



OCLA CALL/ACBD Travel Bursary - Committee Report

In 2020 Bursaries were awarded to Michelle Landriault and Michelle Gerrits but the pandemic resulted in the CALL Conference being moved to online only and free of charge. As a result, the bursary funds remained in our account.

In 2021 the CALL Conference was again in a virtual format with a CALL member cost of \$56.50 for the conference and an additional \$22.60 for extra events (tax included). Prior to the Conference an email was circulated indicating that if any Library staff were wanting to attend but funding was unavailable, especially in light of the 2021 budget cuts, to contact Michelle Gerrits and assistance could be made available to attend the Conference. The Executive felt it would be a good opportunity for those who had not attended before to get a feel for the types of programming available. There were no requests for these funds so the bursary amounts remained in OCLA's bank account.

Our bursary offered in 2019 was for \$1800 to assist with travel expenses – accommodations, meals not covered by conference fees, travel such as train, taxi or airfare. CALL/ACBD membership and conference fees would be the responsibility of the employer or the attendee.

In the past OCLA paid \$1000 direct to the recipient, and Irwin Law sponsored and provided an additional \$800 to the recipient in a separate cheque. Recipients are expected to return any excess funds if the travel costs are below \$1800. OCLA generously provides the money upfront to allow attendees to cover costs rather than waiting until after the conference to receive funds to prevent recipients from having to use their personal funds to attend professional development. All that is expected in return is that the recipient will attend the conference in full, will provide receipts with the provided form and a report on the conference sessions attended.

We hope that 2022 will allow for in-person travel to the CALL/ACBD Conference to Montreal from May 28th to June 2nd, and that Irwin Law will continue to stand as our long-standing sponsor to allow for the funds to continue the \$1800 bursary.

We fully expect that LIRN will provide bursaries as well and all library staff throughout the OCLA organization are encouraged to attend the conference and apply for the bursaries available.