

November 26, 2020

File Ref: 2020-130



**To: National Executive Board**

**Re: Proposal for National Union Scholarships**

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Bert and I have been discussing the National Union's scholarship program and have a proposal for a change that can be introduced in 2021 on a go-forward basis.

While we feel that the National Union scholarship program has served a highly valuable purpose, there have been limitations. In particular, the number of scholarships does not correspond to the number of Components.

As a result, not all Components will have a scholarship applicant as a winner each year. Or, as has been the case, there will be years with multiple winners from a single Component. While the distribution of winners across the country has equaled out over the long run, it is unequal in a given year.

Furthermore, as a National Union, our ability to reach out to your members and their children is limited. Our program works best when Components actively promote the scholarships.

Most Components now have their own strong and valued scholarship program.

Our proposal is to establish a joint program with Components to provide a number of scholarships for their members or the children and grandchildren of members (reflecting the Component's policies). The National Union will provide the funding for the jointly awarded scholarships to those Components that wish to participate. The National Union would help promote their scholarships and would participate in any ceremony to award the monies. The administration of these scholarships would be the responsibility of the Component union.

The focus of the scholarships will be decided in partnership and could be an important expansion of a Component's existing scholarship program.

While this is an initial proposal, and all the details are not fixed, we would want to look at a set number of NUPGE-funded scholarships per Component, with a slightly larger number for both OPSEU and the BCGEU. The total number we could consider would depend on the amount per scholarship; we would likely want to have all the scholarships provide the same amount. To repeat, this is all preliminary.

This would mean that the National Union would no longer be directly offering scholarships. However, the number of young people receiving assistance would significantly increase in a manner that is fairer and more equitably distributed across the country.

There are some details that would need to be worked out. One scholarship that will require some thought is the existing Brian Fudge scholarship created in memory of the son of former NUPGE staff member Derek Fudge. And we do have Convention mandates, for example, for 2 Young Workers scholarships, which we would want to honour. However, we feel that these matters can be resolved.

This will be an agenda item at the upcoming National Executive Board meeting.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Larry Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Larry Brown  
President

cc: Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer