

**Title of Project:** Canadian Mathematics Instructor Repository

**Year of Competition:** 2024

**Grant amount:** \$2500

**Project Duration:** Single Year

**Type of Report:** Final

**Period Covered:** January - September, 2024

**Description of Activity:**

As a part of the First-year Mathematics and Statistics in Canada (FYMSiC) website, a Canadian Mathematics Instructor Repository, titled “FYMSiC Profiles”, was created, as an accessible online repository whose purpose is to better connect post-secondary mathematics instructors across Canada and beyond. This centralized, password-protected, user-verified repository contains self-entered data about instructors, including professional contact information, courses taught, research interests, research projects, publications, and resources. FYMSiC Profiles can be accessed through the website: [www.firstyearmath.ca](http://www.firstyearmath.ca), and require a user to register (for free).

We hired two website developers in Winter 2024 to create FYMSiC Profiles. We had a soft launch at a BIRS workshop in April 2024, which enabled us to identify and iron out issues with registration, user accessibility and user experience. We officially launched FYMSiC Profiles on May 9th, 2024 at the annual FYMSiC online one-day conference. At this conference, we promoted it to the approximately 100 online attendees in two 10-minute presentations throughout the day.

We have also promoted FYMSiC Profiles to our FYMSiC community via email and have written a short communication in the 15th issue of the FYMSiC Newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/04c7fc9215ca/fymsic-newsletter-issue-15>). Additionally, we have invited the members of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group (CMESG) to create FYMSiC Profiles. In these communications, we outline information on how to register and fill out a FYMSiC Profile.

At the time of this writing (September 20th, 2024), FYMSiC Profiles has 101 registered users, including graduate students, postdocs, limited-term instructors, teaching-stream faculty members, research-stream faculty members and more from across the country. We plan to continue promoting FYMSiC Profiles to our community and to the broader teaching community in Canada. For example, we will advertise FYMSiC Profiles at the upcoming 2024 CMS Mathematics MathEd (Online) Meeting in November 2024.

**Assessment of Effectiveness:**

Having FYMSiC Profiles has brought together the members of the three national mathematics communities: FYMSiC, CMS, and CMESG. Mathematics instructors are able to identify potential collaborators and share information and resources about research, professional development, and pedagogical initiatives within mathematics and mathematics education. There are presently over 100 individuals, ranging from graduate students to postdocs to research and teaching faculty to industry, who have created their FYMSiC profiles.

We have published in the FYMSiC Newsletter, Issue 15 (released in July 2024), and we plan to publish again in Issue 16 (to be released in February 2025) a progress report including data on how many members have joined, a reminder to current members to update their profile, and instructions for new members on how to join.

At our soft launch at a BIRS workshop in April 2024 and at our official launch at the FYMSiC Online Conference in May 2024 many of our community members expressed their enthusiasm for the project, commenting on how useful they think this tool will be and expressing their gratitude to the FYMSiC team for spearheading this initiative.

We received additional financial support from the PIMS Discretionary Fund to support the FYMSiC Profiles project.

**Future Plans (if any):**

On a voluntary basis, the FYMSiC team will ensure that the information provided in the FYMSiC Profiles is up-to-date by conducting a yearly “spring-cleaning” i.e., by reminding individuals to update their own information through the FYMSiC email list. We will also continue to promote FYMSiC Profiles to the Canadian teaching community.

Moving forward, we will need light continuous support from a website developer for regular maintenance and hosting. For example, initially, a large number of bots attempted to register and join FYMSiC Profiles, but they were prevented in their attempts. We want to protect the FYMSiC website from intruders and keep the information provided by individuals in their FYMSiC Profiles secure.

We will also continue to collect feedback from our community members about FYMSiC Profiles and may implement modifications to better serve the community’s needs.

**Financial:**

**Funding:** We have received a total of \$5,000 in funding for this project. The CMS Endowment Grant provided \$2,500 and the PIMS Discretionary Fund provided \$2,500.

**Expenses Overview:** Our expenses for this project currently total \$2,808.82. We used \$2,469 to pay web developers to create FYMSiC Profiles and paid \$339.82 in web hosting fees to host FYMSiC Profiles online.

**Expense Details:** More specifically, our first website developer, Sasha Tiede, charged us a flat

rate of \$1,000 in January 2024 for an initial project consultation (~2 hours), creating the repository interface (~15 hours), and for a meeting with us to provide a progress update (~1 hour). Sasha used Web Hosting Canada - Web Pro to host FYMSiC Profiles online, and we paid them \$339.82 in March 2024 for their services. Due to other commitments, Sasha could not complete the project, so we hired another website developer, Volodymyr Buchko, to finish creating FYMSiC Profiles. He charged us a rate of \$65/hour plus tax for his 20 hours of services, which totalled \$1,469 ( $20 \times 65 \times 1.13$ ). The work he performed was completed in May 2024 and included modifying the Wordpress site (11 hours), fixing bugs (2 hours), and setting up and verifying a backup procedure for the website (7 hours).

Unused Funds: We have \$2,191.18 in unused funds. These unused funds will be used to pay a website developer for regular maintenance and hosting, including fixing bugs, maintaining the FYMSiC Profiles website, providing enhanced website security protection, and implementing modifications to better serve the community's needs.

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[September 20, 2024]