



2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

Friday, June 7, 2019







INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Mainland Nova Scotia
Scholarship Recipients



Caden Flynn

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

Caden Flynn is a 17 year old grade 12 student from Elmsdale Nova Scotia. He has a deep passion for politics and music. After High School he plans to pursue a bachelor degree in political science with further plans to go to law school to become a human rights lawyer.



Emily Smith

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

I am an 18 year old student from Lower Truro, NS. I am graduating from Cobequid Educational Centre June 2019. I am attending Saint Mary's University in September 2019 taking a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Sociology, minoring in Indigenous Studies. My future plans include taking Social Work and becoming a Clinical Therapist.



Errol DaRocha

(sponsored by RBC)

Errol DaRocha is a computer science student going into his second year at Acadia University. He and his parents reside in the tiny community of Steam Mill, NS. He has a twin sister; and has another older sister who is finishing her final year at the University of Kings College. Errol has always been a determined individual who from a young age had learned to challenge himself. His determination has never let his physical limitations slow him down; he was involved in the SMILE program at Acadia University from ages 3-16; in grade 3, a year after his legs were operated on, he decided to try cross-country running; in grade 7, the only year his high school had wrestling, he won 'The Wrestling Heart Award' showing his true heart is in everything he does. Computers have been an equalizer for Errol; this is a field he excels.



Lauren Nickerson

(sponsored by Smith Family)

My name is Lauren Nickerson, I am 18 years old and reside in West Pubnico, Nova Scotia (a small Acadian village). I have been diagnosed with Type One Diabetes since the age of four. I attended summer camps for children with Type One Diabetes as a child and eventually became a camp counsellor at the same camp when I was older. My frequent visits to the hospital for check-ups as a child sparked my interest in science and inspired me to pursue nursing at Université de Moncton and one day pursue medicine.



Megan Wright

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

Hi there! My name is Megan Wright, I have just completed my third year at Acadia University studying Community Development. I plan on pursuing this degree with a Bachelor of Education along with the credentials to teach incarcerated youth. This summer I am proud to have accepted the student Recreation Internship position with the Municipality of the County of Kings; where I am an integral part of the recreation team and provision of summer community programs and events. These are accomplishments I did not think I would have the opportunity to adapt to after suddenly becoming severely hard of hearing in 2016. Maintaining positivity and resilience while learning with a disability has not been easy. Being selected for the 2019 PAANS Scholarship is truly an honour; I will forever be grateful for this award which will go towards equipment to make my post-secondary educational career accessible for my needs.



Quentin Knock

(sponsored by RBC)

Quentin Knock, a grade 12 at Amherst Regional High School, is involved in both his school and community. A para athlete he competes in the 200, 800 and shot put in track and field, and also runs cross country. His passion is hockey and during the winter months you can find him officiating every chance he gets, as well as, having another part-time job. Enrolled at NSCC for Business Administration next year he values the relationships that he has made with those around him.



Ruis MacDonald

(sponsored by Casino Nova Scotia)

My name is Ruis MacDonald, and I am a fourth-year chemical engineering student at Dalhousie University. In September 2016, a balcony railing gave way when I leaned against it, and I fell three stories onto my head. This resulted in a traumatic brain injury, which I have recovered from, and paralysis from the waist down. My goals are to work for Tesla on autonomous driving algorithms and my life not being restricted because of my disability.



Sophie Hunter

(sponsored by CIBC)

Hi, my name is Sophie Hunter. I am hearing impaired and have worn hearing aids since I was a baby. More recently, I have had cochlear implant surgery and I now have cochlear implants in both of my ears. These have helped a lot.

I am in grade 12 and will be graduating from West Kings District High School in the Annapolis Valley this June. My favourite interests are working with children, art, and socializing. This summer there will be a lot of change as my family and I are moving to Ontario with my Dad's work. However, what will not change is my wish to work with children and in September I'll be starting college doing a two-year Early Childhood Education diploma.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me to get this far and to PAANS supporting me in my dream of working with children.





Taylor Dean

(sponsored by RBC)

My name is Taylor Dean, and I'm from the small county of Pictou, N.S. I'm 18 years old and am in my final semester of high school! I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease at only 13 years old, and it continues to affect my life daily. Appointments and treatments cause me to occasionally miss school, but I refuse to let my illness define who I am or affect my education. Education and school are a huge part of my life, and I love to learn new things. Next year I am going to Dalhousie University to begin my undergraduate degree in Medical Sciences, and I hope to be accepted into Medical School after 4 years. My dream is to become a gastroenterologist, a doctor that specializes in diseases of the digestive system, so I'm able to help others to the same extent which my own doctors have helped me.

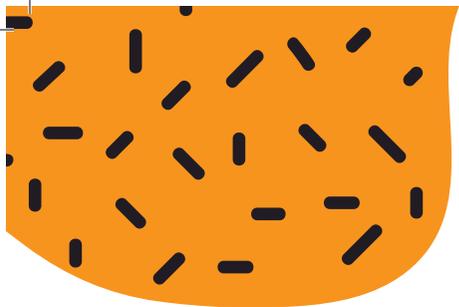


Zoe Thibault

(sponsored by CIBC)

Zoe Thibault lives in Doucetteville, Digby County and is graduating from St. Mary's Bay Academy in St. Bernard this June 2019. Zoe is a student that has maintained excellent academic standing throughout her high school years and was selected to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Award for academic excellence and school/community service in 2018. Zoe's interests include humanitarian service travel with ME to WE, instructing in the learn-to-skate CanSkate program in Digby, NS, and being involved in her school and community.







INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Cape Breton
Scholarship Recipients



Adam MacNeil

(sponsored by RBC)

My name is Adam MacNeil. I am 18 years old and a grade 12 student at Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy. I was born and raised in Margaree Forks, Cape Breton and I am the youngest of 4 children, with 1 older brother and 2 older sisters.

Growing up in a fairly small town, it can sometimes be hard for some people to find things that interest them. I was lucky enough to find what I now consider 2 of my greatest passions, Volleyball and Musical theater. Both these activities brought me much joy and growth and I hope I can continue with them in the future!

This spring I will be attending NSCC Iqaluit campus in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia where I am enrolled in the Radio/Television/Journalism program where I hope to make a promising career out of one day.



Kyle MacNeil

(sponsored by Casino Nova Scotia)

Kyle MacNeil is 18 years old and lives in Bras D'Or. He attends Memorial High School in Sydney Mines where he is one of the proud captains of the division 1 Varsity Basketball Team. Kyle also participates in the Robotics Club and has attended Acadia

University for provincial tournaments in Robotics over the past several years. He enjoys building things and hopes that his passion carried forward to his career choice of Engineering. He loved video games and hanging out with friends. This summer, Kyle was lucky enough to get a job with EHS (Emergency Health Services). He is excited to see what the future will bring.



Sarah MacNeil

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Sarah MacNeil. I am a grade 12 student at Rankin School of The Narrows in Iona, NS. In September I will be attending NSCC Marconi for Practical Nursing. I am very involved in my school and my community. I am on all my school sports teams and I am the Student Council Co-President of my school. I volunteer much of my time in my community. I am a volunteer at my church, Grandona Royal Canadian Legion, Iona, the Highland Village Museum and I am one of the youngest members in the Iona Volunteer Fire Department, where I do weekly training and help the Fire Department in any way when they are on emergency calls. I also volunteer at World Oceans Day, Iona, I am a volunteer summer soccer coach, and I serve at the Cancer Dinner Fundraiser and several other functions in my community. I recently received the Victoria County Youth Volunteer Award.



Sean Smith

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Sean Smith and I grew up in Cape Breton. I am a student-athlete and I am in my third year of Mechanical Engineering at Dalhousie University. I graduated from Cape Breton University (CBU) in 2018 with my Diploma in Engineering receiving the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal. My goal is to pursue a career in engineering so I can make contributions that will benefit society. Along with my academics I have been a hockey player since elementary school and currently play for the Cole Harbour Colts. The balance between the two is very important to me because I value being well rounded. I do all of this with a lifelong disability that I deal with on a day to day basis. I hope to inspire people with disabilities and show them that anything is possible if they put their mind to it.





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