

## Brief Bios of Super Staff, Interns and Volunteers at Rideau Institute

### **Sarah Bowles**

Sarah is **Operations Manager** at the Rideau Institute and is completing her Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Conflict Studies and Human Rights from the University of Ottawa. Sarah is a woman of many talents, having run her own successful small business for five years and having served as a Reservist with the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Defence Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces for six years.

### **Agradip Dutta**

Agradip completed a Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University, with a specialization in International studies and a minor in Economics. He also has an MA in Public Ethics and Governance from the University of Ottawa. He has previously worked as a Trainee in the Political Press, Media, and Trade Section with the European Union Delegation in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### **Ali Hassan**

Our youngest volunteer, Ali is currently studying Public Affairs and Policy Management at Carleton University. He is specializing in Public Policy and Administration with a minor in Economics. Ali is fluent in English, German, and Arabic and is working hard to upgrade his French. He is a member of Carleton University Debate and Speech, which participates in competitive university debating competitions across the country.

### **Derek Mackay**

Derek completed his Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University and earned his M.A. at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He has previously completed an internship at the Embassy of Canada to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. His research interests include Canadian foreign policy, particularly in relation to the Middle East as well as Canadian defence policy.

### **Peggy Mason**

A former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN and an expert on the political/diplomatic aspects of UN peacekeeping training, Peggy Mason is now the President of the Rideau Institute, an independent, think tank focusing on research and advocacy in foreign, defence and national security policy. In that capacity she brings a progressive voice to issues ranging from the imperative of nuclear disarmament to the centrality of UN conflict resolution, and appears regularly in the blogosphere, in print media and on radio and television.

**Steve Staples**

Steven Staples, founder of the Rideau Institute and co-founder of Ceasefire.ca, now serves as Rideau Institute Vice-President. Through his social entrepreneurship vehicle, Public Response, he provides vital fundraising assistance to us. He is the author of Missile Defence: Round One (Lorimer books) and the co-editor of the anthology, Afghanistan and Canada: Is There an Alternative to the War? (Black Rose Books).

**Claire Zhou**

Claire completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from Carleton University. She will be pursuing her Masters' Degree in the fall. Claire is fluent in Cantonese and has working knowledge of Mandarin and French. She has previously worked with the Canadian AIDS Society, The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association and Elections Canada.

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