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# MASARYK MEMORIAL INSTITUTE INC.

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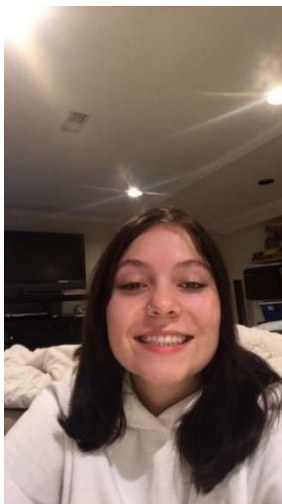
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## **Masaryk Memorial Institute Scholarship Assistance Program Academic Year 2020-2021**

The Masaryk Memorial Institute (MMI) relaunched its Scholarship Program in the fall of 2019 for Ontario residents entering post-secondary educational institutions. MMI is excited to announce that the award recipient for 2020-2021 is Klara Hoferica. Klara graduated as an Ontario Scholar; is enrolled as a student in a post-secondary education program; demonstrated an ongoing involvement with her Czech / Slovak community; and is actively engaged in extracurricular activities. The following is a brief profile.

### **University**

Klara Hoferica is a first-year student at Queen's University enrolled in the Arts and Science Program. She is on a path to pursue her dream career in law or a related field, such as a police investigator. The courses she is enrolled in lean towards a degree in economics, philosophy, and political science. Klara's favourite course has been film, media, and screen cultures, so this presents another potential career path.



## **Czech / Slovak Community**

While Klara's roots are of Czech and Slovak origin, she is a second-generation Slovak / Czech Canadian immigrant. Born in Canada, she lived in Slovakia for four years, from ages 2-6, before coming back to Canada. As a youth she participated in Sokol gymnastic events, leaving her to feel proud about winning medals in her age group.

Around the same time, Klara started attending Camp Hostyn; a Czech and Slovak summer camp in Quebec. It was some of the best summer experiences Klara had growing up. The food was to die for and the campers and staff were genuine and fun individuals.

Post-pandemic she really looks forward to attending the Czech theater plays that are performed in Mississauga. Klara's stepfather, Roman Kozak, who participates in the theater introduced her family to the performances.

Klara is very proud to be able to hold a mixed identity of Czech, Slovak and Canadian, and to be blessed with the proficiency in three languages. Even though she will not get to visit back home for a while due to the unprecedented pandemic, she maintains ties there that make Klara feel well connected with her ancestral culture.

## **Extracurricular**

Aside from being a student at Queen's Klara has made time for athletics. She has been a competitive swimmer for the Ramac Swimming Club in Toronto; competed at the Czech and Slovak National Swimming Championships in Zilina; snowboarded every winter for her high school team; played rugby for Northern Secondary school; and was a member of the Toronto Saracens Rugby Club. In addition, Klara has a creative side and especially loves drawing and painting.

Congratulations to Klara and best wishes for continued success in her studies and future endeavours.

Herb Dubsky

Masaryk Memorial Institute.