

## **2007-2008 Recipients of City of Toronto Scholarships at the University of Toronto**

<b>Date:</b>	January 14, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Manager
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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This report advises Council of the results of the scholarship application process for City of Toronto scholarships at the University of Toronto. Toronto City Council established a series of scholarships at the University of Toronto starting in 1985 with the undergraduate scholarship in Women's Studies. Two aboriginal health scholarships were established in 1989. In 1997, the graduate scholarship for Women in Mathematics and the graduate scholarship for Women's Studies were established.

The University of Toronto has advised that the following students have been selected as recipients of the City of Toronto's scholarships:

Priscilla Lezard: Graduate scholarship in Women's Studies  
Raha Bahreini: Undergraduate scholarship in Women's Studies,  
Karene Chu: Graduate scholarship for Women in Mathematics, and  
Daniel Charland and Alexandra Smith: Aboriginal Health Scholarships.

The City of Toronto's participation in various scholarship programs continues to advance the importance of higher education to the urban environment, and in particular the City's continued leadership role in achieving equality in the community.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications to the City as the endowment funds were transferred in 1997 by the City to the University of Toronto to give these awards in perpetuity. The agreement between the City and University also provides for award increases that may arise from interest earned on the endowment funds.

## **Equity Impact Statement**

The establishment of scholarships recognises the significant role which higher education plays in achieving equality of opportunity and by contributing to advancing studies in fields which address equity and human rights issues. The Aboriginal Health Scholarships provide support to students who, upon graduation, will be able to provide health services to an under-served community.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

Toronto City Council established a series of scholarships at the University of Toronto starting in 1985 with the undergraduate scholarship in Women's Studies. Two Aboriginal Health scholarships were established in 1989. In 1997, the graduate scholarship for Women in Mathematics and the graduate scholarship for Women's Studies were established.

In 1997, the City of Toronto established an endowment fund at the University of Toronto to give these awards in perpetuity. Through an Agreement between the University and the City, the Registrar's office of the University of Toronto co-ordinates the selection process in consultation with City staff in the Diversity Management and Community Engagement Unit, Strategic and Corporate Policy Division, City Manager's Office.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

### **(a) Women's Studies – Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships**

The undergraduate scholarship in women's studies was established: to commemorate the centenary of the admission of women students to the University; to recognise the significance higher education plays in the achievement of equality of opportunity; and to encourage students to continue on to the graduate level in women's studies.

In 1997, a Graduate Scholarship was established as a result of matching funds being provided by the Province of Ontario and the University.

### **(b) Graduate Scholarship for Women in Mathematics**

The graduate scholarship for Women in Mathematics was part of a series of commitments between the City and the University of Toronto and included: funding for the Faculty of Management, the reconstruction of St. George Street and coincided with the establishment of the Fields Institute for research in mathematics and the Centre for Human Genome Research and Molecular Medicine. During discussions of overall City support for the University of Toronto, it was agreed that the representation of women pursuing the study of mathematics at the graduate level could be increased with the establishment of scholarships.

(c) Aboriginal Health Scholarship

Two scholarships were established to respond to the acute shortage of Aboriginal Health Care Professionals. This shortage persists, a consequence of which is that Aboriginal persons continue to have limited access to health care services from professionals who are sensitive to their culture or speak their language. Students who are recipients of the Aboriginal Health Scholarships are expected to serve their communities.

## COMMENTS

The University of Toronto has advised that the following students have been selected as recipients of the City of Toronto Scholarships as listed below:

Priscilla Lezard: Graduate scholarship in Women's Studies  
Raha Bahreini: Undergraduate scholarship in Women's Studies,  
Karene Chu, Graduate scholarship for Women in Mathematics, and  
Daniel Charland and Alexandra Smith: Scholarships in Aboriginal Health.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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