



Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

2005 Annual Report

Preamble

“Overall, it has been all I wanted it to be. Great program. I’d do it all again.” (Kevin Chernoff, Intern)

“The internship program proved an incredibly gainful academic experience, complementing my own undergraduate education in political science. Perhaps more importantly, the internship was invaluable for the ways in which it exposed me to elected members of the legislative assembly, offices of the legislative assembly, and various government department officials who were passionate and engaged in the areas I study. For these reasons the internship program is unique and effective in encouraging young academics and leaders to continue to focus their energies on issues of relevance to the Province of Saskatchewan.” (Alyssa Peel, Intern)

“The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program can only be described as one of the most unique and important experiences of my undergraduate degree. . . . Not only has the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program allowed me to learn more extensively about the functioning of government, but it has also enabled me to gain valuable skills. By working for my MLAs, I have learned the importance of completing work that is cogent and concise in a limited amount of time. . . . I appreciate how lucky I am to be a young person in a province that recognizes the importance of youth enough to provide them with such an important experience such as this one.” (Rhiannon Stromberg, Intern)

“The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program is an experience like no other for post-secondary students and recent graduates. It is an opportunity to see the political process through the eyes of a person actively involved. . . . Personally, I felt a little bit intimidated by the whole process at the beginning of the program; however, over time you learn that MLAs are just regular people who want to make Saskatchewan a better place for everyone to live, work, and raise a family.” (Kyle Toffan, Intern)



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Introduction

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) completed its fourth year of operation in 2005. This was accomplished through generous financial and administrative assistance from the University of Saskatchewan, operational support from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, and mentorship involvement by the Speaker and members from the government and opposition caucuses.

Four interns were able to experience the entire program, in much the same way as in previous years. We were able to secure funding from almost all of our past funders, as well as attract a new sponsor.

An opportunity was presented for all partners to reaffirm their support for the program and to begin work towards enhancing the interns' experience. Through SLIP's advisory committee, the partners will be considering changes to the core program, as well as its governance structure and processes. Some changes will be implemented in 2006.

Academic Director

In 2005, Ken Pontikes was appointed to serve as the program's academic director. He replaced Dr. Gordon Barnhart who served in this capacity since the program's inception.

Our 2005 Legislative Interns

The 2005 interns were selected from applications received from students enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan. The eligibility criteria were restricted to this University in 2005 because of its financing of the program's core elements.

A selection committee was established to review the applications and select the four interns. The selection committee consisted of – Gwenn Ronyk (Clerk of the Legislative Assembly), Herb Swan and John Brockelbank (former Speakers of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan), Gordon Barnhart (academic director and representative of the University of Saskatchewan), and Ryan Griffiths (former legislative intern).

As a result of this committee's deliberations, the four interns selected to participate in the 2005 program were Kevin Chernoff, Alyssa Peel, Rhiannon Stromberg, and Kyle Toffan. Biographies of each intern have been attached to this report as Appendix A.



The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky (centre), meets with the 2005 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns: (left to right) Kevin Chernoff, Alyssa Peel, Rhiannon Stromberg, Kyle Toffan

Our 2005 Legislative Mentors

The success of this program depends on the support and assistance of individual members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. This year, four members of the opposition caucus, three members of the government caucus, and Mr. Speaker agreed to mentor the interns.

The members of the Legislative Assembly and their assigned interns were as follows:

<u>Intern</u>	<u>First Term</u>	<u>Second Term</u>
Kevin Chernoff	Jason Dearborn (Opposition)	Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky (Speaker)
Alyssa Peel	Ted Merriman (Opposition)	Sandra Morin (Government)
Rhiannon Stromberg	Doreen Hamilton (Government)	Glen Hart (Opposition)
Kyle Toffan	Glenn Hagel (Government)	Brenda Bakken Lackey (Opposition)

The interns were able to experience a wide range of activities and responsibilities involved in the work of their assigned member of the Legislative Assembly. These activities and responsibilities included providing research assistance on projects and policy issues of interest to their members, as well as assistance in responding to concerns raised by constituents. We would like to thank these members for their participation in the 2005 program. All of the interns appreciated the opportunity to experience and participate in the work of their assigned members.

The 2005 Program

Orientation Component

The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly organized a two-week orientation session for the interns. This session occurred during the first two weeks of their internship. It included meetings with Mr. Speaker, staff and officers of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of government and opposition caucuses, and representatives of the news media and of central agencies in executive government. The interns also had an opportunity to observe the meetings of various Legislative Committees.

Core Component

The interns began their assignments with four members of the Legislative Assembly (two from the government caucus and two from the opposition caucus) on January 24, 2005. These assignments continued until April 18, 2005, when three of the interns were reassigned to members from the other side of the House (two from the opposition caucus and one from the government caucus). Mr. Speaker agreed to mentor one of the interns within his office during this term.

Academic Component

The MLA assignments ended in July of 2005, with additional time allocated to the interns to work on a research paper, which constitutes the academic component of the program. The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program has been granted status as a six-credit course, Political Studies 382.6, at the University of Saskatchewan. The interns received a grade for this course, based on their research paper.

The titles of the papers prepared by the 2005 interns are as follows:

Kevin Chernoff: “The Midwestern Legislative Conference: Can it Offer Anything of Value to Further the Interests of Saskatchewan?”

Alyssa Peel: “The New Department of First Nations and Métis Relations: Why Saskatchewan Should Pay Attention to the First Report Card”

Rhiannon Stromberg: “An Opportunity for Change in the Functioning of Legislatures: Examining the Policy Field Committee System in Saskatchewan”

Kyle Toffan: “A Program Review of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program: Where do we go from Here?”

Copies of these papers have been filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Intern Development Component

An important element of the Program's intern development component involves the interns' visit to other jurisdictions where similar internship programs exist (e.g. other provinces and the federal government). This visit provides an opportunity to observe legislative processes in these jurisdictions and allow our interns to compare these processes to what they have observed in Saskatchewan.

This year, the interns traveled to Toronto and Ottawa. They met with elected and appointed officials of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and the federal Parliament and public service. While in Ottawa, they were briefed by members of the Supreme Court of Canada, the National Press Gallery, and officials of the United States Embassy. They also had a brief visit with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin. The tour was organized on behalf of SLIP through our counterpart programs in Ontario and Ottawa – the Ontario Legislative Internship Program and the Parliamentary Internship Program.



The 2005 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, in Ottawa

Administrative Component

The interns also performed various administrative duties pertaining to the operation of the program. These duties included updating the SLIP's web pages and organizing an appreciation event for sponsors, supporters, members of the Saskatchewan Legislature, and presenters. They also had an opportunity to provide logistical assistance for the visit to the Legislature by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Core Funding

During its budget deliberations in the spring of 2004, the Board of Internal Economy decided not to fund the 2005 program's core components – essentially, all activities involving the interns' experiences with the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. We were advised that this decision was based on budgetary considerations.

In order to allow time for reconsideration of SLIP's funding, structures and procedures, the University of Saskatchewan decided to fund the core expenses for the 2005 program, including the scholarships that are paid to the interns. The University allocated \$66,000 to the 2005 program as a transitional, one-time measure. The University's source of financing was a student development fund that exists through the contributions of alumni and other donors.

The program also has an intern development fund. This fund is used to support special projects that are identified by the interns to enhance their experience in the program. These projects have largely involved transportation and accommodation costs related to traveling to other jurisdictions.

In 2005, the intern development fund's responsibilities were expanded to include the financing of the interns' in-province travel. This travel is associated with projects where the interns attend conferences and workshops and arrange meetings and consultations with people in leadership positions from various sectors in Saskatchewan (e.g. municipal politicians, executives of businesses and cooperatives, leaders in organized labour and the voluntary sector). The interns make all logistical arrangements for these meetings.

The 2005 funding for the intern development fund included a \$4,000 grant from the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. This fund also received funding support from the following corporate sponsors:

- The Cooperators, headquartered in Guelph, Ontario (\$3,000)
- SGI, headquartered in Regina, Saskatchewan (\$750)

Both of these corporations have supported the program in previous years.

For the 2006 program, we have received a \$1,000 grant from a new sponsor – First Canadian Title, headquartered in Oakville, Ontario. We have also received 2006 funding from both universities – University of Saskatchewan (\$4,000) and University of Regina (\$4,000).

Several additional sources of funding were pursued during the past year. As the Program becomes better known and more stable in its core funding, we anticipate that these efforts will yield positive results in the future.

2005 Financial Statements

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program's September 30, 2005 balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenditures for the period from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005, inclusive, have been provided in Appendix B of this report. SLIP ended this fiscal year with a surplus of \$2,832.89 and an accumulated surplus of \$8,099.15. The accumulated surplus pertains to funds held within the intern development fund, which is managed on behalf of the program by the University of Saskatchewan.

In previous years, the core program was managed through the General Revenue Fund (GRF) of the Government of Saskatchewan. Any unexpended budgeted funds at yearend would revert back to the GRF. By managing the entire 2005 Program through the intern development fund (because the core program was funded for this year only by the University of Saskatchewan), unexpended funding on core operations were retained by the Program.

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Advisory Committee

The program's advisory committee serves to provide a governance framework for the program. The members of this committee for the 2005 program were:

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Sandra Morin, Government caucus representative
Mr. Jason Dearborn, Opposition caucus representative
Ms. Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Professor Don Story, University of Saskatchewan representative
Professor Howard Leeson, University of Regina representative
Mr. Ken Pontikes, Academic Director

The committee met on February 25, 2005. It reviewed various issues pertaining to the operations of the program, as well as the program's 2005-06 budget submission to the Board of Internal Economy. The committee initiated a process to examine potential changes to the program, with the objective being to enhance the internship experience for the interns.

2006 Program

Considerable effort was made during 2004 and early 2005 to convince the Board of Internal Economy that it should reverse its decision not to fund the program's core elements. Through meetings with various officials, a discussion through the program's advisory committee, support from the program's caucus representatives, and a formal budget submission, a funding commitment for 2005-06 was secured from the Board on April 20, 2005.

The Board's approval involved three components:

- Core program funding of \$36,4055 for 2005-06, with recognition that this is partial funding for the 2006 program and will require additional funding in 2006-07;
- One-time funding of \$4,000 to the program's intern development fund; and
- Additional funding of \$2,000 for each caucus in 2005-06 to offset the costs of computer support and internet expenses.

The discussions leading to the approval of the renewed funding included the consideration of options to enhance the program's design. The options included opportunities for the interns to experience the work of the Cabinet Secretariat, Legislative Officers, and Cabinet ministers. These, however, can be pursued only to the extent that they can be accommodated within the program's current seven-month time frame and do not detract from the fundamental objective of the program – providing interns with an opportunity to experience and participate in the legislative work of members of the Assembly. All options will be considered through the program's advisory committee.

Acknowledgements

The success of this year's Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program is due to the assistance of many individuals. Among the most important are the members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who volunteered to mentor an intern over a three-month period. SLIP has been very fortunate to have supportive MLAs on both sides of the House who are willing, through their participation, to share their knowledge and experience with some of this province's future leaders.

We also extend our thanks to politicians and public servants in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Ottawa who took the time to meet with our interns. Their candid insights on current political, public policy, and administrative issues were appreciated by the interns and enhanced their program's overall experience for them.

SLIP would not be possible without the administrative support provided by the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Government and Opposition Caucus Offices, and the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Particular mention needs to be given to the assistance we received from Gwenn Ronyk and Monique Lovatt of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Alexis Dahl of the Department of Political Studies.

Finally, we thank our 2005 interns – Kevin Chernoff, Alyssa Peel, Rhiannon Stromberg, and Kyle Toffan – who were excellent representatives for the program. Through their term as interns, they presented themselves and represented the program in a professional and ethical manner. They participated in accordance with the principles of nonpartisanship and respected the need to protect the confidentiality of the information they handled.

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program has considerable built-in flexibility to allow the interns to take it in whatever direction best meets their combined interests. Through SLIP's intern development component, the interns are able to realize as broad of range of learning and experiences as they are willing to put the effort into organizing. The 2005 interns took full advantage of the opportunities that the program offered them.

As a result of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, four young people have had an opportunity to think about public policy, processes, and governance in Saskatchewan. Through the SLIP, they have gained a greater understanding of our democratic system, how people are governed, and the contributions made and challenges faced by our elected representatives.

Appendix A

2005 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

Kevin Chernoff

Kevin Chernoff is a fourth-year B. A. Honours student at the University of Saskatchewan. He is majoring in political studies, with a minor in philosophy. He has been the president of the Political Studies/Public Administration Students Society. He is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, which recognizes students with academic records in the top 15% for their college.

Kevin was raised on a farm near Kamsack, where his family also had a sawmill operation and electronics business. He graduated from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute in 1998. Before pursuing a university education, Kevin was a commercial realtor in Yorkton.

He is an active volunteer within his community. Kevin has served in several positions, including museum curator, with the Kamsack and District Historical Society. He has volunteered as media liaison for the 2000 Saskatchewan Summer Games and has assisted his community's "Celebrate 2005 Committee".

Alyssa Peel

Alyssa Peel obtained most of her early education in Meadow Lake. Her final two years of high school were in Saskatoon, where she graduated from Evan Hardy Collegiate.

In 2003, Alyssa was a visiting student at the Ukrainian Catholic University in L'viv, Ukraine, where she studied transitional governments in the region. In the spring of 2004, Alyssa obtained an honours degree in political studies from the University of Saskatchewan. Following completion of the internship program, she enrolled in the Master of Arts program at the University of Regina.

Alyssa has worked for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and BPA & Associates, a consulting firm dealing mostly with First Nations and forestry issues in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She has served on the executive of the Political Studies/Public Administration Students Society at the University of Saskatchewan. She has also held volunteer positions with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Alyssa's academic interests include development politics and policy issues and Aboriginal politics and governance. She has an interest in languages and has studied French, Spanish, and Ukrainian. She has tutored students who are learning English.

Rhiannon Stromberg

Rhiannon Stromberg was raised in Yorkton. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School where she participated in numerous groups, drama productions, and team sports. She participated in the Model United Nations Program in 1999. She has volunteered for the 2000 Saskatchewan Summer Games and was a member of the planning committee for the Trans Canada Trail Opening Celebration in Yorkton.

Rhiannon has received several academic awards, including the Allan Blakeney Entrance Scholarship (2000), the M. J. Coldwell Prize in Canadian Affairs (2003 and 2004), and the Dean's Honours List for the College of Arts and Sciences. She has been a member of the Golden Key International Honours Society, which recognizes students with academic records in the top 15% for their college.

Upon completion of the internship program, Rhiannon received her B.A. Honours degree in political studies. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Rhiannon has been employed as the first-year student services coordinator in the Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences and as a coach for the "University Life 101" program which assists high school students to adjust to the university environment. In 2001, she served on the planning committee for the first national peer-support conference at the post-secondary level.

She has also been an active volunteer with the University of Saskatchewan Students Union, including as a member of its Student Issues Board. She has served on the University's General Academic Assembly.

Kyle Toffan

Kyle Toffan was born in Canora and raised in Yorkton, where he graduated from Yorkton Regional High School. He played various sports, including football, baseball, and hockey, with both school and community organizations.

Kyle has received several academic awards, including the M. J. Coldwell Prize in Canadian Affairs and the Dean's Honours List for the College of Arts and Science. He also received a Leadership Advantage Program Certificate from the University of Saskatchewan.

Following completion of the internship program, Kyle received a B.A. Honours degree in history, with a minor in political studies, from the University of Saskatchewan. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Public Administration program at Queen's University, where he is also doing research on participatory democracy in Saskatchewan for publication by the Queen's Centre for the Study of Democracy.

Kyle has been employed by several organizations, including Federated Cooperatives Ltd., Yorkton Co-op Food Centre and Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. At the University of Saskatchewan, he volunteered as a group leader for the annual university orientation program.

Appendix B

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Intern Development Fund

Balance Sheet September 30, 2005

Assets		
Due from University of Saskatchewan		<u><u>\$ 13,153.75</u></u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 54.50	
Deferred Revenue – Sponsorships	<u>5,000.00</u>	\$ 5,054.50
Accumulated Surplus		
Balance, October 1, 2004	\$ 5,266.26	
Surplus for 2005 Program	<u>2,832.89</u>	<u>8,099.15</u>
Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus		<u><u>\$ 13,153.65</u></u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Period from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005

Revenues		
University of Saskatchewan	\$ 66,000.00	
Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly	4,000.00	
The Co-operators	3,000.00	
SGI	<u>750.00</u>	<u>\$ 73,750.00</u>
Expenditures		
Academic Director – Honorarium	\$ 8,616.00	
Interns – Scholarship	50,400.00	
Travel – Director	1,580.76	
Travel – Interns	9,673.52	
Administrative and Other Expenditures	<u>646.83</u>	<u>70,917.71</u>
Surplus		<u><u>\$ 2,832.89</u></u>

Note:

1. For the 2005 program, all revenues and expenditures associated with the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program were managed through the intern development fund.
2. All cash for this fund is being held, on behalf of the program, by the University of Saskatchewan.

Appendix C

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2005 ORIENTATION PROGRAM

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns and provided briefing information on their responsibilities. These meetings occurred during the orientation component of the 2005 program (January 10-20, 2005).

Ms. Jane Blackett, Electronic Resources Librarian, Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Mr. Darwin Burgess, Legislative and House Business Officer
Mr. Al Dennett, Executive Director, Department of Finance
Mr. Gary Dickson, Information and Privacy Commissioner
Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman
Mr. Jim Fodey, Chief of Staff, Government Caucus Office
Mr. Gerald Gerrand, Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Ms. Terry Gudmundson, Opposition Caucus Office
Ms. Terry Harris, Opposition Caucus Office
Ms. Clare Isman, Chair, Public Service Commission
Dr. Michael Jackson, Executive Director, Office of Protocol and Honours
Ms. Linda Kaminski, Director of Human Resource and Administrative Services
Ms. Pat Kolesar, Assistant Legislative Librarian
Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Ms. Karen Layng, Senior Policy Advisor, Executive Council
Mr. Murray Mandryk, Saskatchewan News Network
Ms. Naomi Mellor, Performance Management Group, Department of Finance
Mr. Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer
Ms. Jessica Paul, Opposition Caucus Office
Mr. Ian Peach, Director, Saskatchewan Institute of Policy Planning
Mr. Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister to the Premier
Ms. Marian Powell, Legislative Librarian
Ms. Carolyn Rebeyka, Assistant Chief of Communications to the Premier
Mr. Ken Ring, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk
Ms. Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Hon. Clay Serby, Deputy Premier and Minister of Rural Revitalization
Mr. Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor
Ms. Margaret Woods, Clerk Assistant

Appendix D

PARTICIPANTS DURING 2005 INTERNS' VISIT TO TORONTO AND OTTAWA

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns when they traveled to Ottawa and Toronto (from June 12 – 22, 2005) as part of the SLIP's intern development component.

Ottawa

Hon. Ian Binnie, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada
Mr. Mark Bosc, Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons
Mr. Don Boudria, Member of Parliament (Glengarry – Prescott – Russell)
Mr. Richard Budgell, Chief Negotiator, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Ms. Victoria De La Ronde, Treaty Directorate
Hon. Daniel Hays, Speaker of the Senate
Mr. James Hurley, Constitutional Expert
Ms. Marie-Lucie Morin, Associate Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs Canada
Mr. Philippe Martineau, Deputy Secretary, NAFTA Canadian Secretariat
Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons
Mr. Charles Robert, Clerk of the Senate
Mr. Pablo Rodriguez, Member of Parliament (Honoré – Mercier)
Mr. Michael Savage, Member of Parliament (Dartmouth – Cole Harbour)
Mr. Andrew Scheer, Member of Parliament (Regina – Qu'Appelle)
Ms. Jane Taber, Globe and Mail
Ms. Lynne Yelich, Member of Parliament (Blackstrap)
Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Member of Parliament (Winnipeg North)

Toronto

Mr. Claude DesRosiers, Clerk of the Ontario Legislative Assembly
Ms. Lorraine Luski, Research Office, Ontario Legislative Internship Program
Mr. André Marin, Provincial Ombudsman (Ontario)
Mr. Jim McCarter, Auditor General of Ontario
Mr. Gord Miller, Environment Commissioner (Ontario)
Hon. Coulter A. A. Osborne, Integrity Commissioner (Ontario)
Mr. Loren Wells, Assistant Chief Election Officer (Ontario)

Appendix E

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY 2005 INTERNS

Conferences, Conventions, and Assemblies

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' Legislative Assembly (Regina)

Human Rights Workshop hosted by Saskatchewan Council for International Development (Regina)

Saskatchewan Professionals and Entrepreneurs Conference (Saskatoon)

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association Convention (Saskatoon)

Events

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Saskatchewan Branch Annual Dinner (Regina)

Fraser Institute's Policy Forum Day (Saskatoon)

"In Conversation with Maclean's Magazine", held in Ottawa and involving Paul Wells, Irshad Manji, Alexandre Trudeau, and Arthur Kent

Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy

- Professor Joseph Garcea (Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan): "Immigration Initiatives in Saskatchewan: The Importance of Implementation and Interconnections"
- Ms. Martha Friendly (Childcare Resource and Research Unit, University of Toronto): "Saskatchewan's Early Learning and Child Care: From the Present to the Future"
- Ms. Gail Russell: "Barriers to Inclusion: Access to Inclusion: Access to Social Services for Marginalized Families in Saskatchewan"

Briefings

Arla Gustafson, Executive Director, United Way of Saskatoon