

Emerging Leaders in the Social Economy Research Scholarship Program

This scholarship program is intended to promote original research by “emerging leaders” in the Social Economy. It is hoped that the scholarships will help advance knowledge for the sector and improve the capacity of successful candidates to further strengthen the Social Economy in their academic and practitioner sectors in Canada.

The Program provides scholarships of up to \$3,000 per recipient towards salary replacement, national/international travel, or other actual costs of conducting research and producing a research report for publication by CSEHub. Jody Bauche was the recipient of the first scholarship, announced in May, 2009. The second round of winners, announced November 2009, are: Melissa Fong, Emily McGiffin, Josina Vink and David Thompson.

MAY, 2009 WINNER



Jody Bauche is the first youth to receive the Emerging Leaders scholarship. She has worked as a community practitioner in the field of early childhood development and social services for nearly twelve-

years. Her main focus is finding sustainable and holistic ways to improve conditions for First Nations communities in BC. She is currently working as an Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Coordinator for southern Vancouver Island.

“It’s common knowledge that British Columbia has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country and Indigenous children are at the centre of poverty in our province. My hope is that my research will help further a conversation and dialogue with regional chiefs around the importance of preserving our culture for future generations.” Part of accomplishing her goal is to travel to New Zealand to research the Maori’s implementation of the quadruple bottom line (environmental, social, economic and culturally sustainability) to see how BC can learn from their experiences and practices.

Research Update from Jody: After some considerable reflection over the last couple months I have decided to narrow the scope of my research to one simple question ‘do Maori values factor into economic decision making in New Zealand?’ In Canada, First Nations culture is often defined by the similar values of: respect, honor, love, honesty, inter-generational, reverence for the earth and the environment, generosity, kindness and truth. Although these values often contradict most western business models I believe that they can be interwoven in some

business policies and practice in order to create a more holistic and sustainable economy.

My research to date has been focused on finding the right institutes in New Zealand to help support my inquiry while simultaneously building linkages with Maori communities. So far I have made connections with the University of Auckland, the High Commissioner of New Zealand and the Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.

Since September I have been busy building relationships with two local Chiefs that I intend to work with upon my return to Canada. The intent is to bring real and practical suggestions for how to build community based economies for First Nations communities now and for future generations.

NOVEMBER, 2009 WINNERS



Emily McGiffin has worked at the intersection of food, community and land stewardship for the past 10-years. She lives on an organic farm in the rural

community of Hazelton BC where she is actively involved in sustainable food production and community economic development. As well as working as a freelance writer and contractor, Emily is studying for an MSc. in Rural Development through the external system of the University of London UK. Her research project, Hungry for Change: Food communities and rural economic revival, examines the food community of the Upper Skeena and Bulkley Valley, exploring ways in which food related initiatives and growing consumer awareness are bringing new faces, new ideas and new opportunities to the region.

Melissa Fong is a graduate student at the Ontario



Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto in the Department of Adult Education and Community Development. Ms. Fong also received a B.A. (Sociology & Geography) and B.Ed. from The University of British Columbia and practised as a public school educator in Vancouver, B.C.

Additionally, she has served as a housing researcher, activist, and popular media writer since 2005. Working also in Washington, D.C. and the San Francisco Bay Area to take on policy research, she has researched widely the role of the racialization of poverty in the subprime mortgage industry in the United States. Ms. Fong's current research interests lie within the broad topic of contestations within the city, and coincide with anti-poverty social movements, the production of space and racial discourses.

Ms. Fong's Master of Arts thesis assesses Canadian settlement houses as critical sites for anti-poverty work. She is working with partners from Toronto Neighbourhood Centres to research the development of politicized education and organizing that strengthens an anti-poverty strategy.



Josina Vink is a social innovator, researcher, community builder, and a storyteller. She recently graduated from Simon Fraser University with an Honors Bachelor of Business Administration, a Minor in Dialogue, and a Certificate in

Sustainable Community Development. She is now working as a hopeful practitioner specializing in the areas of rural social enterprise, housing, community health and social innovation. In addition to her work as a Research Analyst for SHS consulting, Josina is working with the newly formed Social Enterprise Rural Alliance (SERA) in Durham, Ontario to create new social enterprises in rural communities and strengthen the movement for rural social enterprise across Canada.



David Thompson: After completing his degree at Algoma University in Community Economic and Social Development; David was able to find employment at NORDIK Institute and stay in the north. At

NORDIK, he practices holistic community development in the creation of community-based research projects and business plans. Along with the NORDIK team, David has been involved with local food security projects, research on the social economy, and business planning with non-profits. In 2008, David had the opportunity to visit Colombia for a community-based research project on the social economy with rural communities.

David's current research includes a study on the impact of the labour movement on the social economy of Sault Ste. Marie. The purpose of this study is to explore the nature and extent of labour's involvement in the social economy of Sault Ste. Marie as a way of celebrating and making more visible the major contribution that labour has made in the community.

David is currently completing an MBA in Community Economic Development at Cape Breton University. His interests include djing, x-country skiing, and playing Wii Fit with his wife Cayla.

Some of his favourite websites include:

- www.ted.com
- www.reddit.com
- www.nordikinstitute.com