



A presentation by
Bella-Sitara Singh Soares

My Experience as a Page at Queen's Park

APRIL 2024

"Audi alteram partem"



About Me

- Bella-Sitara Singh Soares
- 14 years old starting Gr. 9 in Sept.
- Honour Roll, English and Music Award
- Student Council & Head Council
- Public Speaking Contests
- Youth Empowerment Speaker
- Singer and Writer
- Community volunteer
- Little Brother Ryker, Father Joey and my mother Monica Singh Soares
- Aspiration: Lawyer

LETS BEGIN!



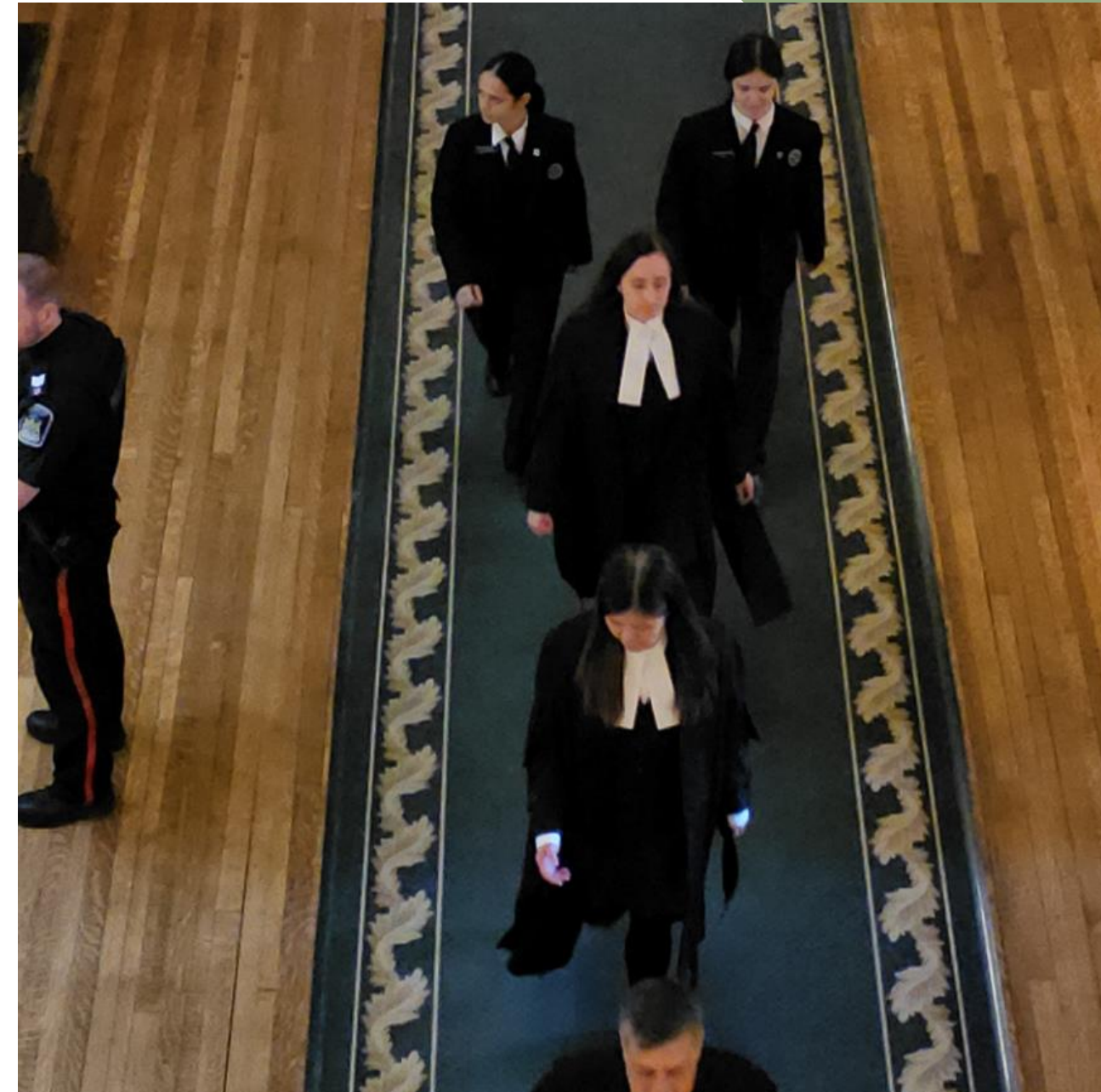
About The Ontario's Legislative Page Program

- Annual Participation: Approximately 150 young students selected each year from across Ontario.
 - Unique Educational Opportunity: Experience the provincial legislature in action.
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The Ontario's Legislative Page Program

- Experience the provincial legislature in action.
 - Ideal Candidates: Outgoing, high-achieving, community-involved students.
 - Demonstrated responsibility and leadership.
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The Ontario's Legislative Page Program

- Met key parliamentary and political figures.
 - Learned first-hand about Ontario's Parliament and the legislative process.
 - Directed by the Page Program Coordinator, a certified Ontario teacher.
 - Pages receive an honorarium during their term of duty.
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The Ontario's Legislative Page Program

- Forged lifelong friendships with peers from across the province.
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Selection Process

The selection process is competitive, involving an application and interviews.

Applicants need strong academic records, a keen interest in politics, and recommendations from teachers

A Day in the Life

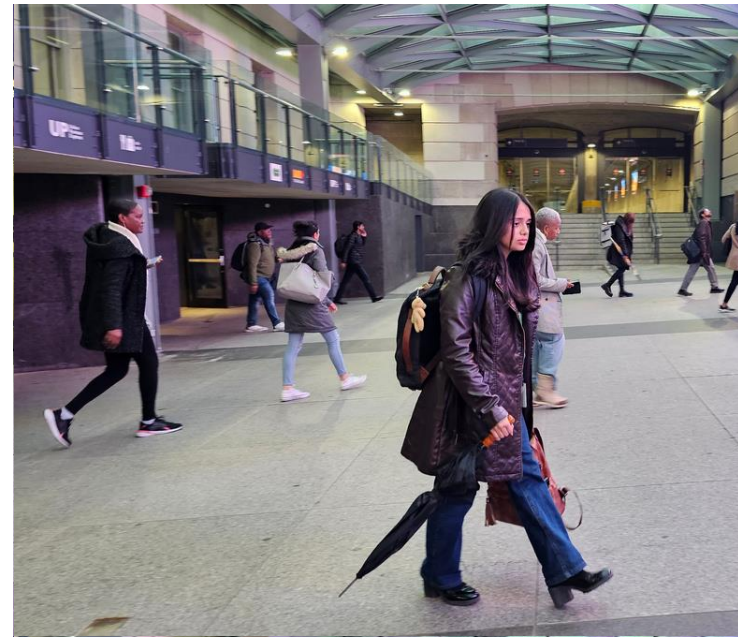
Our day started early with a briefing session at 8 - 830 AM.

We were on our feet, delivering messages and documents throughout the day.

We had learning sessions about Ontario's legislative process daily preparing us for debates, tests, and creating bills.

**4AM, 730AM,
8AM**

Wake Up, Walk In,
Assemble



21, 124, 7

Pages, MPPs,
Kilometers walked by
Pages daily!

Highlights of My Experience

**Honourable MPP Rick Byers,
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound**





Highlights of My Experience

**Honourable MPP Patrice Barnes,
Ajax**

**Honourable MPP Vijay Thanigasalam,
Scarborough-Rouge**



Highlights of My Experience

**Honourable MPP Prabhmeet Singh
Sarkaria, Brampton South**

**Honourable Lieutenant Governor,
Edith Dumont**





Highlights of My Experience

**Honourable Premier
Doug Ford**

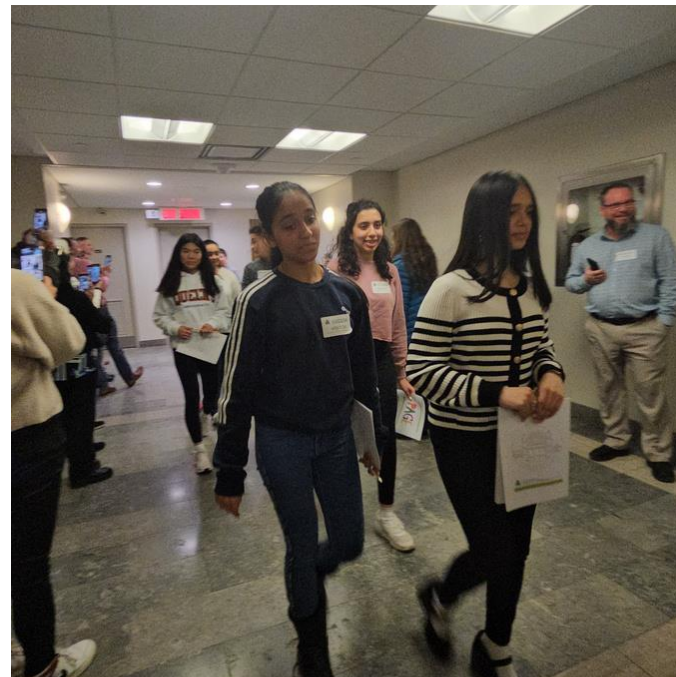
Other Highlights

The page uniform is modeled after the British parliamentary tradition

Special moment my dad fixed my tie

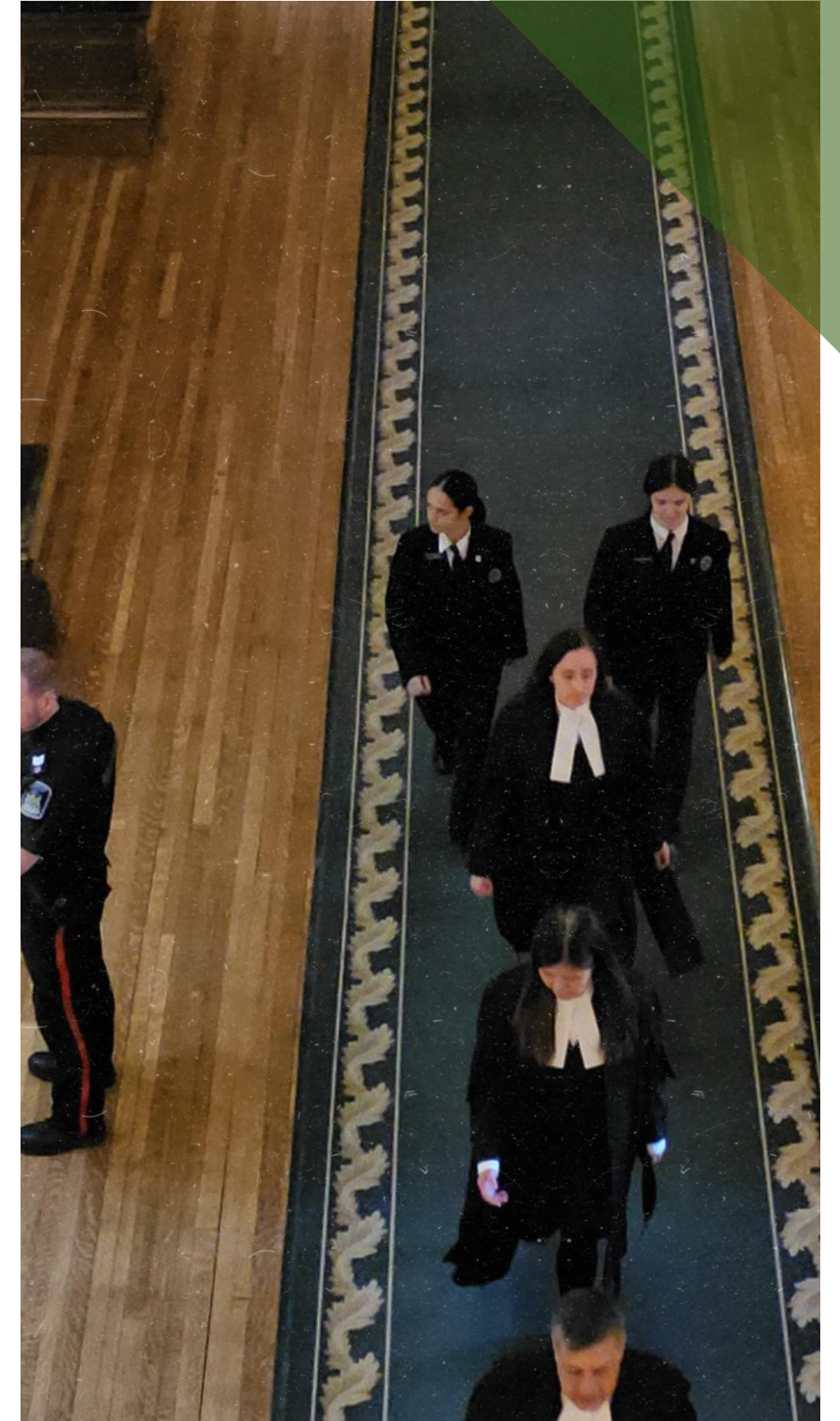
First day of orientation.

The In Camera Dining Room and Quorum Cafe had amazing food.



Program Page Valedictorian

- Special Honor:
 - Voted as Valedictorian alongside my peer, Lyra.
- Memorable Experience:
 - An incredibly special moment during our time at Queen's Park.
- Highlight of the Program:
 - Recognition of our leadership and achievements.
- Shared Achievement:
 - Celebrating this honor with fellow Pages and program coordinators.
- Inspiration for the Future:
 - Motivated to continue pursuing leadership and community involvement.



Mr. G. & Mr. E.

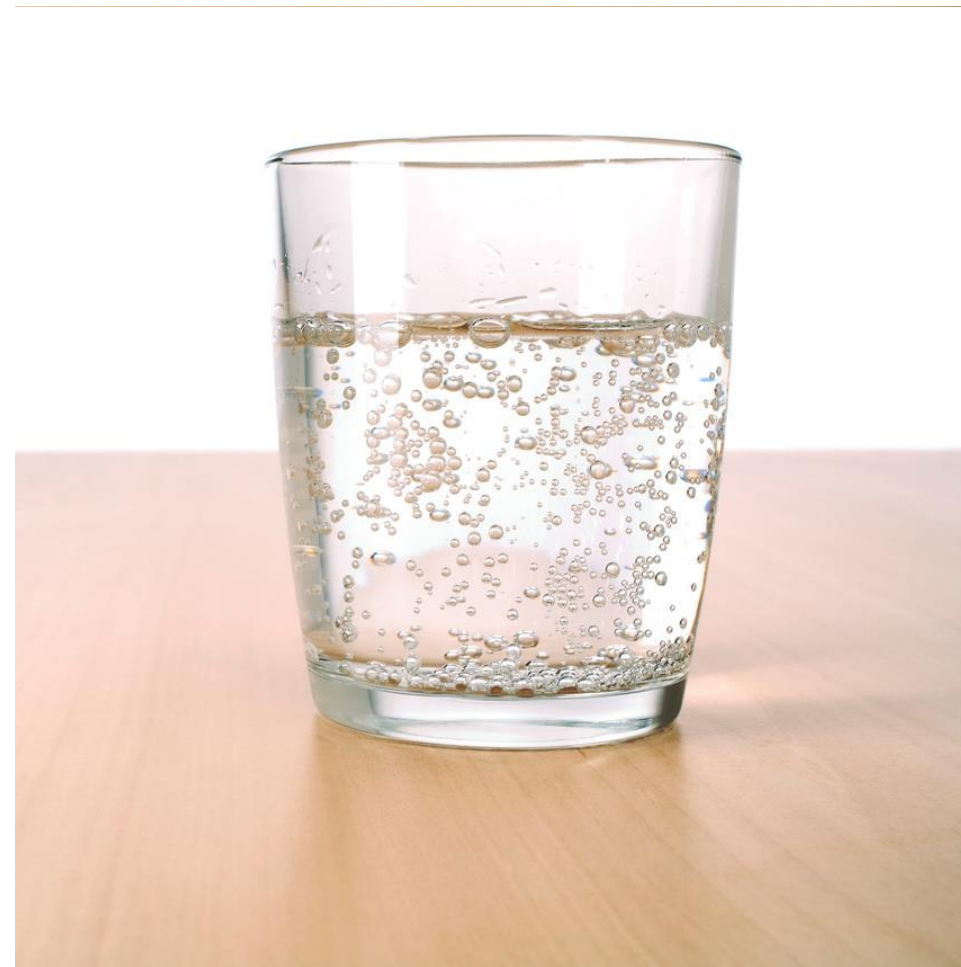
Our Coordinators

- **Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. E.:**
 - Our dedicated coordinators.
 - Taught us about the legislative process.
 - Provided counsel and support.
 - Acted as our family away from home.
- **Ms. Paula Carreiro:**
 - Preferred to stay behind the scenes.
 - Extremely caring and supportive.
 - Ensured we kept up with our responsibilities.
 - Disciplined and helped us rise to the occasion of being a page.



Personal Anecdotes

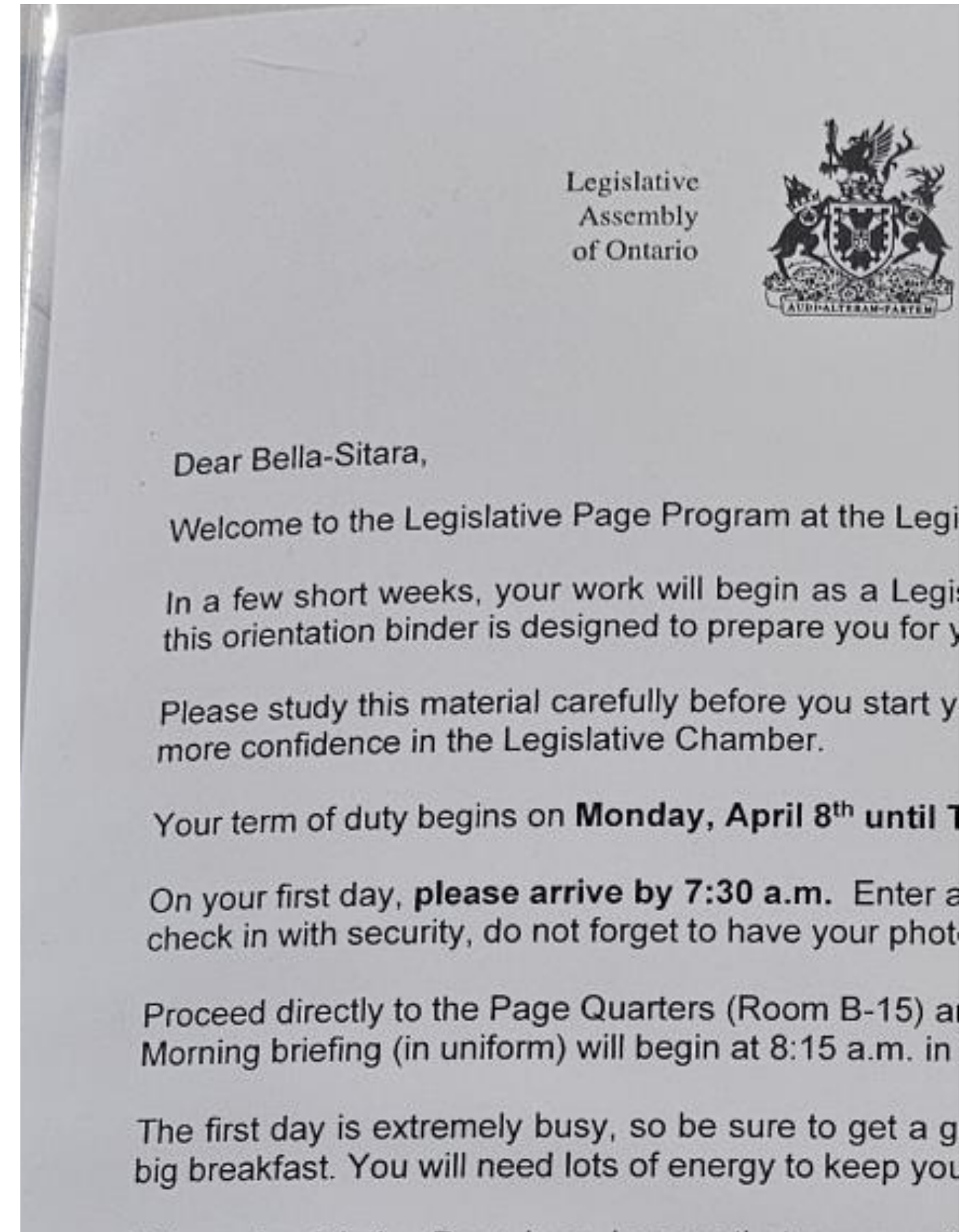
- Pay Your Fines
- Soda Switcharoo
- “Thank you, but no.”



What I Learned

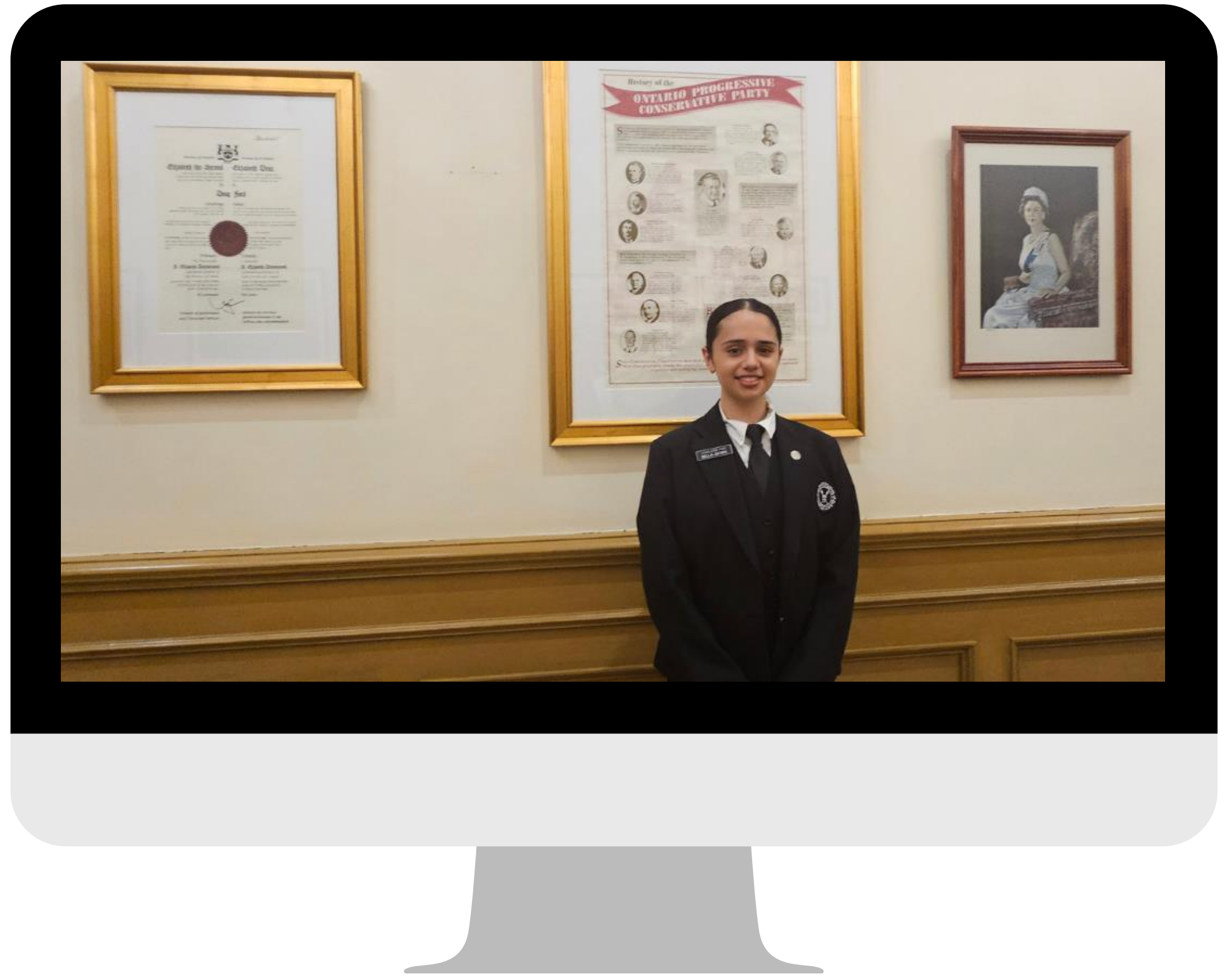
Personal Growth and Learning

- Deeper Understanding of Legislative Process:
 - Gained comprehensive knowledge of how our provincial legislature functions.
 - Learned the importance of civic engagement and participating in democratic processes.
- Enhanced Skills:
 - Improved public speaking abilities through interactions and presentations.
 - Developed stronger leadership skills by taking on responsibilities and initiatives.
- Understanding Non-Partisan Roles:
 - Learned the significance of maintaining neutrality and impartiality in a legislative environment.
 - Appreciated the importance of fairness and objectivity in public service.



Future Aspirations

- Inspired Career Path:
 - This experience has inspired me to pursue a career in public service and law.
 - Motivated to make a positive impact through public service.
- Commitment to Community Engagement:
 - Dedicated to staying engaged in my community.
 - Eager to continue learning about our government and its processes.



“Audi alteram partem”

Principle of Fair Hearing

- "Listen to the Other Side":
 - Also known as "Let the other side be heard as well."
- Core Principle:
 - No person should be judged without a fair hearing.
 - Ensures each party has the opportunity to respond to the evidence against them.
- Importance in Public Service and Law:
 - Upholds justice and impartiality.
 - Essential for fair and equitable decision-making.





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Bella-Sitara Singh Soares

Thank You!

Thank you to Grey County for
inviting me to speak today.

I hope my presentation has given
you insight into the incredible
page program at Queen's Park.

Any questions?

