

The **Make it a Reality Award** is amongst those with the highest value for an undergraduate student in Manitoba. This **Make it a Reality Award** is presented by The Winkler Community Foundation Inc. (WCF) from the Gordon Wiebe Education Fund. It is intended for students from the Winkler area, 35 years of age or under, who are studying towards a degree.

Our Scholarship Committee is looking to meet applicants who have demonstrated commitment to their community, achievement in education and/or a strong capacity for leadership. **It is intended to be a game-changer.** This award is meant to assist a student to overcome barriers such as financial, family, health, etc. in completing post secondary education.

This award has a value of \$30,000 (CAD.) The award will be disbursed directly to the recipient's university or college in increments of \$7,500 per year over four years; recipient must maintain eligibility requirements.

Terms of Award

The Winkler Community Foundation will make available a minimum of one (1) new recipient each year in the award category "Make It A Reality" 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, Employment history and the most recent transcript available and two Letters of Reference.

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 pursue Full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution as identified by CRA.**
- 4) **Must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5; equivalent to a 65% average.**
- 5) **Consideration may be given to applicants with further education of 3 or less post-secondary courses (less than or equal to 9 credit hours).**

3. Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) **Academic excellence:** 15% of total score. This score is based on transcript quality and the academic letter of reference.
- 2) **Community Involvement and Volunteer Experience:** 25% of total score. This score is based on significance, number and frequency of community and volunteer roles, as well as current roles held.
- 3) **Leadership:** 25% of total score. This score is based on proactive and exceptional involvement in the community, as well as leadership roles held.
- 4) **Barriers:** 25% of total score. This score is based on need for award as communicated in essays.
- 5) **Reference letters:** 10% of total score. This score is based on the reference's supporting applicant's exceptional contribution and character, as well as confirming the applicant's need for the award.

4. The Interview. Qualifying applicants will be contacted for an interview.

5. Award selection. Recipient(s) will be selected annually in spring by the WCF Scholarship Committee and approved by the WCF Board of Directors. All applicants will be notified no later than June 30 regarding their status of the award.

6. Award Payment:

- 1) **Claim Your Award Form: Confirmation of Registration and Student Statements must be submitted via the *Claim Award Form* by first Friday of August, or 6 weeks before a student's tuition deadline.**
- 2) Each year of the award shall be comprised of a lump sum payment in the amount of \$7,500 (CAD) to be paid directly to the Award recipient's post-secondary institution whenever possible. This payment will be disbursed based on submission of the recipient's "Claim your 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 university or college prior to the depletion of the awarded funds, the Award recipient shall forfeit such funds.
- 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.
7. **Award renewal:** The Make It A Reality award is to be disbursed \$7,500 (CAD) per year over four (4) consecutive years if eligibility requirements are maintained. To remain eligible for 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, or 6 weeks before a student's tuition deadline.**
8. **Studying Abroad:** If recipient plans to attend a post-secondary school outside of Canada commencing as part of a year-abroad program they may still be eligible to apply provided they are participating in an exchange program as part of their course curriculum at an accredited post-secondary institution within Canada, as recognized by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), and their graduation diploma is issued from the same or another institution holding equivalent status.
9. 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.
10. 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. Award records and decisions shall be deemed final, conclusive, and binding in all matters.
11. 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.
12. The use of AI is not permitted in the preparation or writing of the application.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. In the event that the applicant is selected as an Award 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.
16. 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.
17. The applicant may withdraw their consent and application at any time.
18. Consideration will be given for deferrals submitted in writing.

Please direct questions to Winkler Community Foundation **Scholarship Coordinator**
 Email scholarships@winklercommunityfoundation.com Call or text 431.775.3448