

Careers Ahead

Fact Sheet 2014/2015

African Nova Scotian Programs

Scholarship Program for African Nova Scotians

The Scholarship Program for African Nova Scotians provides financial incentives to African Nova Scotian students to continue their education beyond public school and encourages students to develop their leadership potential and meet their educational, career, and professional objectives.

The scholarship program is divided into the following categories: University Entrance, Post-Secondary, and Community College or Trade School. Students are eligible for only one award in any one year.

• University Entrance <i>(75% average or higher)</i>	\$4,500
• Post-Secondary <i>(Less than 75% average)</i>	\$2,500
• Community College or Trade School	\$1,800
• Performing Arts	\$1000

Citizenship and Residence

To be eligible a student must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada whose parent(s) is (are) of African (Black) descent. Priority will be given to applicants who have attended school in Nova Scotia for three or more years.

University Entrance Scholarships

Valued at \$4,500, these scholarships are available to African Nova Scotian (Black) students who have successfully **completed grade 12** in the Nova Scotia school system within the current year and who have been accepted by a university in the academic year immediately following grade 12. In order to qualify for this scholarship, the following is necessary:

- five grade 12 academic courses (English 12 and four others) from the public school program (PSP)
- an average of 75% or above using those courses registered as a full-time student in a recognized university degree program
- recommended by the high school principal or guidance counsellor

Post-Secondary Awards

Valued at \$2,500, post-secondary awards are available to

- African Nova Scotian (Black) students who have successfully completed grade 12 in the Nova Scotia school system and who enroll immediately as a full time student in the 1st year of a recognized university degree program
- This award is available to university students going into their 2nd or 3rd year (awards are based on satisfactory academic standing).

Community College/Trade School Awards

Community college or trade school awards **valued at \$1,800** are available to African Nova Scotian (Black) students who successfully complete grade 12 in the Nova Scotia school system and who enroll in an approved community college or trade school. This award is available for one year only unless the course of study is a two-year program.

Applications can be obtained from your guidance counsellor or from African Canadian Services at the address provided in the next column.

Performing Arts Award

Valued at \$1000, the award is available to African Nova Scotian (Black) students who successfully complete grade 12 in the school system of Nova Scotia and who immediately enrol as a full-time student in the first year of an approved post-secondary institution. This award is available for one year only. To qualify for the award the student must

- have a concentration in one of the performing arts genres, e.g., music, voice, dance, theatrical performances
- have demonstrated qualities of the performing arts through participation in student activities and community affairs

Application Deadlines

University Entrance Scholarship: **May 29, 2015**
Post-Secondary Promotion Award: **July 31, 2015**
Performing Arts Award: **July 31, 2015**
Community College/Trade School Award:
July 31, 2015
Science Profession Award: **June 17, 2015**
Teacher Education Award: **June 17, 2015**
All deadlines will be strictly observed.

Applications should be sent to:

**African Canadian
Services** Department of
Education
PO Box 578
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9
Tel: (902) 424-2586
Fax: (902) 424-7210
E-mail: acsd@ednet.ns.ca
Website: acs.ednet.ns.ca

Science & Teacher Scholarship Program for African Nova Scotians

In response to the Black Learners Advisory Committee (*BLAC Report on Education*), a number of scholarships are being made available to African Nova Scotian students who have displayed a commitment to academic excellence and community involvement.

Background

The *BLAC Report on Education* highlights glaring educational, economic, and social inequities between African Nova Scotians and other Nova Scotians. The report also makes it clear that a lack of educational opportunities has contributed significantly to the disparity in educational and professional attainment of African Nova Scotians and consequently to social and economic marginalization.

Aims of the Program

The quest by African Nova Scotians for fair educational opportunities has often been impeded by formidable economic and institutional barriers. The program aims to address one of the serious problems of accessibility by providing financial assistance to African Nova Scotian students who wish to enter professional programs where African Nova Scotians are severely under represented, such as teaching, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, and other sciences. These studies will equip students

with the tools to provide lifelong service to their communities, while pursuing professional careers. The program will help provide more role models while building community leadership skills.

Scholarships for Science Professions

Ten scholarships valued at \$7,000 each are available to African Nova Scotian students who have been accepted into science programs. Priority will be given to the following programs: *medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and engineering*. Applicants must have demonstrated scholastic success while maintaining significant healthy extracurricular involvement. The awards are tenable at any Canadian university. Ten scholarships are available every year. Depending on the program of study, the awards are tenable for the duration of the program to a maximum of three years, provided a level of academic excellence is maintained. This scholarship may not be held concurrently with the Education Incentive award.

Additional Criteria for Selection

Applicants must

- be accepted or registered in one of the prescribed university programs
- demonstrate continued scholastic achievement
- demonstrate positive involvement in school and community
- submit a 300-word essay describing their past involvement in the African Nova Scotia community and their vision for its future development
- hold no professional degree
- participate in school-to-work transition follow-up surveys
- please review additional criteria at <http://acs.ednet.ns.ca>
- demonstrate continued scholastic achievement

Scholarships for Teacher Education

Teacher education scholarships valued at \$5,000 each are available to African Nova Scotians who have been accepted into Bachelor of Education programs. Applicants must have demonstrated scholastic success while maintaining significant extracurricular involvement. Fifteen scholarships will be awarded each year. The awards are tenable at any school of education in Canada for up to two years. Scholarships will be awarded through the appropriate university to selected applicants. However, payment will not be made until the

applicant has provided a letter of confirmation from the registrar of the particular university. Requests for deferment will be considered only in unusual circumstances and the decision will be made by the Selection Committee.

Where to Apply

You can get application forms from your nearest Black Educators Association Regional Educator's office or by contacting the:

African Canadian Services Division

Tel: (902) 424-2586

Fax: (902) 424-7210

Black Educators Association

Tel: (902) 424-7039/7036

1-800-565-3398

Fax: (902) 424-0636

Completed Science & Teacher applications must be submitted by **June 17, 2015** directly to:

African Canadian Services Division

Department of Education

PO Box 578, 2021 Brunswick Street

Halifax NS B3J 2S9

Short-Term Job Training Grant

This strategic initiative aimed at African Nova Scotian youth is an effort to address skill shortages in sectors such as the trades, information technology, health care and the oil and gas industry. Valued at up to \$5,000 these grants are available to African Nova Scotian (Black) students who are between 21 - 35 years of age and who have been out of school for one or more years.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted anytime throughout the year, but will be screened or reviewed quarterly (January, April, July, October). Applicants must submit a completed application package (all documents included) **at least two months prior** to the start of their program and in accordance with the review dates. Please visit our website at <http://acs.ednet.ns.ca> for further details.

There are only 20 grants available, so not all qualified applicants are approved. As part of the screening process applicants may be required to participate in an interview.

Additional Selection Criteria

- Preference will be given to candidates who have not received prior funding from ACSD
- Any customized training institutes and/or programs registered with Private Trade School

(DOE) will be given preference. NB: any and/or all regular (core) programs offered by NSCC are not **eligible** for this grant

- An African Nova Scotia (Black) student is a Canadian citizen whose parent(s) is (are) of African descent and whose parents reside in Nova Scotia
- Must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada
- Must be enrolled on a full-time basis
- Must be between 21 - 35 years of age