



## McErlean Family Scholarship Fund

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#### **About the McErlean Family:**

Dale and Paul McErlean strongly believe a good education leads to a prosperous life. Both Dale, a child of a single parent, and Paul, from a low-income working family, faced intersectional challenges in acquiring their respective education. Without scholarships, Dale would not have been able to obtain her university degree. Paul only obtained his degree as an adult learner in his 30's with aid from his employer. They vehemently believe their education is what enabled them and their six children to have healthy, prosperous lives. Their gratitude for the assistance they received led them to become committed volunteers and charitable givers.

The aid Dale and Paul have provided to young and adult female family members over the years exposed them to the difficulties women face as they try to better their lives through education, in particular challenging economic and family situations. Government support can be exclusionary and provides only limited financial support to those who do qualify. Dale and Paul have witnessed both the personal sacrifice needed and the gap between the level of government support available versus the reality of the costs faced by individuals trying to build a better life through education. Dale and Paul's life experiences and the present efforts of family members have inspired them to create the McErlean Family Scholarship Fund to aid young women in achieving their potential through education.

#### **About the United Way Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick:**

The United Way focuses its work on moving people from poverty to possibility and helping kids be all that they can be. As such, we are thrilled to partner with Dale and Paul McErlean to administer their McErlean Family Scholarship Fund. Like Dale and Paul, we believe education can fundamentally change people's lives and create lasting positive impact on them, as well as their family, friends, and community. As such, we believe the McErlean Family Scholarship Fund will directly change lives in our community.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND STATEMENT:**

The McErlean Family Scholarship Fund is sponsored by Dale and Paul McErlean of Moncton, NB, and reflects their conviction that everyone deserves access to education, which can lead to a good paying job and financial independence. They have lived this philosophy together for 30 years and established the McErlean Family Scholarship Fund to offer support to those in the community who need it the most.

Both life-long learners, Dale and Paul want to provide financial assistance and support so others can build a positive future through education. While they do not want to preclude helping all potential groups, they are especially interested in setting up a fund focused on helping disadvantaged women ages 17+ seeking to further their education and upskill for employability. The fund will look to support organizations that provide structure, mentorship, and opportunities to women in support of them achieving their life goals.

The scholarship fund is to support women ages 17+ who may be disadvantaged by life circumstances that hold them back from realizing their full potential, such as, but not limited to:

- Single income, single adult family with dependent(s).
- At risk due to domestic family issues.
- Economic conditions.

Current focus is two-fold:

- 1) Establishing a scholarship fund to enable candidates in the Southeastern region of New Brunswick, who could otherwise be deterred to continue their education with the goal of entering the workforce in a recognized trade or other credentialed occupation.
- 2) Partnering with an accredited charitable organization in the Southeastern region of New Brunswick (United Way) that works with and/or connects to organizations that support females experiencing the above.

While there are different resources available for financial assistance for educational costs, we understand that for some this is not enough. Therefore, this scholarship fund may be combined with other forms of financial assistance.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND OUTLINE:**

### **Base structure:**

The scholarship fund will be awarded annually to a candidate who has demonstrated a desire to pursue a post-secondary education or recognized trade; however, they are faced with challenging circumstances which prevent pursuing their educational goals. Candidates must be entering their chosen education program in the coming fall semester; they cannot be mid-program upon applying. The duration of the scholarship fund will be 1 to 4 years dependent upon the specific program the successful candidate is pursuing.

The successful candidate must maintain full-time status in their program.

**Scholarship Award:**

The successful candidate will be awarded \$2,500 per academic year plus \$2,500 upon successful completion of program to support transition into the workforce; for a maximum award of up to \$12,500. Proof of annual enrollment and proof of program completion will be required.

The scholarship fund recognizes that not all candidates will have a job upon program completion and thus seeks to provide funding to support the job search process.

At its peak, the scholarship fund could have 4 candidates receiving funding concurrently.

**Criteria:**

Base criteria per those groups named in our scholarship fund statement plus:

- Satisfactory record of academic competence that would reasonably predict success in the chosen program.
- Proper match of opportunity versus needs as assessed by the Award Selection Committee.
- Self-nomination or nomination by a local agency.

A candidate may self-nominate and acquire a letter of support or reference to accompany their application. When a candidate is deciding who to acquire this letter from, they may opt to select an individual who will support them through their academic endeavor and can speak to their character and readiness to enroll and succeed in their studies, rather than simply someone who may speak to their character. A candidate may alternatively be nominated by a local agency with direct knowledge of the candidate and commitment to support the candidate through their academic endeavor.

**Process:**

Applications will be reviewed after the award closing date by the Award Selection Committee. This award does not select candidates on a rolling basis.

All candidates will be contacted upon the Award Selection Committee's decision.

**How to Apply:**

- Complete the [McErlean Family Scholarship Fund application form](#).
  - o You will need to upload:
    - Letter of intent (one page maximum).
    - Copy of acceptance letter from education institution.
    - Most recent transcript(s).
    - Nomination letter from local agency, if applicable.
    - Letter of support or reference, if applicable.

The application deadline is March 14, 2026, at 11:59PM. The application form portal will close after this date, and no late applications will be accepted.