

SENIOR ASSOCIATE LETTER

It is hard to believe that I have been with Strategies North for more than a year now. Time has flown by so quickly and it has been a great and exciting new chapter in my life. Working for a company that cares more about the reasons than the rewards has really been a refreshing new perspective on how and why we do business. Over the past year, I have been able to meet and connect with so many great people who are working so hard to do better for their communities. One very consistent theme we see is the amount of work overload that community leaders and managers have mostly from a lack of capacity in smaller communities. These are the people I would like to take my hat off to and let them know that their efforts are important and they are making a difference. Moving forward through the summer and into next fall we hope that Strategies North can continue to offer support to fill gaps, lessen your workload and help you reach your goals.



Have a great summer and be safe.

Joseph Fellers

Welcome Miranda!



We are excited to welcome Miranda to the Strategies North team! Miranda Russell is born and raised in Vancouver, BC and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia with a major in Human Geography and a minor in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice. Having spent time in the non-profit sector doing a range of activities from program development to direct support work, Miranda is passionate about encouraging self-empowerment for marginalized communities and challenging systemic issues. She is very much looking forward to joining the Strategies North team as a Community Analyst.

WELCOME BACK HARRIET!

A letter from Harriet on her time in Norway:

For those of you who don't know me yet, I have been a community analyst with Strategies North since 2018. However for the past year I have taken time off to do a Masters in Urban Planning, and this course of study has taken me 350km north of the Arctic Circle to Tromsø, Norway. Tromsø is home to the world's northernmost university, where I partook in classes on

Arctic cities, democratic engagement, mapping, and politics. Tromsø is also located in the heart of Sámi traditional territory. The Sámi are the Indigenous Peoples of northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, and have strong cultural identities and practices that are experiencing revitalization after decades of assimilationist policies by nation states. When I was living in Tromsø, I had the chance to attend Sámi Week which is a celebration of everything Sámi, from reindeer racing to artisan fairs, in

conjunction with their national day on February 6th. I also attended the Arctic Frontiers conference held annually in Tromsø, which aims to cultivate a pan-Arctic perspective and build new partnerships across nations and ethnic groups, and between government, industry, and science. The Arctic is shifting from being a remote periphery to playing a central role on the global geopolitical stage, and thus looking for effective and knowledge-based models of governance and development is more important than ever. Featured prominently at the conference were leaders and youth representing Indigenous organizations from across northern Russia, Greenland, Scandinavia, Alaska, and the Canadian Territories, who advocated for coordinated action to address climate change, and highlighted the significance of Indigenous cultural resurgence in achieving this formidable task.



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As an aspiring urban planner, Tromsø was an inspiring example of what is possible in a remote, northern setting of human settlement: A vibrant and busy downtown core year-round, thriving cultural and music scenes, connected and high quality public transportation, integrated affordable housing neighbourhoods, frequent events and community gatherings, regional connectivity through buses and ferries, and ample parks and recreation areas within the city, just to name a few features. By far my favourite feature though was a maintained



cross-country ski trail (bike and walking trail in the summer) that formed the backbone of the city, connecting north to south and making it possible to commute by ski. While the global COVID-19 pandemic caused much urban life to grind to a halt, as it did with the majority of cities around the world, the municipality of Tromsø redoubled its efforts to groom ski trails across the region and clear the snow from pathways throughout the city to enable residents to access the outdoors and maintain their physical and mental health in a safe and socially-distanced way.

Having grown up in Northern British Columbia where we have 7 months of winter, I had noticed a prevailing sentiment that it is just not possible to have good infrastructure for urban life because it is simply too cold or too snowy. However, as my experience living in Tromsø has taught me, this does not necessarily have to be the case. Rather, the urban design and community attitudes in Tromsø saw inclement weather as something to be embraced and celebrated, not ignored or turned against. A cyclist bundled up in full winter gear biking through a snowstorm in the polar night was not an uncommon sight, as people went about their business regardless of mother nature's temperament on any given day.



To translate a local Tromsø poem:

If you choose not to enjoy the snow

You will have less enjoyment in life

But the same amount of snow

As I enter the final year of my studies this fall, I am ever more intrigued by northern communities and what it means to live a good life in such places. Barren, cold, and isolated as they may appear from the outside, I believe that rural and northern settlements can teach us all a lesson in resilience, community-building, and innovation, qualities that are more important than ever as we

attempt to tackle the many complex challenges of our times and attempt to plan for a better tomorrow.

Harriet Stanford

YOUTH TAKE CHARGE

The **Canadian Heritage Youth Take Charge Program** aims to strengthen youth attachment to Canada through engagement. The program supports youth-led projects involving activities in one or more thematic areas:

- Arts and culture
- Civic engagement and youth service
- Economic activities
- History and heritage

Eligible organizations must have minimum 3 years experience in serving youth on a national or provincial/territorial scale as well as adequate security and safety policies and procedures in place.

The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is **August 1, 2020**. Selected proposals must submit a Detailed Funding Application by **September 15, 2020**.

Funding is expected to range from \$20,000 - \$100,000 per project with the maximum fund per participant set at \$500,000 per fiscal year.

For more information, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/youth-take-charge.html>

TEAM GET-TOGETHER

With COVID-19 regulations beginning to ease up, some of our team finally got the chance to work together at our office in Kamloops, BC.

Averi and Lauren visited Kamloops and co-worked with Anna and Grant on some exciting projects over the course of 4 days. Next to visit was Nick and JJ who also worked with Anna and Grant on some exciting projects coming up on the advisory side.

With our team members spread out across the country, the Strategies North team finds it very important to make time to work together - as this is when we come up with the best ideas and ways to serve our clients!



(Pictured: Nick, JJ, and Grant)

KEY DATES

July 27: New Relationship Trust - Nation Governance Initiative

Deadline to apply

July 27: New Relationship Trust - Direct Support

Deadline to apply

July 13: Employment and Social Development - Enabling Accessibility Fund

Deadline to Apply

July 31: Canadian Red Cross - COVID-19 Emergency Support for Community Organizations

Deadline to Apply