



April, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you of a funding source available for female students wishing to further their education. This source is P.E.O., an international Philanthropic Educational Organization “of women, by women and for women”. P.E.O. supports women both through friendships and the bonds of sisterhood and through educational scholarships, grants, awards and loans. P.E.O. is one of the oldest women’s organizations in North America. P.E.O. has grown to more than 6,000 local chapters with nearly a quarter of a million members in the United States and Canada. There is a local chapter in Red Deer.

The grants, awards and loans are open to women in various stages of their post-secondary education. I would encourage you to visit the P.E.O. International website, linked below to read more about P.E.O. and its various philanthropies. As well, I have attached an information sheet summarizing the projects. Each project has its own specific requirements that will need to be shared with students. *Important for high school students is the STAR award, details of which are on the attachment. This is an award for outstanding girls with high academic standing and strong leadership, volunteerism, and excellence in sports, music or other endeavours. The application process for this award starts in grade 11.* <https://www.peointernational.org/peo-star-scholarship-star>

Also for high school students who are residents of Alberta and Saskatchewan, there is the F. E. Taylor award. It provides a \$1000 scholarship to young women with high financial need and acceptable academic standing who need assistance to pursue their post-secondary education. It is of relevance to Grade 12 students entering their first year of college or university and first year post-secondary students entering their second year. Several of these awards are given out yearly. Please have students contact me as soon as possible to start the application process. Deadline for submission is in August but it is a process that must be started soon. More information about this award may be found at <https://www.peoab-sk.ca/florence-e-taylor-charitable-scholarship-fund/>

Alberta and Saskatchewan Chapters are introducing the Evelyn Henry Reconciliation Scholarship. Evelyn was a member of P.E.O. and as a Metis woman, she was very interested in reconciliation and in the advancement of women of aboriginal descent through education and by creating a greater understanding of issues facing women. The award is open to women entering post-secondary education OR who are already in post secondary who will be studying to impact reconciliation. I will attach more information about the award. Application for this award is in April so therefore students should

contact me by mid-DECEMBER if they are interested in applying. <https://www.peoab-sk.ca/evelyn-henry-reconciliation-scholarship-fund/>

Each application for any of the projects must be supported by a letter of support from the chapter of the area in which the student resides or attends school. Therefore, it is necessary for an applicant to meet with a chapter member. In Central Alberta, the members belong to Chapter O, P.E.O. Our chapter can only recommend one student for the STAR award; therefore, there will be a competitive process to become recommended for this award by our chapter.

Thank you for sharing this information with your students seeking funding assistance in their pursuit of higher education. We look forward to assisting you, and your students, to meet their needs. Please have students who are interested in these awards contact me by mid-May to proceed.

Sincerely,
Wendy Motley
Project Chair, Chapter O
Please email bmotley85@gmail.com or phone: 403-749-2420
or
Linda Bjorge at rbjorge@shaw.ca or phone 403 347-4680

STAR Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility

A woman is eligible to be recommended for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship provided she:

- Exhibits excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success
- Has a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Is in the final academic year (senior year) of her secondary education and is 20 years of age or under at the end of the calendar year
- Is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada
- Plans to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the United States or Canada, full-time or part-time, in the fall of the academic year following high school graduation
- Is recommended by and receives the vote of a local P.E.O. chapter
- Interest in this award must be communicated to chapter contact by Mid-May of the year the student is in grade 11.

The Florence E. Taylor Charitable Foundation Scholarship

The Florence E. Taylor Charitable Foundation Scholarship, established through the generous contribution of Florence E. Taylor, Chapter C, Alberta, P.E.O. Sisterhood, provides financial assistance to women who are entering first or second year post-secondary educational programs. It is a one time award. Financial need is a consideration. Awards are made at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The minimum award amount is currently \$1000 in Canadian funds, and the number of scholarships awarded annually may vary. Awards will be announced in late September.

ELIGIBILITY

An applicant must be sponsored by a local P.E.O. Chapter and must meet the following criteria:

- Have a Social Insurance Number.
- Be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
- Be a resident in Alberta or Saskatchewan for at least two years.
- Be entering first or second year of full-time study in her first degree or diploma program.
- Be studying or planning to study at an accredited Alberta or Saskatchewan postsecondary institution.
- Demonstrate financial need, based on her submitted projected budget.
- Be committed to her educational goal, as shown by her academic record, and letter of reference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

When a local chapter identifies a prospective applicant, the chapter's scholarship committee will arrange for an interview with the applicant to determine eligibility. Chapter approval is granted by a majority voice vote at a regular or special meeting. Application deadline is August 31 but students need to indicate interest to chapter contact by mid-May.

Evelyn Henry Reconciliation Scholarship

This annual scholarship is awarded to a female high school graduate or equivalent, enrolled in a Canadian post-secondary school with plans to complete a degree, diploma or certificate with courses or a program intended to further develop reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada. The EHRS provides financial assistance to women who are enrolled in a post-secondary educational program where there is a demonstrated financial need. The annual scholarship is currently \$500 USD. To be eligible to receive this scholarship, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Be a resident of Alberta or Saskatchewan for at least the last two years
- Be registered in any accredited Alberta or Saskatchewan post-secondary institution
- Be entering fulltime study in any accredited Alberta or Saskatchewan post-secondary institution
- Be enrolled in courses or a program that will further develop reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada
- Demonstrate financial need, based on the submitted projected budget
- Be committed to her educational goal, as outlined in a personal statement and letter of reference
- Be sponsored by an AB-SK P.E.O. Chapter. Contact local chapter by mid-December for a first of April application.