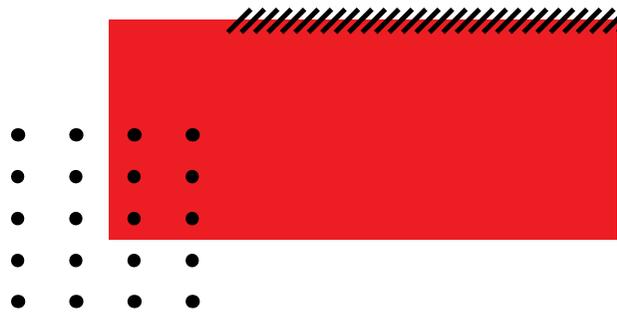
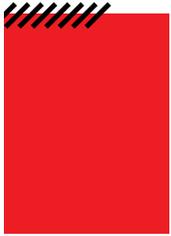




2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS







INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

"During 2021, the community continued to pivot and navigate around the challenges presented by a global pandemic. Premier Stephen McNeil was clear that everyone must "Stay the blazes home" to flatten the curve and virtual classroom learning became the norm. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients who are the epitome of "Nova Scotia Strong!""

Sherry Costa

Provincial Coordinator,
Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities



ALEX DECOSTE

(sponsored by CIBC)

Alexandra DeCoste is a grade 12 student of East Antigonish Academy in Monastery N.S. Growing up in the small community of Afton, Alex loves to be outdoors and on the water. She is a strong athlete in Volleyball, Soccer, and enjoys learning any new sport! In 2007 she had been diagnosed with type one diabetes and although this diagnosis was life changing it had never stopped her from reaching her full potential.

Alex is a hard working, dedicated and inspiring student not only in her school work but with the time and dedication she has given in her volunteering, and leadership opportunities.

Alex's work with Diabetes Canada and Schools program for youth living with disabilities, among many others is a show of her strong morals. Her hope is that through her actions she inspires others to give back and be strong leaders within society, despite the challenges they may face.

In the Fall of 2021 Alex will be attending St.Fx University to take their Bachelor of Science with Diploma in Engineering program, in hopes of eventually becoming a biomedical engineer, so that she may continue to do what she is passionate for, in order to create a more accessible and inclusive world for all.



AMBER HATTIE

(sponsored by the Smith Family)

Hi my name's Amber Hattie, I am 17 years old and I currently live in Plymouth, Nova Scotia. But I haven't always lived here. My father was in the Canadian Armed Forces, I am a Canadian military child. Before my 16th birthday I have traveled almost coast to coast twice. I will be graduating from my 5th school, Northumberland Regional High School, in a few weeks and just last year I set up my bedroom in my 8th home. The lifestyle of a military child is unique and unlike most, but also having medical challenges creates a very unique story. At two weeks old I was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Glycogen Storage Disease Type 1a. This is a life threatening lifelong condition that requires a lot of work on a daily basis, I drink doses of cornstarch to keep my blood sugars stable. Also, because of this condition I see 8 different specialist doctors. This all adds up to a crazy busy life not including any extracurriculars.

Somehow in all of this I still manage to be an honours student in school and be very involved in my community. I have been a Royal Canadian Army Cadet for the last 6 years and currently hold the second highest position in my corps. I have earned two of the most prestigious medals in cadets for volunteer work, community service, and overall top cadet.

I have worked with both New Glasgow Kinsmen and Westville Community Recreation teaching with their Learn To Skate programs. I am also a Duke of Edinburgh Award recipient of both the Bronze and Silver pins and am currently working on my Gold award and on track to receive it this year. Recently I also received a micro-grant through Passion to Purpose which is a subprogram from the Duke of Edinburgh. I received \$1000.00 to put together 100 care packages to drop off to the homeless shelters in my community.

With the help of a few friends this was an extremely successful project. Our bags included toiletries, snacks, a simple meal, and other items like notebooks and school supplies. In September I will be attending St. Francis Xavier University and will be taking a Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics. After this I plan to continue my education to get my masters in either Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy and would like to work in a pediatric rehab facility.



ANTON SIANCHUK

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Anton Sianchuk, I grew up in the town of Sackville, NB. Growing up I was always active, as my main sport was football. Whenever I had a spare moment I would fill it by involving myself into other teams, clubs, and fundraising groups.

After high school I went to Holland College to begin my Kinesiology education and I continued playing football for the college team. Between being in classes and on the field, I would volunteer within the community of Charlottetown. Additionally, I worked for the college weight room to help train student athletes. After graduating from Holland College I continued my education at Acadia University, over my 2 years at Acadia I made lifelong friends and connections.

Shortly after graduating from Acadia with a Bachelor's of Kinesiology I received the opportunity to practice as a Kinesiologist for my home town. This was around the same time I began losing my sight due to a genetic disease called LHON. My vision loss experience progressed much faster than I could have expected.

I made the decision to move to Halifax in hopes to attend the Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy, despite the challenges that I may face for a more supportable career path.



BRAEDON CARTER

(sponsored by CIBC)

Braeden Carter is a young man who lives with his parents and younger sister, in River Tillard, on Cape Breton Island. He is finishing up his senior year at Richmond Education Centre and Academy in Louisdale, Nova Scotia. His interests and hobbies include playing video games, hunting, fishing and the weather.

Braeden plans on attending St. Francis Xavier University for his undergraduate degree beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. He will be doing a four year Bachelor of Science with a major in physics, then attending Dalhousie University to earn a Diploma in Meteorology. Braeden plans on pursuing a career within the meteorological field once he completes his studies.

Braeden is very grateful to PAANS for awarding him this scholarship as it will help immensely both with the costs faced pursuing his academic goals and with some of the difficulties managing the impact of his disability. Autism and ADHD have presented many varied life challenges, however, this has not stopped Braeden. He has proven that despite these challenges, he is able to overcome many obstacles put in his path.





GABRIELLE CLOSE

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Gabrielle Close and I was born with an eye condition called bilateral optic nerve hypoplasia. Despite my visual impairment, I have overcome many obstacles in all aspects of my life, including my education and extra-curricular activities.

I have been a classical ballet dancer and alpine skier for most of my life, as an active lifestyle is very important to me. Through the many opportunities I have had through ballet and alpine skiing, I have developed many skills and qualities that I can apply to my everyday life such as communication skills, organization skills, problem-solving skills, independence, determination and the ability to be my own advocate.

I will be taking the Bachelor of Science (Recreation) program at Dalhousie University, commencing in the fall. Through my studies, my goal is to learn how I can best support others who are injured or disabled so that they can participate in the activities that they enjoy the most.



JANNIE BARKER

(sponsored by NSLEO)

The province of Nova Scotia recognize that Mental Health should be at the forefront and continues to provide funding to help citizens who are in need. The Nova Scotia Health Authority continues to try to fulfill Social Work positions and is actively hiring and even taking students who will be finished of their Social Work Degree due to the need of qualified Social Workers.

I have always known that I wanted to go into the Social Work field, but it wasn't until I began researching the programs at NSCC that provided me with the knowledge to fully understand how I was going to make my goal a reality. Understanding the immediate need for trained workers in the field of Social Work, I could easily see that the Social Services program that NSCC offered was the correct path to begin my journey. Having this program will allow me to get into the field to work and help others while I continue my studies. This program will provide me the tools and skills needed when assisting individuals. The NSCC Social Services program gives me the best opportunity to get out into the field in the quickest amount of time. Once I receive this training, I will work and bridge over to CBU to complete my BAGS, then move on to get my Social Work degree.

Education has always been a priority in my household. I have worked very hard through the years to overcome many of the obstacles that were in front of me when completing my high school studies. Being diagnosed with ADHD, I needed to work extra hard when focusing during class for it takes me longer to complete my work due to my processing skills. I do not look at this as a deficit, but more as a challenge. Having this mindset allows me to stay positive as I continue to work hard. When my work is finished and I receive my grades, I feel success not only academically, but it skyrockets my self confidence and provides me the drive to work harder and do better.

Studying at NSCC will allow me to flourish even more and grow. I am a lifelong learner and having the small intimate qualities that NSCC provides their students will help me become an active and prosperous community member that can bring forth skills to my community.





KARLEE SAULNIER

(sponsored by CIBC)

I am Karlee Saulnier, I'm 17 years old and graduating from Horton High School. In the fall I plan to attend Dalhousie's agricultural campus in Truro, where I will study Animal Science.

Which is my first step to my future career where I hope to be able to work as a veterinarian. In my free time I keep myself busy with the various sports I take part in which include, soccer, softball, and basketball. I am also heavily involved as a senior member in King County 4-H, belonging to the Horton 4-H Club. My family is a large part of my life and a huge support system for me, although I have a lot of extended family, my immediate family consists of the parents as well as an older and younger sister.



KAYLA ANGELA MACKINNON

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

My name is Kayla MacKinnon, I am a Cole Harbour High Student graduate. I have been accepted into the Bachelor of Science (Health Promotions) at Dalhousie University .

My extra curricular activities include playing Wheelchair basketball for the past 5 years throughout the Maritimes, coaching Jr wheelchair basketball and competing in 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer. My in-school actives include high school improv team and ambassador for the international students.

My community involvement includes volunteering at the annual IWK Children's hospital fundraiser event, Girl Guides of Canada for 10years, faith events with youth group, Steubenville Atlantic , fund raisers including our Backpacks project at Christmas which involves handing out backpacks filled with necessities to the patrons at Margarette House in Dartmouth. I also have a part time job as a front desk clerk at the HRM recreation center and spend time with my family.



LEE GILBERT

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

I have two passions in life ... first, anything to do with the sea. The second is cooking. I applied to NSCC for both Culinary Arts and Marine Industrial Rigging. I have chosen to pursue marine rigging but continue to prepare tasty dishes for my friends and family. Covid has made the past 16 months difficult with missed class trips and canceled sports programs but on the upside, I have developed a stronger relationship with my sister as we put my car to use exploring Colchester County and discovering waterways and water falls. I work part time at the Sobeys Distribution Center in Debert and I look forward to the new experiences that attending the NSCC Technology Institute will provide. I am very grateful for this award and I thank you for the recognition and support.



LUCAS WILLIAMS

(sponsored by CIBC)

My name is Lucas Williams. I attend Shelburne Regional High School and will be graduating with my fellow classmates in June of 2021. I am an active volunteer within my community. I enjoy working part-time and playing basketball in my spare time. In the Fall, I will be attending Acadia University to attain an undergraduate degree in Kinesiology. After graduating from Acadia, I intend to move on to Dalhousie University to pursue a career in either physiotherapy or dentistry. Both careers interest me because I enjoy working with others and both careers involve helping people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the Partnership for Access Awareness scholarship.



MELODY BRITTAIN

(sponsored by CIBC)

Hi my name is Melody Brittain, I am 18 years old and live in Digby County Nova Scotia. I attend Digby Regional High School (as of right now because of Covid-19 I am doing online learning). I am very grateful for receiving this scholarship, so I can pursue my chosen career in cosmetology. Also I would like to thank everyone that was involved in choosing me for this scholarship.



RUBY HARRINGTON

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

“I am Ruby Harrington from Glenholme, Nova Scotia, where I undertook the International Baccalaureate Programme at Cobequid Educational Centre. I have just finished my first year at Acadia University where I am working towards my Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Politics and minoring in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Despite struggling throughout high school, I had never been able to get a formal diagnosis for ADHD until I got to Acadia and had the proper resources to do so. Getting a diagnosis has allowed me to make accommodations for myself, as well as evaluate the coping skills that I had developed over the eighteen years without a diagnosis. Thanks to the accommodations I have been able to make, I was able to get on the Dean’s list at Acadia University.”



TYLER CROSS

(sponsored by Scotiabank)

I look up, 2 minutes on the clock, it's in this moment I know, I must give it my all. Whether it's on the ice, field, or in school, I know others are counting on me. I'm counting on me. Born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, and raised by a single mother who always taught me, with hard work, determination, and always striving for your best and never giving up, you can accomplish anything. I understood at a young age; this was true.

Constantly struggling with my schoolwork, taking longer than most, I quickly found out with my learning disability, I always had to give it my all! Today, I am graduating from Parkview Education Centre with honours.

As I look back over the years, I see it took many people, family, coaches, and teachers to push me and help me achieve my goals, leading me to where I am today. For this, I am genuinely grateful.

I've known for a long time I would like to give back to my community, like so many others have done for me. I applied to the Bachelor of Arts program at St. Francis Xavier University in Applied Forensic

Psychology with hopes of someday becoming a social worker. I want to be a mentor to youth in the same way many others were for me.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Tyler Cross







THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



The Smith Family

