



APSEA BVI Trust Fund - Description of Awards

Total funding available for all Trust Fund Awards approved by the Trust Fund Committee shall be determined by the APSEA Financial Advisory Committee based on revenues generated by the Trust Fund during the previous fiscal year. Expenditures over the amount of revenue generated in the previous fiscal year must be approved by the APSEA Board. All requests are to be submitted to the Director, Programs for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired (fax 902-423-8700).

1. APSEA Research Grant

A total of \$10,000 to support research opportunities may be awarded in any one year. Research may be in any area potentially of direct benefit to children and youth who are visually impaired. Research projects must be approved by the APSEA Superintendent.

2. Incentive Award for Professionals

An incentive award for a professional educating children and youth who are blind or visually impaired to a value of \$700 is available. This award is non-renewable, with only one award per program granted for a given individual. A maximum of five awards may be made annually.

Selection criteria:

- ▶ academic merit
- ▶ financial need
- ▶ applicant must be pursuing full certification in the education of the blind or visually impaired
- ▶ resident of Atlantic Canada

3. Professional Development & Training Grant

Annually, an amount of \$10,000 will be available for professional development and training to ensure the APSEA Centre continues to meet its need for highly trained, very specialized staff with the technical skill and knowledge to meet the needs of children and youth who are blind or visually impaired and served by APSEA.

Selection criteria:

- A candidate must have the appropriate educational and experiential background to benefit from the professional development opportunity.
- A candidate must hold a position and possess the willingness and personal skills which permit utilization of new knowledge and skills in the professional development and training of other staff.
- Priority will be given to requests for professional development opportunities that are consistent with the program needs of the visually impaired as identified by the Director and senior administrators of programs serving students who are blind or visually impaired.

4. APSEA Scholarships For Post-Secondary Training In Any Field Relating To Serving Children and Youth Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

A maximum of \$10,000 is awarded annually for scholarships and bursaries in accordance with these guidelines. Applications must be supported by evidence of acceptance into a post secondary program. APSEA scholarships may be awarded to a person studying at a post-secondary level in any field that will further develop their ability to work with children and youth who are blind or visually impaired.

Selection criteria:

- person must show potential for success in chosen program
- financial need
- person receiving this award may be required to work in Atlantic Canada provided employment opportunities are available

5. APSEA Professional Development Course - Funding for Instructor Fees

APSEA may use up to \$2,000 to assist the funding of any professional development course where additional instructors are required to provide the course content, either theoretical or practical components. A maximum of \$5,000 per year may be used for this purpose. An example of a course requiring this is Orientation and Mobility, where one instructor may require additional personnel to assist with the practical component of the course.

6. Grants for Development of Instructional Materials

The Trust Fund may support the development of instructional materials, curricula, kits, videos, pamphlets, and books designed to further professional knowledge in the area of visual impairment or to promote student learning. A maximum of \$25,000 per year may be used for this purpose. The products developed through funding from this grant must be approved and distributed by APSEA. Any product developed will remain the property of APSEA.

7. Grants for Capital Expenditures for the Direct Benefit of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

The Trust Fund may support the purchase of capital items which will provide direct benefit to students. Examples of items which may be purchased in this category include:

- vehicles used to transport students
- upgrades to the APSEA Centre Playground
- gym equipment
- classroom equipment

This category is not intended to include renovations or repairs to the physical plant. Items with an individual value in excess of \$20,000 must be approved by the APSEA Executive Committee and/or Board. The Trust Fund Committee may approve individual requests to a total of \$50,000 per year, after which all must be approved by the APSEA Executive Committee and/or Board.

8. APSEA Recreational/Social/Cultural Opportunity Grants

A total of \$20,000 each fiscal year is made available to support recreational, social, or cultural opportunities for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired while attending elementary or secondary school.

Grants are made when there is evidence that funds are unavailable from any other source and are to be cost shared where possible by the individual(s). In exceptional circumstances, 100% funding may be considered by the Trust Fund Committee. It is expected that the student, parents, or others involved in the activity will make a contribution (e.g. financial, time). Applications are accepted for the following activities:

- a) student exchanges
- b) summer camps
- c) teen weekends
- d) student conferences/seminars/meetings
- e) sports/recreation/fine arts
- f) parent information sessions/parent inservices
- g) student/parent/teacher social events
- h) other proposals as approved by the Trust Fund Committee

9. APSEA Scholarships for Post Secondary Education for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Scholarships are awarded to students graduating from high school who are blind or visually impaired, who are commencing post secondary studies, and who are under 21 years of age. Applications must be supported by evidence of acceptance into a post-secondary program, current transcript, three letters of reference (character, academic, and one other), and a recent report from an eye specialist stating the student's corrected visual acuity. All supporting documents must be attached. Incomplete applications will not be considered. An individual student may be awarded up to \$1,500 for any one year provided an award is not received from the S.R. Hussey Memorial Trust Fund. Scholarships and bursaries to a maximum of \$10,000 are awarded annually in accordance with these guidelines.

Selection criteria:

- person must show potential for success in chosen program
- financial need
- resident of Atlantic Canada

The Trust Fund Committee will receive applications for APSEA Scholarships for Post Secondary Education until **April 1st**. Applications must be supported by evidence of acceptance into a post secondary program.

10. **Summer Camp**

Annually, an amount shall be made available to support the provision of a summer camp for children who are blind or visually impaired. A maximum amount of \$20,000 will be available.

11. **Graduation/End of School Year Awards**

Students who are blind or visually impaired may be nominated for awards by their Itinerant Teacher, Transition Facilitator, Orientation and Mobility Consultant, or other staff who have been directly involved with the student. Only those students who have made a concerted effort in the identified areas or who deserve special acknowledgement for effort and success should be nominated for APSEA Trust Fund awards. Nominations should be made on the appropriate form and forwarded to the Provincial Supervisor who will then submit applications to the Trust Fund Committee. When a student receives an APSEA Trust Fund award, the student is expected to acknowledge receipt of this award by writing a "thank you" letter to the Trust Fund Committee (if the student is able). Cheques will be sent to the individual Itinerant Teacher responsible for the student who has received the award for presentation during graduation ceremonies. **The application forms must be submitted to your Provincial Supervisor by April 1st**.

Student Awards

Application for the following student awards can be made by completing the one-page "**Graduation/End of Year Student Awards**" application form. Students in grades Primary to 11 will receive one award while graduating students are eligible to receive multiple awards.

11.1) Sir Frederick Fraser Award

Three students in each grade category as listed below in Nova Scotia and two in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award for academic effort and participation in extra-curricular activities. **A copy of the student's most current report card and details regarding the level and type of extra-curricular activities must be submitted with this application.** Award amounts are \$500 (Grade 12), \$100 (Grades 9-11), \$75 (Grades 6-8), and \$50 (Grades Primary-5).

11.2) Lowell Legge Award

Two students in each category in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award for significant improvement in the areas of social interaction/social skills or organization skills. **Submit details of a specific example of this progress.** Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.3) Mary Rhind Award

All Orientation and Mobility award nominations must be submitted in consultation with and signed by the provincial O&M Consultant. Selection is based on improvements in O&M skills during the year. **Details regarding specific examples where the student has shown improvement in his/her O&M skills throughout the school year must also be included with the application.** Three students in Nova Scotia and two students in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award for O&M skills. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.4) Mary Bertha Campbell Braille Award

Two awards are available in each category for Nova Scotia and one is available in each category for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Selection shall be based on the use of and improvement in braille skills. Itinerant Teachers may wish to enclose a braille sample from September and a braille sample from April to demonstrate the improvement in braille skills. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary/ beginning braille readers).

11.5) E. Chesley Allen Music Prize

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award to acknowledge improvement in music skills during the year. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.6) Ronnie Corbett-Guenette Citizenship Award

This award was established in 1994 in memory of Ronald Corbett-Guenette, an Itinerant Teacher who served students with a visual impairment in the Moncton area of New Brunswick. Active involvement in school and school related extra-curricular activities are the main criteria for this award, although academic achievement is also considered. Awards are made annually to one senior high, one junior high, and one elementary school student who is visually impaired and attends school within the Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island). The monetary values are \$125 (senior), \$75 (junior), and \$50 (elementary).

11.7) Art/Drama Award

Two students (aged 12 to 15) in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador will be eligible for an award of \$75 for their interest and accomplishments in art/drama. The Art Award is to acknowledge a student's artistic endeavors in painting, sculpting, drawing, drama, etc. The nominee should participate in art/drama activities on a regular basis and enjoy self-expression through these media.

11.8) Cooperative Education/Work Placement Performance

Two graduating students in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador will be eligible for an award of at least \$250. This award will be granted in recognition of commitment, dedication and sense of responsibility toward work placement/experience. Selection will be based on demonstrated effort, punctuality, dependability, interpersonal communication, and positive employer comments. This award is to be given to a student who has made a positive contribution to the work place. **Include details regarding the placement and the student's progress. A letter of recommendation from the employer must accompany the application.**

11.9) Technology Award

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award for improvement or increase in knowledge of computer technology, software or other types of technology. The student should demonstrate efficiency, enthusiasm and expertise in the use of technology. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.10) Sports Award

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award in recognition of participation and achievement in sports. Participation may be in either a team or individual sport, but must be at the competitive level and not merely a hobby. In addition to demonstrating good athletic skills and enthusiasm for sport, applicants should also demonstrate good sportsmanship. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.11) Keyboarding Award

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award to acknowledge accomplishments in the area of keyboarding skills. Emphasis should be placed on both accuracy and speed. Test results showing the student's development of speed and accuracy throughout the school year must be included. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.12) Functional Living Skills

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, and Newfoundland & Labrador shall be eligible to receive an award to acknowledge a significant improvement in any area of functional living skills (e.g., personal hygiene, household management, organization skills). Applicants for this award should have demonstrated significant improvements in their level of independence from September through to May. Award amounts are \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior/middle), and \$50 (elementary).

11.13) Special Accomplishment Award

The APSEA Trust Fund Committee is committed to the acknowledgment of students' efforts and dedication in reaching their goals. From time to time, students will deserve acknowledgement of a special accomplishment which falls outside of the categories established in the APSEA Trust Fund Student Awards document. This Special Accomplishment Award is intended to provide an opportunity for students to be nominated and receive recognition for a special accomplishment reached through hard work, determination, and dedication. **One award of \$100 will be granted upon receipt of a nomination outlining the details of this accomplishment.**

11.14) Student Leadership Award

The Student Leadership Award shall be presented annually to a student who demonstrates exceptional leadership involvement in his/her school and/or community. This student is committed to the spirit of the school and/or community.

Students enrolled in Grades 9-12 in the four Atlantic Provinces are eligible to apply for the \$300.00 Leadership Award.

Leaders are people who take action, show initiative, and go above and beyond what is expected. The recipient of this award demonstrates the following leadership characteristics:

Personal Qualities:

- dependable and accountable
- committed to academic achievement
- honest in class work and other activities
- demonstrates initiative and is self-motivated/directed
- empathetic and sensitive to the needs of others
- works effectively in a group (able to delegate/influence in a positive way)
- self-advocates

Participation:

- participates in a variety of activities in school and/or the community
- maintains good relations with peers and adults
- is involved in volunteering
- initiates and commits to school, social, community events

Students who exhibit **at least one characteristic** from each of these two areas may be nominated by their Itinerant Teacher, member of their school team, or member of their community. Extra consideration should be given to an individual whose participation may have become progressively more active over time and whose leadership activities are distributed and span across the student's school career.

Application Process:

The following documents must be included with the application:

- Letter from the nominee describing his/her involvement in a leadership capacity at school and/or in the community
- Two letters of recommendation (school team member, school council chair, member of the community, or APSEA staff) which should, where applicable:
 - ▶ List the activities or organizations with which this student is or has been engaged to demonstrate support of the criteria.
 - ▶ Give examples how this student has contributed to their school and/or community.
 - ▶ Comment on how this student balances being a good student and a young leader.
 - ▶ Note if the student has overcome a personal challenge and/or experienced ongoing financial hardship.

11.15) Awards for Students with Disabilities in Addition to a Visual Impairment

Approximately 60% of students who are blind or visually impaired have other disabilities in addition to a vision loss. The APSEA Trust Fund is established to reward and acknowledge the efforts of all students irrespective of the severity of the disability. To be eligible for an APSEA Trust Fund Award, the student must have an understanding of the concept of the award and the importance of commitment and hard work in reaching goals. These efforts are eligible to be acknowledged through the following awards:

- a) Exemplary Performance - Work Placement
One student in each of the four Atlantic Provinces who has disabilities in addition to a visual impairment will be eligible to receive an award of at least \$250. This award will be granted in recognition of commitment, dedication, and sense of responsibility toward work placement experience. **The applicants must be students who are graduating** and selection will be based on demonstrated effort, increase in independence, improvements in social interaction, and positive employer comments. A letter of recommendation from the employer must accompany the application.
- b) Exemplary Performance - Communication/Social Skills
One student in each of the four Atlantic Provinces will be eligible to receive an award of at least \$100. This award will be granted in recognition of enthusiasm, inspiration, appropriate behaviour, and courage demonstrated through their day-to-day performance in school. **The applicants must be students who have disabilities in addition to a vision loss and who are graduating** from high school. Selection will be based on demonstrated improvement in interpersonal communication skills, initiation of interaction, and ongoing improvement in age appropriate behaviour. A letter of recommendation from the student's lead teacher must accompany the application.
- c) Functional Living Skills
Two students in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador at the senior, junior/middle, and elementary school levels will be eligible to receive an award of \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior), or \$50 (elementary). This award will be granted in recognition of improvement in functional living skills such as dressing, personal hygiene, meal preparation, or demonstration of increased independence.
- d) Motor Development and Communication Skills
Two students in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador at the senior, junior/middle, and elementary school levels will be eligible to receive an award of \$100 (senior), \$75 (junior), or \$50 (elementary). This award will be granted in recognition of significant improvement in the area of motor development and communication skills as outlined in the student's school education plan.

e) Prevocational Training Award

Two students in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick-A, New Brunswick-F, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador will be eligible to receive an award of \$100 (senior) and \$75 (junior) for participation and demonstrated success in the development of prevocational work skills. Students at the junior and senior high levels are eligible for this award.

12. **Mary Bertha Campbell Braille Book Award**

Each year children and youth who use braille and who reside in the Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island) will be given a braille book of their choice. Itinerant Teachers may submit the Mary Bertha Campbell Braille Book Award Order Form to the Director by January 15th. Every effort will be made to have the book available for distribution by the end of the school year.

13. **Judi Johnson Math Award**

This award was established in 2009 in memory of Judi Johnson, Teacher and Administrator, who served students who were blind or visually impaired. This award was set up by Judi's many friends and colleagues at APSEA. To qualify for this award, the student must have demonstrated a significant improvement in math skills. Awards will be made annually as follows: 1 award of \$50 at the elementary level (P-6), 1 award of \$50 at the junior high level (grades 7-9), and 1 award of \$200 at the senior high level (grades 10-12).