



LAMBDA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION CANADA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

President's Message: Farewell and Thank You!

Despite the pandemic and the many challenges we faced over the past year, the Lambda Scholarship Foundation continues to work tirelessly towards encouraging research linked to 2SLGBTQ+ and QTBIPOC communities. Our success, however, is largely due to the enthusiasm and interests of people like Mahsa Merci, winner of the McAfee award from the University of Manitoba, Kyle Golemba, winner of the Lambda Scholarship Foundation in LGBT Studies at the University of Guelph, Spencer O'Hara winner of the STEM award at the University of Alberta (in his 3rd year of study), and Lila Adam-Gordon, winner of the Jack Hallam Human Rights Award housed at the Salt Spring High School in BC. These inspirational and talented students are a testament to the important work emerging in 2SLGBTQ+ and QTBIPOC research. Please visit our website to learn more about the winners of our other awards. We are very proud of our award recipients and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours!

As this will be my last report, I would like to take a moment to comment on my journey as the President of the Lambda Scholarship Foundation. I joined the Board as a regular member in 2017 and stepped into the role of president in 2018. It has been a privilege to work with Tuan, Cameron, Sara, Jefferson, Mike, and Dillon. While the pandemic created obstacles to actualizing some of our plans, we were able to launch a new award (thanks to our anonymous donor) at Concordia University, mount a new website, and coordinate our awards. I am happy to report that Cameron Aitken, vice-president, will step into the role of President as of September 2021. My decision to step down as President and relinquish my seat as a continuing Board of Director is due to my growing responsibilities as a senior academic. Sadly, I am unable to dedicate the time and commitment to my volunteer activities. I am confident that with Cameron at the helm, many of the plans regarding communication strategies, attracting donors, and expanding the awards network will come to fruition. Indeed, much of the work that has been undertaken in the past four years was possible because of the energy and commitment that Cameron brought to the table. Finally, one of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering for this critically important organization has been bearing witness to the amazing research being funded. If the commitment, dedication, and brilliance of this work is any indication of our trajectory as a society and community, our award winners are laying the foundation for an extraordinary future.

Latest Lambda News

New donation for the Nicole LaViolette Friends of Lambda Award: At Lambda, we are also grateful to the donations we receive to enable students to flourish in their studies. This year, the authors of *L'essentiel du droit de la famille dans les provinces et territoires de common law au Canada* (Éditions Yvon Blais: Montréal, 2014, a textbook about Family Law for Common, donated all of the royalties from their textbook to the Nicole LaViolette Friends of Lambda Award at the University of Ottawa. Thank you!

Canada Summer Jobs/Communications Assistant: We were successful in securing a grant to hire a summer student through the Canada Summer Jobs program. It brings us great pleasure to report that through this program we were able to hire Matthew Edwards, an MA student in the Department of History at Carleton University, as our Communications Assistant. Matthew has been instrumental in assisting us with administrative, communications, and outreach strategies over an eight-week period. Matt has proven to be indispensable and a tremendous help as we worked through our outreach and infrastructure plans. He will be missed! Thank you so much for your work, Matt! Thanks to Cameron Aitkin and Michael Graydon for their help in completing the grant.

Lambda joins the Enchanté Network: As of the summer of 2021, the Lambda Scholarship Foundation is a member of the Enchanté Network, a national network connecting over 160 pride centres and 2SLGBTQ+ service providers. Enchanté is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, EGIGES, and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

Thank you to out-going Board member, Dillon Black: Dillon Black, PhD candidate at the University of Ottawa and long-time activist in the Ottawa 2SLGBTQ+ community, joined the Board in 2019. Dillon will be stepping down from the Board as of September 2021. Dillon is a valued member of our team. We would like to thank them for this commitment and work during their tenure. Dillon played a key role in conceptualizing our mandate towards equity and ending anti-oppression practices within the organization and in the larger community. Thank you, Dillon!!

New Board of Directors! As of September 2021, we are welcoming four new Board of Directors. We are so excited to welcome Arena, Avelia, Brandi, and Calla to the team! We are looking forward to working with them. We are especially excited to have a chance to draw on their energy, knowledge, and expertise. The Lambda Board of Directors has the great pleasure to introduce the following new board members below:

Arena Alamino: Arena is a volunteer at Out Of The Cold Halifax, a community based shelter offering low barrier support. In addition to her current volunteer work, Arena has 8 years of volunteer experience in community outreach and peer support capacities. She has studied at the University of Toronto's Sexuality Diversity Studies Program.

Avelia Stewart: Avelia is currently the Head of Diversity and Inclusion at Western Financial Group (Subsidiary of Wawanesa Insurance) in Winnipeg. Avelia has extensive experience in the field of communications, human resources, and public relations. She holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Human Resources Management and an MA in Communication & Culture from Howard University.

Brandi Trudell-Davis, RN: Brandi is a nurse (BA and MA) with extensive experience working in the health and wellness sector in the BC area. Currently, Brandi is the Chief Executive Office for the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, Nisga'a Nation.

Calla Barnett: Calla is a Ph.D candidate in Political Science from the University of Ottawa and is currently a part-time professor at the university. She is also the owner of Barnett Translations, specializing in providing translation service into French and into English. Calla has served as a volunteer at various organizations and was a Board member for the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity for several years.

Lambda's Awards for writing and research

Most of the money we raise at Lambda Foundation these days still goes into our 2SLGBTQ+ writing and research awards at nine universities across Canada. Our research awards operate through endowments set up with the universities concerned. 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 endowment funds carefully, each in their own way, and the annual payouts (the interest earned) constitute the awards. They do not touch the principal. The universities' awards committees (in some cases in consultation with Lambda), decide whose research on LGBTQI2 issues merit the awards.

Here is a list of the available awards:

Name of Award
The Christian Landry Memorial Award, University of New Brunswick
Fonds des bourses Fondation Lambda, Université de Montréal
Gary Sealey and Friends of Lambda Award, Carleton University
Nicole LaViolette and Friends of Lambda Prize, University of Ottawa
Grant Halle Lambda Award, Laurentian University
Lambda Foundation Scholarship in Gay and Lesbian Studies, University of Guelph
Les McAfee Memorial Award, University of Manitoba

Candis Graham Writing Scholarship , University of Victoria

Other awards/prizes:

Prix de la Fondation Lambda , Université de Montréal

Doctor Gary Gibson Award at UBC/St. Paul's Hospital Foundation

The Jack Hallam Human Rights Award at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) on Salt Spring Island, BC

Lambda Tuition Award in STEM at University of Alberta
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Lambda Scholarship Tuition Award , Concordia University
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For our current award winners and their interests, please visit our website at www.lambdafoundation.org and check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Lambda-Foundation-Fondation-Lambda-47501658828/>

Members of the Board of Directors

Our out-going President is ***Patrizia Gentile***, Associate Professor in the Human Rights & Social Justice/Women's and Gender Studies programs at Carleton University. ***Cameron Aitken***, who has both theatre and fundraising experience, is our vice-president. Our Secretary, ***Michael Graydon***, is a Sociology professor at Algoma University who also does our Anglophone awards outreach. ***Tuan Vu***, a financial expert, is our Treasurer. ***Sara Bannerman***, Board member at large, is a CRC in Communication Studies and Governance and Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia at McMaster University. Finally, Dillon Black, out-going Board member at large, is a Ph.D candidate at the University of Ottawa working on issues of trans rights, gendered violence, and the rise of violent extremism. *Please see our 'latest news' section above for information regarding the newest additions to our Board!*

I would like to thank Tuan, Cameron, Sara, Mike, and Dillon, our board members for all their work and efforts. This foundation would not function without their ideas and activism. ***Jefferson Morrison III***, a long-standing Board member and current volunteer, stepped down from his position on the Board in December 2020. I would like to thank him for his dedication and expertise during his tenure.

Thank you for your continuing support of Lambda Scholarship Foundation Canada.

Patrizia Gentile, President