

2015-2016

Continuing Professional Development Grant Application

Name Robert Edelin

Department or School Regional

Brief Description of Training CPD Budget

CPD Budget

Amount Requested 1000.00 Your Email: redelin@regional.ca

Is this your first CPD grant application? Yes No

If your project is for an exemplary subject Yes No

Please complete the following checklist by placing a checkmark in the box to ensure the applicant without further consideration

- 1. Summary of Prior CPD grant (Event)
- 2. Narrative (as per format described in handbook)
- 3. CPD Budget page

Signature Robert Edelin Date 11/10/16

Summary of Previous CPD Grants: I have never previously received a CPD grant.

Narrative:

A. Training Opportunity:

I am applying for the Continuing Professional Development Grant for a German tutor. As there exists no English translation, I have often thought about sharp and to help me cope with particularly difficult texts. The 19th century German philosophy is some of the most difficult in the world. However, I had always hesitated because the sort of tutoring I would need is quite specific. The texts I deal with are often very difficult for those who are not trained with 19th and early 20th century philosophy. Indeed, in the past when I have asked German literature specialists to help assist me in a translation I have found they encountered difficulty and were not as helpful as I had hoped.

This past October I encountered a German professor of philosophy, Ingrida Beckmann (professor emerita at St. Mary's College of Maryland). She is very knowledgeable in philosophy and she agreed to serve as my tutor. We would use Skype to set up once a week for an hour or two at a time. Prior to the actual meeting, a German text would be determined. We would read sections of difficult philosophical works together. By working through the difficult texts with an expert in the field, I would help improve the speed and accuracy of my own translations.

B. Professional Development:

Many people in my field tend to look at study for German, however, my dissertation advisor had retired in the first year of writing my dissertation. While she agreed to support me as a student, she could not help me to finish my dissertation as rapidly as possible. Thus, I was unable to study German as so much in my field. Then, I was lucky enough to be hired by a university in my first year on the job market (while finishing my dissertation). In the field I have been so consumed with research that I have not had the opportunity to witness myself with German. I would work with many German language texts, but it is not the same as working with an instructor who can provide correction and provide practice for dealing with very difficult material.

While I rely on German source material, as much as many of my colleagues in the field, I feel like it takes me longer to read material than they do (and they work at institutions with lower teaching loads and lower service requirements). Working on speed, accuracy and pronunciation would allow me to focus my scholarly gaze more ambitiously and to read more broadly with regard to German texts without the burden of translation.

In my scholarship I work with German philosophy, particularly German Jewish philosophy. While some major works have already been translated into English, I

of the works of 19th and 20th century German Jewish thought have not been translated. Indeed, even when one has access to translations, serious scholarship requires access to the original sources. Translations often obscure secondary and tertiary meanings available in the original language but not in English. Similarly, philosophers often coin their terms very specifically so that they resist translation. However, translators often do not challenge their meanings. However, translators often are more concerned about broad access and not characteristically attend to the genealogical aspects of the development of thought. Also of significant importance is the fact that most German philosophy is not translated into English.

I have facility when it comes to reading German. That being said, there are still times when I do not entirely grasp the meaning of a clause or even a whole sentence (in 10th century German, it is not uncommon for a single sentence to be six or seven lines long). Working with someone fluent in German, who also possesses a broad knowledge of German philosophy, will help improve the speed with which I read and the accuracy of my translations. If I can read German texts more fluently, I will be able to do so with a wider scholarly vista, reading more authors and turning them into a higher quality of scholarship.

C. Proposed Expenses: I request \$1,000 to cover my travel expenses to visit me to have 25 hours of tutoring by Dr. Paskow, who charges \$40 per hour.

D. Timetable: Starting in the Spring Semester of 2013, I would like to meet with Dr. Paskow for an hour or two at a time via skype, once per week for an hour. If I could have 12 and 1/2 weeks of regularly meeting for two hours, or 25 and a half weeks for 1 hour meeting, the combination of that and my own reading, I am quite confident the speed and accuracy of my German would improve significantly.

Faculty Name Robert Foley

A. **Course/Training Fees** (please itemize)

\$40.00 an hour

25 hours of training

B. **Training Materials** (please itemize)

N/A

I really don't need any materials but if needed I can access others thru the library

C. **Travel** (please itemize)

\$ N/A

we will use skype

D. **Housing/Living Expenses** (please itemize)

\$ N/A

E. **Other** (please itemize)

TOTAL (Maximum \$1,000)

1,000.00