



Clubs Garçons et Filles du Canada
Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

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Fourteen Boys and Girls Club Youth from Ontario to Receive Major Post-secondary Scholarship

Youth are among 55 "Future Leaders" Scholarship Winners from Across Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (August 7, 2003) – Fourteen Boys and Girls Club members from Ontario will be able to attend college or university this fall, thanks to Future Shop's "Future Leaders" Scholarship program. These scholarship winners were among 55 deserving youth chosen from across Canada to receive the scholarship, which will assist them with paying for tuition and school expenses for the coming school year.

"Winning this scholarship means the world to me," said 2003 scholarship recipient, Natasha Bogle of the St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club in Toronto. "It's the difference between going to school or not. Without this (scholarship) I would not be in college. I am very happy, proud and thankful for this."

"The steadily rising cost of college and university tuition fees has made a post-secondary education unreachable for many Canadian youth," stated Pam Jolliffe, National Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "In Ontario, the double cohort of high school graduates entering post-secondary this year, is making enrollment at colleges and universities even more competitive, and many kids are being forced to enroll in more expensive private colleges so they are not left behind."

According to a report by the Canadian Council on Social Development, *The Progress of Canada's Children 2002*, the average general arts undergraduate tuition fee in Canada increased by 69.4 per cent in the last decade. In Ontario, fees have increased by 123 per cent. Tuition fees in Ontario are the second highest in Canada after Nova Scotia.

"Many of the youth our clubs serve face significant financial challenges," said Jolliffe. "The Future Leaders scholarship program, now in its third year, provides an excellent opportunity for these 55 bright young people to gain access to the resources they need today to further their education, so that they can become leaders in their communities tomorrow."

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Each award includes a \$2,000 scholarship to the post-secondary institution of the youth's choice for the September 2003 term and \$1,000 worth of Future Shop merchandise to assist them with their studies. The scholarship program recognizes youth, who have distinguished themselves through exceptional dedication to their local Boys and Girls Club and their community. Financial need is also a consideration when selecting recipients.

Scholarship presentations will take place on Saturday, August 16 at Future Shop stores in communities across the country where local store managers will congratulate each scholarship recipient personally and present them with their gift card.

The Future Leaders Class of 2003 from Ontario are:

Nancy Abdallah, Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa
Shane Almeida, St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
Rahel Appiagyei, St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
Taiwo Bah, Eastview Neighbourhood (Toronto) Boys and Girls Club
April Belliveau, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
Natasha Bogle, St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
Cortell Downey, St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
Danielle Gorman, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
Lisa Green, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
Adam Joiner, Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa
Chuku Nwachuku, Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa
Jennifer Rockwood, Boys and Girls Club of London
Kerwyn Smith, Braeburn Boys and Girls Club
Latoya Webley, East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is one of the country's leading national youth organizations. Established over a century ago, the organization's national network of community-based clubs help young people reach their full potential, by providing them with quality recreational, educational and social programs that foster self-esteem, build skills and develop character. Clubs currently offer services to more than 140,000 children and youth nationwide. Please visit www.bgccan.com for more details.