

2011-12 Killam Community Leader Profile

Mallory Lavoie



Mallory Lavoie (2010-2011) is a Killam student studying Journalism and French. Mallory's award took her from the University of Maine at Orono, to Université Laval in Montreal, where she experienced a new culture while being immersed in French. This year, Mallory plans to use her journalist skills and her appreciation of the French language to organize a youth summer camp in Madawaska, Maine, in the St. John Valley. Mallory argues that from 1987 – 1991, the percentage of students who speak French in this area has decreased 18%. She says that when she was

in elementary and high school she went through a French Immersion Program, an opportunity that is no longer available. "I want students to have the same chance I did to maintain their ties to the French language and to their Franco-American culture", says Mallory. The goal of her project is to provide students with a strong foundation in the French Language, and to revive an interest in French and Franco-American Heritage.

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Mallory is collaborating with Killam students Kristin Kirouac, (2010-2011) who also went to the Université Laval for her exchange, and studied French and Canadian Studies, and Sarah Denslow (2011-2012). Sarah is a current Killam student who is studying international affairs; women's studies and French at the University of Ottawa. These students are collaborating with *Le Club Francais*, the Madawaska Elementary/Middle School French Department; and the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Volunteer consultants, teachers, and professors will help guide fun activities in a completely French environment. Planned activities include Franco-American and Acadian storytelling, creating story-books and art projects in French, learning Franco-American songs, cooking with French recipes and outdoor activities and fieldtrips in French areas. Mallory plans to have a video interview with the students both before and after the program to evaluate the level of confidence in each student.

The summer camp will be held at the Madawaska Elementary/Middle School for two weeks in the summer, from July 30th and August 3rd.

The KCAI is a program of the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States of America, a partnership with the American Killam Trust.