



Single Parent Award for Resilience & Knowledge

2024 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE

The SPARK Program (*Single Parent Award for Resilience and Knowledge*) recognizes the challenges and dreams of single parents who want to further their education and provide more opportunities for their families but are facing financial adversity.

The recipients join a strong, diverse, well-connected support network of Beedie Luminaries students and alumni, as well as community leaders and mentors.

NUMBER, VALUE AND DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

In its 2024 program year, the Beedie Luminaries Foundation will offer Awards for the following:

FULL-TIME post-secondary studies*:

- **\$11,000 CAD per year for up to 4 years of funding, or until the student completes their first accreditation in Canada** (whichever is the shorter period):
 - **Certificate** (funded for up to 1 year)
 - **Diploma** (funded for up to 2 years)
 - **University transfer program** (funded for up to 2 years plus a university degree funded for up to 2 additional years for a total of 4 years of funding for both institutions.)
 - **Undergraduate degree** (funded for a total of 4 years)

The annual payments will be as follows:

- \$5,500 paid directly to the post-secondary institution in two equal annual installments of \$2,750 (Fall and Winter Term).
- \$5,500 stipend paid directly to the student in two equal annual installments of \$2,750 (Fall and Winter Term). Your personal stipend is to be used for educational-related expenses, for example textbooks, commuting, housing, etc.

*Full-time studies are defined as taking a minimum of 3 courses/9 credits per each academic term (Fall, Winter and Summer) and completing a **minimum of 24 percentage-graded credits per year**.

PART-TIME post-secondary studies:**

- **\$5,500 CAD per year for up to 6 years of funding, or until the student completes their first accreditation in Canada (whichever is the shorter period):**
 - **Certificate** (funded for up to 2 years)
 - **Diploma** (funded for up to 3 years)
 - **University transfer program** (funded for up to 3 years plus a university degree funded for up to 3 additional years for a total of 6 years of funding for both institutions.)
 - **Undergraduate degree** (funded for a total of 6 years)

The annual payments will be as follows:

- \$2,750 paid directly to the post-secondary institution in two equal annual installments of \$1,375 (Fall and Winter Term).
- \$2,750 stipend paid directly to the student in two equal annual installments of \$1,375 (Fall and Winter Term). Your personal stipend is to be used for educational-related expenses, for example textbooks, commuting, housing, etc.

Part-time studies are defined as taking a minimum of 6 credits per each academic term (Fall, Winter, and Summer) and completing a **minimum of 15 percentage-graded credits per year.

In addition to the financial support, the Beedie Luminaries Foundation offers student support, including:

- Invitations to Beedie Luminaries workshops & events;
- Invitation to join the Beedie Luminaries digital community;
- Student Success Advisor;
- BL Peer Support Groups;
- Access to mentors; and
- Career guidance.

ELIGIBILITY

An eligible 2024 applicant must be:

- a Canadian citizen or permanent resident since 2021;
- a full-time resident of British Columbia;
- at least 19 years of age;
- a single parent, with no spouse (regardless of marital status) or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more dependent children**,

- have applied or currently pursuing a first vocational diploma/certificate; or a first bachelor's degree in Canada as a full-time or part-time student at one of the eligible post-secondary institutions listed below;
- applying for this award for the first time (previous applicants are not eligible);
- able to begin studies in September 2024 or January 2025;
- ineligible for the BC Tuition Waiver Program (for former youth in care);
- not presently enrolled or concurrently receiving support from WorkBC Single Parent Employment Initiative (SPEI).

SPARK cannot be held concurrently with the SPEI support.

****Dependent child:** An unmarried child, stepchild, adopted child or legal ward, supported by the applicant, who is:

- Under 18 years of age; or
- Under 21 years of age and registered in full-time school, university or vocational institute which provides a recognized diploma, certificate, or degree; or
- Of any age who, because of mental or physical infirmity, is accepted as a dependent for income tax purposes.

Eligible post-secondary institutions:

British Columbia Institute of Technology	Northern Lights College
Camosun College	Okanagan College
Capilano University	Royal Roads University
Coast Mountain College	Selkirk College
College of New Caledonia	Simon Fraser University
College of the Rockies	Thompson Rivers University
Douglas College	University of British Columbia (all campuses)
Emily Carr University of Art and Design	University of Northern British Columbia
Justice Institute of British Columbia	University of the Fraser Valley
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	University of Victoria
Langara College	Vancouver Community College
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Vancouver Island University
North Island College	Native Education College

Please note, additional PTA (The Private Training Act) designated institutions *may* also be considered based on an individual's specific circumstances.

Recipients can attend on-line courses at one of the approved post-secondary schools.

Please note that prerequisite courses required for admission into your program are not supported through the scholarship.

FIELD OF STUDY / PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- There are no restrictions on the program of study or discipline.
- Program must be of a minimum of 1 year in duration.

CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Depending on the curriculum, an applied bachelor program may be considered either as a university-level program or a college-level program;
- Students must commence, or continue, their post-secondary studies in **September 2024** or **January 2025**. Deferrals in the first year are not permitted.
- Students must be enrolled in **full-time or part-time studies** at one of the eligible institutions listed in this document;
- The scholarship may be withdrawn if the family gross income exceeds the stated levels, if the student fails to make appropriate academic progress (according to the individual school and program's criteria), fails to obtain sufficient grades to pass a course or complete a program, withdraws from attendance at the selected institution, or commits an infraction or crime; (e.g., infraction such as breaching a school's code of conduct or engaging in plagiarism);
- Employees of Beedie and their dependents are not eligible to apply; and
- SPARK cannot be held concurrently with any other education-related financial award(s), that total more than \$10,000 per year, excluding student loans.
- Please note the Beedie Luminaries scholarship programs (Grade 12, SPARK and RISE) are limited to a maximum of 2 people in the same family (regardless of home address).

Please note: If you are currently on Income Assistance or receiving any government subsidies, please have a discussion with your Community Partner representative or a government social/case worker to make sure you have clearly thought out your decision and that you understand the impact the additional funding from the Beedie Luminaries Award may have on your existing benefits and subsidies.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Beedie Luminaries selection of scholarship recipients is made by experts from the community and educational institutions in British Columbia. The selection process will be conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: Each application is read and scored by a minimum of two experts on the Beedie Luminaries Selection Committee.

Phase 2: The Beedie Luminaries Selection Committee will invite shortlisted candidates for interviews.

Phase 3: The Beedie Luminaries Foundation will meet to determine award recipients.

Once the selection process is complete, decisions are irrevocable. Only the finalists will be invited to an interview.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Demonstration of financial adversity;
- Personal circumstances;
- Applicant's proven work ethic, grit, and resilience in the face of adversity;
- Clarity of the applicant's educational goals, academic readiness, and focused commitment;
- Career goals;
- Quality and relevance of the reference letter.

All applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process, once available.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Letters of Reference must be sent directly to Scholarship Partners Canada by the person you have selected to write the letter via email to awards@univcan.ca

The reference letter should not be from a family member or friend.

The email subject line should have the Applicant's First and Last Name.

For assistance with the preparation of these letters, please refer to the Letters of Reference Guidelines (next page).

PLEASE NOTE: If any of the application requirements noted above are not met, the application will be considered incomplete.

APPLICATION ENQUIRIES

Scholarship Partners Canada
Reference: Beedie Luminaries
Toll free: 1-844-567-1237
Fax: (613) 563-9745
E-mail: awards@univcan.ca

**Scholarship
Partners Canada.**
**Partenaires en bourses
d'études Canada.**

LETTER OF REFERENCE

You have been asked to write a letter of reference on behalf of an applicant applying for a Beedie Luminaries **SPARK** Scholarship through Scholarship Partners Canada. Writing a letter of reference takes time and is greatly appreciated both by the applicant and by the program selection committee.

This letter should speak to the applicant's resilience, challenges, and educational goals.

The letter MUST be sent via email to awards@univcan.ca and be received by **April 22, 2024, 9:00 am PST. The email subject line should have the **SPARK Applicant's First and Last Name**.**

The applicant would appreciate a prompt response in order to meet the application document deadline.

Thank you very much for taking the time to support this applicant and contributing to a fair selection process.