



Ministry of  
Community and  
Rural Development

## **INTERNS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Five recent post-secondary graduates have been selected to participate in an internship where they will gain first-hand experience in local government management.

The management interns are part of the third year of the British Columbia Local Government Management Internship Pilot Program. This Program is the result of a partnership between the Local Government Management Association of BC, the Municipal Finance Authority and the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, which together recognize the challenges faced by local government in recruiting new people to the field of local government. According to Local Government Management Association President Tim Wood, "Over the next several years the trend of senior local government staff retirements is going to put pressure on the local government system to find ways to recruit competent individuals from outside the local government field. Individually, many local governments lack the resources or capacity to tackle this issue on their own. The Management Internship Program provides a system approach to the challenges of recruitment and training."

"Young people have so many career choices today." says Wood. "Working in local government provides the unique opportunity to contribute to community as local government is the essence of where people get their services. I am pleased the Management Internship Program, which is targeted specifically to people just starting their career, provides the opportunity to be involved in making their community a better place to live."

The 3 year pilot project provides funding of \$36,000 for each host local government. The host local governments provide a local contribution toward the cost of management intern salaries and training. This year's host local governments are the Town of Creston, Town of Ladysmith, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Village of Slocan and City of Surrey. Twelve month management internships begin in May or June of this year. Interns will receive broad training opportunities and be exposed to all aspects of local government operations and in turn will contribute to capacity-building of their host local governments.

Additional information about the management internship program is available at <http://www.lgma.ca> or call LGMA at (250) 383-7032.

**Attachment:** A list of the 2010-11 Management Interns

For more information contact:

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## **Backgrounder**

**April 30, 2010**

Talented post-secondary graduates begin Internship in local government management

### **Ross Coupe, Hosted by Northern Rockies Regional Municipality**

Ross Coupe is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration degree from the University of Victoria. Ross received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and minor in First Nations Studies from the University of Northern British Columbia. Ross has worked for both the federal and provincial levels of government, including working at the provincial Community and Rural Development ministry. As well, Ross participated in the British Columbia Legislative Assembly's non-partisan program as a Legislative Intern. Ross has volunteer experience with the St. Vincent DePaul Center.

### **David Mills, Hosted by Village of Slocan**

David Mills received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and geography at McGill University in 2009. David has worked for a not for profit organization and health authority reporting on health education services for seniors. David has volunteered for several community and university initiatives. David is an avid sailor and has applied that passion to his work with the Disabled Sailing Association.

### **Adam Pawlak, Hosted by Town of Creston**

Adam Pawlak received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Victoria. He has participated in a business exchange program in Poland, was an independent business operator and more recently has worked with the provincial government at the Ministry of Health Services. Adam is excited about the opportunity to work in local government as he believes it is the most accessible political mechanism for residents to debate and resolve local issues. Adam's experiences in the public sector, coupled with his academic credentials in business help him understand the management processes and responsibilities of public organizations. Adam has volunteered with a number of organizations, including an evacuee volunteer with Victoria Emergency Management Agency, recruiting students for exchange opportunities through AIESEC Canada and helping build a multi-unit home for Habitat for Humanity.

### **Chris Trumpy, Hosted by Town of Ladysmith**

Chris Trumpy received his Masters of Public Administration degree as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria. Chris has worked for the provincial Tourism and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources ministries. Chris' interest lies in sustainability and policy development to support green house gas reductions. His interest in local government stems from his desire to be closer to decision-makers and the constituents they impact. Chris is looking forward to using his knowledge gained through other employment to engage communities to develop sustainable policy. Chris has a lifelong interest in the outdoors and has participated in competitive sport, playing both rugby and university basketball where he has received numerous awards for his athletic achievements.

### **Burke van Drimmelen, Hosted by City of Surrey**

Burke van Drimmelen is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Policy from Simon Fraser University. Burke received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Regina. Burke has worked with the provincial Community and Rural Development ministry. Burke's work in policy analysis and development at the ministry piqued his interest in local government that has led to him focus his academic studies on BC's local government system. Burke's work and academic training position him well for the Internship program where he is excited about the opportunity to gain the practical knowledge necessary to pursue a career in the local government field. Burke has been a volunteer coach with youth sport, is an avid reader and enjoys outdoor activities and travel.