Reimagining a Municipal Bursary

A practical investment in people, skills and community

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Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF
YARMOUTH
truly connected

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

BURSARY PROGRAM

The “why” is bigger than a bursary

A small program can respond to long-term community needs.

Declining population	We need more people to build their lives here.
Youth outmigration	Education can take young people away. Connection can help bring them back.
Workforce needs	Local employers need more workers and more skills.

We already had a bursary. The opportunity was to make it more intentional and more connected to our future.

The program has continued to evolve

The purpose stayed simple: remove barriers to help local students pursue post-secondary education.

Earlier program

Established many years ago
Two $750 awards
Resident-based eligibility
Transcript and academic average required
Financial disclosure required

Today

Four $1,000 awards
Two university and two college, technical or trades
Broader ratepayer-family eligibility
No transcript or minimum grade requirement
Focus on need, community involvement and the essay

Simple by design

A bursary program does not need to be complicated to be meaningful.

Apply	Application, short essay and confirmation from school that the student is on track to graduate.
Learn	University, community college or technical school.
Connect	After the first semester, recipients write to the municipality.

Clear expectations. A manageable process. A personal connection.

We hear from them

Recipients follow up with a letter after their first semester.

After my first semester...

What I am studying

How the transition is going

How the bursary is helping

Why it matters

The municipality hears directly from the recipient.

Council can see the practical value of its support.

Testimony

Hear from recipients who are bringing their learned skills home.

Riley D'Eon



"The last block of school is hard; removed barriers encourages more people to try and pursue bursaries. It helped put me through community college.

When there's more hurdles, it's discouraging.

"(Being home), it's nice to build customer relations with people you live around."

Annabelle Dulong

"The bursary will assist with the cost of purchasing textbooks and other supplies needed for my classes. I truly appreciate the support from MODY and am very grateful for this opportunity.

Thank you for investing in my education and future career."



What does success look like?

A student gets support.

A student builds skills that create impact.

A future worker knows the municipality believes they have a place in the community.

It is an invitation to stay truly connected.

Our takeaway for municipalities

Start with something you already do. Make the purpose clearer.

Tie it to a real local need	Population, workforce, access or belonging.
Keep the rules clear and inclusive	Remove barriers that no longer make sense.
Listen to the people receiving support	A simple feedback loop can show the impact.

Small investment. Clear purpose. Real connection.