

The **Ongoing Education Support Award (OES)** presented by The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. (WCF) from the Gordon Wiebe Education Fund. It is intended for students of the Winkler area, 35 years of age or under, who plan to pursue or are currently pursuing Post-Secondary Education with full-time status. **Successful candidates will demonstrate community involvement and volunteer experience.**

This award has a value of \$2,500 (CAD). The award will be disbursed directly to the recipient's university or college. This award is renewable for an additional 2 years if recipient meets eligibility requirements.

Terms of Award

The Winkler Community Foundation will make available a minimum of three (3) new recipients each year in the award category "Ongoing Education Support" in accordance with the criteria set forth herein.

1. Application Deadlines:
Application package must be submitted by February 28. This includes personal application information, listing of community involvement and volunteer experience, two required essays, and the most recent transcript available.
2. Eligibility Requirements:
 - 1) **Must be a current resident of Winkler or the GVSD catchment area**, or alternatively, a former resident of Winkler or the surrounding community that is able to demonstrate strong ties to the community (for example, a GVSD graduate who is studying and living out of province).
 - 2) **Must be between the ages of 16 and 35.**
 - 3) **Must be out of High School for a minimum of One (1) year.**
 - 4) **Must be pursuing Full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution as identified by CRA.**
 - 5) **Must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5; equivalent to a 65% average.**
3. Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - 1) **Community Involvement & Volunteer Experience:** 35% of total score. This score is based on significance, number and frequency of community and volunteer roles, as well as current roles held.
 - 2) **Leadership:** 35% of total score. This scored is based on pro-active involvement in the community roles held, as well as leadership positions by the applicant.
 - 3) **Academic excellence:** 30% of total score. This score is based on transcript quality, and essay quality and originality.
4. Award Selection. Recipients will be selected annually in spring. All applicants will be notified by June 30 regarding their status of the award. Recipients are selected by the WCF Scholarship Committee and approved by the WCF Board of Directors.
5. Award Payment:
 - 1) **Confirmation of Registration and Student Statements must be submitted via the *Claim Award Form* by the first Friday of August.** Extensions will be granted in the event of administration dates outside of the student's control if the Foundation office is informed in advance of the deadline date.
 - 2) Each of the Awards shall be comprised of a lump sum payment in the amount of \$2,500 (CAD) to be paid directly to the recipient's post-secondary institution. This payment will be disbursed based on submission of the recipient's *Claim Award Form* and their institution's tuition deadline. Such amount shall be applied by the university or college towards the student's tuition and other school-related expenses (including books and residence fees).
 - 3) To the extent the Award recipient withdraws from the Canadian university or college prior to the depletion of the awarded funds, the award recipient shall forfeit such funds.

Ongoing Education Support TERMS OF AWARD

- 4) In the event of an overpayment to the student account, the Award recipient is responsible for requesting funds from their institution in accordance with their institution's associated policy.
6. **Award renewal:** Once a recipient of the OES award, the award (\$2,500) is renewable for up to two (2) additional, consecutive years if eligibility requirements are maintained.
To remain eligible for the award in subsequent years:
 - 1) The student must submit their **Renewal Form by January 31** to confirm their intentions for the upcoming year.
 - 2) Updated **Transcript may be required** to confirm eligibility is maintained.
 - 3) **Confirmation of Registration and Student Statements must be submitted via the *Claim Award Form* by the first Friday of August.**
7. **Studying Abroad:** If you plan to attend a post-secondary school outside of Canada commencing as part of a year-abroad program you may still be eligible to apply provided you are participating in an exchange program as part of your course curriculum at an accredited post-secondary institution within Canada, as recognized by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA,) and your graduation diploma is issued from the same or another institution holding equivalent status.
8. The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, amend (including extending the Award application deadline) at any time without individual notice.
9. By entering this Award competition, applicants agree to be bound by these terms of award, the records of The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. and the decisions of the WCF Scholarship committee. Recipient records and decisions shall be deemed final, conclusive and binding in all matters.
10. The applicant certifies that all the information provided on the application form and in all the accompanying documents is true, accurate, and complete to the best of their knowledge. The applicant understands that the provision of false information will render them ineligible for this Award program.
11. The use of AI is not permitted in the preparation or writing of the application.
12. The applicant authorizes The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. to collect, use, store and confirm information about the applicant, from the applicant, from their application materials, high school, college, university, government, or community sources, and from references provided to The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. in their application for the purposes of administering and promoting this Award program.
13. The applicant hereby authorizes third parties, such as universities or community sources to release information required for the award to The Winkler Community Foundation Inc., and their respective representatives who need to know such information for purposes of administering the Award program. This information may include personal evaluations, verification that student information is correct and transcripts.
14. In the event that the applicant is selected as a recipient, they grant to The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. the worldwide right to use their name, image, likeness, city and province of residence, university name and any direct quotes made by them in respect of the Award program for marketing and publicity purposes in any and all media without further compensation.
15. The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. may communicate with the applicant through various channels, including email, telephone, social media or mail, using the contact information provided in their application.
16. The applicant may withdraw their consent and application at any time.
17. Consideration will be given for deferrals submitted in writing.

Please direct questions to the Winkler Community Foundation **Scholarship & Marketing Coordinator**

Email scholarships@winklercommunityfoundation.com

Call or text 431.775.3448