

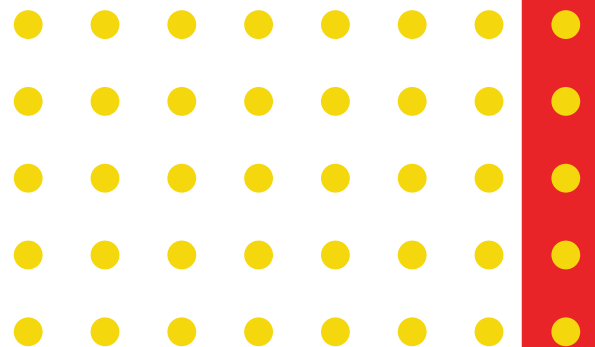
2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS





INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA
RECIPIENTS





Abdullah Al-Khattab

(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

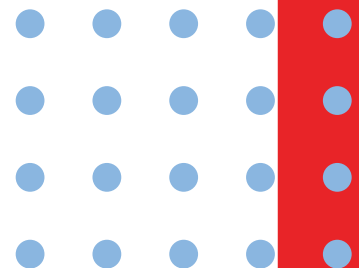
My name is Abdullah Al-Khattab, a CPA student part of the 2023 graduating class. I was born in Iraq and was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2016, 3 years after immigrating to Canada. Ever since my diagnosis, a passion for biology, nutrition, and healthy living was ignited within me, a driving force that lead me to pursue post-secondary studies in the medical field. I plan to attend Dalhousie University next school year to attain a BSC and ultimately become a family doctor. My elder sisters and my parents have been the most influential and inspiring figures in my life who have helped shape me as a person and the values I stand for. I have used my disability to find a love for physical activity and embrace who I am



Emily McInnis

(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Emily McInnis and I am originally from a small town called Stellarton, located in Nova Scotia. I am entering my third year of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. I am specifically majoring in both Finance and Accounting, hoping to pursue a future career in these fields. I am currently employed at SimplyCast in Dartmouth, which has been an absolutely amazing experience. I am very lucky to have an employer who understands and helps me mitigate the challenges that come along with working with a disability. I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in 2019, leaving me hospitalized for a month, and have faced several challenges since, but am surrounded by an amazing support system that keeps me motivated each and every day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PAANS committee along with their sponsors for this scholarship, and hope that they know their generosity is greatly appreciated.





Lauren Pendlebury

(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

Lauren Pendlebury is graduating from Dartmouth High this year where she is an excelling student taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Lauren is also heavily involved in her school and surrounding community through sports such as field hockey, rugby and wrestling and is an executive board member on her schools student council. She is a cabinet member on a local youth leadership organization, the NSSSA, and has been a Girl Guide for 10 years. Lauren has managed to excel and achieve success in all areas of her life despite her hearing loss, which she is quite proud of.



Zander Burns

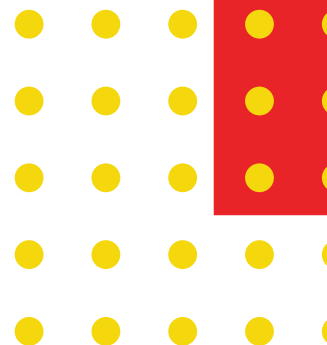
(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Zander Burns. I am 17 years old and I live in Fall River, Nova Scotia. I am on course to graduate from Lockview High School on the Principal's List this June. I've had significant hearing loss in my left ear ever since I was young. As of the last 3 years the hearing loss progressed and I have gone fully deaf in that same ear. Single sided deafness has been a constant struggle for me throughout my high school career. It's something that is affecting me in and outside of the classroom. I've always worked extremely hard to overcome the challenges my disability presents to me. I will be forever grateful for my family and the people in my life who taught me to put in my best effort, and push me to be the best version of myself despite the extra challenges I face. I plan to continue this effort throughout my university years and be the best student I can be.

I have been accepted into Saint Mary's University and will be attending their Bachelor of Commerce program in the fall. I hope to one day start a business of my own. I am honoured to be selected for the Scotiabank Scholarship. Thank you to PAANS for helping me achieve my goals.



LEO





Yas Jawad

(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Yas Jawad, and I am a queer, disabled, POC studying Environmental Sustainability Studies at Acadia University with a Minor in Art. I was born and raised in Dartmouth, K'jipuktuk, Nova Scotia and was diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes in 2016 when I was thirteen years old. Despite my disability and the challenges, I have encountered throughout my academic and extra-curricular pursuits, I have still managed to overcome several barriers and obstacles.

I have always been quite a community-oriented person as I have always tried to prioritize community care and community engagement as it aligns with my core values, and I have seen the importance and positive impact it can have on both participants. My extra-curricular activities include hosting and co-coordinating a community event called “Community Art Markets” where we provided local artists with a cost-free and accessible space to sell their artwork, I also volunteer with the Wolfville Farmers Market every Wednesday to help pack online orders for the WFM2GO, and have recently introduced a new feature into our current Food Cupboard space at Acadia, a new implementation of the “Acadia Community Fridge” which aims towards providing students with fresh nutritious foods.

Some of my hobbies and interests correlate to my field of study as I take a large interest in conserving and sustaining the environment in any way that I can contribute such as gardening and growing my food during the summer months, ethically foraging, and planting butterfly gardens. This will be my first year growing at the Acadia Community Farm, which I am very excited for. Creating art is also a part of my everyday practice as art-making has allowed me to express myself in ways, I haven't been able to otherwise.

I'd like to take the time to thank PAANS for choosing me as one of the PAANS 2023-2024 Scholarship recipients, this scholarship will help paid me in my academic pursuits as I will be able to focus more of my time on my academics, as well as alleviating some of the financial stress that I am faced with throughout the academic year.



Aaliyah Cook

(Sponsored by The Smith Family)

Aaliyah Cook is a Grade 12 student at Lockview High. Since being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2012 she has been heavily involved with JDRF, fundraising over \$35,000.00 to fund research for a cure and advocating on a provincial and national level. Aaliyah is also involved with Diabetes Canada and has completed the training to become a camp counsellor for children with type 1 diabetes, and will be modelling in the upcoming “Pump Couture” fashion show to help raise money to send kids to diabetes camp. Aaliyah is also an athlete and competes at a high level in both rugby and taekwon-do. Managing diabetes while participating in competitive sports takes a lot of time and energy.

Aaliyah is also involved in her school community as the African Nova Scotian Student representative and as a member of the GSA and Youth Action committees. In the Fall, Aaliyah will be starting the Medical Sciences program at Dalhousie with the goal of finding a career in the health care system in Nova Scotia as a doctor or health researcher.



Emma McCarthy

(Sponsored by Casino Nova Scotia, Halifax)

My name is Emma McCarthy I am 20 years old and am a soon to be Mount Saint Vincent University student. I am a graduating student of NSCC and am graduating with a diploma in Child and Youth Care. I am then transferring to Mount Saint Vincent University and will be working on completing my BA in Child and Youth Study. I hope to be able to support youth in need and give them the care that they deserve, and have not received. I look forward to getting to work in my field of study this summer to put my knowledge to use and gain more experience.

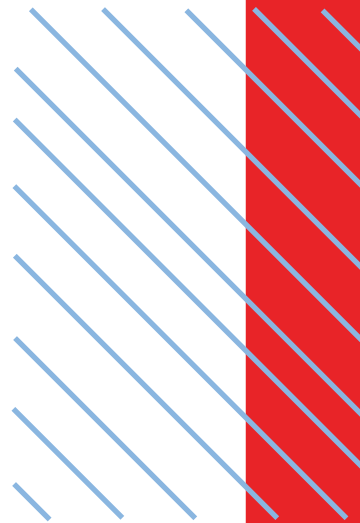




Brayden Cream

(Sponsored by CIBC)

My name is Brayden Cream. I'm 17 years old and live in Valley, NS. I was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at the age of 1 years old. However, I do not let this define me. I will be graduating from Cobequid Educational Centre in June of this year. I have been accepted into the Business Administration program at NSCC Truro Campus starting in September. My passion is hockey. When I was able I enjoyed playing sledge hockey for 2 seasons in Truro. Now that I am unable to physically play, I still participate to the game in other ways. For the past 5 years I have been the Music Coordinator for the Truro U15 Major Bearcat Hockey Club. My role and duties include playing music during stoppages of play, playing the national anthem at the start of games, and keeping the fans engaged and entertained. In my spare time I enjoy hanging out with my friends, watching my brother play hockey, playing video games, and swimming at my cottage. This year, I volunteered through Big Brothers Big Sisters to be a peer mentor at my school. This entails me spending time with my mentee every week at school at lunch break sharing interests, hanging out, and talking. I would like to thank CIBC for awarding me this scholarship. Sincerely, Brayden Cream.



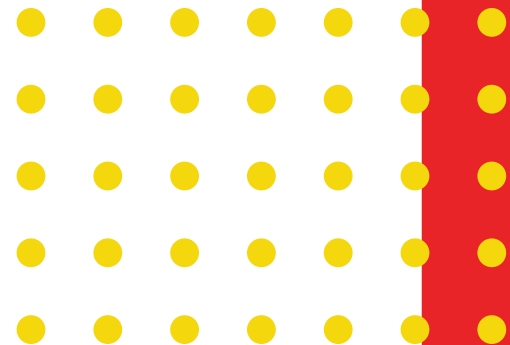


Keira Grady

(Sponsored by CIBC)

Keira Grady is a grade 12 French Immersion, AP student at Dartmouth High School. Keira has grown up most of her life in the community of Dartmouth NS. She has been accepted into Acadia University and plans to pursue a BSc in Environmental Geoscience in the fall. Keira enjoys being a continuous learner and is very much looking forward to experiencing university life and immersing herself in the campus lifestyle and embracing this exciting new life chapter. She is very active in her community and has also been a part of numerous sporting teams that always have a connection to giving back. She plans to pursue community outreach opportunities to help her connect and gain a sense of community in her new home of Wolfville, NS.

In 2016 she was diagnosed with ADHD and although this diagnosis can be at time difficult to manage it has never stopped her from reaching her full potential. Keira is a very driven and ambitious teenager who has overcome adversity and is stronger for it, we have no doubts that she will continue to succeed at whatever she sets out to accomplish. Please accept her sincerest, Thank you to both PAANS and CIBC for selecting her as the recipient of this award. This funding will go a long way in allowing Keira to focus on her studies without the added stress of juggling part-time work.





Drew Easton

(Sponsored by reachAbility, NAAW-NS)

I am in grade 12 at Horton High School, where I am highly involved with extracurricular activities, student council and volunteering. I've played division one and community soccer and was captain this year. I continue to play club soccer with aspirations to play for Acadia University while studying there. I've also played junior varsity basketball and even went to the provincial final this year. Although my proudest moments aren't my academics or athletics; it's my volunteering. I prioritize my time to give back to my school and community with things like volunteering with the Wolfville and Area Food Bank as a delivery driver, student council school athletics chair, prom committee representative and Best Friends For Lunch weekly. I am also the co-organizational head of my high school's Team Unified Basketball team which is for individuals with physical or learning disabilities. While leading Team Unified I plan games, coach, motivate, and referee weekly school inclusive basketball games for the student body.

Throughout school I've maintained honors. With both my parents as teachers I understand the importance of learning and have decided teaching is my career path. I've learned a lot of who I am over the past few years. I AM an athlete, accomplished student, a loving son, brother, friend, and involved in making a positive difference in my community. I've learned the importance of personal health, education, support and how I need to be an active participant in my own life. I will be a teacher who will motivate, educate, and support students through the challenges they may be faced with. My future excites me as I head to Acadia University in the fall to take a Bachelor of Kinesiology followed by a Bachelor of Education. I recognize the importance of home, family, friends, and personal happiness. I have all the building blocks needed to achieve greatness.

These are supportive families, a solid education, a safe community, secure housing, and food security. I recognize that's not the experience of many people in this world. My life shines bright now which makes me thankful and determined to strive for excellence as I embrace my future and the endless possibilities but in doing so recognize the need to uplift and support fellow individuals and actively do something about it. I'll lead by example and teach students to get involved no matter their circumstances because every little bit helps.



Victoria Verhaeghe

(Sponsored by Alex Peeler Arts)

My name is Victoria Verhaeghe and I am a 17 year old student at HERH. In elementary school, I was diagnosed with a moderate to severe hearing loss in my right ear, requiring that I wear a hearing aid in that ear. This means that learning and social situations can often be challenging. I was recently diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Social Anxiety Disorder, with many of my symptoms being related to my hearing loss.

Having a hearing loss along with anxiety disorders means that I have had to work harder than an average hearing student might. Speaking in groups is difficult because I lack the ability to filter voices like my peers can. A lot of the time I don't understand what is being said to me, and come off as rude because I don't know how to respond.

Despite these difficulties, I have managed to become certified and employed as a lifeguard and swim instructor, and have had experience working closely with the children and parents in my community. While this has been an awesome learning experience, I have struggled without the use of my hearing aid, which cannot be worn in the wet environment. In school, I have maintained high marks in both academic and advanced courses, receiving honours with distinction in my years there. I spend most of my free time drawing and painting. Art is one of my biggest passions, and I have dedicated a lot of time to my craft, earning awards for my work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank PAANS for this scholarship, and for offering support for other students with disabilities. This fall, I will be attending NSCAD, to pursue my love for the arts and work towards becoming an art teacher, helping students from all different walks of life in their own journeys.





INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

CAPE BRETON RECIPIENTS





Courtney McAllister

(Sponsored by Scotiabank)

Courtney is a third year civil engineering student at Dalhousie University. She obtained a Diploma of Engineering at Cape Breton University, where she was the president of the Engineering Society and founder of the university's Women in Engineering Society. She enjoys volunteering with high school students as a tutor for the Youth Peer Program and she is currently the Vice President of Finance for the Women in Engineering Society at Dalhousie. After graduation she will work towards obtaining designation as a professional engineer.



Angelina Tortola

(Sponsored by Casino Nova Scotia, Sydney)

My name is Angelina Tortola and I am 18 years old. I was born and raised in Sydney Nova Scotia. I have just completed my first year at Cape Breton University in the Bachelor of Arts and Community Studies program. I plan to finish my undergrad and further my education to become a social worker. I had always known that I wanted to help others and give back to my community when I grew up. It wasn't until I struggled with my mental health and became diagnosed with ADHD that I knew I wanted a career in social work. Throughout my experience getting help, I got to know some remarkable people who changed my perspective on life. Those experiences played a significant role in my life and helped to shape the person I am today.

Without the people I encountered on my journey to overcome my challenges with depression and ADHD, I would not be where I am now. This is why I believe that my purpose on this earth is to help others who are struggling mentally, especially youth, and to help them realize there is a light at the end of the tunnel no matter what. This is why I work hard and pursue my education, so I can eventually work in a position where I can act as that person for others. Thank you so much, for this scholarship. I am very grateful for this award, along with the recognition and support.





Faith Marie Urquhart

*(Sponsored by Nova Scotia Golf Association
& Lung Association of Nova Scotia & PEI)*

My name is Faith Marie Urquhart, I was born and raised in the small town of Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton. I am 18 years old and graduating from Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre and in the fall I plan to attend Cape Breton University for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to become an RN nurse.

Growing up in a small town, it always felt like fun to get involved with my community. I love to bake and be active, it's so much fun to volunteer my time at our local United Church, fundraising with bake sales, helping clean and decorating the church for special events. I also volunteer with the community members when we have special events like Lobster Suppers and Canada Day. Also I've worked full time every summer since a young age during our busy tourist season helping our locally owned businesses.

Once I entered grade seven I took the opportunity to try my hand at many different school events and sports. Through the years I've been in several sports, Volleyball, Softball and Track and Field. In School I've joined HRY to help teach kids about Healthy living, and joining NSISP in the last two years, meeting many International students during my time in highschool I made many new friends, and helped them adjust to our school and make them feel welcomed. This year I decided for one of my classes to do a Co-op Placement with the Learning support teacher at my school. It has been so rewarding to help the children with their learning plans and help them in new ways to learn.

Having Asthma and Dyslexia hasn't always made my life easy, time management, being positive and having supportive parents to allow me to try new things but keeping me grounded has led me to my decision to want to be a Nurse. I want to help people, spreading as much kindness and helpfulness as I can, to be that person to advocate for my patients, as I have been one countless times before. Thank you for this scholarship and for supporting me on my journey to continue on my path into the healthcare field where I hope to make a positive difference.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Alex Peeler Arts



LEO



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