



# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE BURSARY



## POST-SECONDARY BURSARY PACKAGE

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SPRING 2025  
APPLICATION PACKAGE

[www.okanagannation.com](http://www.okanagannation.com)

# 2025 ONA BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE INITIATIVE

## POST-SECONDARY APPLICATION

### What is the ONA Building a Better Future Initiative?

The Building a Better Future Initiative is a testament to our commitment to supporting the educational endeavors of Syilx Okanagan Nation members. The ONA has built partnerships to assist with providing this scholarship, bursary, and awards initiative. With the help of our partners, we aim to provide financial assistance to eligible individuals, recognizing their perseverance and achievements as they pursue higher education. Whether you're studying in a traditional academic field or honing your craft in a skilled trade, this opportunity is here to support you to thrive.

If you are beginning a new educational journey or continuing your academic path, this initiative is open to Syilx Okanagan Nation members pursuing studies in the fall of 2025. It is designed to empower students to achieve their academic goals and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Our scholarships, bursaries, and awards are designed to alleviate financial barriers, enabling recipients to focus on their studies and skill development and to achieve academic excellence. By recognizing and celebrating student perseverance and achievement, we aim to inspire our members to continue their educational pursuits and strive for success.

We believe in the importance of investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators, and skilled professionals. Apply now to access the financial assistance available to support you as you work towards building a brighter future for yourself and your community!

### Important!

Read the terms carefully before completing your application and relevant supporting documentation. *Students are welcome to apply for multiple awards – please see all available awards on our website.*

### Who is Eligible to Apply?

#### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be attached by ancestry, identity, and community to the Syilx Okanagan Nation
- Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary or vocational institution or display proof of acceptance, in full-time studies between: September 2025 - August 2026 (unless otherwise noted in the specific award listing).

### Important Dates

- **Awards Application Deadline:** application packages must be received by 3 pm on June 15, 2025
- **Award Announcement:** July 2025
- **Payments:** September 2025

### Application Package Requirements

- Students must ensure all application requirements are met before applying (See Checklist!)
- Students must take responsibility to ensure that all information is up-to-date and included in the submission
- Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Include all attachments in one email. We will send you an email notification when your application has been received.

**Email to:** Tara Montgomery: [tmontgomery@syilx.org](mailto:tmontgomery@syilx.org)

## Available Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards:

### 1. \$3000 in awards from FortisBC - Education for Life Awards

While building the Terasen Gas Southern Crossing Pipeline, Terasen Gas (now FortisBC) forged strong relationships with the member communities of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. In recognition, since 2009 Fortis BC established a Financial Award for Syilx Okanagan Nation members who are committed to building a better future for themselves and their community through post-secondary and vocational pursuits.

#### **\$1500 Education for Life Awards (2 available)**

The Education for Life Award is awarded to 2 Syilx Okanagan Nation members who have demonstrated their commitment to bettering their community, and who show aptitude for and commitment to their chosen career or area of study. Whether you're working towards a degree, master's, or trade certification, this opportunity is designed to provide financial support to help you achieve your educational goals. We recognize the diverse paths and ambitions of students, and we are committed to supporting their journeys towards success.

Must be pursuing a minimum 2-year program.

### 2. \$10,000 in awards from EMB for Syilx Students

Formed in 2014, EMB Management Ltd. ("EMB") offers project development, project delivery, engineering, construction management and construction inspection services to utility and infrastructure clients across Western Canada. To help support Syilx Okanagan Nation members in furthering their education, EMB introduced \$10,000 in awards (\$8000 in post secondary awards and \$2000 for high school graduates) in 2022 as a component of our Building a Better Future Initiative.

**Their contribution will provide the following awards:**

#### **\$3500 EMB Engineering Bursary**

With generous financial support, the EMB Engineering Bursary aims to empower aspiring engineers to pursue their academic goals with confidence. Whether you're fascinated by robotics, environmental sustainability, Biomedics, structures and design or any other engineering discipline, this bursary is open to students studying Engineering in the fall of 2025.

- Planning to attend an accredited post-secondary institution on a full-time basis pursuing a full-time (4 course minimum) engineering program.
- Open to high school students who are accepted into an engineering program and/or students continuing their pursuit in an undergrad or graduate program.

#### **\$1500 EMB Surveying, Mapping, or Geomatics Bursary**

This bursary is open to an undergraduate student studying surveying, mapping, or geomatics enrolled in full time studies in the fall of 2025.

#### **\$1500 EMB Business Bursary**

This bursary is open to undergraduate students enrolled in full time studies in the fall of 2024 who intend to study Business, Business Administration, Commerce, Management and/or related fields of study.

### **\$1500 EMB Walking My Learning Forward Award**

The EMB Walking My Learning Forward Award, is dedicated to recognizing Syilx Okanagan Nation members who exhibit a strong dedication to community and display both aptitude and commitment to their chosen career or field of study.

- Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited educational institution.
- Applicants enrolled in a minimum two-year undergrad/trades program in the fall of 2025 are eligible
- Masters and PHD students are welcome to apply.

### **3. Progressive Fence Bursary – \$1500**

Progressive Fence Installations Ltd. has been providing fencing and security solutions in British Columbia for over 35 years. In 1981 Progressive Fence started out as an installation company and expanded into an industry leader providing customers with state-of-the-art technology in fencing, security products, access controls and entry gate systems. Our company is committed to excellence and providing a high standard of workmanship, outstanding service and value to our customers and we treat each project individually to provide the best solution.

### **\$1500 Progressive Fence Excellence Bursary**

The Progressive Fence Excellence Bursary offers financial assistance to Syilx students pursuing their educational objectives. With an understanding of the various paths and goals of students, the program is committed to providing support throughout their journey to success. This bursary specifically aims to assist students who demonstrate excellence in community involvement, sports, arts and culture, or their chosen area of study.

- Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited educational institution.
- Full-time enrollment in the fall of 2025 is required.
- Applicants enrolled in a minimum two-year degree, diploma, and trades program are eligible.

## General Award Application Form

The information provided in the application will be used for the purposes of administering, awarding, and promoting the Building a Better Future Program. You may be contacted about future employment, training, or financial support opportunities.

Name:			
Email:		Phone:	
Mailing Address: <small>Include city and postal Code</small>			
Syilx Okanagan Nation Affiliation:			
Post-Secondary Institution:		Program:	
Length of Program:		Current Year of Study:	
Which Bursary(s) do you meet the criteria for:			
Program of study: <input type="checkbox"/> Year one <input type="checkbox"/> Year two <input type="checkbox"/> Year three <input type="checkbox"/> Year four <input type="checkbox"/> Master's program <input type="checkbox"/> PhD program			

**The following information is required to complete your application package:**

- ☐ Completed Application Form.
- ☐ Identify which awards you are applying for – you can apply for multiple with one application.
- ☐ Copy of your, or your parent/grandparent status card or letter from member community confirming Syilx Okanagan ancestry.
- ☐ Copy of your post-secondary registration letter.
- ☐ Personal Narrative (2 parts – must answer both) can be submitted as a separate documents.
- ☐ Unofficial transcripts from your most recent studies.
- ☐ 2 letters of reference

Please provide 2 reference letters that not only speak to why you deserve the award but also incorporate the attributes specific to the award(s) you are applying for. For instance, if you are seeking the Progressive Fence Award, the reference letter should highlight your areas of excellence. If applying for the Fortis Education for Life Award, it should showcase your commitment to community improvement. If applying for multiple awards, ensure that each reference letter encompasses the relevant aspects of the awards. References must not be from a spouse or family member.

By signing, I agree to the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) collecting, processing, and disclosing my information and contacting me with opportunities related to employment, training, scholarships, and bursaries. I agree to ONA using my name and photo in external and internal communications including websites and social media. I understand that the information I have provided is subject to verification and audit.

Student signature:		Date:	
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Consent of parent or guardian for applicants under the age of 18: The parent or guardian of the person named above, consent to the above-named student applying for the ONA Building a Better Future Award and to the disclosure of personal information for use during this application process.

Print Name:		Address:	
Parent or guardian signature:		Date:	

## 2025 ONA BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE APPLICATION

Your answers to the questions provided in this application will serve to enlighten the selection committee about your experiences, perspectives, community engagement, achievements, and aspirations. Furthermore, it will explain your attributes relevant to each specific award you are applying for.

### PERSONAL NARRATIVE – (2 Parts)

#### What Is Your Story? (Part 1)

We invite you to share your story! Keeping in mind the above purpose please use the bullet points below as a guide for your respond. Attach in a separate document. Your submission **must be between 400 - 500** words (approx. one page single spaced) **or** in a 2-3 minute video.

- Introduce yourself, where you are from, what makes you, you?
- What is it about you that will contribute to your success in the future?
- Tell us about your community, nation, or family involvement – how do you show up for your relatives?
- What about being Syilx gives you strength? How do you think this will help you in your educational journey?

#### How will you share your gifts? (Part 2)

Gaining an education provides you the opportunity to make changes not only for your life but for your community and Nation. Please respond to the statements below in a separate document. Your submission must be between 400-500 words

- What are your gifts? What makes you light up inside? How have you demonstrated excellence?
- Describe your educational path so far, What are your educational goals? How and why did you choose your field of study?
- Tell us how you see your education preparing you to build a brighter future for you, your family, community or Nation?