

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014

ALUMNI SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM HELPS CREATE PARTNERSHIP FOR MUNICIPALITIES

By Denys Volkov

In November of 2013, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) held its annual convention in Brandon, Manitoba. Over 1000 elected officials, senior administrative officers and staff from Manitoba's 197 incorporated municipalities attended this event to garner valuable learning experiences which yield benefits throughout the year. Delegates enjoyed the opportunity to discuss their challenges with their peers, become conversant with government initiatives and programs, learn best practices in municipal excellence, hear from some of the nation's most prominent keynote speakers and engage with the Ministers of Manitoba's Provincial Cabinet.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Stephen R. Abernathy, Intercity Bus Program Manager, Washington State Dept. of Transportation
 Steve Lafleur, Public Policy Analyst, Frontier Centre for Public Policy
 Consul Timothy L. Cipullo, Consulate of the United States in Winnipeg
 Denys Volkov, Director of Policy and Communications with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

With the help of U.S. Consul in Winnipeg Tim Cipullo and his staff who assisted in putting together the alumni small grants program application, the AMM convention featured a U.S. speaker from Washington State. Intercity Bus Program Manager Stephen Abernathy co-presented with Steve Lafleur,

Public Policy Analyst with Frontier Centre for Public Policy in Winnipeg. Mr. Abernathy developed the "Travel Washington" project and talked about his experience with private sector providers who connect communities in Washington State, and how it might be applied in Manitoba. He also offered his suggestions on how local providers and their communities can gain economic benefit from the new charter bus bill.

More than a dozen rural and northern communities in Manitoba suffered a serious blow last year when the long-time subsidies and regulatory structure that maintained Greyhound bus service between many of the communities broke down. Inter-city bus services in Manitoba were built on a system of tied subsidies to Greyhound and restrictions on entry into the market. The system collapsed when Greyhound decided to forego the subsidies and abandon a number of unprofitable routes. This decision left many communities without inter-city bus service, and forced residents without cars to either take the expensive option of flying to their destination, or requesting rides from friends and neighbors.

A resolution at the AMM's annual convention called on the organization to "lobby the Province of Manitoba to secure intercity bus service to rural and northern Manitoba without interruption." After its failed attempt to retain inter-city bus service through subsidies and regulatory procedures, the provincial government told the AMM it is more inclined to support a "market-based" method to encourage service, and asked the AMM to look at potential models that could be used in Manitoba.



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- Alumni Small Grants Program

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www.forbes.com

Blog - A Fulbrighter in Montreal and his Research on Mohawk Culture
www.fulbright.ca

Stephen Abernathy discussed this issue with AMM members. New and creative inter-city bus service ideas could be a win-win situation for municipalities and the provincial government.

This was a successful partnership between the alumni, US Consulate in Winnipeg and the Embassy in Ottawa which could result in future partnerships in Manitoba communities.

- **Denys Volkov**, Director of Policy and Communications at the AMM (2007 Volvis on Municipal Government)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI

alumni.state.gov

Alumni Community: News and Events

Montreal

Canada-U.S. Arctic issues

Alumni Joël Plouffe co-wrote an article with American researcher Simon Sylvester-Chaudhuri entitled: "Opinion: Arctic Powers Canada and U.S. Need Arctic Thinkers". Plouffe participated in the 2012 International Visitor Leadership Program "Arctic Development and Security in an Age of Climate Change". He is a Researcher at the Centre for Interuniversity Research on the International Relations of Canada and Quebec (CIRRIQ) and a Fellow at Canadian Defense and Foreign Affairs Institute.

Read his article online by clicking [here](#). You can also listen to Mr. Plouffe as he discusses Canada's claim of the North Pole with Rod Sharp on BBC Radio 5 Live [here](#).

Ottawa

By Ariane Guy

On January 14 2014, over 20 alumni from the Ottawa region attended a Meet and Greet at The Metropolitan Brasserie. This was a joint event organized by the U.S. Embassy Alumni Affairs, the Parliamentary Internship Program (PIP) and Fulbright Canada, which Public Affairs Officer Judith Bryan and Cultural Affairs Officer Diane Sovereign also attended.

It was a great opportunity for alumni from different programs to chat about their experience and network. As Alumni Coordinator, I am glad I was able to see some new faces and reconnect with others. I am happy you all came out. Thanks to Carole Theauvette at PIP and Kaitlyn Innes at Fulbright for being a part of the planning team. We all look forward to more gatherings!



Seeking Alumni Involvement for a Panel discussion

By Erica Bregman

My name is Erica Bregman (International Visitors Leadership Program, 2010) and I'm very excited to share a potential program idea with fellow IVLP and Fulbright alumni. We're looking for your input and would love to hear from you!

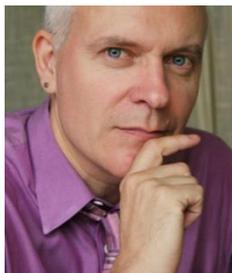
In April 2014, Imam Mohamad Jebara (IVLP 2010) and I plan to host a community event in support of organ and tissue donation. Our goal is to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation locally and to support Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) and Ontario's Be-A-Donor campaign by inviting members of the organ and tissue donation community to speak about their experiences with giving/receiving life.

Our panel discussion and Q&A is scheduled to coincide with National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week (NOTDAW), April 20-27, 2014. Our focus will be youth and intercultural participation.

If you're interested in getting involved in the planning and development of this panel discussion, or could help us identify individuals who may be interested in sharing their first hand experiences as either a recipient or donor family, we would warmly welcome your participation. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!

-Imam Mohamad Jebara and Erica Bregman

Canada's first envoy to Myanmar



2007-2008 Fulbright Government of Canada Mid-Career Professional Alumni Mark McDowell has been named Canada's first resident Ambassador to Myanmar, having presented credentials on August 14 2013. Mr. McDowell was most recently Counsellor and head of the public diplomacy section at Canada's embassy in Beijing. Previously to his posting in China, Mr. McDowell has served in New York City, Taipei and Bangkok. He was also a Research Fellow at Harvard's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance researching on contemporary issues in Burma. Read more about his new appointment [here](#).

From the Embassy and all your fellow alumni, congratulations!

Grants

Alumni Small Grants Program

The United States Embassy in Ottawa is pleased to announce the FY 2014 Alumni Small Grants Program. We encourage all Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to apply. To be eligible for this program, you must be registered on the International Exchange Alumni Website. If you haven't already done so, please register here: <https://alumni.state.gov>.

The Alumni Small Grants Program encourages and promotes alumni leadership in activities in Canada that support U.S.-Canada bilateral foreign policy objectives. Proposals for grants may come in the form of service projects, community development programs, educational initiatives, special projects or other creative initiatives. However grants for projects that are purely research are not eligible for this program.

Grant Amounts: \$1,000 to \$7,500 USD based upon available resources.

Deadline: The U.S. Embassy Ottawa will be accepting grant applications from now until **April 30, 2014**. Grant recipients will be notified in early May 2014. Pending availability of funds, we will continue to accept grant applications on a *rolling basis* until September 1, 2014 or until funds are exhausted.

For more information and to view the Alumni Small Grants Program document, click [here](#).

For information and to submit proposals, contact AlumniCanada@state.gov.

CONNECT WITH THE
AMBASSADOR!

As we're gearing up to welcome a new U.S. Ambassador to Canada, we'd love for you, our Alumni, to welcome him as well. Do you have a few minutes to spare and are you interested in connecting with the Ambassador? Send us a short video of yourself and tell us:

What exchange program did you take part in, and when?

What was the highlight of your program?

What would you tell the new Ambassador is the most powerful way to connect with Canadians?

Do you have any other ideas and suggestions for him?

Grab your phone, tablet or computer and reach out to the U.S. Ambassador!

Additional details:

File format: mov, MP4 or Quicktime (your portable devices should all produce video in either one of these formats.)

Length: 1-3 minutes

Deadline: February 10th 2014

Send to: AlumniCanada@State.gov with **Video Clip for Ambassador** in the subject line.

Stay in Touch with Alumni around the World

International Exchange Alumni just joined Tumblr! You can visit the brand new #ExchangeAlumni Tumblr blog here <http://goo.gl/8JlOkT>

If you're an exchange participant, or alumna/us of an exchange program, this blog is just for YOU! From job listings, to exchange program information and alumni stories, to virtual dance parties—this blog was designed just for you to share information and meet other exchange participants and alumni.

Do you have a Tumblr page too? Let us know, we'd love to follow you. This is your space, so have fun with it!

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalExchangeAlumni>

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