always looking for ways to entice the next generation of youth into the world of politics. Luckily, we were given an opportunity to do just that through the annual Student Education Day. However, as is often the case with these events, we ended up learning as much from the students as they did from us.

On the morning of June 20th, we met with 40 grade 8 students from Lansdowne Middle School and got to show them around the Parliament Buildings. We split them up into two groups and did a number of activities, which included a mock debate where students took on the roles of Government, Official Opposition, and Speaker to debate important issues like a bill proposing to extend school lunch hours. They also conducted an exercise in budgeting, having to work together to decide whether to spend limited public money on the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Education, or the Ministry of Public Safety.

In the later part of the morning, the students were guided around the Parliament Buildings' exterior by the Parliamentary Players, who performed a play about the role of children in a democracy and the importance of protest and standing up to injustice. They were also able to participate in a scavenger hunt across the front lawns where they learned about the many landmarks of the Parliament Buildings.

Special thanks to Mme. Jenne Martin and Mme. Charlotte Dorion for facilitating this event with their students and to the students for being wonderful young parliamentarians.

MODEL PARLIAMENT

E.T. PHONE THE HOUSE

By Rose Williams & Mitch Robinson

The year is 2121 and the past century has seen tumultuous transformations, leaving the 47th Session of the BCLIP Model Parliament with numerous issues to discuss. The most pressing issues of the 2020s have largely been resolved. While complete global destruction was avoided, Earth was still subject to chronic catastrophes, particularly immense climate disasters and the destruction of most digital technology. By the early 2100s, Earth began to emerge from the climate crisis, but with costly and long-lasting effects. The most devastating outcome being the severe shortage of fresh water, with BC having one of the world's last remaining reserves.



Premier Rose's rebuttal in a fiery debate in the House

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Milky Way, a small contingent of aliens were caught between an intergalactic war and narrowly managed to escape as refugees. While searching for a new home, they came across Earth and accidentally crashed into Northern BC. The aliens indicated they would be willing to leave Earth if it could get the necessary fuel it needs to power their ship: fresh water. However, in exchange for our help, the aliens would share their advanced knowledge

and technologies with the Government of British Columbia.

Sticking to their guns, the Σn-nov8 Party embraced the arrival of aliens as a unique opportunity to strategically develop cross-sector partnerships for mutual benefit.

Elected on a platform to make BC more prosperous through strategic private-public partnerships that re-establish the tech sector, improve water infrastructure, and address the insistent creep of climate related disasters on the diverse environments of beautiful BC, the Σn-nov8 Party, led by Hon. Rose Williams (MLA for Oolichan River), must now grapple with the Alien crisis. Sticking to their guns, the Σn-nov8 Party embraced the arrival of aliens as a unique opportunity to strategically develop cross-sector partnerships for mutual benefit. Keen to learn from the advanced tech of the alien species and recognizing that BC holds the upper hand, the Government establishes a proposal that requires aliens to share specific knowledge to either gain permanent residence in BC or portions of fresh water that can eventually be utilized for their return to an alternate galaxy. While a potentially contentious decision considering the scarcity of fresh water, the Government is betting on the promise of alien technology to help navigate future challenges. However, with only 5 of 12 seats in the Legislative Assembly, they required support from at least 1 of the 2 Opposition parties to maintain confidence in Government.

With 4 seats, the Astro Alien Alliance Party, led by MLA for Leo-Rising, Jerika Caduhada, formed the Official Opposition. They ran on a commitment to increase immigration and alien technology investments in order to re-ignite the economy and address the damages created by climate change. Regarding the recent Alien development, they proposed BC accept the alien refugees, but that measures are implemented to ensure peace and collaboration with alien populations. Their Building Amendment Act (Bill M57), otherwise known as the Boondoggle Ban Bill, proposes to ban all larger-than-average-size objects to limit the chances of further accidental alien crash landings. This Act also requires all buildings to be inspected for potential intergalactic consequences.



Opposition Leader Jerika giving a passionate speech about alien support

Alternatively, the #Party, led by Margarita Simon, MLA for Bev Bay, secured 3 seats on their promise to increase high-speed internet connectivity and introduce the Be Connected (BC) App to connect people with each other in an efficient and affordable manner. They believe in the power of social media to inspire connection and bring vital economic opportunities for British Columbians. However, they also recognize the limitations of increasing rural connectivity and the challenges of online hate and internet trolls that have endured climate catastrophes. Therefore, the #Party believes BC should negotiate with the newly arrived aliens to use their tech to drastically increase connectivity and #EradicateHate. In exchange, the #Party will provide free #influencer training to aliens. To this end, #Party

Their Building Amendment Act (Bill M57), otherwise known as the Boondoggle Ban Bill, proposes to ban all larger-than-average-size objects to limit the chances of further accidental alien crash landings.

proposed Bill M202, An Act to #BeConnected, which aims to increase the implementation of high-speed internet connectivity, launch the BC App, and require collaboration with aliens to harness their technology to improve connection for all.

Overall, the 2022 Interns had a wonderful and informative experience. Special thanks to Hansard Services, our outstanding Speaker Matthew Creswick, our LG (and Page) Karen, and our Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms Nathan.



Third Party Leader Margarita asks a question to the Government

JUDICIAL DAY

INTERN V. INTERN: BCLIP MOCK TRIAL

By Jerika Caduhada & Margarita Simon



Order in the Court!

Contrary to this opening line, order was not my and Margarita's top priority in planning our cohort's Mock Trial. Our venture was to familiarize the cohort with judicial roles and procedure while encouraging critical thinking and creativity regarding a thought-provoking legal case. Our case of choice? *Denis v. Côté*, a criminal case that brought its debate on the exposure of journalistic sources all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. In this case, a politician accused of corruption argues that a journalistic article published on such corruption was engineered by the government in order to compromise his trial. He claims that the confidential sources behind the article must be revealed in order to prove the extent of government malfeasance.

After some slight adjustments to the original case, our quick but riveting 1-hour trial was comprised of 4 witnesses, 3 jurors, 2 lawyers for each side, and 1 judge. Each intern received a profile of their role that included a character description and objective. To complicate

things further, each role came with a character fun fact that the assigned intern was tasked with seamlessly integrating into their performance. With these new roles and challenges, the cohort flourished. They received neither formal script nor information on the actual proceedings of the case, and so on a Thursday afternoon in a shining courtroom, our cohort delved deeply into 2 burning questions: 1) Is this a case in which it is justified to disclose information that identifies a confidential journalistic source? and 2) How does one balance the public interest in the administration of justice with the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of journalistic sources? Unsurprisingly, that 1 hour overflowed with thoughtful debate and just the right touch of humour.

The remainder of Judicial Day was ripe with even more moments of learning and connection, this time with several speakers who answered our questions and spoke with us about their experiences in the legal field. Special thanks to all such speakers for their time and generosity. With 3 interns in our cohort attending law school in the fall, we know that those conversations will be treasured and remembered well.

All in all, cohort deliberations lasted a record 0.2 seconds to reach the verdict that Judicial Day was a resounding success.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW SUBMISSIONS

Each year, interns have the opportunity to submit an article to the Canadian Parliamentary Review. This allows interns to write about a topic that would be of interest to legislators across Canada and contribute to broader parliamentary discourse on a national level. With advice from Matthew Creswick and Artour Sogomonian, interns Kate Korte and Jerika Caduhada submitted articles to the Canadian Parliamentary Review.

DIVING INTO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DRESS CODES

By Kate Korte

Dress codes in Canada's provincial and territorial legislative assemblies quickly gain media attention amid controversy, but seldom attract closer examination by academics. In a submission for the Canadian Parliamentary Review, I researched the guidelines or rules related to dress in each legislative assembly and looked to 63 Hansard and media references to dress codes. With the exception of Ontario, where members may choose whether to wear a tie, all legislative assemblies appear to maintain the precedent that male members must wear a jacket and tie while women members must wear comparable attire. In my examination of Hansard references, I found that most (22) Points of Order regarding attire surround the jacket and tie requirement. Very few Hansard references (two) were about women's attire.

In some cases, the dress code does not deliberately use gendered wording. However, Hansard references indicate that these codes have been interpreted as requiring men to wear jackets and ties. My research concludes that engendering the rules of acceptable parliamentary dress presents a barrier to gendered diversity. Further, I argue dress codes engrain the gendered norm that a man in a suit is the ideal image of a parliamentarian. With the advent of virtual sessions and ongoing discussions of acceptable attire, it remains to be seen whether the jacket and suit requirement will remain and whether the gendered nature of dress codes will continue to perpetuate gendered norms surrounding business attire.

AUTHENTICITY AS A COMMUNICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN SERVICE OF YOUTH DEMOCRATIC MOBILIZATION

By Jerika Caduhada

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected to represent their constituents in the legislative decision-making processes of the province, and vital to this task of representation is the corresponding task of building a trusting, communicative relationship with those they represent. In our increasingly technological society, social media has become an important conduit for this relationship, especially with respect to MLAs' relationships with youth ages 18–30. However, voter engagement stays at a low for age groups 18–24 and 25–34, with less than half of registered voters in such groups voting in provincial general elections. My article responds specifically to this disjuncture that can be found in relationships between youth and formal politics.

As multiple studies attribute this disengagement to a sense of cynicism and distrust amongst youth, I explore the concept of authenticity as a framework through which a politician can foster trust with their younger constituents online. Authenticity in this case is understood as an alignment between communicated identity-rooted values and perceived patterns of action. Authenticity's democratic value, as I posit in the article, is its ability to highlight a politician's humanity and reliability, both traits that enable trust. For this article, I interviewed 12 MLAs—5 from each of Government and Official Opposition as well as both MLAs from the Third Party Caucus—on their approach to and experience of social media. My article overlays these interviews against pre-existing literature, culminating in a reflection on how a sense of authenticity on social media can aid youth democratic mobilization.



MEMORIES & ARTICLES

LEGISLATIVE LIMERICKS

PREPOSTEROUS POEMS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT

By Aidan Guerreiro

There once was a Member named Rose
whose heckles were bombastic shows.
When her questions were answered,
it was writ down in Hansard:
“An Honourable Member: Oh, Oh.”

Deputy Minister Corie
was politically oscillatory
Never raised an objection
after every election:
Liberal, Dipper or Tory!

Jerika carried the Mace
at a quite unbelievable pace.
At procession each day
the Speaker would say:
“Have mercy, it isn’t a race!”

There was a House Leader named Kate
whose time management skills were so great
that from Speaker’s procession
to the end of the session
was wrapped-up by 10:48.

Lieutenant Governor Jerram
had some grievances but couldn’t air ‘em.
When the Government sent
for Royal Assent,
he shook his head no (just to scare them!)

Margarita put forward a motion
she defended with utter devotion.
“The Chamber,” she stressed,
“Should be moved to New West.”
Let’s just say it caused quite the commotion.

When the Chamber would go to recess
Clerk Tiffany, to decompress,
Took a stroll, and would roam
To the top of the dome,
Causing all tourists distress.

Speaker Ireland gave a decision
remarkable in its precision:
“TikTok-ing QP
Is unparliament’ry –
or at least do it out of my vision”

Olivia sponsored an act
that was sweeping yet very compact.
It was genius because
it had only one clause –
but boy was that one sentence packed!

Parliament’ry Librarian Mary
had an evening encounter quite scary.
In the fireside nook
with an old, leather book:
was the ghost of Francis Rattenbury!

Mitch, the MLA for Mission
Was called for a vote on division.
As he rushed to the House
He encountered a mouse,
And caused a three-party collision!

There was a young intern named Aidan,
Who didn’t understand how limericks worked.
He tried to write one,
But didn’t understand the rhyme scheme.
Politics.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

REFLECTING ON A BRAND NEW EXPERIENCE

By Corie Kielbiski

After the first week of orientation, fellow gov-tern, and polar-dip enthusiast Kate Korte, asked the interns if anyone wanted to join her for a dip in the ocean – this was the first week of January 2022.

On a brisk Sunday morning, the two “cool- interns” who put their names forward, Ireland and I, bravely joined Kate, in addition to a few regular polar dippers, on Dallas Road. Walking barefoot onto the unsteady rocks up to the water’s edge we looked upon the frigid ocean with anticipation and I reflected on how this dip was going to be a perfect metaphor for diving into the intern experience.

As we began our internship, we were all nervous and unsure about what to expect. The first week of intense orientation provoked both excitement and anxiety about everything to come. I remember feeling like we were all going to be a part of something that was bigger than ourselves; the impressive power of the Parliament Buildings, with its stoic rooms and hardened traditions were intimidating, but also thrilling.

Moving first into ministry and independent office placements, then to our caucus assignments and constituency weeks, required letting go of all expectations and the fear of being unprepared. The internship is not a program you can tip toe into lightly, it is an immersive educational work experience that pushed us out of our comfort zone and into the fun of the unexpected.

We had the opportunity of learning from and interacting with many impressive people who would later become our friends and we participated in all

kinds of adventures, such as going on road trips with different MLA’s, touring lumber mills, art galleries, a wind farm, and even Site C! A highlight of the internship was connecting with the other interns and developing strong relationships with each other. Like polar dipping, the solidarity and encouragement from each other was invaluable to navigating our shared experiences.

So, there we stood, at the edge of the Pacific Ocean, thinking about the icy waters prickling our skin. Like most things, the anticipation was the hardest part. The internship has been an incredibly welcoming and rewarding experience and myself and my fellow cool interns have no regrets about jumping into the freezing water. In fact, we have each been back to do it again.

Deep breath in.

AROUND THE LEG



Interns on top of the world! ... or at least on top of the Dome



Creative Industries Week



A heart-shaped lunch gathering on the back steps on Valentine's Day



Interns enjoying the best view in Victoria from the dome



Corie, Jerika and Rose hanging out in the upper rotunda

MEET & GREET

INTERNS MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES



Hon. Janet Austin OBC
Lieutenant Governor



Hon. John Horgan
Premier



Sonia Furstenu
Third Party Leader



Kevin Falcon
Official Opposition Leader



Hon. Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance



Hon. Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

MLA INTERVIEWS

A PERSPECTIVE FROM EACH CAUCUS

By Kate Korte, Mary Heeg, Jerram Gawley, Rose Williams

These interviews have been edited for length and clarity.



MLA Aman Singh
By Kate Korte

MLA Singh brings his passions for equity, anti-racism, the environment, and mental health and addictions to the Government Caucus. He is also the first turban-wearing Sikh elected to the Legislative Assembly of BC. Prior to being elected, Singh was a prominent lawyer, advocate, and businessperson in his community of Richmond-Queensborough.

When you're in the legislature, how do you ensure that the voices of people in your community are being heard and brought to the table?

Every day I'm in contact with my constituency office, multiple times a day. The constituency offices are the key to bringing our constituents' concerns into the Legislature and into the government. There's not much opportunity to do it here in Question Period; the opportunity is behind the lines. Sometimes it's a specific issue that has a solution. And sometimes, it's

something that the government hasn't looked at or hasn't thought about and it's something that will inform their decisions in the future.

An example is the Richmond Night Market, which is a huge event for Richmond. Traditionally they've had over 300 vendors. So it's not just one business -- it's about 300 businesses that are dependent on the Night Market. They were suffering because they haven't been able to open for two years, and they were paying their lease costs hoping that they would be able to open.

We approached them to figure out what was going on. We were able to work with TACS (Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport) and we were able to get them a million dollar grant, without which there would have been no Richmond Night Market last year.

Do you encourage young people to enter politics? Why or why not?

Absolutely. This is the way to engage the government. Our government makes decisions that affect everybody so it's really important to be engaged with government. The government is only going to have the perspective of people that are sitting in it which is why you see equities and social justice become such a big thing for our government because you have a whole bunch of people of colour that weren't there before. You have a caucus of more than 30% women. And so we're able to look at it with that lens because we make up that lens.

If you don't have young people involved in politics,

there's a whole perspective that's going to be left out. We have a few young people in our caucus now and we have the youth council. We're starting to get that perspective, but it's important because youth bring energy, innovation, and new ideas.

You come from a social justice and equity background. Now coming into politics, what are some things that you've limitations of the formal political sphere?

This really is a bureaucracy. In government, there's a lot of things that you have to take into account. You wish you could just snap your fingers and get rid of fossil fuels and have a utopian future, but you can't. You have to work within confines. That's sort of frustrating, especially coming from the outside.

There's also constraints because the previous government may have signed contracts and they have committed the government to something and now you're the government. And if you were to break those contracts, there's financial and legal consequences that affect the rest of what you do. The Site C Dam is a perfect example of that.

How would you describe your job as an MLA in three words?

Gratifying, fulfilling, and tons of fun. It's like being in university again because you're here talking with your peers. I'm with my people. We share our values in common. It's a blast. I love working here.



MLA Lorne Doerkson

By Mary Heeg

Elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2020, MLA Doerkson brings a fierce commitment to advocating for his constituents in the Assembly. Prior to his election, he worked in newspaper publishing, the automobile industry, and financial services.

How do you bring forward the voices of people in your constituency?

I've had opportunities in Question Period to bring forth a number of questions and have quoted people in my riding that have sent either letters or reached out. I have been able to introduce, also, a number of motions and Private Member's Statements on Monday mornings that we enjoy here at the legislature.

Those Monday morning statements are very important. It's an opportunity to reach out across the floor to say, "look, remember this, because this is really serious." [I don't think sending letters on issues is] nearly as successful as being able to tap a minister on the shoulder in the hallway [and have a] conversation without the bright lights of Question Period and say, "Minister, I need your help." That is a way that we've been able to advocate in a big way for people in my riding.

I'm curious if you encourage other people to involve themselves in politics, particularly young people. Why or why not?

Yeah, I have actually. There's been one young lad in particular in Williams Lake that I have actually introduced in the House. He took a very active approach to organizing vaccine clinics, as a volunteer. We've talked to a number of young people in our riding that have taken an active role so we've definitely tried to encourage [young people] when we can for sure.

What do you feel are some of the limitations of formal politics?

I think the limitation is the speed at which things move here. [Compared to the private sector] I can appreciate that we need to be perhaps a little bit more aware of some of the things that we're doing when we're doing projects and other things. But I think we really owe it to the taxpayers to move faster. I think that that is a big challenge in our system today.

If you had to describe your job in three words, what would you pick?

I would say that first and foremost, it is extremely busy. Challenging, and rewarding.

What is something that you're proud to have influenced while you've been here?

During the wildfires of 2021, I felt pretty proud of being able to communicate information that was sometimes difficult to get out. During that time, there were so many people that were reaching out. I really feel like we did the best we could and I'm certainly not going to suggest that we couldn't do better. But I think that we did a very good job of reaching out to our community.



MLA Adam Olsen

By Rose Williams, Jerram Gawley

Adam Olsen, STHENEP, is a member of Tsartlip First Nation and the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2017 and continues to keep tension on the line in all political spaces he enters. MLA Olsen's background in local politics is evident through his extensive knowledge and close ties to all communities in his riding.

How do you ensure that the voices of your constituents and communities are brought forward?

Open their emails and answer their calls. I put a very high-value on the correspondence that comes in—phone calls, emails, random Facebook messages. We hear a lot about how people will reach out to their MLAs and not hear anything back: not even an acknowledgement that they received their email. Back in 2017, I established the significant expectation that we should respond to anyone that emails us, and their unique concerns. My constituency advocates do a wonderful job of keeping me updated on this correspondence daily, allowing me to address constituent issues and concerns as they arise through the avenues I have access to as an MLA.

Who inspired you to enter politics?

Ironically, it was the NDP candidate who ran against me in the last provincial election, Zeb King. He was a Municipal Councillor in the District of Central Saanich.

He came knocking on my door and said “we need more Indigenous people involved in our government. You ever thought about participating in the official community planning process in Central Saanich?” I had never. But Zeb came back a couple months later and asked, “You ever thought about running for local government?” And I said, “nope never thought about that either.” We spent about 6 months having coffee meetings on Saturday mornings and Zeb convinced me that it was something I should try. I ran and ended up serving a three-year term in local government. Two years into the following term, I left to run provincially.

Do you encourage other people to get involved in politics?

100%. I’m going to be putting some videos out pretty soon to highlight just that. I have always invited people who are interested in running for politics, no matter what party, to learn from the experiences I have had. I have won local and provincial elections, I’ve lost an election, and I’ve contributed to building a political party. I am always happy to share these experiences and what I have learned from them.

There would only be very rare occasions when I wouldn’t offer my support to people interested in running for office – when people have values that are obviously deeply contradictory to mine. But I ultimately believe our democracy is better with a variety of voices and opinions. So, from a process perspective, I’m happy to share my experiences and offer my support to anyone seeking guidance.

What are some of the limitations of formal politics?

Political parties... they turn good debate sour. It is so disheartening when I have members from other parties come to me and tell me that I need to keep asking the questions I am asking. Why are they not asking those questions themselves? I will continue to ask these questions for my own reasons, but not because someone else lacks the political courage to ask them or

the courage to stand up for themselves.

What is something that you are proud to have influenced while you have been here?

Definitely the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). The pressure that we provided during CASA created the landscape for DRIPA to be passed. Second to DRIPA, I consider the work that we have done to change the view of opposition, to change the view that “the worst day in Government is still better than the best day in Opposition” to be incredibly important. There is not a bad day in Opposition. There is a huge amount of honour in holding the government accountable and doing it well. My project has and continues to be to improve the view of the Opposition, as an essential part of the institution.

THE PERSON BEHIND THE PAPER FOR THOSE IN POWER

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SHANNON WATERS

By Mitch Robinson

This interview has been edited for length.

Shannon Waters writes BC Today, a daily newsletter focusing on the events that transpire in both the walls of BC's Parliament Buildings and throughout the rest of the province. Every weekday morning, decision-makers and employees throughout the Buildings receive this well-crafted recap of the previous day's legislative proceedings and insights into the important issues affecting British Columbians. I had the pleasure of sitting down with her to discuss her experience as a journalist and a member of the Buildings' prestigious Press Gallery.



Shannon Waters
BC Today

What's it been like writing a newspaper that's largely read by the people that are here and making decisions? Has that impacted how you write?

It is different than doing community news. There's a different focus about what my audience is interested in. A lot of it is probably a bit more like inside baseball and nuts and bolts stuff than your average person, even one who is interested in politics. It was definitely a transition coming out of a community news focused environment and learning the ropes of writing for a particular subscription audience.

Moving to COVID-19, what was it like to be one of the only few, if not the only, journalist that was in the building during COVID?

Yeah, it's been a weird two years to say the least. We went on break, spring break for the House was in the

middle of March 2020, and then we just never came back. I was present for the emergency session that we had in March of 2020 to pass the COVID bills. I was in the House in the summer when they did the virtual session, and actually that's the only time I've set foot in the Chamber.

Access is better when you're in-person. I certainly have better luck getting picked to ask questions during press conferences if I'm physically present in the room versus on the phone. You really miss a lot when you're not in the room. I cover Question Period by live tweeting and as part of our daily coverage, and I feel like I just get so much of a better feel for what's going on in the Chamber when you can actually see everybody who's present and see how they're reacting. You also catch some of the heckling and the back and forth, which you

don't necessarily hear when you're relying on a Hansard feed.

BC Today has the slogan '100% independent, 100% objective', yet everyone has opinions and biases. How do you maintain your objectivity?

My aim is always to be, to use the phrase that we always use 'fair and balanced', in my writing, and, as much as possible in my job, my professional capacity, recognizing that I do have beliefs about policy and politics and recognizing that those are not things that need to make their way into my writing. For me, it's a lot about just being aware of where my personal sympathies lie, and where my personal antipathies lie, and where those biases are.

One of the things that I do a lot with my writing is I typically write something out and then I go back and read it. I interrogate adjectives a lot because adjectives are important for writing not to be really dry and boring. The other thing I think is helpful is including multiple voices. None of the groups I write about are objective; none of them are coming from this so-called view from nowhere; they all have skin in the game; they all have goals, aims and desires. The more of that you can capture in terms of the whole picture, the more accurate of a picture you can present to your audience. That's what I try to do.

You brought up the bare arms protest, becoming a face of it, and the experience and pushback that happened against you. If you wouldn't mind expanding on what that experience was like, and the value that you saw in it.

It was really surreal. I was like not even a year into the job at that point in time, and none of us thought it was going to happen the way that I did. We were more approaching it as almost a tongue in cheek "what are you going to do?" kind of mentality. Like, what are they going to do if we all show up and we all have bare arms? If you've seen that picture of us all in the hallway, I

think I was wearing like a ruffled sleeve, there was a racerback tank top, you know, it varied how much arm was showing, but it was just supposed to be kind of tongue in cheek "this is ridiculous" and highlighting that.



The Right to Bare Arms
(Dirk Meissner/Canadian Press)

Then it became a news story, which was not expected, and it was complicated because as reporters all of us were part of the story, which makes things awkward. The reason that I became the face of it, essentially, was because none of my colleagues and the other women in the Press Gallery were allowed to discuss it with other media. So, they couldn't discuss it with their own outlets because they're sort of the story, and then because of the way media works, they weren't going to be doing interviews with other outlets.

It was like you can talk about it and discuss your experience and sort of speak for these other women or, you know, male reporters can be the ones to offer their thoughts, and they'll be the only ones speaking.

I give full credit to my boss because she was on a plane that day. I initially reached out to her and was like, "Hey, there's this thing happening, and I don't know what to do". Then I was basically like, okay, so I understand you can't respond, I'm just going to use my best judgment and go ahead and do this and we can discuss afterwards whether I should have done something differently. She basically landed and was like "okay, so this is a national news story now". She told me I should pitch a column to CBC, and that's what I ended up doing.

It forced the Legislative Assembly to think about its rules, and I still kind of feel the same way that I did when I wrote that column, which is the Legislative Assembly wasn't built for women. It still, I don't think, fully embraces women. We're still a bit of an afterthought. They don't mention us in the dress code, which is why they couldn't enforce the bare arms policy. We only just have our first female clerk, our first woman sort of leading the House, and that started only years ago. So yeah, it's a weird place to work, and it was weird that we had to have the bare arms thing happen.

You touched on what it is like being a woman in a very male dominated field of political journalism, and in a male dominated building of politics. What has that been like and what do you hope to see going into the future?

I think, first of all, things are changing, things are getting better. As far as I'm concerned, it's happening far too slowly. But I guess I would like to see more people remember that there are women in the Press Gallery. We're almost half of the active members right now, yet most people probably couldn't name half of us, but they can tell you probably two thirds of the men who are working in the Press Gallery. I do feel that like there is less recognition of the women who are in the Gallery.

It's nice to see more women in the House as well. It's nice to see a woman clerk. There have been days when it's all women at the Clerk's Table, which I always like, but there's other kinds of representation that are severely lacking in the House as well. The Press Gallery is overwhelmingly white. Even if we're approaching gender parity, we're nowhere near representative of this province when it comes to the reporters who are in the Gallery, and their backgrounds and experience. I hope to see that change.

I guess my hope is that things keep changing and the various people who are in the Building keep pushing the envelope on various issues. When it comes to representation and participation and access, that we keep getting better in every corner of these Buildings in terms of representing the people of BC.



Spending the day at Government House



Touring around Government House

VISITING GOVERNMENT HOUSE



Tiffany and Kate with a statue



Jerika and Ireland wishing on dandelions



Exploring the gardens



Corie in the ballroom

ALUMNI INTERVIEW

CATCHING UP WITH TYLER NORMAN

By Margarita Simon



Name	Tyler Norman
Cohort Year	2017
Ministry Placement	Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Caucus Placement	Government
Current Role	B.C. Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance
Current Location	Ottawa, O.N.

What have you been up to since the Internship?

Tyler completed the program in 2017 and then took a job working in communications for Terry Beech, Member of Parliament for Burnaby North—Seymour. He spent four years at MP Beech's office, most notably serving as MP Beech's Executive Director for over two years. After his time at MP Beech's office, he took a role as the Western Regional Advisor to the Federal Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade and later transitioned into his current role as a BC Regional Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland. He advises the Minister on issues and policies specific to BC and engages with her provincial counterparts.

How did the Internship set you up for a career in Politics?

The internship was a catalyst for Tyler's career in politics. The combination of practical skills and real-world work experience in caucus and at the Ministry of

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation complemented his degree in political science and paved the way for a communications role at MP Terry Beech's office. He credits the BCLIP as a truly unique experience that gave him a behind the scenes look into the politics and policy work which fueled his work as an alumni.

What was the biggest take away you gained from BCLIP?

Tyler's biggest take away from the BCLIP is how valuable the internship was for his career development. It gave him a chance to explore different career avenues before branching off into politics. Thanks to the flexibility and diversity of the program, Tyler was able to see different career paths such as those in the BC Public Service, as well as different areas of caucus work. This exposure ultimately prompted his desire to pursue more political roles within the federal government.

Do you have any advice for those looking to enter a similar field?

Tyler believes that for anyone looking to pursue a career in politics in BC, Ottawa, or at the local level, the best thing they can do is start by volunteering in their community. Whether it's helping out their local elected officials with assisting constituents, going door-to-door to fundraise for a local non-profit, or getting involved at their local foodbank, building a passion for making their community a better place is key to finding success in politics. Connecting on a personal level and truly understanding the community's concerns is essential for meaningful local representation and will help them find opportunities and growth in politics.

BCLIP ALUMNI CORNER

BCLIP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By Esther Rzeplinski (2014)



45th reunion in the Hall of Honour

The BCLIP Alumni Association (BCLIPAA), formed in 2016, resumed its fun programming after a couple of quiet COVID years.

The 45th reunion was hosted by the Office of the Speaker in November. The evening event was held in the Parliament Buildings and emceed by Zara Rahman. We also had wonderful speeches from the Deputy Speaker Spencer Chandra Herbert, George Abbott (inaugural alumnus and former MLA and Minister); our much loved former Academic Director, Dr. Patrick Smith (or Paddy); and father and daughter alumni duo Abby (2021) and Ben Koning (1988).

It was wonderful to reunite with old friends and colleagues and celebrate the legacy and importance of the BC Legislative Internship Program.

BCLIPAA also continued the new alumni mentoring program and hosted a pub night in May. Both offerings connected current, recent and more experienced (isn't that the kindest way to say "old"?!) interns.

Matt Dell (2011) and Esther Rzeplinski (2014), the Alumni leads, are thrilled by both how engaged alumni are and how bright and energetic current interns are! We look forward to continuing the mentoring program and hosting a couple of casual pub nights in 2022-23!

If you'd like to become involved or have ideas for future programming, please join our Facebook page or email us at bclipaa@gmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED

To stay connected with the B.C. Legislative Internship Program and receive your annual Gazette publication (digital or printed copy), please contact us with your current contact information.

Email: BCLIP@leg.bc.ca

Phone: (250)-387-8669

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

By Tiffany Lee

This year, interns once again had the opportunity to connect with BCLIP alumni through a mentorship program facilitated by Esther Rzeplinski and the BCLIP Alumni Association. Many alumni expressed their willingness to support our internship journeys and we were fortunate enough to connect with several former interns who were working in a field closely related to our own career interests. Our alumni mentors were incredibly generous and gracious with sharing their knowledge and insights, and we are extremely grateful for their support and guidance.

Aidan Guerreiro	Emily Barner (2015)
Jerika Caduhada	Matthew Chan (2015)
Jerram Gawley	Jennifer (Jenn) Goad (2009)
Kate Korte	Katie Comley (2011)
Margarita Simon	Faizel Gulamhussein (2007)
Mary Heeg	Jacob Helliwell (2012)
Rose Williams	Renae Snell (2014)
Tiffany Lee	Alissa Wrean (2015)

Special thank you to Esther Rzeplinski, who was our Program Manager for only 1 week but continued to provide mentorship throughout the internship.

CONSTITUENCY REFLECTION

LEARNING FROM THE GROUND-LEVEL

By Ireland Bellsmith

For two weeks in March, the interns departed the Parliament Buildings to visit different constituencies around the province. My journey began in Coast Salish territory where I was introduced to the lively and multifarious riding of Vancouver-Hastings

The vibrant streets of this constituency are filled with tons of busy shops, well-loved restaurants, eye-catching art, and community-centered organizations. On the edge of the Burrard Inlet, this urban hub is also complimented by plenty of natural beauty, encompassing many parks and brilliant surroundings of water and mountains. From an exclusive tour of Science World, to sitting with a panel of women leaders, and then engaging with childcare representatives, every part of this week was unique and captivating.

My time spent with MLA Niki Sharma allowed me to witness her gracious and supportive nature with constituents and exposed me to the rich history and remarkable features of her community. With its engaging atmosphere and progressive nature, there is no doubt that the constituency of Vancouver-Hastings is an enlivening place to be.

From an exclusive tour of Science World, to sitting with a panel of women leaders, and then engaging with childcare representatives, every part of this week was unique and captivating.

But just as I'd adjusted to its busy and vibrant surroundings, it was time for me to trade life in the city for a serene and coastal atmosphere. By ferry, I

traversed the Salish Sea while ruminating over the vastness of British Columbia and its social landscape. I looked forward with wonder, interested in learning how things would compare in the Sunshine Coast.



On the ferry from Vancouver to the Sunshine Coast

On my first day, I was graciously welcomed to the Sechelt office by Minister Nicholas Simons and his remarkable constituency assistant Kim Tournat. To my surprise, the office was located just a few steps away from the Davis Bay Seawall, allowing me to experience the beautiful scenery of the lower coast, even while in the office. And of all the experiences I've had during this internship, being interviewed by a reporter from the Powell-River Peak alongside Minister Simons was definitely one of the "coolest".

Apart from supporting constituency work in the office, I was fortunate to visit many different coastal areas within the traditional territories of the Tla'amin, Klahoose, shíshá'lh, Skwxwú7mesh, and Homalco Nations. Our daily ventures across Sechelt, Roberts Creek, and Gibsons allowed me to experience each community from the ground-level and enhanced my

understanding of the features that distinguish them. From hiking through the Sechelt Heritage Forest trails to see the incredible Hidden Groves to experiencing the natural and crafted art pieces stationed throughout Gibsons and Roberts Creek, beauty in the Sunshine Coast is incredibly abundant.

Later in the week, we ventured to Powell-River to meet with constituency assistant and BCLIP 2016 alumnus Robert Hill. Hailing from the region himself, Robert's deep connections within the constituency led us to visit the village of Sliammon, an area just north of the city of Powell-River where the Tla'amin Nation stands. Upon our arrival, we met with Tla'amin Nation Executive Council Member Losa Luaifoa who kindly welcomed us into the Governance House and answered our many questions and interests regarding the community and self-governance.



Tla'amin Nation Governance House

After learning about the Tla'amin Final Agreement during my ministry placement at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, I felt incredibly honoured to be invited onto this ancestral territory to learn about the Nation from the ground-level, and about the work being done to elevate Indigenous voices and celebrate Indigenous history and resilience in the qathet region through qa t'hah yeesht, "a group of people coming together for a purpose".



Exploring qathet Regional District

My experiences across these different regions were vital to my understanding of the province, the important work of MLAs, and the various issues that are introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

As I reflect on these two weeks, I recognize what a privilege it was to experience British Columbia in such an immersive, holistic, and grounding way. I've learned that embarking on a new journey without knowing where it will lead you often brings you exactly what you're meant to discover.

AFTER HOURS



Interns at the Alumni Social

Mary Heeg

Anyone want to do happy hour today 🙄

8:02 AM



Stumbled upon a carnival in Esquimalt



Latin dancing social



Hiking at PKOLS (Mount Doug)



Making mugs at 4Cats



Lavender s'mores at a lavender farm



At Bilston Creek Lavender Farm



Enjoying the view at Witty's Lagoon



Hiking at Witty's Lagoon



Galloping through lavender fields



At the Times Colonist Book Sale



At the Beavertails in Ottawa



Exploring the Glebe



Have you heard of Mitch Robinson?



Hats!



After dinner in Ottawa



Biking along the Rideau Canal



Biking along the Rideau Canal



Grabbing lunch in Ottawa



Look closely for interns



Jerika and Rose in tandem



Enjoying brunch in the Byward Market



At the Rideau Canal



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THE INTERN DIALOGUE

*THE COMMON DISCOURSE, MEMORABLE
QUOTES, AND INSIDE JOKES*

"INTERESTING"	"Don't worry everyone, we have an EXCELLENT SCENARIO"
"I said completely non-partisanly"	"Where is Aidan?!"
"We are like the little aliens from Toy Story - so excited to be chosen by the claw"	"On va squish"
"Beveridge!"	"There is a majority of people that would like the fish to be there"
"Oddly enough, not the first time I've been called a gazelle"	"Intern soup!"
"This is starting to feel like a soap opera. It's like de Jong and de Restless"	"Do you usually listen with your mouth?"
"Once we know your to-do's, we will know our to-do's, and then we will know what to do for the to-do's"	"Have you heard of Mitch Robinson?"
"We're pretty much surviving on peanut butter pretzels and doughnuts at this point"	"REALLY COOL"
	"Vegetable bouillon is the pea milk of chicken lattes"
	"We lost Aidan again"
	"Toodles!"

THANK YOU

Through this Gazette, we have tried to highlight the many, many people who have made this experience special.

We know, however, that there are countless individuals who have contributed to our internship experience and we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped us navigate the world of B.C. politics and shared their insights with us.

& FAREWELL!

As our internship comes to a close, it is time for us to say farewell to our basement offices, daily lunches on the backsteps, and political (but non-partisan) shenanigans.

While we say goodbye to our ministry mentors, caucus staffers and Legislative Assembly staff, the hardest goodbye of all is to our fellow interns who shared the same challenges, triumphs and joys throughout this journey.

We know, however, that we'll continue these friendships we've made and support each other in whatever lies ahead.

Farewell, B.C. Legislative Assembly!
Thank you for the experience of a lifetime.



Design by Ireland Bellsmith & Tiffany Lee
Photography by Jordan Reichert