



“I hope to facilitate the empowerment of my community by connecting them with resources to create. Along the way, I hope to gain knowledge and skills in community-driven development, which will assist my work towards a more accessible world.”

Jordan Bowden

McGill University

People with Physical Disabilities, Canada

My initiative will connect people with physical disabilities to existing local Makerspaces, so they can create their own assistive devices according to their individual requirements. Makerspaces have emerged in most Canadian cities, and contain shared tools ranging from 3D printers to woodworking equipment. These tools hold huge, largely untapped potential to create assistive devices that would otherwise be very expensive and potentially inaccessible.

I have close relationships with several people who live with disabilities, and these friends and family are the inspiration behind my OceanPath initiative. For example, two of my partner's sisters have vision loss, and their experience has been that, while complex assistive devices (such as Tactile Maps) may tend to be inaccessible and unaffordable, they regularly design and build simple items to make the world more interpretable. Further, my father coaches wheelchair curling and many of his players already create a significant number of assistive devices using the limited tools in their garage workshops.

COADY

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

OceanPath Fellowships