

March 11, 2015

The Calgary Foundation
David Elton Outdoor Fund
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Dear Members of the David Elton Outdoor Fund selection committee and donors,

I would like to sincerely thank you for awarding me a grant from the David Elton Outdoor Fund. The grant allowed me to attend a two-day National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Risk Management and Administration Course in Seattle, Washington. The course was tremendously useful and will certainly increase my professional competency in the domain of risk management for outdoor education activities.

NOLS is recognised as a leader in outdoor education for both their course content and educational pedagogy; I discovered that this gold standard extends to their professional development course curriculum as well. The course truly did what it promised to do and allowed me to determine if Quest's institutional practices measure up against precedents. The course covered some the key aspects of risk management such as administrative process, staff training, program risk management, field support services and emergency planning. Over the course of the two days, I was able to look at all elements of our current programs from our marketing to our participant waivers and receive feedback from other participants and the course instructors. The course was structured in such a way that I was able to identify potential growth areas and use these to develop a comprehensive risk management plan on how to improve our practices over the next year. I believe that attending this course and learning from the 50 years of experience that NOLS has in the areas of risk management and liability will allow me to dramatically improve Quest's ability to offer programming that exceeds industry standards and provides a model for which we can educate our students in these best practices as well.

Unfortunately, I did not account for the currency exchange rate of the cost of the NOLS Risk Management Administration Course and therefore used the additional \$150 that was included in my grant towards the tuition of the course. This meant that I was not able to register as an Associate Member with the Outdoor Council of Canada this year, but plan to do this as part of my professional development next year.

Thank you again for the funding and support, I truly appreciate your organization's investment in my professional development and in turn the investment in the students at Quest University Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Dalla-Longa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Adrienne Dalla-Longa

Student Services Coordinator, Quest University Canada