

Final report: PhiLab Atlantic Hub: Funding for MA student

Introduction:

In July 2020, funding was awarded to support an MA in Environmental Policy student at the Environmental Policy Institute, School of Science and the Environment, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University. Katarina Nedeljakov, the MA student who is supported by this funding, has now completed her first year of the program. This report has been submitted to conclude the PhiLab funding process.

Co-Principal Investigators for the Proposal:

- Roza Tchoukaleyska, School of Science and the Environment, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University (PhiLab Atlantic Hub member)
- Garrett Richards, School of Science and the Environment, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University (PhiLab Atlantic Hub member)

MA student supported through funding:

- Katarina Nedeljakova, MA in Environmental Policy student, School of Science and the Environment, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University

MA funding program:

This purpose of this funding was two-fold: 1) to examine the role of NGOs as knowledge brokers in the transfer of information between researchers and communities; and 2) to support a new MA student at the PhiLab Atlantic Hub and the Environmental Policy Institute, Memorial University, who is seeking to develop a thesis on this topic and in response to the themes of social inequality and environmental justice as outlined in the SSHRC Partnership Grant.

Katarina Nedeljakova, whose thesis research will be supported through this application, started an MA in Environmental Policy at Memorial University in September 2020. Katarina has a background in natural sciences, and has experience working with eNGOs and an interest in sustainable development and agriculture. Katarina has now completed her MAEP course work, and has been awarded a SSHRC M-CGS for her second year of MAEP.

Project outcomes:

In keeping with the PhiLab funding goals, the following outcomes are noted:

- Katarina has completed a Research Assistantship supported by a SSHRC PG / PhiLab partner, the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation. Through this RAship, Katarina worked with a farmer in Gros Morne, Newfoundland, and provided support with agricultural development and funding. The RA presented an opportunity to understand

how information flows from the provincial agricultural ministry to local farmers, and to understand the role of organizations like the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation (a social enterprise and registered charity) in brokering regional knowledge networks, in keeping with goal 1) outlined above.

- Key outcomes linked to this funding were literature reviews on topics related to philanthropy, knowledge translation, and the role of NGOs as knowledge brokers. Through her course work, Katarina has completed assignments which consider knowledge transfer between NGO's and the government, specifically related to how NGOs bring issues to the political agenda and shape policy. This has included: 1) research on the possibility of implementing Universal Pharmacare in Canada, which is largely advocated for by a coalition of NGOs, health care workers, and academics; and 2) a literature review assignment on the role community-led urban agriculture in establishing a sense of place for newcomer and refugee communities, where NGOs often play a large role in fostering the community connections.
- Since Katarina is based in Calgary, she has also connected with the PhiLab Western Hub, and is listed as a student on both the Western and Atlantic Hubs
- In June, Katarina will attend two regional PhiLab conferences (Atlantic Hub and Western Hub).

This PhiLab MAEP funding was intended to support Katarina develop a thesis topic, with a view to applying for additional PhiLab funding to support her work. Katarina has been awarded a SSHRC M-GCS for her proposed work on the co-management of a protected area in Alberta, which will include an examination of knowledge partnership between Piikani Nation and the Government of Alberta. This PhiLab funding has been instrumental in supporting Katarina as she developed her thesis topic, and her choice of case study reflects information gained through philanthropic related literature reviews and engagement with the PhiLab network. Since Katarina has been awarded a SSHRC M-GCS for her thesis, we will not be seeking additional PhiLab funding for this project.