The Laurie Sommerville Scholarship Award

The Laurie Sommerville Scholarship was established to recognize students who have the potential to successfully complete post-secondary studies but may not otherwise be able to do so because of adverse life experiences and are in need of some financial support and encouragement.

DONOR: Laurie Sommerville

WHERE TENABLE: Calgary Board of Education

FIELD OF STUDY: Unrestricted

VALUE: Based on program cost to an average of $2,000 per award

NUMBER: Variable dependent on funds available and applicant(s) need

ELIGIBILITY: Open to students registered in grade 11 or 12 in the Calgary Board of Education who are completing the requirements of a high school diploma, **demonstrate financial need** and wish to pursue post-secondary education. Applicants must have a minimum average of 65% **(NOTE: Academic achievement is not the determining factor for this award)**. Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) students and students pursuing trades or vocational programs are **strongly** encouraged to apply..

Applicants are required to submit an original essay of approximately 500 words **sharing their story, how they have overcome or are dealing with adversity and how their experiences are leading them to their chosen career path and/or educational pursuit**.

One letter of reference is required that outlines how the student has demonstrated their potential to successfully complete their educational path. Letters may be provided by a member of the school staff (teacher, administrator, specialist, counsellor) or a community representative who has had direct contact with the applicant.

APPLY: Students can apply by creating an account in EducationMatters' Student Award Application Portal. Applicants should check with their guidance office for more information and are encouraged to discuss their application with the Scholarship Coordinator at their high school.

SELECTION & PAYMENT: Recipients will be notified by December 31 or early January. The selection committee will consist of a representative from EducationMatters Student Award Selection Committee, and a staff member. A short-list of selected candidates may be provided to the donor for final selection.

To claim the award, within eighteen (18) months of high school graduation, the recipient must be registered in an **eligible program of post-secondary study in Canada, an eligible skilled trades or apprenticeship program or an eligible institution providing certification that will enable the student to earn a living wage**.

Payments are made to the post-secondary/educational institution.

DEADLINE: **December 4**