

## *The Don McBain Memorial Award - Description*

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Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is proud to announce another year of the Don McBain Memorial Award. In honour of the late founder and Executive Director of OAHS, this award is given to an individual on their journey to post-secondary education.

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services is a leader in the design, development, and delivery of a sustainable and culturally appropriate continuum of housing for Indigenous people in Ontario with the vision that Urban and rural Indigenous communities throughout Ontario have culturally safe and affordable housing. In addition to providing housing services, OAHS supports the communities and people we serve in a variety of other honourable and charitable ways.

This award is comprised of **three (3) \$5,000 rewards that will be distributed annually to three (3) Indigenous students from Ontario pursuing their first year of post-secondary studies.**

Don was the driving force behind the establishment of OAHS which was incorporated in 1994 and had a positive impact on the lives of everyone he encountered. Don worked tirelessly for decades carrying out OAHS's mission and vision. During his tenure, OAHS grew from a developing agent into a multi-faceted Corporation employing over 80 people, owning and administering a portfolio of over 2,300 safe and affordable housing units, and designing and delivering both repair and homeownership program opportunities.

We want to continue honouring Don's legacy through the Don McBain Memorial Award and inspiring the future leaders of our province with this fund.

### **Award terms and conditions**

#### Award amount

The amount of **\$5,000** will be awarded to **three** Indigenous students exclusively for their first year of post-secondary studies. This award will not be renewed the following year for those recipients. New students will receive the award each year.

#### Eligible uses

Eligible uses for the award funds include: tuition, books, technology, housing, transportation, and living expenses during the first year of post-secondary education.



**Ontario  
Aboriginal  
Housing Services**

Provincial Office  
500 Bay Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
P6A 1X5  
Tel: 705-256-1876  
TF: 1-866-391-1061



### Eligibility criteria

You are eligible for the award if you meet all the following criteria:

- You self-identify as an Indigenous student (no status required)
- You are enrolled in a program at a college, university, Indigenous post-secondary institution, or private trade school recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities

To see if your school is recognized, visit the Province's website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario#section-1>

- You have a full-time course load for the 2025-2026 school year
- You meet financial need requirements (See form attached)

### Application evaluation criteria

Your application will be reviewed by a committee that includes representatives of Indigenous non-profit housing providers in Ontario and members of the McBain family. When they review your application, they will score you based on:

- Demonstrated financial need
- Effort put into answering the application essay
- Two letters of recommendation

**Application Essay** - Please answer the following question in less than 1000 words in essay format:

*"This award is founded on the memory of Don McBain who brought people together to better the lives of others. He was a true leader, working within Indigenous communities to tackle one of our country's biggest social issues--the lack of safe, sustainable, and affordable housing. His legacy lives on with the successful and continuing growth of housing projects across Ontario.*

*In your essay, describe a significant goal you have for the future to address a social issue, how it aligns with your education, what your role as a leader would be, and the steps you would take to achieve it, even if it seems daunting."*

If submitting online, the essay must be a PDF document.



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@OAHSSC

**Letter of Recommendation:** In order for us to get to know you better, we want to know how others see you. Please provide two letters written and signed by the following individuals:

1. A teacher, coach, or guidance counsellor from your secondary school
2. Another member of the community you are close with (boss, Elder, family member, coach, etc.)

These letters should be no longer than a page and describe your character and why you should receive this award. For those who are applying online, please submit a PDF file of the letter, and for those submitting through mail, please provide the letters in envelopes signed by their respective writers.

### Submitting your application

Eligible applicants can submit a completed application form and all supporting documents through our website or by mail. All applications must be received by **4 p.m. on April 25, 2025**. Late submissions will not be considered.

To fill out your application on our website, visit

<https://www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca/programs/don-mcbain-memorial-award> and fill in the form.

All supporting documents can be uploaded through the form. Make sure all documents are in PDF files and are no more than 10MB each in size.

***\*When uploading all documentation to our website, please have your name in the title of each file\****

If you would like to mail your application, please enclose a printed form of the application, along with supporting documents to the following address:

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Attn: Don McBain Memorial Award

500 Bay Street

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

P6A 1X5

**You must submit the following supporting documents with your application form:**

1. Proof of education

Submit a copy of your letter of registration for the 2025-2026 (or equivalent) school year from your college, university, or private trade school. You must request this from your school's registrar's office.



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You may also submit a copy of your letter of acceptance to your chosen post-secondary institution.

2. Signed release of information form

Please print and sign this form and submit it along with your supporting documents.

3. Proof of financial need

Please print and sign this form and submit it along with your supporting documents.

4. Your personal essay

See application evaluation criteria for description.

5. Two letters of recommendation

For those who are applying online, please submit a PDF file of the letter, and for those submitting through mail, please provide the letters in envelopes signed by their respective writers.

Notification to applicants

OAHSS will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicants in June 2025 by email or mail. Successful applicants will be contacted first by telephone.

Acknowledgments

OAHSS will acknowledge scholarship recipients on the OAHSS website and our social media platforms. Please see attached release form to complete and sign.

Questions?

Visit <https://www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca/programs/don-mcbain-memorial-award> or email us at [DonMcBainMemorialAward@oahssc.ca](mailto:DonMcBainMemorialAward@oahssc.ca).



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