



Carol McGregor Scholarship Application Form

Application Due Date: September 15, 2016

About the Carol McGregor Scholarship:

OPSEU offers an annual scholarship of \$1,500 in the memory of Carol McGregor, a longtime union activist on disability rights issues, who died in 2006.

Who can apply:

Open to children of OPSEU members in good standing who have a visible or invisible disability, and are pursuing post-secondary education at a publicly-funded university, community college or trades program. Extra consideration will be given to students who have participated in a collective action or community organizing on disability or human rights issue.

Please fill out this application form in its entirety, and use the checklist on page 2 to ensure your application is complete.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of applicant: _____

Name of post-secondary institution: _____

Program of study: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

OPSEU MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name (must be an OPSEU member in good standing): _____

Member number: _____ Local: _____

Applicant's relationship to member: _____

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CHECKLIST:

The following items must be submitted with your application, and received by OPSEU **on or before September 15, 2016**. Applications received after September 15, 2016 will not be considered.

- This application form, completed fully
- Short essay (no more than 1,000 words) on a topic related to disability issues
- A brief resume indicating your disability, accomplishments, field of study, and your relationship to an OPSEU member in good standing

Ways to submit your application (choose one):

1. E-mail your application to: scholarships@opseu.org
2. Mail your application to: OPSEU Carol McGregor Scholarship
c/o OPSEU Training and Development Unit
100 Lesmill Road
Toronto, Ontario M3B 3P8

Essays and personal summaries are reviewed and marked by an independent adjudicator. Essays will not be returned to applicants. The scholarship will be issued by November 30, 2016. Successful candidates will be asked to provide confirmation of university, college, or trades program enrollment before the scholarship is issued. For more information about OPSEU Scholarships, contact the Training and Development Unit, 1-800-268-7376 ext. 8299, or scholarships@opseu.org.

OPSEU Scholarships Guidelines for Essay Submissions

OPSEU scholarships are intended to assist the children of OPSEU members in their pursuit of post-secondary degrees and diplomas. For that reason, the essays submitted in support of scholarship applications are adjudicated on the same basis as a college or university essay.

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist applicants in writing effective essays for consideration as part of the scholarship adjudication.

These are guidelines, not hard-and-fast rules. As students progress they will learn more complex ways of presenting their arguments in essays.

Before you start writing

Before you start writing your essay, please read and think about the topic that is assigned, and do some or all of your research. Essays that wander off the assigned topic, or lack research to back up their arguments, have less chance of winning a scholarship.

The ideal essay has

- ✓ A clear thesis
- ✓ Well-organized arguments, supported by documented research, in favour of the thesis
- ✓ A clear conclusion
- ✓ Good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and visual presentation.

Thesis

Your essay should have a thesis: the main idea you are presenting and defending in your essay. In post-secondary writing, it is not necessary to confine your thesis to one sentence.

Introduction

Your essay should have an introductory paragraph that tells the reader what your thesis is, and outlines how you intend to prove or demonstrate it. The thesis should be related to the topic specified in the scholarship you are applying for.

Argument and examples

Your essay should contain argument and examples in support of your thesis.

Organize your essay into paragraphs. Each paragraph should have an opening sentence that outlines its topic, followed by one or more sentences with evidence or illustrative examples from your research. It should conclude with a summary sentence that relates the paragraph topic to the thesis.

Where your evidence and/or examples are taken from other sources, such as books and websites (not from your personal experience), you must cite your sources. There are two main ways to do this (called MLA format and APA format). Use one. Some websites that explain them are listed below.

Conclusion

Your essay should have a conclusion. The conclusion should focus on the importance and relevance of the thesis you have just successfully presented and defended. It should not be a summary of the evidence you have presented, nor contain new arguments and evidence (which belong in additional paragraphs in the argument section).

Format and proofreading

Your essay will be graded for its level of organization, ease of reading, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Mistakes may make the difference in whether you receive a scholarship.

Type your essay. Double-space the lines. Leave margins of at least 2-4 cm. Use an easy font to read and make it at least 12 pt. in size (this is 14 pt. Times New Roman).

Proofread your essay. Use spell check but don't rely on it, because there are many mistakes it won't catch. It's also a good idea to read your essay out loud; if something doesn't sound right, the sentence probably needs to be re-organized to present the idea more effectively.

Things to avoid

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas or research as your own. It is an academic offense in every post-secondary institution. Plagiarism in an essay submitted for an OPSEU scholarship will result in the submission not being considered.

You should feel free to submit essays for any scholarships you think are appropriate. And if you do not win one year, you can submit again the next year.

However, you should not re-submit a previous essay, which will also result in your submission not being considered.

If you want to know more

Most universities and colleges have detailed guidelines for essay writing posted on their websites.

The APA format for citing sources can be found at <http://www.apastyle.org/> and many other websites. The MLA format can be found at <http://mlaformat.org/> and many other websites.