

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2009 INTERNS

Dawn Gibbons spent her early years on a dairy farm near Battleford. Her family later moved to North Battleford where she graduated from the Convent of the Child Jesus. She then began pursuing a degree in political studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Her university education was interrupted to raise a family of three children and to complete a business certificate at SIAST. In 2008, she received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in political studies. Dawn is currently a Master of Business Administration candidate at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dawn has an extensive background in the non-profit sector. She has been employed as a fund-raising coordinator for the Saskatchewan Heart and Stroke Foundation and as a marketing and volunteer recruitment coordinator for the Canadian Red Cross Society and for the Canadian Blood Services. Between 2005 and 2007, she was the executive director of the Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation where a capital campaign she coordinated raised over one million dollars to purchase operating-room equipment. In 2008, she was employed by the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation in Saskatoon.

Dawn has worked as a project manager for a local community development association, *Community Connections Inc.*, and as an inner-city school coordinator at St. Mary Community School in North Battleford. As a school coordinator, she assisted with the development of a low-income cooperative housing association, aboriginal leadership initiatives, and many community and school improvement projects, including community gardens, community and in-school family literacy projects, family violence and school bullying awareness initiatives, and community-wide and in-school aboriginal cultural events. When requested by the community, Dawn has assisted urban aboriginal families to learn, preserve and stay connected to their culture. During the 2003-04 school year, she was recognized by elders during the First Nations University of Canada's pow wow for her significant contribution to Aboriginal leadership in Saskatchewan.

Dawn's volunteer work with a number of community charities and community organizations contributed to developing her skills as a fund-raiser and organizer. For example, she developed a soap-box derby fund-raising concept for the Battlefords Boys and Girls Club, which has been running annually for well over 10 years.

Dawn also has employment experience in two family businesses – CN Family Dairy and North Battleford Drive-in Theatre. She has been employed by several other businesses within the Battlefords area.

For relaxation, Dawn enjoys outdoor activities, reading to keep current on local and national events, being with people, being involved at all levels in her community, and cooking. She also enjoys spending time with her children.

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Nicole Leach is from Regina. She graduated from Michael A. Riffel High School in 2004, where she was an honour roll student.

Throughout her high school career, Nicole swam competitively with the Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club. Nicole stopped swimming competitively in 2003, but continued with the swim club as a coach for the younger swimmers. She also spent her summers as a lifeguard at Maxwell's Amusements' waterslides.

Nicole has coached for the Girl Power Program, where girls from five different inner city schools in Regina participate once a week in selected water sports over a nine-week period. These young girls are provided with opportunities to experience different water sports and are encouraged to get involved with sports.

Nicole is currently attending the University of Regina where she is working towards obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree, double majoring in political science and economics. Nicole has been a member of the Political Science Students' Association at the University of Regina for the past two years and in March 2008 was elected co-vice-president for the 2008-09 school year. Nicole has been actively involved with the University of Regina Women's Centre and was a volunteer for the Missing Indigenous Women's Conference which occurred in 2008.

While working to complete her degree, Nicole has chosen employment opportunities to complement her studies. These opportunities included holding positions as a research officer for the Planning and Policy Division within the Saskatchewan Department of Labour and as an administrative assistant at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre. She has also worked for the Co-operator's Life Insurance Company and in 2007 received one of two annual scholarships from the Co-operators.

Nicole is part-owner of a family entertainment and concession business, Jennic & Company, which performs magic shows and operates a concession booth at events in Regina and in various other communities across Saskatchewan.

Nicole has spent many years volunteering for various programs and projects undertaken by the High Noon Optimist Club of Regina. One of these projects was an annual variety show that raised funds for Regina's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Regina General Hospital. Nicole received the High Noon Optimist Club of Regina's annual scholarship in 2004. Nicole also received the 2004 Union of Taxation's National Scholarship.

Recently, Nicole served as a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club of Regina, an after-school program for Regina's inner city youth which is organized by members of the Street Culture Kidz Project. She is also a contributor and volunteer with the Regina Streets Magazine, a newly created street paper that is distributed in downtown Regina.

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Michael Radmacher was born and raised in Regina. He attended Campbell Collegiate, where he received class pins for high academic achievement. During his high school years, Michael was very active with several music groups, including *The Classics* and *Chamber Choir*. He was also the assistant concertmaster of the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra (SSYO). Following high school, Michael attended SIAST where he received his Primary Care Paramedic diploma.

In June 2008, Michael convocated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts degree (High Honours in Political Science, with a minor in History). His studies focused on race relations, decolonization and feminist theories. His honours thesis, entitled “The Arduous Task of Seeing White Privilege and Questioning the Colonizer Within”, explored how our colonial and racist past has forged a set of normative power relations, where whiteness is seen as neutral, invisible, and the basis of privilege.

During his undergraduate years, Michael was recognized on the Dean’s List several times, was a research assistant and guest lecturer in the Political Science Department, and participated in the United Nations Mock General Assembly. In 2005, Michael also participated in a student exchange to York St. Johns College in England where he received international perspectives on global and local issues. Michael plans to attend graduate school in September 2009, as the next step toward fulfilling his career aspirations in academia.

Since 1990, Michael has been a self-employed vocal musician and violinist. He has performed as a violinist with the SSYO, with the Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO), and with the International Festival Orchestra in Aberdeen, Scotland. He has also sung with numerous vocal ensembles locally and abroad, including the Regina-based a capella group *Cantate*. His musicianship, along with other part time jobs, funded his university tuition.

Michael is not new to the Legislative Assembly or to its staff. He served as a legislative page for the Legislative Assembly during the 2006-07 session.

Michael has volunteered for several university and community organizations and events, including the Campus Feminist Action Network, the Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina, Souls Harbour Soup Kitchen, Ten Thousand Villages, and RSO fundraisers. In 2007, he organized the mayoral debate which took place at the University of Regina. In 2008, he volunteered at the International Conference entitled, “Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico” held in Regina. In recognition of his volunteer work, Michael was awarded an academic bursary from the Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina.

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Andrew Restall attended Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon where he was an active participant in the school's sports clubs and drama productions. In grade twelve, he served as the students' director of clubs, which involved assisting in the organization, promotion, and management of various activities and events. In 2004, he graduated from high school with honours.

Andrew began his university career by choosing to major in geography at the University of Saskatchewan, but soon realized that his interests lay in political studies. He therefore plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree, with a major in political studies, in 2009.

Through the summer months, Andrew is an employee of the Saskatoon Airport Authority. He maintains year round employment through an evening shift at Purolator Courier. Even while working two jobs, Andrew has maintained a high academic average at university and as a result, is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. This society recognizes students with academic excellence in their fields of study.

Andrew is actively involved with several of Saskatoon's community organizations and events. Andrew volunteers with Oxfam Canada, where he develops and coordinates educational events to raise awareness about human rights issues in third world countries. He has also volunteered for the Friendship Inn, the Sherbrooke Community Centre, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canada Remembers Air Show, and the Saskatoon Exhibition Parade. He annually runs in the Easter Seals 24-hour Relay. During the school year, he has volunteered as a note-taker to assist university students with disabilities.

Andrew manages and plays on two soccer teams. He also has a special interest in travelling. He has traveled extensively throughout North America, has been to Spain, and is hoping to see more of the world in the near future.

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Teresa Tootoosis is a member of the Poundmaker First Nation and is the 2009 Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern. She has lived in several communities including Onion Lake, Lloydminster, North Battleford, and Edmonton, but has spent most of her years in Saskatoon.

She went to Father Gorman Elementary School in Lloydminster, where she actively participated in soccer. In 2002, she was an athlete in the Indigenous Summer Games held in Winnipeg. She also has played other sports such as volleyball, softball and track and field. She graduated from Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon.

Teresa initially pursued her post-secondary education at the University of Alberta. However, a serious injury which confined her temporarily to a wheelchair resulted in her decision to transfer to the University of Saskatchewan in order to receive support from her family.

Teresa is currently in her third year of studies in the University's Aboriginal public administration program. After completing this degree, she plans to study law.

Teresa was most recently employed at the Dakota Dunes Casino. She has previously been employed by several businesses in the service industry in Saskatchewan and Alberta. She has held several responsible positions within these businesses.

She has volunteered with the Battlefords Union Hospital, where she assisted staff and entertained the patients, and with Child Find Saskatchewan, where she assembled lost-children packages. She has also provided volunteer assistance to the Saskatoon Tribal Council's Urban Services and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. More recently, she has been volunteering with the Saskatoon Open Door Society and with Saskatoon Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Teresa is a single mother of an 18 month old daughter. She spends the majority of her time caring and providing for her daughter. It has been an interesting challenge for Teresa to be involved with so many activities, such as her job and school, and with raising her daughter.