

Secondment Reports 2013

The following students have elected to participate in external secondments as part of this year's summer program:

- **Mark Bowman** Metrolinx
- **Noel Chow** Manulife Financial
- **Leslie Greey** Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
- **Kamran Jessani** FM Vancouver Office
- **Steve Landry** Brookfield Financial
- **Rachel Laurion** Pro Bono Law Ontario
- **Áine O'Connor** Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.
- **Glen Yamashita** AuRico Gold Inc.
- **Rachel Younan** Aecon Group Inc.
- **Janna Young** equality effect

Mark Bowman - Metrolinx

This summer I had the pleasure of being seconded to the Office of the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at **Metrolinx**, a Crown agency that oversees transportation solutions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Metrolinx includes three operating divisions: GO Transit, Union Pearson Express, and PRESTO. Metrolinx is also currently implementing The Big Move, a bold transportation plan to build over 1,200 kilometres of rapid transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

This secondment offered insight into the everyday legal requirements that a large organization faces. Given the breadth and diversity of Metrolinx' operations, the legal department was very busy, allowing me to gain exposure to multiple operational areas. Supporting the legal department offered me the valuable opportunity to research issues surrounding legislative compliance, help draft software procurement documents, research and analyze information technology contract provisions, and support the legal team in software procurement negotiations. As a student hoping to practice information technology law, this was an incredible experience.

My secondment at Metrolinx was very rewarding. I would like to give sincere thanks to the Office of the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary as well as all of the other summer legal students and employees at Metrolinx who made my experience so fantastic. I would also like to thank Daniel Fabiano at Fasken Martineau and the Fasken Martineau Student Committee for making my secondment possible.

Noel Chow - Manulife Financial

I was fortunate enough to have spent 5 weeks of my summer on secondment with **Manulife Financial**. During my time there, I



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was integrated into the Legal Department of Manulife Investments. While my work was predominantly related to Manulife's mutual funds and its obligations under Canadian securities legislation, I also had the luxury of collaborating with the company's other business areas such as the Insurance, Finance, and Tax groups on various firm-wide initiatives.

As the busy prospectus renewal season was approaching, I was able to contribute by assisting the in-house team with their draft reviews. Manulife offers a broad range of mutual funds for which disclosure documents such as Management Reports of Fund Performance (MRFPs), Fund Facts, and a Prospectus are required. My involvement in reviewing these documents taught me the importance of disclosing accurate and current information to protect investors, a main goal in securities law. While my securities course at school introduced me to securities legislation, my involvement with the actual preparation of various disclosure documents under Manulife Investment taught me how onerous complying with securities legislation in Ontario can be. A personal benefit I gained from my assistance with this ongoing project was learning about mutual funds, both from an investor's and seller's perspective.

My overall experience at Manulife far exceeded any expectations I had prior to my 'send-off'. The aspect I valued the most was that I became fully submersed into Manulife's legal group and had the pleasure of working with my colleagues at Fasken, but from the client's side. Having worked for Manulife, as a client of the firm, I now have a better understanding of the service and assistance Fasken provides to Manulife and can apply this understanding to any future work I do for Manulife as well as for the firm's other clients.

I would like to thank Jennifer Mercanti for her mentorship, her guidance, and overall dedication to letting me dive into as many projects and to work with as many people as I possibly could during 5 weeks. I would also like to thank Azra Smith and Tracey Arneaud for warmly welcoming me into the group and sharing their wealth of securities knowledge and experience with me. Finally, thank you to Anil Aggarwal, Sally Woods and the Student Committee for affording me with this short, but very memorable experience.

Leslie Greedy - IESO

For my summer secondment, I had the incredible opportunity to work in the Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) group at the **Independent Electricity System Operator** (IESO). As an electrical engineer with a background in electric power, I was eager to understand the operations of the IESO from a legal perspective. I was exposed to several business and legal considerations that arise from the business of connecting market participants to Ontario's electric grid.

While at the IESO, I researched their role in the Market Rules with respect to litigation and administrative law. An investigation requires not only a legal team but support from economists and engineers. I was able to assist with preparing and understanding research for the MACD team.

Dawn Robertson, a Fasken lawyer, was also on secondment at the IESO. She was working with Roy Stewart, the IESO's general counsel. She was an incredible resource and mentor during my time at the IESO.

The MACD team at the IESO was a pleasure to work with. I would like to thank them for their warm welcome and a fantastic end to my summer experience. Specifically my gratitude goes to Mike Balogh, Stephen Hutchison and Simon Kupi for providing me with feedback on my work as well as general mentorship and guidance with respect to working in the legal profession.

Kamran Jessani - FM Vancouver Office

My summer secondment in our **Vancouver office** provided me with the chance to not only learn some of the intricacies of



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practising law in a different region of Canada, but also with an excellent opportunity to work with a diverse group of lawyers and students while exploring my areas of interest.

I was encouraged to gain exposure to any and all practice areas I was interested in, and I chose to work primarily with our labour and resources groups. One of the highlights of working within these groups was my participation in a labour arbitration file where the cases I researched were directly entered into the book of the authorities submitted to the arbitrator. Additionally, I was given the opportunity to independently research and draft a response for a client regarding a time-sensitive issue. I also learned about the uniqueness of the Vancouver market. Due to our resource expertise, I was able to work on a project to provide current information on provincial liquid natural gas pipeline development for our clients. All of these experiences prepared me to better work with our lawyers across the country.

I would like to sincerely thank Bibiane Bijsterveld, Sally Woods, and Karam Bayrakal for all of their efforts to provide me with this opportunity. I would also like to thank Amanda Demner, Monique Orioux, and the Vancouver students for their support.

Steve Landry - Brookfield Financial

During my last month of summering at Fasken, I had the privilege of being seconded to **Brookfield Financial**. Brookfield Financial is a global investment bank with expertise in real assets, particularly property, power, and infrastructure.

While at Brookfield Financial, I worked directly with their Infrastructure group. This was a perfect placement for me given my background in the infrastructure industry and my interest in infrastructure finance. Working with this young and dynamic group of individuals was an exciting way to gain insight into the world of infrastructure finance.

I was given many interesting assignments during my secondment. These included, researching potential partners for varying infrastructure projects, assessing project RFPs, and writing memorandums outlining potential opportunities. My major deliverable during the four week term was putting together an extensive presentation which considered the economic drivers, associated risks, and current financials of a number of larger scale infrastructures assets.

Most importantly, in my time at Brookfield, I feel that I made many contacts that will become an important part of my future practice with Fasken. I would like to especially thank Jamie Manson, Jamie Knowlton, Will Chow, Sami Zahur, James Brooks, Andrew Grilo, Edgar Haryanto and Minh-Tuong Doa for making me feel like part of the team and for giving me a great experience at Brookfield.

Rachel Laurion - Pro Bono Law Ontario

This summer I had the opportunity to attend Pro Bono Law Ontario on secondment during the final four weeks of the summer. Specifically, I was seconded to the **Law Help Ontario** centre located in the Superior Court building.

The mission of the centre is to help unrepresented individuals navigate the judicial system by assisting them with the preparation documents, providing them with free legal advice and guiding them through the administrative processes of Superior Court. As a secondment student at the centre, I was encouraged to assist with all of the services that Law Help Ontario offers to its clients and it was an invaluable learning experience.

Throughout the four weeks, I was able to attend client meetings with the lawyers, draft court documents such as statements of defence, motion records, and affidavits, receive feedback on these documents from a lawyer at the centre, draft a new help guide on the topic of transferring court proceedings to a different county, assist individuals in navigating the administrative floor of the courthouse by accompanying them to the file room, the motion desks and helping them search the internal computers of



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the courthouse, and provide assistance more generally throughout each day as issues arose.

The opportunity to spend my secondment with PBLO not only furthered my understanding of the legal system and the rules of civil procedure; it also served to highlight the lack of access to justice and the many barriers that unrepresented litigants are forced to overcome. I am grateful for this opportunity and I fully intend to try and assist unrepresented litigants throughout my career.

I'd like to thank Matt, Brian, Valerie, Laurine, and Monica for welcoming me so warmly and allowing me to be part of the team!

Aine O'Connor - Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.

I was lucky enough to spend the last four weeks of my summer experience in the Legal and Business Affairs department of **Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.** Under the leadership of Judy Naiberg, I gained incredible hands on experience and mentorship from the entire legal team at Sony.

My secondment began with a thorough overview of the music industry and the team was extremely helpful in answering any and all of my questions about the legal challenges that record labels confront daily. The particular demands currently facing the music industry in this digital era makes for a dynamic and ever-changing work environment.

It was great to experience these legal concerns from a client's perspective. I learned that being an in-house lawyer requires a unique balancing of interests, which are quite different from those considered at Bay Street firms. I had the opportunity to draft pleadings for a copyright infringement case and to research potential remedies available under the recently updated copyright regime. In addition, I learned to navigate the world of social media in the context of contest law.

I'm very grateful to Judy and her team at Sony for guiding me through a new area of law and for teaching me so much. I would also like to thank the Student Committee at Fasken for setting up this fantastic secondment and for making my summer experience incredibly varied.

Glen Yamashita - AuRico Gold Inc.

For the last four weeks of my summer, I was given the opportunity to join the team at **AuRico Gold Inc.** During my time at AuRico, I was able to gain exposure to both the legal and business side of mining. My summer would not have been complete without my secondment, as it allowed for me to see the legal world from both a client and firm perspective.

When I arrived, the entire team welcomed me with open arms. I had the opportunity to chat with the Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, the CEO, and many others. After settling in, I was updated on several assignments that I would have the chance to work on.

Under the supervision of Trent Mell and Nillie Tang, I was able to partake in a variety of interesting and challenging tasks. Some of my involvements include the following: drafting various company policies; attending board committee meetings; preparing presentations for the board of directors; drafting updates for litigation; and preparing materials for public dissemination. This list could have continued for pages. I have been treated as a valued member of the team which has made my experience even better than I could have imagined. What I appreciated most was how everyone took time out of their extremely busy schedule to explain how the business operates, not only from a legal perspective, but also operational.

By far the most enjoyable aspect of my experience was being able to meet the great team at AuRico. Whether it was celebratory drinks, Friday lunches in the boardroom, or grabbing coffee with a colleague, the inclusive environment always made it a pleasure to go to work. I would like to thank Trent, Nillie, Caterina, the entire AuRico Team and the Student



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Committee at Fasken for making my time at AuRico an amazing experience.

Rachel Younan - Aecon Group Inc.

I was fortunate to be seconded to **Aecon Group Inc.** this summer where I learned from the exceptional lawyers in the in-house legal department. Aecon, Canada's largest publicly traded construction and infrastructure company, has led the construction of landmarks, roads, hospitals, energy facilities and other significant infrastructure for both the public and private sectors across the country and abroad. I immediately felt welcomed and was offered invaluable mentorship by the lawyers in the department.

I was particularly interested in the area of Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and had the opportunity to focus the majority of my time on the legal aspects of P3 projects. I looked closely at various agreements governing the relationship between partner companies who were bidding on projects as a team with Aecon as well as contracts outlining the obligations and liabilities of subcontractors retained by Aecon to complete the works. I also assisted with the development of stock forms to be used by the company for both P3 projects and general corporate matters.

After learning about P3s and the legal issues surrounding these sizable construction projects, I was invited to attend a site tour of the new Sheppard West TTC station and tunnels currently being built by Aecon as part of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension. Walking through the construction site and down into the tunnels made the legal concerns I had focused on tangible in a way that simply could not have been achieved by sitting at a desk. It was a unique experience that I surely will not forget.

Many thanks to Yonni, Charles, Colin, Ernie, Martina, and Patricia for a wonderful and fulfilling secondment experience! Thank you also to Tom Barlow and the Student Committee for arranging this outstanding placement.

Janna Young - equality effect

During the last four weeks of my summer experience at Fasken Martineau, I had the opportunity to be seconded to the **equality effect**. The equality effect is a human rights organization that uses the law in creative and innovative ways to address the human rights abuses suffered by women and girls internationally. The organization currently works in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. I was fortunate enough to start my time at the equality effect in the wake of the "160 Girls" Victory. The legal victory made legal history; the 160 Girls from Meru, Kenya, with the vital help from the equality effect, won their Constitutional claim against the Kenyan government. Specifically, the decision of the Kenyan High Court established that the police, in failing to enforce defilement laws and in failing to protect girls from defilement, violated domestic, regional and international human rights laws.

My time during my secondment was spent researching legal avenues to implement the Kenyan High Court's "160 Girls" decision. The work required me to research publications and case law from a number of international jurisdictions, including the United States, England, India, and South Africa, in addition to Canada. Throughout my work at the equality effect, I consistently developed my legal research skills and was introduced to jurisprudence from a diversity of courts. Ultimately, I found that I had a great interest in the topic of the legal memorandum I produced.

I would like to thank Fiona Sampson of the equality effect for showing me what dedication, passion and commitment can achieve. It was incredibly inspiring to have the opportunity to meet and work alongside her. In addition, I would also like to extend a thank-you to the Professional Development Committee at Fasken Martineau for facilitating this opportunity. Overall, my time spent at the equality effect was a great experience in addition to what was already a memorable and incredibly enjoyable summer.

