2016 Saskatchewan Legislative Intern

Marie Digney was born in Saskatoon and has lived in Regina almost her entire life. In 2011, she graduated from Luther College High School at the top of her class with an International Baccalaureate Certificate. Marie was an active leader in her school community as student council secretary, peer support leader, a member of the musical theatre and choral programs and many other groups. Throughout her life, Marie has been heavily involved in music. She grew up playing clarinet in the Regina Lions Band and dancing in its colour guard. However, her true passion lies with the piano and singing; Marie is a member of several choirs in Regina and has recently had the opportunity to try her hand at conducting in others.

Having completed two degrees in just four years, Marie convocated from the University of Regina in 2015 with a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts with distinction. Majoring in French and History, her undergraduate studies were completed almost exclusively in French instruction; Marie is fluently bilingual and a proud *Fransaskoise*. During her studies, Marie spent a year at l'Université Laval in Québec City. When she returned home, she became involved in student leadership as the Vice President of the Francophone Student Society at the University of Regina. Marie initially pursued Education in hopes of one day sharing her passion for knowledge with others. However, many other experiences have inspired her to realign her aims and find another way to serve.

For the past few years, Marie has enjoyed teaching Sunday School from time to time and occasionally serving as the organist in her home congregation at Christ Lutheran Church. Since 2014, she has also been a volunteer with the Regina Sexual Assault Centre as an advocate on the city's crisis line. Throughout high school, Marie worked at an SGI Insurance Agency for three years. For the past four years, however, she has worked with the Public Service as a Bilingual Information Officer for Visitor Services at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Most recently, Marie spent the semester prior to commencing the internship as a substitute teacher. Marie has been accepted to the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, where she will pursue her studies upon completion of the internship. Marie has also been accepted to the College of Law's partnership program with the University of Ottawa, where she will complete a French Common Law Certificate.

In her spare time, Marie is an avid reader, enjoys watching historical documentaries and studying other languages. Aside from her involvement in the music community, Marie appreciates cuisine and travel as well as spending time with friends and family.

Bram Lerat was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and is a proud member of Cowessess First Nation. He was raised primarily in Saskatchewan. Spending the early years of primary education in Prince Albert, he finished his schooling in Regina leading up to high school. He attended Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School in Regina for two years before moving to Greely, Ontario and graduating from St. Marks Catholic High School in 2010. During his schooling, Bram was very active in athletics, which included (AAA) hockey, high school football, badminton and snow skating. Aside from athletics, he was a school mentor and held the responsibility of helping primary students progress socially, academically and personally throughout their school life.

While living adjacent to the nation's capital, Bram found an appreciation and fascination with politics and started his Bachelor of Arts majoring in Political Science at Carleton University in the Fall of 2010. After two years, he transferred to the University of Regina to continue his Political Science degree with an addition of a Religious Studies minor and graduated in the Spring of 2015. His interests in political science are primarily within indigenous politics and global affairs.

In his last year, Bram became a consistent contributor to The Carillon Newspaper. While writing, he touched on issues that range from indigenous sports team names to simple season reports on school teams. In the final semester of his undergraduate degree, Bram continually worked on the topic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. This work included being on a panel at the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Symposium to examine how issues related to MMAW are being taught at the University and where they can improve.

Since his early high school days, Bram has worked at multiple golf courses from Ontario to Saskatchewan. His love of sports and working outside has made it easy to stay in the golfing industry. Most recently, he finished his last year at the Wascana Country Club as a Pro Shop employee. Regular days ranged from organizing charity golf tournaments to leading a team of four other employees to maximize member services. In the past, he has also worked for Child and Youth Mental Health Services as a Service Provider. In this position, the daily goal was to provide socialization for young adults who struggle with various mental health illnesses. His future goals after the internship include working in government or continuing his education in the field of public policy or political science.

In his spare time, Bram enjoys many leisure activities like camping, fishing, golfing, hockey and badminton. Aside from athletics and outdoor activities, he enjoys spending time with friends, family and the perfect book.

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Marnie Howlett was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She graduated high school in 2011 from Marion M. Graham Collegiate, where she finished at the top of her class and as the top graduate in the Saskatoon Public School Division. During that time, she served as the student council president, an executive member of both the canoe club and environmental club, directed the school's variety night, and was involved in the school's musicals and dance academy. She also played basketball, volleyball, curled, and wrestled, as well as traveled with the school's travel club to Brazil and Vietnam.

Outside of school, Marnie has always been equally as involved. At the age of three, she began Ukrainian dancing at the Saskatoon School of Dance, and eventually started taking jazz, lyrical, hip hop, and ballet classes. In 2010, she became a cast member of the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble and has since performed with the company across Canada, Ukraine, and on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. Marnie has also taught dancing; Ukrainian dance in Prince Albert and Prud'homme and ballet, jazz, and hip-hop classes in Saskatoon. In addition to dancing, she enjoys celebrating her Ukrainian culture by singing with the Lastiwka Ukrainian Orthodox Choir, sitting on the board for the Ukrainian Canadian Business Professionals Association, and spending her summers working at Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Youth Camp at Wakaw Lake.

Marnie began her post-secondary education at the University of Saskatchewan in 2011. Combining her love of travel and passion for politics, she recently completed her Bachelor of Arts (High Honours) degree in International Studies with a major in international co-operation and conflict. During her time at the University of Saskatchewan, Marnie was involved with the Greystone Scholars First Year Committee and the International Studies Students Association. She was also a teaching assistant for the beginner Ukrainian language class at St. Thomas More College and a marking assistant for the Department of Political Studies. In addition, Marnie acted as an intern at C.L.A.S.S.I.C. (Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.), aiding in the organization of a self-advocacy workshop and a community justice course.

Through her undergraduate studies, Marnie was fortunate to study the Ukrainian language in Lviv, Ukraine in May 2014. There, she became involved with Help Us Help The Children, a Toronto-based organization that holds summer and winter camps for orphaned and refugee children in Ukraine. Since 2014, Marnie has returned to Ukraine four more times to volunteer at these camps and at a rehabilitation workshop for families that have lost their husbands and fathers to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. She also supports the organization back home in Saskatoon by doing presentations, hosting events, and collecting donations of clothing and other goods to send to the children.

Upon completion of the internship, Marnie will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. She hopes to join the Foreign Service one day, as well as earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring new places, running, baking, and spending time with her friends and family.

Maeve McLean was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She attended French Immersion schools in Saskatoon. At the age of five, she began classes with the Saskatoon Figure Skating Club, which led to a decade of competitive figure skating. In 2011, she graduated with honors from Marion Graham Collegiate.

Upon graduation, she followed her passion to help others by studying Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. It was during this time that her academic interests and ambitions fully blossomed. Her academic interests gravitated towards social and cultural influences on mental health and well-being. She was fortunate to have held various research positions in the fields of social psychology, clinical psychology and neuroscience, which aligned with these interests. Her passion for research led to an Associate Editor position with the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Journal (USURJ), where she reviewed research submissions for publication. In her senior year, she was appointed academic liaison for the Saskatoon Psychology Students Society where she represented undergraduate students at the department level. In her final year, she conducted an honors research project on the impact of water access on mental health in remote areas of Tanzania.

During her research in Tanzania, she developed a strong passion for international and rural development. Upon completion of her B.A. honors in psychology, she returned to Tanzania to volunteer in a number of health and education development projects. She volunteered in a remote health clinic for the Masai tribe of Tanzania and a health clinic, which focused on child and maternal health. With the Tanzanian Red Cross Society, she taught volunteers how to identify and manage individuals with mental health conditions and, at a post-secondary institution, she led information sessions with education students on effective discipline techniques in classroom settings. However, while working at a regional hospital, the work that she found most interesting was connecting HIV patients with mental health services.

Along with substantial work overseas, she has been actively involved in the community of Saskatoon. Maeve loves her work as a recreation volunteer with the Canadian Mental Health Association, where she gets to run activities such as swimming, bowling, bingo and quilting for individuals with mental health disabilities. She has also organized recreation activities for inner city communities at public playgrounds during her position as Program Leader with the Community Development Branch of Saskatoon.

Although Maeve has a strong passion and motivation to address social issues, she maintains a balanced lifestyle. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, reading, exercising, socializing and finds a sense of community with her weekly meditation sangha. After completing the internship, Maeve plans to pursue her interest in international development, by applying to the Masters of Globalization and International Development at the University of Ottawa for the Fall of 2017.