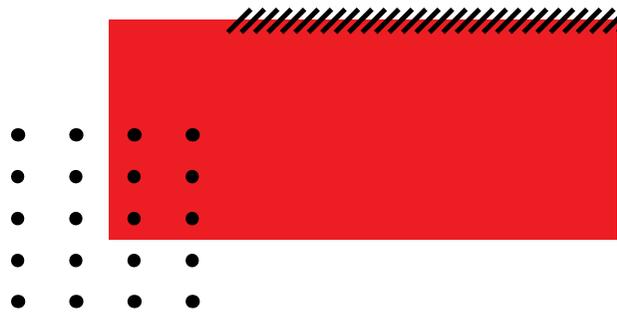
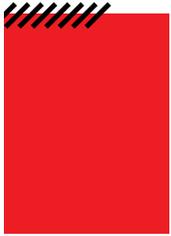




# 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS







# INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

*"Despite the many challenges presented this year, determination, resiliency, and courage persevered as the community navigated a new reality and adjusted accordingly. Our 2020 Scholarship recipients are champions who rose to the occasion to overcome yet another hurdle that would not stand in their way. Congratulations to each of you!"*

**Sherry Costa**

Provincial Coordinator,  
Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities



## **Sophie LeBlanc**

*(sponsored by Scotiabank)*

Sophie LeBlanc is a graduate of Prince Andrew High School's International Baccalaureate program. She is now pursuing a BSC in Kinesiology at the University of New Brunswick with the goal to become a physiotherapist.

Sophie has lived with Crohn's disease and Arthritis for over 10 years. She is no stranger to the challenges living with invisible auto-immune illness. Despite the challenges, she has resisted being labeled a "sick kid" and made every effort to remain active. She served as Student Council Head of Athletics, Captain of the volleyball team and Stage Manager for her high school's production of Mamma Mia! She was chosen as her Class of 2020 Salutatorian.

Sophie also dedicates her time to volunteering and community. She participates in many fundraising and research events for Crohn's and Colitis Canada and served as the Halifax Chapter's Honourary Youth Chair in 2013. Sophie was the Maritime's pediatric representative for Crohn's and Colitis Canada's PACE Network conference in 2017, providing input on the Top 10 research initiatives from a patient's perspective; and she was a Patient Engagement Committee member for the IMAGINE network. She also volunteers with Brigadoon Village, rescue missions and Canadian Blood Services.

It is her own experience as a patient that has inspired Sophie to pursue a career in healthcare, hoping to one day help others to better manage the physical symptoms of living with chronic illness.



## **Julia Bach**

*(sponsored by Scotiabank)*

Julia consistently demonstrates a love of learning and the dedication required to succeed in university and in her professional life as a health professional. She has consistently maintained high academic standing throughout her entire school career, receiving awards for highest distinction at every level of her schooling. Julia is currently near the top of the graduating class at Glace Bay High School.

Julia continues to be an exceptional student and concurrently contributes greatly to her school community. She is a member of the school band program. Julia is a member of several school groups such as Headstrong, the Booster Club and the Decorating Committee, the Safe Grad Committee and the Interact Group. Julia served as her school representative for both the Living with Mental Illness & Addiction Conference and Encounters with Canada.

Julia plays an integral role in her community through her volunteer involvement with the ALS Society, Youth Peer Tutoring/Mentoring, the SPCA and the Glace Bay Health Care Complex. She also works within her community as a sales associate at Pseudio, refereeing local volleyball games and providing childcare to various community members.





## **Brayden Hennigar**

*(sponsored by Scotiabank)*

Brayden has a clear vision of what he wants to do in life. It's his long-held desire to work outdoors, particularly in the forestry sector. He has been accepted into the Maritime College of Forest Technology in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Brayden will be a true asset to the MCFT program, and an example of one who possesses commendable personal resilience and dedication to task.

Brayden has displayed a steadfast commitment to overcoming barriers with a strong commitment to active citizenship through serving and supporting those in need. Serving his community and protecting the environment will remain a driving force in his life for years to come.



## **Lauren Boudreau**

*(sponsored by Scotiabank)*

In terms of leadership and dedication, Lauren has been an extremely valuable asset to Richmond Education Centre and Academy and the leadership committee. She has developed as an excellent role model for youth of all ages, and her dedication to the school atmosphere excels that of most of her peers. Her willingness to give of her personal time and dedication to organizing events and school activities is quite admirable.

Lauren is part of a committee that not only gives to others and promotes responsibility, organization and independence, but the reward she gets for her commitment is seeing that she has made a difference to her peers. Her dedication does not end within the school as she often volunteers in community events that involve people of all ages. She has spent time visiting senior homes and raising funds and food to support both her community and communities on a global scale.



## **Eric Lewis**

*(sponsored by Scotiabank)*

My name is Eric Lewis. In June 2020, I graduated from Sydney Academy with Highest Honours. I have always had a love of the outdoors and despite having disabilities, I felt a real sense of accomplishment when I was in the garden. I have known for many years that horticulture was the only career I wished to explore. I am excited to be in my first year at Kingstec College where I am studying Horticulture and Landscape Technology. In Canada, my field is recognized as an important industry and I cannot think of a more rewarding profession.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become essential that produce be grown within our own borders, both nationally and provincially. My career goal is to operate a viable business in my hometown of Sydney, where I will produce high quality products, using ecologically sound practices. I also want to give back and provide employment for people with permanent disabilities.

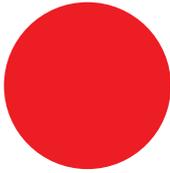


## **Kathleen Perrin**

*(sponsored by Smith Family)*

My name is Kathleen Perrin. I am 17 years old and I live in Beaver Bank, Nova Scotia. I have recently graduated from Lockview High School in Fall River. Throughout my school years I have worked extremely hard to overcome my learning disabilities (ADHD, Dyslexia and Dysgraphia), and the adversities that come along with them. I have been blessed to have had amazing tutors and teachers who have supported me and helped me to achieve my goals; for this I am greatly thankful. I am determined, motivated and proud of my learning disabilities, and I refuse to allow my diagnoses to define my academic future.

In the fall I will be attending Dalhousie University for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am excited to begin working towards my dream career as a pediatric nurse! I am incredibly thankful to have been selected for the PAANS - Bruce Mills Honorarium Scholarship. Thank you so much for the consideration and generosity.



## **Kaleigh Cormier**

*(sponsored by reachAbility, Bruce Mills)*

Hello, I am Kaleigh Cormier and would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I graduate from HERH in June of 2020. My future plans include attending Jane Norman college to study Early childhood Education.

At the age of four, I was diagnosed with severe hearing loss and ever since I have been diagnosed I wore hearing aids. There were many challenges I discovered being a student with hearing loss. There were many days where I thought like just giving up. My school thought I would just be better off in a program called CEP. I have overcome that part in my life and spoke up for my education rights. I took all academic courses, right through high school into my graduation year.

My hobbies include reading, writing poems especially the royal Canadian reading writing poems especially the Royal Canadian Legion contests and helping others. Over the years, I have volunteered with Christmas Daddies, We Care, Special Olympics, Magnolia Nursing Home, Salvation Army toy drive, Kids Help phone and numerous other community organizations.

I am looking forward to working with young children through my career and hoping to achieve a level where I will work with hearing impaired children and studying sign language.



## **Rita DeLisle**

*(sponsored by NSLEO)*

Hi! I'm Rita DeLisle and I have been a student, in some capacity, since the pre-digital age. Today, I am an Interdisciplinary Fine Arts student at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD) University.

In 2010, I developed fibromyalgia and spent several years struggling to cope with the persistent pain and fatigue that were making me an unreliable employee. Fortunately, at NSCAD, my disability is being cheerfully accommodated and I have since expanded my art-skills-repertoire from clay and fiber to drawing, mold-making and print-making. I intend to continue my studies while developing my portfolio and I hope, one day soon, to have works for sale and workshops to offer.

I am both honoured and grateful to have been selected for a PAANS scholarship – it is a great help! Many thanks to the Selection Committee!







# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



*The Smith Family*

