

This was the second year of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP). The Board of Internal Economy in 2001, approved the proposal to initiate this program and set aside the funds to do so. This was in partnership with the University of Regina (U of R) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). I want to thank these partners for their financial and moral support for this important program. I also want to thank Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the staff in the Office of the Clerk for their support and assistance throughout the year. In a time when politics and parliamentary process seem to be less important to the general population, it is vital to have an internship program where young people of our province can work with elected representatives and government officials. It is hoped that the people of Saskatchewan will understand their political and parliamentary processes better by having SLIP. The Legislative Assembly covered the direct costs of the program. We had four sponsors who donated money to cover the costs to have the Interns travel to Toronto, Ottawa and Fredericton to meet with other Interns, Members, the media and public servants and to see other legislatures in action. I want to thank the Co-operators, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan for their generous donations. It is because of these donations that our Interns were able to broaden their studies and to travel to these three capital cities and to compare federal and provincial politics.

Our four Interns were: Cameron Baker (BA, U of S, May 2003), Corinne Barnett (BA, U of S, 2001), Bill Cooper (BA, U of R, Fall 2003) and Lee Weiss (BA, U of R, Fall 2003). These four individuals were chosen by a selection committee made up of Dr. Philip Hansen (U of R), John E. Brockelbank (Former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly), Herb Swan (Former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly), Gwenn Ronyk (Clerk of the Legislative Assembly), and myself as Academic Director and the representative from the University of Saskatchewan. Maria Kurylo was also on the selection panel representing the Interns. The committee was determined to select the four best people without concern for gender or university where the applicants studied. The results at the end of the year showed that the selection committee made wise choices. A special thanks goes out to the members of this committee who worked very hard to make these selections for 2003. As a point of interest, of the four Interns for 2004, two were from the U of R and two were from the U of S. There was one woman and three men.

The Interns' program started with a two week orientation in Regina in January 2003. The Interns met with government officials and legislative officers to study the process that they were entering. They met with caucus staff from both the government and the opposition and prepared a research plan for their research papers which were due by the end of the program.

During the first two weeks, the Interns met as a group with government members and with opposition members to determine areas of interest and research needs and plans. The Interns then selected which members they wanted to work for in conjunction with the requests and special needs of the members. The Interns served for three months with members from one side and then shifted over to the other side. The match ups were as follows:

	<b>FIRST TERM</b>	<b>SECOND TERM</b>
Cam Baker	Lyle Stewart (Opposition)	Andy Iwanchuk (Government)
Corinne Barnett	David Forbes (Government)	Dan D'Autremont (Opposition)
Bill Cooper	Graham Addley (Government)	Brad Wall (Opposition)
Lee Weiss	Greg Brkich (Opposition)	Harry Van Mulligen (Government)

I want to thank the members who agreed to work with the Interns and for their teaching abilities. The Interns wrote letters, prepared questions for Oral Question period, wrote Members' statements, prepared constituency correspondence and completed various research projects for the members. The Interns went with the member to his constituency to see first hand, the way a member represents the people in the constituency. Without the members' enthusiastic support and willingness to spend time with the Interns, the program would not have enjoyed the success it did.

The Interns planned one out of province research trip. They traveled to Fredericton, Ottawa and Toronto where they met with other Interns, Members of Parliament and the New Brunswick and Ontario Legislatures. The Interns reported that their out of province experiences were an important part of their overall very positive experience with SLIP. The Interns were thus able to compare the various different systems of government and to broaden their understanding of the Canadian Parliamentary system. A special thank you goes out to all the members, officials and Interns in Ottawa, Toronto and Fredericton who worked so willingly with the Saskatchewan Interns.

Over the seven months of the program, the Interns updated the web site for SLIP, and enhanced the visual identity for the program. Throughout the program the Interns met with key leaders in the community to learn from their leadership style and to discuss public policy issues.

With any program, certain measurables must be identified to help organizers know if the program met with success. The first measurable was the evaluations done by the members who had Interns. There was an initial concern about confidentiality and whether the Interns would be able to work for one side of the House and then transfer to the other without letting party secrets slip. The Interns proved that they were reliable and trustworthy. Interns were allowed to sit in on one of the caucuses. The members know that Interns can be very valuable to them. The Interns proved to be quick studies with a good background in the academic study of politics. They were then able to transfer this “book knowledge” into practical worth for the members. For the members who worked with Interns, their evaluations were very positive and they have already indicated they would like to have an intern again next year.

Part of the program required the Interns to make public presentations on SLIP to encourage students to apply for future years. This part of the program was to give the Interns experience with public speaking.

Another measure of growth and learning was the brief exam that the Interns wrote on their first and last days in the program. It was the same exam each time and the exercise was conducted to measure the amount of growth for each intern. The exam tested their knowledge and understanding of the parliamentary process. The Interns were tested on their approval or not of the Legislative Assembly and politicians in general. We now have a concrete measure of how their attitudes changed and improved over their seven months with the Legislature based on a better understanding of the process.

The Interns also completed evaluations of the program and offered some very helpful suggestions for improvement for next year. Notwithstanding the suggestions, the Interns expressed a very high level of satisfaction with the program and were very appreciative of the people who supported SLIP. For Interns in the program who are still students at either university, the granting of credits from the two universities has been approved and is working well.

The final requirement for each Intern was to write a twenty-five page paper of publishable quality on a parliamentary or public policy topic. Once we have enough papers over the next few years, we will publish a collection of these papers. This will add to the body of knowledge on governance and public policy. Two of the Interns this year were completing their degrees and used this option to have their Internship as a class recognized by the University of Regina. Based on their work experience and the academic paper, they received six credits toward their degree.

A financial statement for the Program is attached. This statement shows the contributions from the sponsors and amounts paid to cover the research visits to Ottawa, Toronto and Fredericton.

I can report that the first two years of the program have been a huge success thanks to the support of our sponsors, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and all members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. The last and most special thanks has to go to the four Interns themselves – Cam, Corinne, Bill and Lee for their keen enthusiasm, hard work, dedication to the Program and their love of learning about our legislative system. Each Intern has said that their experience as an Intern has altered their perception of governance and politics. Thanks to the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, we have four young people who are very knowledgeable about our political system and how the people are governed. The new Interns for 2004 are already selected and have begun their orientation. The process of serving the members and learning about our system of government will continue.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

Gordon Barnhart PH.D.  
Academic Director

**SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**August 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
July 2002	Balance as of July 31, 2002		\$1,802.08
August 2002	GST rebate on photo expenses from 02/03		\$2.13
September 2002	Donation from University of Saskatchewan		\$4,000.00
October 2003	Donation from University of Regina		\$4,000.00
November 2002	Donation from Cooperators		\$3,000.00
February 2003	Airfare for Interns trip to Ottawa and Fredericton	\$3,883.01	
April 2003	Hotel and meal expenses for Intern's trip to Ottawa	\$3,667.71	
April 2003	Donation from SGI		\$250.00
	Sub-total	\$7,550.72	\$13,054.21
July 31, 2003	<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>\$5,503.49</b>

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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**University of Saskatchewan**



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