

# 2017 Mandelbaum Fellowship Award

Citation for Beaudin Bennett

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are arranged in a single line, with 'O' and 'C' on the left, 'U' in the middle, and 'F' and 'A' on the right.

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## **CITATION FOR BEAUDIN BENNETT**

**Read by Gyllie Phillips, OCUFA Vice-President**

This year's Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship Award winner for Masters' level of study is Beaudin Bennett, currently enrolled at Laurentian University in the Indigenous Relations program.

He is exploring intimate partner violence in First Nations communities on Manitoulin Island and examining the perspectives of Indigenous women about the acute injuries, chronic anxiety, and depression that often accompany this violence. Beaudin's work uses mixed methods to promote health and change for participants. Working with a local Indigenous theatre company and community groups, he put on an event that showcased artwork and photographs from participants, prompting discussions about intimate partner violence in weekly focus groups. He is committed to amplifying the voices of multiple experiences of intimate partner violence rather than reducing Indigenous women's stories to only one narrative.

Beaudin is an impressive academic and researcher who has already published reports and presented his work at many conferences. He is a true leader, an outstanding volunteer, and his commitment to social justice cannot be overstated. He has done service work across Canada and internationally, and pursues a wide range of volunteer activities, including supporting at-risk youth as a mentor at the local Aboriginal health access centre, and advocating for migrant worker rights in Bangladesh as an intern at a non-governmental organization.

Beaudin's references spoke highly of him:

*Beaudin acts with integrity and leadership, is respectful, cooperative and not afraid to seek advice when necessary. He maintains a sense of humour, openness, and humility that will allow him to connect with patients as a future rural doctor.*

Another referee stated that:

*Beaudin impressed me as a person who distinguishes himself from his peers not only academically (consistently at the top of his class with A grades in undergraduate and graduate courses) and as a person who does not sit back*



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*when faced with challenges, but also as a person of considerable ethics and compassion.*

Beaudin is a well-rounded individual with a variety of passions. He motorcycled across Russia to Western Europe and spends his free time in the north canoeing, hiking, and running. He works hard, but understands the importance of balance.

It is clear Beaudin is motivated to improve life within the communities he works, whether in Canada or abroad. He is doing important and challenging studies about intimate partner violence with populations that are often overlooked in this research. For these reasons, and many more, OCUFA is pleased to award him the Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship-Masters.