

## **ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS-Backgrounder December 2017**

As Rotarians we can be very proud of our international organization's deep commitment to furthering world peace as demonstrated by global grant projects, peace symposiums, collaboration with the United Nations, and the founding of Rotary Peace Centers at six universities around the world.

Individual Rotary clubs can support this commitment and by encouraging local community members to apply to become Rotary Peace Fellows. Each year about 100 individuals are selected and funded to study in either a master's program or a professional development program. In a nutshell, Peace Fellows are educated to become "leaders and catalysts for peace and conflict resolution."

The master's programs range in length from 15 to 24 months and are offered by universities in Australia, England, Japan, Sweden, and the USA. The certificate program is three months in length, and it is offered by a university in Thailand. The master's programs require a bachelor's degree for admission as well as three years of full-time related work experience. Applicants to the certificate program must have a strong academic background and five years of full-time related work experience.

In terms of the work experience requirement, the Rotary website makes the following statement:

Relevant experience varies depending on your area of expertise and focus. It could be directly related to peace-building or conflict resolution. It can also be work in other areas such as resource and environmental issues, education and literacy, women's rights, journalism, public health, and disease prevention among others. International experience, working with a nonprofit or multilateral institution, working in a developing country, working with youth, or volunteer work are also considered relevant experience.

Because of the work experience requirement, potential applicants are individuals who are living and working in our communities. Club presidents and foundation directors are asked to work with club members to develop ways to communicate this opportunity to potential candidates. Individuals should begin the application process early in January 2018. Applications must be submitted to the district no later than May 31. The district must submit endorsed applications to the Foundation no later than July 1.

The most recent Peace Fellow from District 5370 was John Lamming. He completed the Professional Development certificate program at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand in 2013. At that time he was an RCMP officer in Grande Prairie; now he serves with the RCMP in Calgary. He speaks highly of the program particularly "the sharing of perspectives and experiences among 19 people from 17 countries." Since completing the program, John served as a police training advisor in the Ukraine supporting Canada's

contribution to the reform of the police service in that country. He is now involved in several peace projects in Calgary.

Successful candidates are fully funded by the fellowship program. Clubs and districts do not have to contribute any funding. This program is one more example of the impact our contributions to the Foundation can have.

The Rotary website provides a detailed profile of the fellowship program:  
<https://my.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowship-application>.

Further information can be obtained from

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