

Community Foundation of Portage & District

Awards and Bursary Committee Report

June 2, 2026

Present: Stephanie Verhoeven (via Zoom), Pat Nodrick, Carole Stewart, Megan Sloik & Lorna Knight

A. Bursary Selections

We received 37 applications (including the 4 Geisel-Finney applicants), and last year there were 43. Stephanie went through the applications ahead of time and removed applicants who did not meet the criteria of each bursary. This helped to streamline the process and reduce the number of applications the committee needed to review. Some students required further follow up to determine eligibility which Lorna followed up on in advance.

After discussion regarding some of the finer points regarding the bursary criteria, the following are the committee's decisions:

1. Russ Denton Memorial Bursary

Successful Applicant: Ahmed Javed Kamal

2. KD3 Bursary

Successful Applicant: Cara Hofer

3. Dr. Donald William Rae Memorial Bursary

Successful Applicant: Kaitlin MacDonald

4. Dr. Harvey Hassard Memorial Bursary x 2

Successful Applicants: Cassandra Garnham
Sydney Rumpfli

5. Portage & Rural MS Support Bursary

Successful Applicant: Kaitlin MacDonald

6. Lorraine Rae Bursary Fund

Successful Applicant: Jenny Hrabluik

7. Portage la Prairie Community Development Corporation Bursary

Successful Applicant: Emery Irwin

8. Don and Lois Booth Memorial Bursary

Successful Applicant: Crystal Nichol-Prince-Pruden

9. Bill and Cathy Skyhar Bursary

Successful Applicant: no applicants

10. Jody Lee Fulton Memorial Bursary

Successful Applicant: Rowan Peters

11. Chuck Young Natural Resources Management Memorial Scholarship

Successful Applicant: Ty Funk

12. Radford Award for Math

Successful Applicant: Gracie Gargol

13. Radford Award for Science

Successful Applicant: Cara Hofer

14. MacVicar Family Bursary

Successful Applicant: Margaret Van Damme

B. Other Awards/Bursaries

Geisel-Finney Future Fund

The Geisel-Finney Families met with the ED (Lorna) and went through the applications. There were several applications which were not considered as they did not meet the eligibility requirements of this fund. After deliberation it was determined (in conjunction with Amy's input) that this award will fully fund *Krista Jarvis* \$2,193.00 with the remainder of the funds to flow to *Caleb Fletcher* \$2,969.00.

Kathleen Bjarnason Fund

Application deadline for these applications is June 4th, 2026. The selection for this award was not made at the time of this meeting.

Update- June 9, 2026

After reviewing the 3 applications submitted, the committee determined that the successful recipient of the Kathleen Bjarnason Fund is Ecole Arthur Meighen/Crescentview School. The funds are to be used toward purchase new and repairing existing djembes so that students will not have to share this musical equipment. This program targets approximately 500 kindergarten to grade six students.

Recommendations

The Bursary Committee is recommending the following:

- 1) Carrying over any bursary funds where no application was received in 2026.
- 2) A change in application to denote PCI eligible awards and specific educational parameter awards to clarify the application and ensure proper documentation is included with the submissions. In addition to including a "mature student" indicator

on the application with additional “graduating year” and “graduating school” notations to ensure eligibility.

- 3) Altering the due date of the Kathleen Bjarnason Fund to align with the same deadline as the bursaries so the committee only needs to meet one time to determine the successful recipients for all the awards and bursaries.