



# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE BURSARY



## **SYILX SIYA AWARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

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2026  
APPLICATION PACKAGE

[www.syilx.org](http://www.syilx.org)

## 2026 ONA BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



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

The ONA Building a Better Future Initiative is a program dedicated to supporting the educational endeavors of Syilx Okanagan Nation members. Bursaries between \$1000 - \$3500 are identified and supported through contributions from our partners so that we can provide educational awards. It is a core value of our Nation to celebrate and invest in our youth and recognize the next generation of leaders.

Please read all requirements for the applicable bursaries you are applying for.

### **SYILX SIYA AWARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS APPLICATION INFORMATION**

As part of our bursary program, we are pleased to offer three (3) \$1000 Syilx Siya bursaries. These awards are intended to recognize service, leadership, and community involvement.

#### Who is Eligible to Apply?

##### SYILX SIYA BURSARY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be attached by ancestry, identity, and community to the Syilx Okanagan Nation
- You must have graduated high school in the 2025-2026 school year.

#### Important Dates

- **Syilx Siya Bursary Application Deadline:** application packages must be received by 3 pm May 28, 2026
- **Payments:** June 2026

#### Application package requirements

- Students must ensure all application requirements are met before applying (See Checklist)
- Students are responsible to ensure that all information is up-to-date and included in the submission package.
- 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 Completed Application to:

Tara Montgomery, ONA Communications Lead: [tmontgomery@syilx.org](mailto:tmontgomery@syilx.org)

#### Important!

Read the terms carefully before completing your application and relevant supporting documentation.

## **Available Bursaries and Awards:**

*\*\* your application submission will be considered for the following awards for high school students*

### **Syilx Siya Awards – \$1000 each (3 available)**

The Syilx Siya Bursary is awarded to Syilx Okanagan high school graduates who have demonstrated a willingness to dream big for themselves, their Nation, their community, and/or their family. These awards are intended to recognize service, leadership, and community involvement.

## **Funding for the 2025 Awards Sponsored by:**

### **EMB Awards for Syilx Students sponsored 2 awards**

**EMB:** 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 recognize high school graduates and recognize Syilx Okanagan Nation members in furthering their education, EMB introduced \$10,000 in total awards in 2022 as a component of our Building a Better Future Initiative. For the Syilx Siya Bursary, EMB has donated \$2000 towards the creation of two of the three \$1000 Syilx Siya awards available.

### **FortisBC Education for Life sponsored 1 award**

**FortisBC:** 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. In 2025 FortisBC added to that contribution by supporting one award of \$1000 towards one of the three Syilx Siya awards available.

## SYILX SIYA BURSARY APPLICATION

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

### Personal Information

Name:			
Email:		Phone:	
Mailing Address:			
City:		Postal Code:	
Syilx Okanagan Nation Affiliation:			
High School:		Grad Date:	

### Checklist

- Completed and signed Application.
- Proof of Syilx Okanagan Ancestry
- Personal Narrative (2 parts) Must be submitted as separate PDF documents.
- Unofficial high school transcripts.
- 2 letters of reference **sent directly by the writer** to [tmontgomery@syilx.org](mailto:tmontgomery@syilx.org)

Please arrange for two references to be submitted. Reference letters should speak too why you deserve the award but also incorporate the attributes specific to the award(s) you are applying for. 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:	

# SYILX SIYA BURSARY APPLICATION

Your responses in this application to the questions below will inform the selection committee about your experiences, perspectives, community involvement, accomplishments, and goals.

## PERSONAL NARRATIVE (2 PARTS)

### 1. What Is Your Story?

We invite you to share your story! Keeping in mind the bursary description, please use the bullet points below as a guide for your response.

Label document: [your full name] Story and attached as a separate document.

Your submission **must be between 400 - 500** words (approx. one page single spaced)

*Please note that these are prompts and that they are optional and meant to assist you.*

- Introduce yourself, where you are from, what makes you, you?
- What are some of your accomplishments?
- What are your goals? What are your dreams for the future for yourself and/or family, community and nation?
- What aspirations do you hold for the future of Syilx People, whether in a broader context or specifically within your community or family?

### 2. How do you Actively Contribute to the Betterment of Your Community?

The Syilx Siya bursaries are awarded to high school graduates who demonstrate service, leadership, and community involvement. Keeping in mind the bursary description please use the bullet points below as a guide for your response.

Label your document: Community, [your full name] and attached as a separate document.

Your submission **should be approx. 500** words

- How are you involved in your community?
- How have you been a leader in your life, could be school, family, sports, extracurricular activities or in general?
- Tell us about a time(s) that you were of service to your nation, community, or family.
- Share with us how you show up for your community and/or Nation.

\*\* Community can be in whatever sense the word community means to you \*\*