

Abstract

This study identified scholarships available to young adult cancer survivors who are either starting post secondary or are continuing their education at a post secondary institution in Alberta. Websites for six universities in Alberta were explored along with the Kids with Cancer Society's site for potential resources. Results revealed seven cancer-survivor based scholarships as well as another eighteen potentially applicable scholarships based on disability, GPA, financial need, community involvement or a combination of these factors.

Introduction

According to Castellano, Eiroa-Orosa, Perez-Campdepadros, Capdevila, Sanchez de Toledo, and Blasco-Blasco (2015) cancer is challenging in regard to financial difficulties, physical difficulties, as well as mental health including significant distress. Zebrack et al. (2014) also found that young adult survivors reported financial problems due to cancer, and that health insurance was inadequate. The diagnosis of cancer often involves missing work. Limited financial resources may be problematic for individuals who were planning to pursue post secondary education. If their resources are drained by taking time off from work, and through funding treatment, these individuals may not be able to afford post-secondary education. These young adults need assistance in navigating their career and educational trajectories (Yanez et al., 2013). This study seeks to identify financial aids in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and awards that might assist young adults in their educational pursuits post-cancer.

Methods

To locate financial aid a search was conducted using the key terms "cancer scholarships", "cancer bursaries" and "Canada." To locate university financial aid, a second search was conducted using the key terms "Universities in Alberta." Six Universities were located and reviewed extensively for relevant information regarding financial aid. Universities with limited information online were contacted via email. A content analysis on the existing information was conducted in order to determine eligibility criteria, availability of awards, and the value of awards. Inclusion criteria involved financial aid based on disabilities, and/or GPA or community involvement. Financial aid based solely on participation in recreational activities/groups was excluded from the analysis.

Results



MacEwan University	Availability	Value	Eligibility
Alberta Blue Cross	1	\$1,250	- Registered in any full time MacEwan University program of two or more years, who, because of a physical or other disability, must incur additional expenses to attend MacEwan University - First year student
Silver Cross Ability Achievement	1	\$1,500	- Use mobility equipment - Enrolled at a recognized American or Canadian college or university in a three or four-year undergraduate program.
Harvard Broadcasting Inc. Entrance Awards	Varies	\$500-\$1,500	- Applicant for one of the following programs: Music diploma or degree, Journalism major in the Bachelor of Communications degree program - Preference given to Aboriginals, women, visible minorities and persons with disabilities
Marjorie Benz Leadership Award	2	\$950	- Enrolled in a for-credit program in the Faculty of Health & Community Studies - Good academic standing - Community leadership and volunteerism - Preference given to students who have overcome adversity to continue their education at MacEwan
NEADS equity through education	Varies	Up to \$5,000	- Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada - Permanent disability - Registered in a full-time program of study at an accredited Canadian post-secondary college or university



Kids with Cancer	Availability	Value	Eligibility
TEVA Canada Survivor Scholarships	10	\$5,000	- Entering or enrolled in pharmacy, medicine, or health sciences post-graduate programs. - Diagnosed at 18 years or younger
Childhood Cancer Canada Survivor scholarships	Varies, ~171	\$1,500	- Entering or enrolled in any university, college, or vocational training program - Diagnosed at 18 years or younger
Typically Canadian OPFFA Scholarship	Varies, ~2-4	Varies on amount raised	- Diagnosed before 19 - Canadian citizen/Permanent resident
Emmy Duff Scholarship	10 (subject to change)	\$1,500	- Diagnosed before 19 - Canadian citizen/Permanent resident - Any year of studies - Volunteer commitment - Undergone treatment or currently being treated
Google Lime Scholarship	Varies	\$5,000	- Visible or invisible disability - Currently enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student - Strong academic performance - Degree in computer science, computer engineering, or closely related field - Passion for computer science and technology
Brain Tumour Education Award	5 (subject to change)	\$5,000	- Survivor of a pediatric brain tumour - Diagnosed before 25 - Between 16-30 - Enrolled full time, and meet institutions' requirements as a student with a disability
CN Diversity Scholarship	>12	\$3,000	- Enrolled in a technical, undergraduate or graduate degree in the fields of engineering, transportation, sales and marketing, human resources, aboriginal studies & law, accounting and finance - Best in class - Interested in summer internship at CN



Mount Royal University	Availability	Value	Eligibility
Alan Dymont Bursary	1	Varies	- Physical disability - Financial need
Alberta Blue Cross 50th Anniversary Bursary for Students with Special Needs	1	Varies	- Full-time student who will be enrolled in the second year of any program - Diagnosed learning or physical disability - Financial need
Hans Peder Madsen Memorial Scholarship	Varies	Varies	- Full-time student who will be enrolled in the second year of any program - Physical disability - Academic achievement - Financial need



Athabasca University	Availability	Value	Eligibility
Access Funds for Students with Disabilities	Varies	Up to \$1,500	- Identified learning, physical, or mental disability - Participating in undergraduate or graduate coursework at Athabasca University
Access to Students with Disabilities Technology and Support Service Bursary	Varies	\$4,000	- Current Athabasca University undergraduate or graduate student registered with Disabilities Office - Identified learning, physical, or mental disability - Demonstration of financial need



University of Lethbridge	Availability	Value	Eligibility
Gerald Trechka Memorial Scholarship	1	\$1,000	- Academic achievement - Preference will be given to students with a physical disability
Art Batty Scholarship	1	\$1,000	- Entering students admitted to the Faculty of Management undergraduate degree program - Preference for students with documented disability - Academic proficiency



University of Alberta	Availability	Value	Eligibility
The Leo LeClerc Memorial Scholarship	1 (subject to change)	\$1,000	- Superior academic achievement enrolled in any year of an undergraduate or graduate degree - Preference given to a student with a permanent disability or medical condition
Robert Tegler Special Award	3 (subject to change)	\$1,300	- Satisfactory academic standing with a physical disability - Entering the U of A from high school or continuing in an undergraduate degree program
Hilda Wilson Memorial Scholarship	1 (subject to change)	\$250	- Superior academic achievement - Undergraduate or graduate student with a disability
Dr Henry R Ziel Memorial Award	1 (subject to change)	\$1,700.00	- Satisfactory academic standing - Physical disability and uses a wheelchair permanently



Concordia University	Availability	Value	Eligibility
Chris Benedict Award	1	\$500	- Demonstrated perseverance in the face of adversity - Inspires others to succeed, and positive outlook - Part-time or full time student with a minimum 2.0 GPA
Mattinson Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities	1 nomination	\$2,000	- Canadian citizen/Permanent resident - Must be diagnosed with a documented permanent disability - Minimum average of 80% over last three semesters

References

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