

shannen'sdream SCHOLARSHIP

To Assist First Nations Youth With Post-Secondary Education Costs

The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from EdTech company Top Hat and Caring Society donors!

ABOUT SHANNEN'S DREAM The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is named in honour of Shannen Koostachin, a courageous young leader from Attawapiskat First Nation who sparked a national movement for safe and comfy schools for First Nations students. Shannen and her classmates never had the chance to go to a real school. The only school in Attawapiskat was closed because of a diesel fuel leak in 1979 that poisoned the land under the school building. In 2007, after the government again cancelled plans for a new school in Attawapiskat, Shannen and her friends started a movement on Facebook and YouTube to tell people about the government's broken promises. They asked kids across Canada to support them by writing letters to the government demanding good schools for First Nations children. Sadly, Shannen passed away in 2010 and never saw the new school that was finally built in Attawapiskat in 2014. The Shannen's Dream campaign is about making sure First Nations students have safe and comfy schools that provide quality and culturally based education. In 2012, a Private Member's motion in support of Shannen's Dream passed unanimously in the House of Commons, but First Nations education is still underfunded by the federal government compared to provincial and territorial schools. Learn more about Shannen's Dream at shannensdream.ca.

INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is an award to assist First Nations youth with post-secondary education costs (university, college, trades). As a "pay-it-forward" scholarship, winners must make a fair and measurable contribution to the Shannen's Dream campaign or related First Nations initiative as a condition of receiving the award. Examples of this could include coaching youth sports, doing a presentation about Shannen Koostachin and Shannen's Dream, starting a club at your school to learn more about equity, etc.

Pay-it-forward does not mean a financial contribution back to the scholarship. The scholarship is open to First Nations youth who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Age 30 years old or under.
- Must be enrolled in a post-secondary program (university, college or trade school) and returning for the Fall 2026 semester.
- Consideration criteria: (1) the recipient contributes to their First Nations community (urban or rural), (2) demonstrates academic or extra-curricular accomplishments at school, such as taking part in clubs or sports teams.
- "Pay-it-forward" requirement: The recipient agrees to make a fair and measurable contribution to Shannen's Dream or a related First Nations initiative as a condition of the award. The recipient must agree to provide the scholarship committee with details of their contribution within one year of receiving the award.
- This is a one-time award not renewable to past recipients.
- Financial need will be considered.

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First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society

fncaringsociety.com

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

Applicants must submit the complete application package by **11:59 p.m.**

Eastern Time on April 30, 2026 to:

Shannen's Dream Selection Committee
c/o Suite 202, 350 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON, K1R 7S8
or info@fncaringsociety.com

Please check your application package carefully. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

- 1 A completed application form.
- 2 A detailed cover letter outlining how you meet the criteria, including details about your post-secondary program, how you contribute to your community, your academic and/or extracurricular accomplishments at school, and how you plan to meet the "pay-it-forward" requirement.
- 3 Two letters of recommendation that speak directly to how you meet the eligibility criteria. One letter must speak to how you contribute to your community and the other letter must speak to your academic and/or extra-curricular achievements at school, such as taking part in clubs or sports teams.
- 4 Confirmation of First Nations identity (letter from a First Nation acknowledging your membership or copy of your status card).
- 5 Proof of post-secondary enrolment is not required as part of the application package; if you are selected, the award is conditional on providing confirmation of post-secondary enrolment. Financial need will be considered. If applicable, please include information about financial need in your cover letter.

*While we appreciate all applications, as a small organization,
we can only contact the successful applicant.*



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APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

NAME	FIRST NATIONS AFFILIATION	
POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION (ENROLLED OR APPLIED)	PROGRAM	
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY/COMMUNITY	PROV/TERR	POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE	EMAIL	

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following documents are included in the award nomination package:

- Completed application form
- Cover letter
- 2 letters of support
- Confirmation of First Nations identity

SEND COMPLETE PACKAGE TO:

Shannen's Dream Scholarship Committee
c/o First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
350 Sparks Street, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8
or info@fncaringsociety.com

Deadline is April 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.



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Family Caring Society

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