

Community Matters

The Justice Ronald B. Lester Memorial Bursary: Honoring a Legacy of Service and Its Impact on Local Students



**Najah Jaber (Nursing Student)
and Susan Lester (Fund Holder)**

Each year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation awards graduating high school and current post-secondary students with Scholarships and Bursaries to assist them with their post-secondary education. These awards will help the recipients pay for things such as tuition, books, supplies, general living expenses, and more. Without the continued support of the donors of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, their Scholarships and Bursaries would not be possible.

In 2024, Najah Jaber was awarded the Justice Ronald B. Lester Memorial Bursary through the Thunder Bay Community Foundation with the plans of entering the Nursing Program at Lakehead University. Now, Najah is completing her first year of the compressed Nursing Program and has the goal of becoming a doctor.

“The support really took a weight off my shoulders. It gave me the financial stability to focus more on my education and less on working extra hours or worrying about costs. It’s been a huge help during a really demanding program,” says Jaber.

“To graduating students, please apply; it can make such a big difference. It’s not just financial help; it’s a confidence boost knowing that your community believes in you. I want to sincerely thank the Lester family for this opportunity. Your support has played a meaningful role in my education. I also want to thank the Thunder Bay Community Foundation for making awards like this possible. You’ve truly helped shape my journey.”

The Justice Ronald B. Lester Memorial Bursary was created in memory of Justice Lester, who was very committed to serving his community, especially supporting youth organizations. This award is the largest private family bursary in Thunder Bay and is given to local graduating high school students who have demonstrated financial need and outstanding community service. Jordan Lester, son of Justice Lester, states, “It’s been 25 years since my father’s passing. This bursary is one of the ways we honour his legacy to the community. Money should never be a barrier for young people to achieve their dreams. That’s the guiding principle behind the bursary. We’re very proud of all of the students we’ve supported over the years, like Najah, and the incredible things they’ve accomplished.”

The Thunder Bay Community Foundation’s student awards not only recognize academic excellence but also celebrates the recipients’ exceptional character and potential to make a meaningful impact in their community. This year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation will give out over \$170,000 in awards to students in the District of Thunder Bay. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply by April 11 by visiting www.tbcf.org/scholarships-bursaries

Passionate about our Community?

Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

- Support organizations and areas of need that are important to you.
- Give students the gift of education by establishing a scholarship or bursary.

Visit tbcf.org or call (807) 475-7279 for more information