



2021 STUDENT AWARDS AVAILABLE

Award Value: The value of the awards listed are proceeds from endowments donated to the Community Foundation and is dependent upon the amount of interest earned each year. The value indicated is approximate. The Community Foundation, therefore, reserves the right to make whatever changes circumstances require, including changing the value of an award, canceling an award or adding awards.

2000 Alberta Summer Games: Education is both critical to society and expensive. If post-secondary education is to become accessible for qualified students, then there will always be a large group of students that need help. This fund was established by the 2000 Alberta Summer Games Society in recognition of the positive impact of the Games and to create a legacy in support of education opportunities for local athletes.

Value: 5 awards at \$540.00

Criteria: To support deserving Peace Country athletes who have competed at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

2016 Rotary Curling Legacy Fund: The Rotary Clubs of Grande Prairie hosted the International Curling Fellowship of Rotarians (ICFR) bonspiel April 2-8, 2016. For the first time in the over 40 Year History of the ICFR, the Host City was from Western Canada, and for the first time, Grande Prairie accommodated up to 16 Teams in the Friendship Division. Rotarians from Scotland, England, USA and Canada travelled to Grande Prairie to share in fellowship, friendship and curling championship.

This student award fund was established as a way for the ICFR to leave a legacy and in appreciation to the hosting clubs for their dedication and support of the ICFR. The committee also wishes to support youth curlers from Northwest Alberta in their post-secondary education.

Value: 1 award at \$550.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a Peace Country curler who has participated in organized junior curling programs. Trade programs are also included. Applicants are to include what or who inspired them to take on curling, and what you know about Rotary.

Andrea Vavrek Memorial Fund: At the age of 25, Andrea Vavrek was severely injured in a car accident and passed away five days later. By signing her donor card Andrea was able to help as many as 80 people through organ and tissue donation; her legacy continues to live on in the lives of others. Larry and Connie Vavrek created this fund to remember their daughter Andrea. Andrea was kind, caring and loved people and animals.

Value: 1 award at \$240.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a student who attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Sexsmith and is registered in a medical training program.



Aquatera Environment Fund: Aquatera supports innovative projects and programs in communities throughout their service areas, improving access to essential services and providing opportunities to strengthen and grow each community. Aquatera operates to serve their communities while being socially and environmentally responsible and creating new opportunities that are in the best interest of their customers and environment. They are agents of change, continuously looking at opportunities for growth, improvement and ways to better those around them.

Value: 1 award at \$ 500.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a student who's shown to have actively supported environmental projects focused on community sustainability with the first priority towards projects focusing on stewardship of water or waste reduction in municipalities served by Aquatera.

Beaverlodge Community Band Fund: The Beaverlodge Community Band Fund was established in 2012 with a goal to support youth who have demonstrated an interest in music or the arts.

Value: 1 award \$280.00

Criteria: For students who graduated from Beaverlodge High School who have expressed financial need. First priority will be given to a student enrolled in a Music or Bachelor of Arts program.

Brent Sears Memorial Fund: This award has been named in honour of Brent Sears. Brent, a graduate of Sexsmith Secondary School, carried on his studies and obtained a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Business Administration in Agriculture. Later, Brent became a teacher at Sexsmith Secondary School. He was a local farmer who had a passion for education, sciences, agriculture and animals.

Value: 1 award at \$380.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a student who graduated from Sexsmith Secondary High School who has expressed financial need. First priority will be given to a student enrolled in agriculture, education or nursing programs.

Chief Ronald W Clark Fund: Ron Clarke's career as a firefighter began in May of 1966 when he joined the Wembley Fire Department. In 1973, Ron was promoted to the rank of Fire Chief which he held until 1983 when he decided it was time to "slow down" (which he never really did.) He requested a reduction in rank. He was then given the title of Deputy Chief which he held until his passing. In Ron's 46 years as a volunteer on the Fire Department, he rarely missed a call or a meeting, in fact, he consistently logged more hours for fire and medical calls, meetings and training than any other member of the Fire Department. Over his career, he was bestowed many honour's such as the Alberta Emergency Services Medal, the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal with the addition of his 30 and 40 years of service bars. In 2005, Ron was recognized within the County of Grande Prairie No.1 by his peers in seven Fire Departments as "Fire Fighter of the Year". His dedication to his community and the Fire Department was like no other. The old saying "they don't make them like that anymore" couldn't be truer than it is when you are speaking about Ron. In loving memory of Deputy Chief Ronald W. Clarke, the Wembley Fire Department established this legacy fund in recognition of Ron's volunteer commitment to serve others.

Value: 1 award at \$575.00

Criteria: Available to County of Grande Prairie No. 1 residents who demonstrate a strong commitment to the Peace Country, and is registered in an emergency service program including but not limited to: firefighting, emergency medical services, paramedic, nursing, physicians, or enforcement services programs. Priority will be given to those who have demonstrated service to others through volunteerism and/or helping others in need.

Chomik Family Trumpeter Hotel Fund: Dave and Elizabeth Chomik and their family arrived in Grande Prairie in September of 1983. To repay the community for everything it has given them, the Chomik family created a legacy fund to grow the service industry by offering an award to a student focused on hospitality. This fund was created in celebration of Dave and Elizabeth's 50th anniversary.

Value: 1 award at \$600.00

Criteria: A mature student and Peace Country resident who demonstrates a focus on tourism or hospitality.

Devonne Norman Legacy Fund: Devonne, devoted wife to Ken and loving mother to Sasha and Danica, was a woman who was passionate about working hard to achieve her goals. After a career set back during the bust of 1982 Devonne began pursuing her dream of becoming a lawyer. In the summer of 2004, Devonne lost a battle with leukemia. This fund was established by her family, friends and colleagues to commemorate her life and achievements.

Value: 1 award at \$530.00

Criteria: To support a mature student who has been out of studies for a minimum of three years registered in a Political Science Program or demonstrates an interest in pursuing law. Financial need must be demonstrated, with first priority being given to students not receiving other funding support.

Dirk (Dick) van Nieuwkerk Fund: The family of Grande Prairie resident Dirk (Dick) van Nieuwkerk made the decision to establish a fund with the foundation after Dirk's passing at the age of 67 in November 2019. A journeyman carpenter, Dirk actually began his career working with concrete before forming his own company Satellite General Contractors Ltd. Though he started in Medicine Hat, Dirk moved to Grande Prairie and served the area for 43 years working with a variety of local homebuilders and contractors. An avid volunteer at the Grande Prairie Alliance Church, he enjoyed serving on the Building Committee for the new church on the north end of the city, and the opportunity to pass on his passion for building to youth. Generous and sharing of his knowledge and time, Dirk was well known as a kind and patient mentor to all. Known as a quiet guy with a twinkle in his eye and a smart remark for most situations, Dirk's strength of character is remembered as a comfort to many over the years.

Value: 1 award at \$285.00

Criteria: To provide an award for a post-secondary student entering a registered trades or apprenticeship technical training program. Financial need may be considered.

Dr. Claudia T. Strehlke Medical Award Fund: Dr. Claudia Strehlke moved to Grande Prairie in 1972. When she arrived, Grande Prairie had a 130-bed hospital, a group of dedicated general practitioners and two general surgeons. Dr. Strehlke was the only Internist 480 km northwest of Edmonton for 12 years. She was a pioneer in the practice of general internal medicine and was instrumental in establishing the ICU, Cancer Clinic and Palliative care practice in the community. Dr. Strehlke was known for her exceptional clinical skills, her honest communication with patients, and her generosity – especially when sharing her time and expertise. This award was established by her family and colleagues on her retirement, as a way to honour her 42 years of service to residents of northwestern Alberta and British Columbia.

Value: 1 award at \$250.00

Criteria: To provide a student award to a Peace Area resident attending a public post-secondary institution and studying medicine, nursing or another health-related occupation. Priority is given to students studying internal medicine or oncology, and to those who intend to practice in rural Alberta.

Dustin Sieker Legacy Fund: With a passion for helping others, Dustin Sieker touched many lives during his career as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and EMS Operation Supervisor in Grande Prairie. Dustin worked hard and always had a smile on his face. He was a mentor, a supporter and a friend to many; his colleagues were his family.

Value: 1 award at \$700.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a Peace Country resident attending a post secondary institution and registered in the field of Emergency Response and/or Medical Training.

Gib Popkey Legacy Fund: Gib Popkey always did things in his own quiet and caring way. He had two loves - family and community, and his low key nature and quick mind made for a sense of humor that enamored him to those who knew him. This fund was established by Gib's friends and family to create a lasting tribute to Gib and his life.

Value: 3 awards at \$465.00

Criteria: Peace Country Student who have resided in Northwestern Alberta for a minimum of two years and demonstrate financial need. First priority will be given to a student registered in a trade. Second priority to a student registered in a medical program.

Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce Legacy Fund: This fund was established by the 2006 Board of Directors as a way to support the development of future business owners and leaders based on the needs of the local business community.

Value: 3 awards at \$400.00

Criteria: Upon completion of studies, the successful applicant intends to work in the Peace Country for a minimum of one year.

GS Minhas Family Education Fund: Philanthropy was an inherent part of the lives of brothers Mohinder Minhas and Yadvinder Minhas. They established this fund in appreciation of their parent's dedication and commitment to support youth through the gift of education.

Value: 1 award at \$270.00

Criteria: Peace Country students registered in a trades program such as mechanics or welding and have identified financial need. Second priority will be given to students registered in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

Hayley Gardner Memorial Fund: Hayley's gentle soul will live on through the Hayley Gardner Memorial Fund. Hayley passed away at the age of 15 as a result of a vehicle accident on October 27, 2013. Her family and friends created this fund as a way to remember the girl they fondly called Boo. Hayley was passionate about learning more about her Metis Culture, and at the age of 13 was recognized by the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre as an Aboriginal Youth Role Model in the category of community service. Hayley attended the Peace Wapiti Academy and is remembered as being friendly and kind to everybody. She was a light of positive energy that touched many lives.

Value: 1 award at \$500.00

Criteria: Peace Wapiti Academy graduate who demonstrates commitment to helping others and their community by serving others before themselves. Financial need may be considered.

Hilde's Hope Fund:

Hilde Uhryn holds a special spot in her heart for northern Alberta, her home until she retired from public service. Hilde and her husband Al, the love of her life, raised two sons Ian and James with the values rooted in honesty, integrity and humility. Hilde recognizes the importance of empowering others and has demonstrated this by believing in many who did not see what she saw in them. Hilde is humbled that the Hilde's Hope Fund will empower post secondary students in reaching their goals.

Value: 1 award at \$240.00

Criteria: To provide a post- secondary award to a Peace Country resident who has expressed financial need, with a priority given to students who have demonstrated service above self by volunteering.

Horse Lake Education Fund: Encouraging and supporting education is a focus and commitment of Chief, Council and Administration. This student award is designed to help the youth of Horse Lake First Nation achieve their educational desires and goals.

Value: 1 award at \$450.00

Criteria: Priority will be given to aboriginal students from the Horse Lake First Nation. Successful recipients will be asked to present to local high school students on the value of educational goals.

Jean Duplessis Family Legacy Fund: Grande Prairie became home to Jean in 1945 when she moved here with her parents. Her strength of character became evident after a serious bout of rheumatic fever kept her out of the Grande Prairie High School for several months, yet she completed her grade 12 with honors. After a somewhat difficult marriage, she found herself on her own with three children and no means to support them. With the generous help of her parents and bursary money through the Grande Prairie School District, she was able to go to the University of Alberta to get her Teacher's Certificate and begin her teaching career. She was a very compassionate person. She knew poverty; she knew what it felt like to struggle, to be the "underdog" and she had great patience with even the troublesome students. Jean taught at both Avondale and Crystal Park Schools, retiring in 1994.

Value: 2 awards at \$500.00

Criteria: Graduate of a school under the Grande Prairie Public School Division and registered in the Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Science Nursing program. Priority will be given to students who are single parents who have expressed financial need.

Joseph F. Reder/Hansen Fund: Born in Saskatoon in February 1912, Joseph Reder lived until 2004, long enough to watch the world change before his eyes. After working in a couple hardware stores, Joseph went on to start a paint business and later added hardware. Joseph met his wife Jean Munro, a nurse at the Saskatoon City Hospital in 1932 and they married in 1935. Married women weren't able to register to work in 1935, so Jean settled down to raise their daughter, Carol. Nurses became an even more important part of the Reder's lives in the 40's when Jean became ill and spent some time in the Saskatoon Hospital and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Through it all, though, they were able to say they had a lot of good times, which included curling with Joe's friends, as well as hunting and fishing. Retiring in 1973, they continued to enjoy traveling, gardening and visiting their grandchildren. When choosing to honor Joseph, the Hansen Family found it fitting to contribute to a program that not only touched their family but is important to the whole community.

Value: 4 awards at \$475.00

Criteria: Grande Prairie Regional College Bachelor of Science nursing program students with first priority given to those not receiving other funding and who intends to work in the Peace Country for at least one year upon completion of the program.

Lorne Lind Memorial Fund: Lorne was born July 16, 1961, in Grande Prairie Alberta, where he remained for the rest of his life. In 1988 Lorne joined the Canadian Tire family, and that is where Lorne stayed employed for the next 25 years. Lorne treated every vehicle he touched as if he owned it, often coming in on a day off to help a “stuck” customer or taking the time to come out and speak to the owner of the vehicle directly so they understood exactly what he was doing. Lorne lived his life inside and out of work by some simple and honest rules. Do what is right, do it to the best of your ability and treat others how you would like to be treated. Lorne believed in honesty and respect, which made him not only an exceptional employee but an exceptional man.

Value: 3 awards at \$500.00

Criteria: To support a student registered in either an automotive service technician program or a heavy duty equipment program. If no such applications are received, the awards will be granted to students registered in a post-secondary program; financial need will be considered. Upon completion of studies applicants must intend to work in the Peace Country for a minimum of one year.

North Klusken Community Club Fund: The North Klusken Community Club is shrouded in history. Founded in 1936 the club was designed to further the community in all aspects of life for all residents. As the club became less active, the Community Club knew they wanted to keep giving back. They developed the North Klusken Community Club fund to pay homage to the pioneers who developed the Club in 1936, and to provide an everlasting avenue of support for local students.

Value: 1 award at \$400.00

Criteria: Available to graduates from a high school in Sexsmith. First priority will be given to students who completed elementary school in Teepee Creek and demonstrates financial need.

Q99 Student Award Fund: Radio station Q99 founder, Ken Truhn, believes in giving back to the community that has supported him in his endeavors. Ken was granted Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission license for Q99 in 2006. Ken created this legacy fund with commitment and passion to ensure youth have the opportunity to further their professional desires and to encourage youth to consider a career in the industry.

Value: 3 awards at \$280.00

Criteria: Available to Grande Prairie Regional College students with priority to an Indigenous student enrolled in a fine arts program and demonstrates financial need.

Ryan R Blais Legacy Fund: For those who knew Ryan he was a “go-to” guy. He would help anyone with anything at any time, no questions asked. A lifelong resident of the area Ryan was known for his kindness, generosity and unwavering work ethic. He worked for the Daily Herald Tribune from the time he was 14 until his battle with cancer became his full time focus. Ryan’s rare form of cancer was aggressive, he fought back with over 100 radiation treatments but ultimately lost the battle in February of 2008. Ryan’s family and co-workers established this award to ensure that “Ryan’s Way” would continue to be felt throughout our region.

Value: 1 award at \$500.00

Criteria: Graduates of Grande Prairie’s St. Joseph’s Catholic High School who demonstrate compassion and understanding for others by never hesitating to help those in need.

Sexsmith Citizens on Patrol Student Award Fund: Sexsmith Citizens on Patrol provide an extra set of “eyes and ears” to the RCMP. Deterring crime by observing and reporting any possible criminal activity within the Town. This allows the police to direct their focus to other, more serious areas of potential crime. Sexsmith Citizens on Patrol relies on community volunteers for the success of their program. To this end, they created this grant opportunity for youth graduating from a Sexsmith High School. One of the criteria is a commitment to volunteerism. Volunteering has many positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served.

Value: 1 award at \$315.00

Criteria: to provide an award to a graduate of a Sexsmith High School, who has expressed financial need and is registered in post-secondary education, with priority to students who have demonstrated community commitment by volunteering.

Sheehan Flint Family Fund: Some people are just born with an inextinguishable desire to improve the world where they live. These people hold within them a deeply engrained belief in serving others above themselves. Elizabeth (Beth) Sheehan was one of these rare souls. Beth was a true advocate of our community, her family helped build this area, and she loved it deeply. She was always willing to give back to organizations who worked to better the Peace Region, and often did so anonymously. She never felt the need to be in the spotlight. In 2008 she started the Sheehan Flint Family Fund as a legacy to her pioneer family, and to ensure that her memory is carried on long after she is gone. In 2013 at the age of 93 Beth passed away. Beth’s legacy will continue to be felt in throughout Northwestern Alberta for generations to come.

Value: 4 awards at \$1,000.00

Criteria: Grande Prairie Regional College students who demonstrates the commitment to community and demonstrate financial need.

Smart and Caring Student Award: Studies have shown that students who received student awards are more likely to attend and graduate from post-secondary institutions, and are more likely to excel in their academic endeavours. These students are also more likely to volunteer and give back to their community. This award is available thanks to a portion of the sponsorship provided by the Community Foundation’s Smart and Caring Leaders annually.

Value: 4 awards at \$325.00

Criteria: A post secondary award for a student in Northwestern Alberta who demonstrates a commitment to the community and financial need.

Storm Stay in School Junior A Hockey Scholarship Fund: This fund was started September 2000 by the Grande Prairie Storm Executive as a way to support players in their post-secondary education. The Storm hosted the 2004 Royal Bank Cup in Grande Prairie and in appreciation, the RBC Committee donated \$100,000 in proceeds to the Fund in appreciation of the Executive’s commitment.

Value: 4 awards at \$700.00

Criteria: Current or former players of any Peace Area Junior “A” level hockey team and who have played Junior A hockey in the Peace area for at least two years.

Swan City Breakfast Lions Club Fund: This fund was established as a legacy of the Swan City Breakfast Lion's Club in order to be able to provide back to the community of Grande Prairie in perpetuity as a thank you for all of the support the community provided to the Swan City Breakfast Lions Club over the years.

Value: 1 award at \$225.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a Peace Area resident who is a student registered at an educational institution and has held a position during their youth (under the age of 20) as a Referee, Umpire or Team Official for any sport.

Swan City Rotary Club Community Service Above Self Fund: Rotary's official motto's, Service above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, trace back to the early days of the organization. This fund was created in 2006 by the Swan City Rotary Club to help post-secondary students who have demonstrated a passion for giving back to their community through volunteer work.

Value: 5 awards at \$480.00

Criteria: To support a Peace Country resident who has resided in the area for a minimum of two years. The awards will be available to students registered in a post-secondary or specific trade or technical program and demonstrates community service above self. First priority will be given to students not receiving any other funding. Applicants must intend to work in the Peace Country for a minimum of one year upon completion of their studies.

Vision for the Future Fund: Recognizing the values of Kylee's parents Ken & Fay Ferguson, Kylee and Darcy established this fund to recognize the integrity, tenacity, vision, kindness and a sense of humor that they demonstrated throughout their lives.

Value: 1 award at \$230.00

Criteria: Available to a post secondary student who is registered at Grande Prairie Regional College and demonstrates financial need.

Wolves Minor Basketball Fund: Many youth in our region have had the opportunity to develop their skills and to participate in the GPRC Wolves Minor Basketball program. This Fund was established to assist these athletes with their educational goals.

Value: 1 award at \$365.00

Criteria: Available to Grande Prairie Regional College students who have participated in at least one season of Wolves Minor Basketball.

Woronuk Legacy Fund: Bryan and Sherry Woronuk established this fund in 2013 in honour of the hard work and the contributions the Woronuk family has made to build a stronger community, the community that has always been home. Bryan's grandparents, homesteaded at Rycroft in 1913. Having immigrated from the Ukraine with very little, arriving over the Edson Trail. They ventured into a new life, made a home and established their farm with strong work ethic and principles. Bryan's father, William, was born in 1916, married Mae and was the builder of the farm. Bill grew the farm with hard work, dedication and innovative skills and continued to farm with passion until his passing in 2007. Bryan, in partnership with his brother Kelly, continue to foster and grow the family farm as mentored by their parents and grandparents.

Value: 2 awards at \$600.00

Criteria: To provide an award to a post-secondary student who resides or has graduated high school in the Central Peace area. Priority given to those who demonstrate financial need.