



## **LAMBDA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION CANADA ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

The year 2016-2017 has been a big planning one for Lambda Foundation, a non-profit organization that has been raising funds for student research in LGBTI issues since the 1990s. Twenty-five years ago, research and writing on gay and lesbian issues - let alone transgender and intersex ones - were not very welcome or respected in Canadian universities. We are proud to say that Lambda Scholarship Foundation Canada [www.lambdafoundation.org](http://www.lambdafoundation.org) has helped create a climate of change and respect through establishing awards for graduate and/or undergraduate students doing LGBTI research and writing at nine Canadian universities. There are now a number of specialized university courses in Canada, dedicated to furthering knowledge about LGBTI people in all their queer diversities.

We are going to take some of the credit for that, but it has been a long journey, and we are adding new routes. We are not abandoning our dedication to excellence in research, just thinking of other ways to help as well.

### **Our Lambda Tuition Award Fund**

A couple of years ago, we asked members of our community if we should start either a brand new research award, or a bursary to help an LGBTI student get through university. Based on your feedback, we came up with a plan for the Lambda Priority Bursary Fund. Bursaries are financial aid, mostly for tuition and other school expenses, for students in need. We have since discovered, however, that verifying true financial need is a complicated process for a small volunteer board like ours, and best undertaken by universities. But the administrations do not specify what kind of student should be awarded a bursary. To ask about an individual's sexual orientation and gender identity under those circumstances breaches their privacy rules.

So we went back to the drawing board. We have decided on the **Lambda Tuition Award Fund** because tuition, books and living expenses are high for most students, not to speak of the ongoing burden of student loans. Lambda Foundation is preparing to administer a series of special legacy **awards** for outstanding LGBTI people who are "out", have contributed

constructive energy to our community in some way and want to take an undergraduate degree. We would organize the award applications, decide on the successful applicant, and send at least \$1000 per year for four years to the registrar of the recipient's program to help with tuition, assuming they keep their grades high enough to stay in school. We hope there will eventually be a series of awards under the Lambda Tuition Award Fund. We could specify a particular area of study for one award, or a particular university for another. Much would depend on our donors' visions, generosity and their willingness to act now and/or leave a legacy later.

### **Lambda's Awards for research and writing:**

Most of the money we raise at Lambda Foundation these days still goes into our LGBTI research and writing awards at nine universities across Canada. When Lambda receives donations, we forward the funds to the host universities at the end of the year, and we also liaise with the on-campus development offices, professors, student associations and campus media to promote excellent applications. The universities invest the funds carefully, each in their own way, and the annual payouts, that is, the interest they earn, constitute the awards. They do not touch the principal. The universities' awards committees (in some cases in consultation with Lambda), decide whose research on LGBTI issues merit the awards.

Here are the endowment totals and the available awards (in rounded-off figures) as of April 30, 2017.

The Christian Landry Memorial Award University of New Brunswick	\$26,386 endowment	\$800 award
Fonds des bourses Fondation Lambda Université de Montréal	\$27,355 endowment	\$1,155 award
Gary Sealey and Friends of Lambda Award Carleton University	\$62,538 endowment	\$2,297 award
Nicole LaViolette and Friends of Lambda Prize University of Ottawa	\$34,945 endowment	\$500-\$1000 award
Grant Halle Lambda Award Laurentian University	\$21,100 endowment	\$644 award
Lambda Foundation Scholarship in Gay and Lesbian Studies, University of Guelph	\$47,883 endowment	\$1,000 award
Les McAfee Memorial Award University of Manitoba	\$46,788 endowment	\$2,100 award
Candis Graham Writing Scholarship University of Victoria	\$39,196 endowment	\$1,575 award

### **We have two other awards:**

The bi-annual, **Doctor Gary Gibson Award** at UBC/St. Paul's Hospital Foundation in Vancouver. This \$1000 award is named after the late, gay physician who specialized in treating HIV-related illnesses. It is not the product of a multi-thousand dollar university endowment, but we raise it every second year through donations to Lambda Foundation's Gary Gibson Fund. We send the award money to the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, which chooses the worthy recipient. The award goes to a resident doctor doing medical research to benefit LGBTI patients.

**The Jack Hallam Human Rights Award** at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) on Salt Spring Island, BC. This \$1000 award challenges the students to consider the ways that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation intersects with other forms of bias, such as race, religion and gender, and allows them to submit presentations in the formats of their choice, including essays, videos and social media productions.

*For our current award winners and their interests, please visit our website at*

*[www.lambdafoundation.org](http://www.lambdafoundation.org) and check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Lambda-Foundation-Fondation-Lambda-47501658828/>*

### ***New People on our Board of Directors***

We are delighted to welcome three new directors to our board who bring a wealth of talent, knowledge and energy with them. They are **Patrizia Gentile**, a specialist in gender and queer history and theory at Carleton University, **Cameron Aitken**, who has both theatre and fundraising experience, and our former volunteer, **Jefferson Morris IV**, who has worked with a number of LGBTI organizations and directs our social media. Jefferson has taken over from the departing **Kathleen Reid**, who set up our new webpage and we are very grateful to her. Thank you, Kathleen! Our other directors are **Barbara Freeman** (president), **Chris Fox** (vice-president), **Michael Graydon** (secretary), **Tuan Vu** (treasurer) and **Meryn Stuart** (director at large). The board, whose members live in different cities, meets every eight week electronically, and communicates via email between meetings. We also welcome new volunteers who are not on the board, but want to help out in different ways. Our latest volunteer is **Tony Truong** of Ottawa, who will be helping us with administration and fundraising events, while a former V-P of Lambda, **Bill Turner**, is our volunteer on Salt Spring Island, BC, where we have our high school award. All our directors and volunteers are members of the Lambda Foundation, and any of our donors are free to become members on an annual basis. There is no membership fee.

Thank you for your continuing support of Lambda Foundation.

Barbara Freeman  
President