

DARTMOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BURSARY FOR AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN STUDENTS

to Support Healthcare
Education in People of
African Ancestry

One \$8,000 bursary
for youth, renewable
up to 4 years

Presented by:

J & W Murphy
FOUNDATION

2025 HONOUREE: Yvonne Atwell

This bursary has a rotating acknowledgement to a different person of African ancestry, to promote knowledge of Black excellence and Black history to the Dartmouth General Hospital and the community. This year's acknowledgement goes to Yvonne Atwell, the first Black Woman MLA in Nova Scotia.



Bursary Description

Our goal is to build cultural competency within the healthcare system, specifically within the Dartmouth General Hospital (DGH). By supporting learners of African ancestry, we are building future capacity and recruitment.

The Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation (DGHF) Bursary to Support Healthcare Education in People of African Ancestry, presented by the J&W Murphy Foundation, aims to be accessible to African Nova Scotian and Black high school learners who, through the application process, demonstrate interest in a health-related field. Our bursary selection committee is composed of African Nova Scotian and Black community members.

This bursary has rotating acknowledgement to a different person of African Ancestry, to promote knowledge of Black excellence and Black history to DGH and the community. This year's acknowledgment goes to **Yvonne Atwell**, a trail blazer and the first Black woman MLA in Nova Scotia. Born and raised in East Preston, Nova Scotia, Atwell was elected as a member for Preston in 1998. On February 22, 2022, a portrait of Atwell was unveiled at Province House in Halifax to honour her and commemorate her historic role as the first Black woman to be elected in Nova Scotia. Her portrait is displayed in the Province House lobby alongside the portraits of former premiers of Nova Scotia.

She has engaged for over forty years in community development and social change, primarily in African Nova Scotian communities. From 1993-1998 Atwell was the first Managing Director of the African-Canadian Employment Clinic in Halifax. Between 1999-2004, she worked as Policy Advisor and Diversity Officer at the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, Dalhousie University. Atwell was the Executive Director of Community Justice Society, Board Chair of the Black United Front, President of the African Canadian Caucus of Nova Scotia, Chair of the Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, a member of the Metropolitan Board of Trade's small business committee, a member of the George Washington Carver Credit Union executive board, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants. In 2002, Atwell was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for her contributions to public life.

In 2004, she was inducted to the Rev Dr. William Pearly Oliver Wall of Honour by the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia. In 2017, Atwell received the 150 years Senate Sesquicentennial Medal in Ottawa in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Senate of Canada and in recognition of her valuable service to the Nation. On March 1, 2020, the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party renamed their Diversity Fund to be called the Yvonne Atwell Diversity in Leadership Fund in recognition of "Yvonne Atwell's leadership in the legislature and her consistent encouragement of candidates with diverse backgrounds to seek public office". In 2021, she served as a member of the Task Force for the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the recognition of Indigenous history. Atwell was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2024 recognizing her significant contributions to community. Atwell was a board member of the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) for five years. She is also a founding member of the Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) and has been a member of the Akoma inc. board of directors, a community development organization, since 2021.

Atwell is a cherished contributor to human rights, restorative justice, and a community leader, mentor and champion for racial justice.

This bursary is intended for:

- African Nova Scotian high school students with interest in health care - one \$8,000 bursary available, renewable for up to four years

Eligibility

- Must be of African Ancestry
 - *DGH recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. They descend from free and enslaved Black Planters, Black Loyalists, Black Refugees, Maroons and other Black people who inhabited the original 52 land-based Black communities in that region. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Preston Township.*
- Must be a citizen, permanent resident, landed immigrant or newcomer to Nova Scotia.
- Must be enrolled in a health-related program at a recognized post-secondary educational institution.

Application must include:

1. Updated CV
2. Proof of acceptance into a recognized post-secondary educational institution
3. Description of African Nova Scotian community involvement (250 words)
 - Examples include, but are not limited to, volunteering, extracurriculars, research, community-related work, involvement in supporting recreation and sports, faith or community organizations, committees, etc.
4. Two (2) references
 - Including one reference demonstrating a commitment to the African Nova Scotian community
5. Essay (500 words)
 - Describe your journey, why you are choosing to pursue a career in healthcare (or a health-related field), your career goals, how your program of study will impact the African Nova Scotian community, and/or any other information you feel is necessary for this application.
6. A statement outlining financial need, describing how this award will support your ability to continue education.

Important to note that **the top 3 applicants will be asked to participate in an interview** which will include a 15-minute presentation about their essay topic - this is tentatively scheduled for the **first week of June**.

Please note that the successful bursary recipient will be expected to participate in promotional material related to this bursary for the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation.

Applications with required accompanying information are to be submitted to the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation at aaliyah.arab-smith@dghfoundation.ca on or before **May 25th, 2025**.

BURSARY APPLICATION (Page 1 of 2)

Student Name:

Address:

City/Province:

Postal Code:

Home/Cell Phone:

Email:

Please select one of the following:

- I am African Nova Scotian/Black Nova Scotian – born and/or raised in Nova Scotia with at least one parent from the 52 historical Black Communities of Nova Scotia*

**African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. They descend from free and enslaved Black Planters, Black Loyalists, Black Refugees, Maroons and other Black people who inhabited the original 52 land-based Black communities in that region. Examples include, but are not limited to, North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook, Lake Loon, Africville, Beechville, Birchtown, etc.*

- I am African Canadian/Black Canadian, born and/or raised in Nova Scotia without familial ties to the historical Black communities of Nova Scotia.

- I am African Canadian/Black Canadian, born and/or raised outside of Nova Scotia.

High school:

Intended area of healthcare study:

Intended post-secondary institution:

BURSARY APPLICATION (Page 2 of 2)

Please attach the following to your application:

- Updated CV
- Proof of acceptance into a recognized post-secondary educational institution
- Description of African Nova Scotian Community Involvement (250 words)
 - Examples include, but are not limited to, volunteering, extracurriculars, research, community-related work, involvement in supporting recreation and sports, faith or community organizations, committees, etc.
- Two (2) References
 - Including one reference demonstrating a commitment to the African Nova Scotia community
- Essay (500 words)
 - Describe your journey, why you are choosing to pursue a career in healthcare (or a health-related field), your career goals, how your program of study will impact the African Nova Scotian community, and/or any other information you feel is necessary for this application.
- A statement outlining financial need, describing how this award will support your ability to continue education.

By checking this box, I am agreeing that my name may be published to promote the bursary program. I also agree to participate in promotional material for the DGH Foundation, related to this bursary.

By signing below, you confirm that all the information provided above is true and accurate

Signature

Date