

AMANDA'S GIFT - BURSARY DESCRIPTION
for FORMER YOUTH IN CARE
AGES 16 - 28 YEARS

Amanda's Gift is a bursary program of the Nova Scotia Council for the Family. It was established to provide financial assistance to **former youth in care** from Nova Scotia, ages 16-28, who wish to pursue education/career development opportunities. The bursary funds will be used to assist with items such as: tuition, books, computer equipment, conference fees and adult education courses. Awards are a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$1000. Former recipients of Amanda's Gift Bursaries may re-apply. Recipients of the Amanda's Gift bursary will continue to be eligible for consideration until completion of the degree/course for which initial support was sought. Recipients, therefore, could be over the age of 28 but would still be eligible for consideration.

The bursary was named in honour of a former youth in care who made a generous donation of \$500 to the Council. Amanda felt that more needed to be done to reach out to former youth in care who are pursuing educational goals under challenging circumstances. The members of the Nova Scotia Council agreed and established Amanda's Gift. We rely on the generosity and support of our members and the community at large to donate funds to keep the program growing. For more information on making a donation to Amanda's Gift, contact the Nova Scotia Council for the Family.

The Nova Scotia Council for the Family is a registered charity formed in 1967 to serve member organizations with a desire to improve the range and quality of services for children and families in Nova Scotia. A Board of Directors that is appointed by member organizations leads the Council. As a registered charity, the Council issues tax receipts for qualifying donations.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE - 2009/2010

A selection committee reviews completed applications twice a year (summer and fall).

Application Deadline:	June 26, 2009	October 30, 2009
Review by Committee:	July 2009	November 2009
Notification:	August 2009	December 2009
Funds Issued:	September 2009	January 2010

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL FOR THE FAMILY.

PHONE (902) 422-1316
FAX (902) 422-4012
VIA EMAIL: info@nscouncilfamily.org
Website: www.nscouncilfamily.org

AMANDA'S GIFT APPLICATION FORM

Parts A, C and D of this form must be completed and signed by the applicant. All questions must be answered. Please use black pen or type.

Part A – PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME:

CURRENT ADDRESS:

POSTAL CODE:

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PERMANENT ADDRESS: (if different from above)

POSTAL CODE:

BIRTH DATE: (Month/Day/Year)

Name of your former Child Welfare Agency:

Name of your former Social Worker(s):

How long were you in Care?

Date of Leaving Care:

How did you learn about Amanda's Gift Bursary?

Have you received an Amanda's Gift Bursary in the past?

Do you qualify for the Province of Nova Scotia's Educational Bursary Program?

If yes, or if you have any questions about how this program affects eligibility for Amanda's Gift, please contact Eileen Kilfoil, Coordinator of Program Support, at the Council office at (902) 422-1316 or toll-free at 1-877-525-0554.

Part B – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Provide a letter of support with your application. The letter must be written by a professional (*example*: foster parent, program advisor, social worker, counselor, doctor, teacher, employment supervisor) who knows you fairly well. Please ensure letter is on business letterhead or includes sender's contact information and position.

Examples of reference information that may be included are interpersonal skills, goals, integrity, study skills, leadership abilities, capacity in which reference knows applicant, ability to undertake the program, and achievements.

Without this letter, your application will be incomplete.

Part C – DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM, GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

If additional space is required, please attach a separate sheet.

1. Describe the program you wish to attend.
 - (a) Name of Program:

 - (b) Name of Institution and Location of Program (e.g. NSCC Truro Campus)

 - (c) Length of Program:

 - (d) Start Date:

 - (e) Program Cost (please indicate if cost is per semester or per year):

 - (f) Other Expenses Related to the Program (books, transportation, child care, etc.):

Part D – APPLICATION DECLARATION

I declare that the information in this application form is accurate and complete.

Date _____ Signature _____

Would you like to be notified of other opportunities for former youth in care?

CHECKLIST

Before sending in your application, here is a checklist to help you prepare. If you have any questions, please contact the Nova Scotia Council for the Family.

	I am a former youth in care from Nova Scotia or will be a former youth in care at the time the bursary funds are issued.
	I will be in the 16 - 28 year age range at the time the bursary funds are issued.
	I have completed the application personally.
	I have included a letter of support with my application.
	I have completed the declaration, by signing and dating the application form.

Completed applications, including a letter of support, must be received by the Nova Scotia Council for the Family on or before the application deadline. Please send to:

**NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL FOR THE FAMILY
SUITE 602, 5121 SACKVILLE STREET
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 1K1**

You will be contacted to confirm that your application has been received. You will also be notified of the status of your request after the Selection Committee completes the review.

ONLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE WILL BE REVIEWED. Applications received after the deadline will be returned. Please keep a copy of your submission for your own records.