

**Political Practicum
Report
Poli 4390
Callum Tupling
April 4th, 2025**

My political practicum took place at the Nova Scotia DOJ public safety division. This institution focuses on general policing, licensing, and permit issuing. My coordinator was Matthew Ritchie, although I also worked with Jessica Cogswell. I also ended up in this placement with another student from the program, giving me someone to work with. In early December Margret put me in touch with Matthew through email. Matthew was quick to respond and set up a time to facetime. When we met we discussed the basics surrounding the public safety division and what it did. We also talked about how the recent provincial election affected work in the public safety division. They had difficulty proceeding with affairs as they didn't have a minister. He told me that the first thing I would probably be doing would be building contact lists for Nova Scotia ground search and rescue programs. He also said that we would be able to do a tour and garner more information in early January. However due to overcrowding issues, he told me there wouldn't be space for us to work onsite.

In early January we went in to meet the team. They were very friendly and gave us information on what they did. One of them went around to venues to make sure everything was in order, while another focused on permits for security companies and other institutions. We even met a master's student who was on co-op with them. Prior to the co-op he actually worked for them through the political practicum program. We learned that we would be working on jurisdictional scans once we were done our contact lists. After this meeting, both of us ended up working on contact lists for Ground Search and Rescue operations and fire departments. We worked together on this project as there was a lot of ground to cover. It ended up being a good researching challenge as a lot of the information was fragmented and somewhat hard to find. We ended up doing somewhere around 300 contacts though not all of the information was complete. This showed us that in the real-world information isn't always readily available like it is on nova

net or news sites. We sometimes have to piece together information to help advance our tasks. It was helpful having somebody else in the program with me, as it allowed me to have a person to bounce ideas off of and relate to.

After we completed this Matthew sent us our details on the jurisdictional scans. Laura was to focus on mental health while I was to focus on hate crimes. We were to write a 3000–5000-word jurisdictional scan report. To help with this and to get some experience, we made briefing notes on the subject. Briefing notes are one of the cornerstones of public service, they are a convenient way to convey information. They are a compact set of notes solely based on relaying information and if needed recommendations to the reader. They can be used on their own or as ours are in conjunction with something like a report.

We were both assigned a person to help guide us in making these notes; I was assigned Jessica. I met her a couple of times over duration of a couple of weeks. The first meeting was to help us figure out what we were doing and the second was for feedback on our draft. These briefing notes helped us organize our research and thoughts, acting like a rough draft to our reports. After we finished them we handed them in and got feedback on what to improve on. As briefing notes are a key part of public government, this welcomed experience to have.

I then focused on the report, asking questions about formatting when needed. I ended up writing a pretty standard report on hate crimes, and it didn't feel that much different from a political science report. The biggest thing I found was the change from a subjective heavy to objective heavy writing style. I also found some of the formatting to be different. Today I handed in the hate crime J-scan report, ending my political practicum. While I was disappointed by not being in person, I still loved the experience and the perspective this placement gave me. I do believe that in the coming future they'll be able to take students in person again as they are

moving to a new location. I think that taking a placement here is well worth it if you're looking to go into public services. It gives a unique insight into how being a public servant works and how one might operate within the public sector ecosystem.