

**AL MCLEOD**  
**(1933 – 1982)**

Al McLeod began his career at Consumers Gas in October 1955. His involvement with the Union movement began very soon after that date with his election to the position of Shop Steward for Local 161 of the International Chemical Workers Union. In 1971, he was successful in his bid to become Secretary-Treasurer of the Local.

In 1977, Al was instrumental in breaking away from the International Chemical Workers Union and forming the Independent Gas Workers Union at Consumers Gas. He became President of the I.G.W.U. Local 001 in 1979.

Al was very involved in another unification as the Independent Gas Workers Union merged with the Energy and Chemical Workers Union in 1982. In that same year, Local 001 went out on strike against Consumers Gas. Al died on November 10th, during the first week of that strike.

Al McLeod was always a champion of the underdog and lived by the rule that you should always treat people as well as you expect to be treated yourself. He dedicated much of his life to the Trade Union movement and to this end, these scholarships will help to further these beliefs.

## **SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY**

The scholarship was founded in memory of Al McLeod, former President of Local 001 of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union (now Unifor Local 975).

In October 1982, the members of Local 001 went on strike against their employer, Consumers Gas. Three days into the strike, Brother McLeod agreed to do a television news interview with a well-known news reporter. The interview did not go well. Although they provided him with prepared questions, they were not used. In fact, as soon as the camera was turned on, the reporter unexpectedly started into a bitter attack on Brother McLeod, accusing him of taking 700 people on strike for nothing, while there were people in the city without jobs.

When the interview was shown that evening on the news, not only did they show the reporter's verbal attack on Brother McLeod, they also edited his responses to make the interview sound worse.

Brother McLeod was terribly upset with the interview. It embarrassed him, not only on television, but in front of the company and his members, many of whom did not realize how he had been set up.

On the day after the interview, Brother McLeod addressed the Ontario Council delegates of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union, and explained the strike and asked for their support. A day later, Brother McLeod died of a massive heart attack as he was leaving home to meet with his strike committee.

Most people feel that it was the pressure of the strike and the vicious nature of the interview that caused the heart attack.

The "Al McLeod Fund" was set up in Brother McLeod's memory and in recognition of his dedication to the Union and his members. It has been awarded every year since.

## **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

The Al McLeod Scholarship Fund was established by the Ontario Council of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union to honour Brother McLeod in recognition of his achievements, not only on behalf of the membership of E.C.W.U., Local 001 (now Unifor Local 975), employed by Consumers Gas Company, but all gas workers across Ontario and the Trade Union Movement in general.

The Executive Board of the Ontario Council reviewed the need of establishing guidelines and rules to ensure the Scholarship Fund is an ongoing program of awards to support those ideals and social philosophies which Brother McLeod strived to achieve.

In keeping with the approach endorsed by the Executive Board, the scholarships are intended to be awarded to persons seeking higher levels of education to assume a career or advance the social fabric of Canada and working people.

It has recognized many career paths such as law, medicine, labour relations, etc., can be undertaken and used for both the advancement of the working people and the retardation of social progress for workers. For this reason, the scholarships will be awarded based on information received from the applicants and the general guidelines adopted by the Ontario Council.

The guidelines must, however, be of a nature to assist the Scholarship Committee and not hinder their intended purpose of assessing the merit of any application received. With this intention in mind, the guidelines as follows will be used to promote the Scholarship Fund and ensure Brother McLeod's actions will be remembered by future generations of Unifor members and Unifor Local 975.

# AL MCLEOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2024)



## ELIGIBILITY

- A. Applications for scholarships may be made by any current member, or member of the immediate family of a current member, or a member of the immediate family whose deceased spouse was a member of Unifor 975 at the time of death. Students must be entering their first year of full-time post-secondary education in a public Canadian Institution. One scholarship is available to a Unifor Local 975 member with at least 1 year seniority.
- B. Scholarship applications will be awarded with academic merit being the paramount criteria. However, other factors must also be considered if the scholarships are to serve the original intent. The Awards Committee will, therefore assess the applications received, and award the scholarships based on a formula of:
- 50% Essay accompanying the application (on the Union Movement)
  - 40% Academic achievement
  - 10% Extracurricular activities
- ESSAY GUIDELINES:**
- Should not exceed 500 words.
  - Should be typewritten for clarity.
  - Should include a brief history of the Union Movement:
    - origins and structure
    - community involvement
    - benefit to the member's family
    - political involvement
    - betterment of you and your family personally, etc.
- E. The scholarship will be an annual award to undertake full time postsecondary school education in any Canadian institute. The studies being undertaken will not be strictly limited but must be of a nature that will assist the applicant in obtaining the general goals of the Scholarship Fund.
- F. The scholarships will be in the amount of \$500 with the number of scholarships only restricted by the income derived by the investment of the capital. Under no circumstances will the capital be utilized as award funds.
- G. The Scholarship Awards Committee shall be composed of the Executive Officers of Unifor Local 975 Executive Board.

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## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: APRIL 1, 2025

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**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE ATTENTION OF "AL MCLEOD SCHOLARSHIP" TO:**

Unifor Local 975  
1585 Markham Rd, Suite 313  
Scarborough, ON M1B 2W1  
or  
EMAIL: [uniforlocal975@unifor975.org](mailto:uniforlocal975@unifor975.org)

**ANDREW STEENSON**  
Vice President

**DOUG CARTER**  
President

**PETER PIRILLO**  
Treasurer

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**APPLICANT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNION MEMBER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDARY SCHOOL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

COURSES COMPLETED:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION:**

1. Copy of Academic Merit
2. Proof of Enrollment or Acceptance to Post Secondary Institute in 2024
3. Copy of Extra-Curricular Activities
4. A typewritten essay on "The Union Movement"

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local 975 Executive Board Officer Signature & Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

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