

Career Counsellor Practitioner Grant

The Career Counsellors (CC) Chapter of the CCPA recognizes that for career counsellors who are practitioners-in-the-field, there is limited support to conduct applied research projects in the counselling workplace. Many of our chapter members are practitioners who work daily in the field of career counselling in communities across Canada. These career practitioners completed their counsellor training earlier in their career and may not currently have the financial support to conduct research. Yet, our members indicate to us that there is profound value in, and need for, evidence accruing from work within the career counselling profession. The CC Chapter recognizes the importance of this work and would like to acknowledge the significant contribution it makes to the field.

In this, the 50th anniversary year of the CCPA, the CC Chapter has instituted a small grant fund (\$500 - \$1500) to promote the value, importance, and results of applied research performed by career counsellors in the community and/or workplace. These applied research initiatives may consist, for example, of small exploratory projects with an evaluation component; pilot proposals with specific career-related criteria; online surveys or assessments surveys with outcome measures; a needs assessment study of a particular career issue involving a specific demographic population, or other initiatives.

The Career Counsellor Practitioner's Grant program has been approved to be piloted for 2016, 2017, and 2018, whereupon the Chapter membership will vote at the 2018 Chapter AGM whether to continue the grant program. The CC Chapter will award on a competitive annual basis one funding grant per year. The applications for this grant will be reviewed by the Chapter Executive and they will determine that year's award winner.

The criteria for submission, evaluation, and the associated dates for the Career Counsellor Practitioner's Grant can be found on our Chapter website at <http://www.ccpa-accp.ca/chapters/career-counsellors/>. As part of the practitioner's acceptance of the grant they are encouraged to disseminate some of their research findings to the members of the Chapter, either through a presentation at the CCPA annual conference, submission of a blog article to be published on the Chapter's blogsite, or to by hosting a CCPA webinar on their research topic.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the CCPA and it is fitting that 2015 would mark the initiation of this new funding opportunity within the Career Counsellors Chapter of our national organization. The benefits of this initiative include the opportunity for the CC Chapter to herald the future of career counselling in Canada for the next 50 years. This initiative provides a distinctive way that our chapter can support our members and highlight the new directions that are being sought for career counselling in Canada. As well, this opportunity provides an ongoing marketing opportunity for the Chapter in 2015 and beyond in several formats including media, social media, publications, and future conference activity.