

# Carolynne Boivin Scholarship

for Research in Family or  
Gender-Based Violence

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Impact Report 2021



# About

Colleagues and Board members of the RESOLVE (Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse) Network acknowledge Carolynne Boivin's contribution to the development of their network through the establishment of the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence offered at the University of Manitoba. Carolynne worked tirelessly as President and founding member of the *Prairieaction* Foundation which was established in 1997. Through this Foundation Carolynne was able to raise \$5 million to endow RESOLVE and to support other research and educational initiatives to reduce violence and abuse in the prairie provinces.

The Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence aims to support research in the fields of family and gender-based violence and is granted annually to a select number of honours and graduate students enrolled at the University of Manitoba.

Since the establishment of the scholarship in 2002, RESOLVE Manitoba has granted scholarships to 32 recipients, each scholarship ranging in value from \$500 to \$4,580. Successful recipients were enrolled in a variety of disciplines at the University of Manitoba including Sociology, Family Social Sciences, Social Work, Psychology, Graduate Studies, Law, and Nursing. Each recipient's research focus had been on addressing family or gender-based violence in some shape or form.

RESOLVE Manitoba is grateful for Carolynne and Dan Boivin's contribution, as it will ensure that future generations of family and gender-based violence researchers at the University of Manitoba are supported.

# 2021 Scholarship Recipients



## **Bolloite Offer (2021 Recipient)**

Bolloite Deborah Offer is a student in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Bolloite's current research centers on the 2019 Supreme Court of Canada *R v Barton* case. During this particular case it was recognized judicially that myths, stereotypes and discriminatory practices which operate against sexually assaulted women within the Canadian criminal justice system become compounded when the woman in question is Indigenous and more so, when the Indigenous woman is a sex worker.

The objectives of Bolloite's research are thus to:

1. Examine the extent to which the advocacy of feminist organisations influenced the Barton decision on appeal, as well as the necessity of their intervention; and
2. Project the possible impacts that the decision might have for Indigenous sexual assault complainants going forward.

The expected conclusions and recommendations of Bolloite's findings, will be crucial in critical assessments of the Barton decision, for lawyers, sexual assault complainants, the justice system and most importantly, Indigenous women, who have for too long, had to deal with multiple layers of discrimination within the Canadian society and the criminal justice system, as a consequence of the intersection between their race and gender.

## **Lauren Bresch (2021 Recipient)**

Lauren Bresch is a Masters student in the Faculty of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba. Lauren's research analyzes how service providers in Manitoba make sense of mothering and the responsibility of protecting children in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV). Building on the understandings of mothers, Lauren's research engages in an in-depth critical discourse analysis of key informant interview data collected by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative to examine what kinds of discourses are evident among service providers' framing and response to mothers and children who experience IPV and the ways in which notions of risks have permeated service provision for mother and child victims of IPV.

Using an intersectional feminist lens throughout her research, Lauren seeks to expose problematic policies and practices prevalent in responses towards mothers (with a particular focus on responses towards mothers who are single, poor, and racialized) and children who experience IPV and highlight ways forward to create more humane and effective policies that better protect mothers and their children from violence.



# Past Scholarship Recipients



## **Renée Hoffart (2020 Recipient)**

Renée Hoffart is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology and Criminology and a Research Associate with RESOLVE Manitoba. Renée has been employed in many centres aimed at helping survivors and ending violence. These centres include the Domestic Violence Unit at Family Service Regina, the YWCA Isabel Johnson Shelter, and the Regina Sexual Assault Centre.

Renée's dissertation research examines how responses to intimate partner violence have changed over time with a specific focus on how the advent of neo-liberalism and the advent of risk discourse have impacted service provision within the anti-violence sector.

The Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence has provided Renée with the necessary financial support for her doctoral studies, which have allowed her to focus on violence against women and societal responses toward the issue.

Renée feels honoured to have been selected as the recipient of the scholarship and would like to extend a thanks to RESOLVE Manitoba and Carolynne Boivin for their generosity.

*Amanda Smith's research aims to encourage healing interventions specific to Indigenous women, and girls that will promote a positive impact on intergenerational relationships within families and communities.*

## **Amanda Smith (2020 Recipient)**

Amanda Smith's research focused on Indigenous women's experiences with violence, both historical and contemporary, and cumulative trauma. Amanda was interested in understanding how Indigenous women heal, more specifically how grandmothers, mothers and daughters were able to heal together while overcoming the internalized oppression and remembering themselves as beautiful, sacred, and powerful life givers. In order to determine particular healing practices, Amanda gathered information on real life reflections on past experiences from many Indigenous women involved in the study. The reflections were gathered through journaling, talking circles, interviews and ceremonies. The intentions of the research centered on providing an opportunity for Indigenous women living in Manitoba to identify, recognize and address how colonialism has contributed to the violence they, and their ancestors experienced within their families, communities, and the broader society.



# Past Scholarship Recipients

## Desiree Thériault (2020 Recipient)

Desiree Thériault is a Métis designer and planner who grounds her work in Indigenous social, cultural, and spiritual resurgence. Her research interests lie in supporting MMIWG2S families and stories, particularly uncovering the role of landscape architecture in responding to gender-based violence and social recovery.

Desiree's thesis work looked to deconstruct colonial spatial practices throughout Winnipeg that actively impacted Indigenous communities in the city, in particular MMIWG2S, by addressing capacity building, place-keeping design, and justice through memorialization. The final submission was a fully designed master plan for a memorial park alongside Winnipeg's Alexander Docks that provides a platform for community and families to gather, remember, reflect and speak for the voiceless.

Desiree's research invites the public to understand how specific design and planning practices are actively involved in intensifying systemic trauma for communities, and how the public can begin to re-frame their spatial practices through a lens of support, storywork and empathy.

Desiree is beyond honoured to have received this scholarship. *"It is deeply touching to me personally and something that I will forever cherish. The work and research that RESOLVE continues to do profoundly inspires me. It is challenging work, but it is necessary. I am excited to continue my ongoing research and providing a platform for research on solutions to violence and abuse within the realm of design and landscape architecture."*



*"During the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this scholarship has offered me a beacon of hope. Just when I felt as though I couldn't gather the strength to dive deeper into the traumas of my research, this scholarship reminded me of the importance of this meaningful work. It has provided me with the tools to continue to engage with MMIWG2S families and provide everyone involved a copy of my thesis work. For that, I am forever grateful."*

*~ Desiree Thériault*

## Margherita Cameranesi (2019 Recipient)

Margherita Cameranesi's research aimed at identifying the resilience processes observed in children and adolescents who had experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within their homes. To determine the processes Margherita investigated significant predictors of resilience in children and adolescents who had been exposed to IPV, identified different resilience profiles in children and adolescents exposed to IPV, and identified specific individual and family characteristics that discriminated between different resilience profiles. Margherita's research findings were meant to contribute to the advancement of clinically relevant knowledge concerning resilience processes in Manitoba children and adolescents who have experienced IPV at home. Margherita's research also aimed at informing clinicians and guiding the development of more effective prevention and intervention programs tailored to fit specific needs.

# Past Scholarship Recipients

## 32

recipients since 2002

## \$500 - \$4580

value of sholarships given since 2002

## Scholorship granted to students in many fields

- ▶ Family Social Sciences
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Social Work
- ▶ Master of Social Work based in Indigenous Knowledges
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Other Graduate Studies Programs



### **Tammy Nelson (2019 Recipient)**

Tammy Nelson is a Métis woman from Winnipeg, Manitoba and currently enrolled as a student in the PhD program within the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. In 2019 when Tammy received the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence she was enrolled in the Master of Social Work based in Indigenous Knowledge's (MSW-IK) program where she completed her studies with a written thesis in one year. The scholarship not only supported her research and studies, but it allowed her as a student to continue with her educational goals.

Tammy's research "Mookii Mikinak: Traditional Road to Healing for Indigenous Women who Experienced Sexual Exploitation", focused on how traditional Indigenous healing practices could provide insight, support, and the development of programs that continue to address forms of gender-based violence from a decolonial lens.

*"Research on gender-based violence is needed and to have the support of the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship in my Master of Social Work provided me with the assistance to reach my goals. As a student in the PhD program and as I reflect on this scholarship, it was not just about the financial support provided to students, rather it was an honour to be selected and humbling to know that people believed in the research I was doing and wanted to see me succeed in my academic journey. I want to personally thank everyone that was part of the selection committee for this scholarship."*

~ Tammy Nelson

# Past Scholarship Recipients

## **Virginia Pateman (2018 Recipient)**

Virginia Pateman is a graduate of the Master of Social Work based in Indigenous Knowledges at the University of Manitoba and is involved in child and parenting programs at the North Shore Community Resources Society.

Virginia Pateman's past research focused on the relationship between Indigenous youth, cultural connection, and suicide. Her research suggested reconnecting Indigenous youth with their cultural traditions, identity, and spirituality would have reduced overall suicide rates and related problems, including family violence and addiction. Virginia engaged Indigenous Knowledge Holders (also referred to as Elders) to document their cultural wisdom, their teachings, and their life experiences in regards to Indigenous youth suicide. In doing so, she believed that valuable information would be shared by the Indigenous Knowledge Holders that would ultimately benefit Indigenous people and their communities by revealing potential avenues for reducing Indigenous youth suicide. Virginia believed that reconnecting Indigenous youth with cultural traditions would ultimately improve existence for future generations.

## **Nellie Murdock (2018 Recipient)**

Nellie Murdock is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation and was enrolled in the Master of Social Work based in Indigenous Knowledges when she received the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence.

Nellie Murdock's thesis focused on traditional Indigenous ceremonies and the relationship between ceremony participation and individual lifestyle choices. In other words, Nellie through her research intended to determine whether participation in traditional Indigenous ceremonies promoted positive well-being and decision making. Nellie believed it was necessary to research and to understand the healing practices of the Indigenous ancestors and how they could bring about change in the lives of those who have been hurt, who have suffered and who are dying and crying because of the impact of the violence on their lives over the many years.

## **Jeanette Brazeau (2018 Recipient)**

Jeanette Brazeau is a graduate from the Master of Social Work program at the University of Manitoba and a Mental Health Clinician at the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre.

Jeanette's research focused on the impact of family violence on Indigenous adolescents. Jeanette, had historically worked with adolescents that were identified as high risk, and Jeanette observed that many of the adolescents had encountered severe trauma. These adolescents had shared their stories with her including their hardships, courage and bravery and had inspired her research topic.

Jeanette aimed her research at utilizing an Indigenous paradigm using qualitative methods consisting of Indigenous adolescent narratives and photo voices. These methods were used to allow Indigenous adolescents to share their personal stories of how their lives had been impacted emotionally, physically, spiritually and mentally by family violence. Jeanette believed that through these personalized accounts profound and empathetic insight into the Indigenous adolescents lived experience would be gained.

For more information on the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence visit the RESOLVE website or email [RESOLVE@umanitoba.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@umanitoba.ca).