Three Queen's doctoral students have received Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Government of Canada. Dianna Lanteigne, Krystle Maki and Andreas Reichelt will each receive $50,000 annually for up to three years.

Ms Lanteigne recently completed her masters in psychology at Queen's under the supervision of professor Tom Hollenstein and will continue to work with Dr. Hollenstein when she begins her PhD this fall. Her research focuses on adolescent emotional development, in particular the strategies young people use to manage their emotions on a day-to-day basis, and the development of anxiety and depression. Ultimately, Ms Lanteigne intends to use this research to inform targeted prevention programs to implement during adolescence.

"I'm ecstatic," says Ms Lanteigne. "The scholarship gives you so many opportunities. I can go to more conferences, I can focus more on research and clinical activities rather than making money to live, and I think the best thing is that it makes me feel that people are emphasizing the importance of adolescent emotional health."

Ms Maki is in the second year of a PhD program under the supervision of professors Margaret Little and Catherine Krull. Her dissertation research explores the relationship between Ontario Works (social assistance) and surveillance and its effects on recipients, service providers and community advocacy groups.

"I was surprised and happy to receive the Vanier award," says Ms Maki. "It has been a struggle over the years to balance my academic work with social justice and activist work, in addition to having multiple jobs. Receiving the Vanier gives me the opportunity to focus on my research and the various collaborative community projects that I am involved in. I am thankful for the inspiring support I have from various communities, allies, organizers, activists and academics who have supported my passion for change and have taught me a lot about accountability, reflexivity, respect, and solidarity."

Mr. Reichelt came to Queen’s from Vienna, Austria to work with professor Randy Flanagan in the Cognition & Action Laboratory. Their research explores the intricacies of how people observe the actions of others in order to guide their own actions more effectively. The research may lead to a better understanding of autistic children who can become deeply engaged in objects without showing a corresponding interest in social cues and interactions.

"The financial situation of international students is highly strained at best," says Mr. Reichelt. "The Vanier Graduate Scholarship is a huge privilege that enables me to follow my passion, live my curiosity, and sleep much more relaxed at night."
Launched in 2009, the Vanier Graduate Scholarship is designed to attract and retain world-class doctoral students from Canada and around the world. Vanier scholars are selected based on their demonstrated leadership skills and high standard of scholarly achievement in the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering or health sciences.

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