Since 1988/1989 the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has sponsored the Heroes of Our Time scholarships to recognize the hard work, dedication and academic achievements of First Nations post-secondary students who demonstrate excellence in a variety of categories. The scholarships are divided into eight categories that represent eight First Nations heroes and academic disciplines, each with a value of $2,000. The scholarships are made possible through the sponsorship of the RBC Foundation.

The Heroes of Our Time scholarships provide an excellent opportunity for the AFN to acknowledge and celebrate the success of First Nations students in achieving their educational goals. It gives us great satisfaction to know that we are helping those who hold the future of First Nations in their hands.

The deadline for submitting applications to the Heroes of Our Time scholarship will be March 1, 2015. Applications must include a completed application form, 1,500 word essay, official transcript, two (2) reference letters, and proof of First Nations ancestry.

The essay should outline why you should receive the Heroes of Our Time scholarship. Be sure to include reasons why you chose your field of study, various accomplishments, future career plans, interests, volunteer and community work with any First Nations community or organization.

It is strongly encouraged that the letters of reference are included in your application package to ensure they arrive on time. Please include names and contact information for your two references as well.

Applicants are only eligible for one category. Applications with more than one category selected will be considered ineligible.

Only official transcripts will be accepted. No photocopies or faxed copies. All application packages can be sent to:

HOOT Scholarship Awards Selection Committee
Assembly of First Nations
55 Metcalfe St., Suite 1600
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5

OR they can be faxed to (613) 241-5808. Official transcripts must still be mailed.
Jake Fire Award
CRIMINOLOGY

Jake Fire was a Mohawk and strong defender of the Iroquois Confederacy. Like his ancestors, he was a citizen of a society which practiced a sophisticated order of government long before the arrival of Europeans. On May 1, 1899, he was assassinated by the Canadian Dominion Police while attempting to protect his brother, Grand Chief Jacob Fire, from arrest during a police led ambush. Alerted by his sister in the early hours of the morning, Jake rushed to the Council Hall, where his brother the Grand Chief and several other men from the reserve lay in handcuffs on the floor surrounded by police. As he came through the door, a police officer shot twice at point blank range. The second bullet was fatal.

The Jake Fire memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Criminology, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Tommy Prince Award
NATIVE STUDIES

Sgt. Tommy Prince, from the Brokenhead First Nation in Scanterbury, Manitoba, received the highest military decoration for bravery - the Silver Star. An excellent marksman, Tommy was an army spotter in World War II and brought down heavy artillery fire on the enemy at the risk of his own life. He served in the elite “Devil’s Brigade” for the duration of the war, then reenlisted in the Korean War years later. Tommy continued in the tradition of his grandfather, Peguis, the famous Saulteaux Chief.

The Tommy Prince memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Native Studies, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Walter Dieter Award
SOCIAL WORK

Walter Dieter was one of the founders of the National Indian Brotherhood which was formed at the national level to combat assimilation of First Nations peoples. Born on the Peepeekisis First Nation, Walter became involved in first Nations politics in 1958 when he laid the foundation for the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In 1966, he helped establish the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and became its first leader.

The Walter Dieter memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Social Work, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Omer Peters Award
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Omer Peters was described as a “people person.” He always expressed his undying faith in the First Nations people across the country. Born in Moravian on the Thames, Ontario, he worked for seventeen years at the community level and dreamed of the time when First Nations people across Canada would be united in solidarity. Beginning at the provincial level, he was a founding member of the Union of Ontario Indians and served as its President and then Executive Director. With experience gained at the provincial level, Omer moved to the national scene and helped establish the National Indian Brotherhood. He became Vice-President and later Chairman of the Council of Elders.

The Omer Peters memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Political Science, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Robert Smallboy Award
MEDICINE

Chief Robert Smallboy was from the Cree Nation Ermineskin Band of Alberta. He served as Chief for many years. In 1967, determined to remove his people from the devastation of the encroaching western world, Chief Smallboy moved the band into a wilderness area just east of the Rocky Mountains. There, he set up a survival camp where his people could live according to the traditional ways and engage in a healing process. Despite great opposition from Canada and the Alberta government, Chief Smallboy stood strong in his belief that his people had a right to live their traditional way and on their traditional lands. He was 82 years old when he appeared as a witness before the Crown in defense of the Ermineskin people’s rights to their lands and way of life.

The Robert Smallboy memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Medicine, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.
James Gosnell Award

Law

James Gosnell, “the father of Aboriginal title”, was a hereditary Chief of the Eagle Clan of the Nisga’a in British Columbia. A commercial fisherman since boyhood, James decided to enter the political field to secure the recognition of Aboriginal title and rights of the Nisga’a people. With the support of the Council, James pursued the Nisga’a land claim to the Supreme Court of Canada. James was a fearless advocate of Aboriginal title and rights and displayed his oratory talents to the fullest during the First Minister’s Conference on Aboriginal Matters from 1983-1987.

The James Gosnell memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Law, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

John Young Award

Science

John Young was a Chief of The Pas First Nation, an Elder from Swampy Cree Tribal Council, a senator for First Nations and a positive role model for all Aboriginal people. John believed that one of the keys to First Nations success, prosperity and sovereignty is through education. John always encouraged and supported First Nations people to attain the highest levels of education and use the acquired knowledge and skills to enhance the lives of all Aboriginal people. He envisioned the day when Canada would be enriched by First Nations lawyers, doctors, law makers, educators, corporate executives, political scientists and social scientists.

The John Young memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Science, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Doctor Freda Ahenakew Award

Education

Freda Ahenakew was born on the Ahtahkakoop First Nation. She received her early education at the Day School in Ahtahkakoop and later at the Prince Albert Collegiate Institute. She convocated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Education in 1979 and from the University of Manitoba with a Masters of Arts in 1984. In 1997, the University of Saskatchewan awarded Freda with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. In 1999, the Governor General of Canada awarded Freda with the Order of Canada. She has been honoured with numerous other awards as well.

She has taught at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, the Lac LaRonge Band and Saskatoon Native Survival. From 1983-85 she was Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan and then became the Director of the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Institute from 1985-89. From 1989 to 1996, Freda was an Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba and became Head of the Department of Native Studies from 1990-95. She is recognized as one of the most distinguished aboriginal scholars in Canada and a world-class linguist. Her publications have now reached an incredible twenty-nine books as well as numerous technical papers and journal articles.

The Dr. Freda Ahenakew memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of Education, has demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

Elijah Harper Award

Commerce

Elijah Harper, who became a symbol of power for Canadian aboriginals, was a politician and aboriginal leader for much of his life, and was best-known for his role in blocking the Meech Lake constitutional accord in 1990.

Harper was born in Red Sucker Lake, a reserve in northern Manitoba. He attended residential schools in Norway House, Brandon and Birtle, Manitoba, then secondary school at Garden Hill and Winnipeg. He studied at the University of Manitoba in 1971 and 1972, and later worked as a community development worker, a supervisor for the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, and a program analyst for the Manitoba Department of Northern Affairs.

He was awarded the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1996, and the Order of Merit from St. Paul’s University in May 1998 (Canadian Institute of Conflict Resolution). Other awards include the Order of the Sash from the Manitoba Métis Federation, and the Gold Eagle Award, an outstanding citizen recognition from the Indigenous Women’s Collective in Manitoba. In the autumn of 1994 he had a mysterious illness doctors and native healers could not explain. On May 17, 2013, he died of heart failure due to complications from diabetes in Ottawa.

The Elijah Harper memorial award is provided to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of commerce/business, has demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities by championing the principles of consultation and collaboration, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.
1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: ____________________________________________  First Name: ____________________________________________

Male _____ Female ______

Current Address: ____________________________________________  Permanent Address: _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: (a) ____________________________  (b) ____________________________

Fax: ____________________________________________  Email ____________________________________________

Aboriginal Ancestry: _____ Status First Nations (Band Affiliation)  _____ Non Status (Ancestry)

Must provide proof of First Nations Status or Non-Status First Nations ancestry – a clear photocopy of your Band/Treaty card or Non-Status First Nation students with First Nations ancestry must send a photocopy of the band card issued to parents or grandparents and a long-form birth certificate or baptism certificate clearly showing the relationship to the person named on the band card.

2. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Enrolled in (please circle):  College/CEGEP  University  Other: ____________________________

Name of Institution: ____________________________  Location: ____________________________

Province: ____________________________  Area of study: ____________________________

Major/ Faculty: ____________________________  Year of study: ____________________________

(i.e., 2 of 3 yrs)

ELIGIBILITY:

Students are eligible to apply for the Heroes of Our Time scholarships if you are:

• A resident of Canada who is either a Status First Nation student or Non Status First Nation student with First Nations ancestry;
• A currently enrolled and returning full-time student in undergraduate or graduate programs that are a minimum of two academic years at an accredited Canadian university or technical college;
• The applicant has completed at least one year of post secondary studies in a field that coincides with ONE of the scholarships.

3. REQUIRED INFORMATION

Essay: Please write an essay, maximum of 1,500 words, highlighting why you should receive a Heroes of Our Time scholarship. Include reasons why you have chosen this field of study, your accomplishments, future career plans, interests, volunteer work and community work in/or with a First Nations community or organization.
Identify the Award (ONE only) you are applying for:

_____ Jake Fire Award – Criminology
_____ Tommy Prince Award – Native Studies
_____ Walter Dieter Award – Social Work
_____ Omer Peters Award – Political Science
_____ Robert Smallboy Award – Medicine

_____ James Gosnell Award – Law
_____ John Young Award – Science
_____ Dr. Freda Ahenakew Award – Education
_____ Elijah Harper Award – Commerce

Official Transcript: Please provide an official transcript (no photocopies) of your marks from the current year. This should be included with your application package to ensure that it arrives on time.

References: Two letters of reference are required. Please provide the names and contact information of those that will be submitting references on your behalf. It is strongly encouraged that the letters of reference are included in your application package to ensure that they arrive on time.

Reference #1 - Name & Mailing Address
Reference #2 - Name & Mailing Address

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The Selection Committee is comprised of representatives of the Assembly of First Nations and a representative of the RBC. The Selection Committee decision is final; there is no appeal.

The Selection Committee recognizes academic goals and achievements, career plans, contributions to one’s community and financial need. Special consideration is provided to those students who demonstrate their interest and respect for others by volunteering within their community/academic institution/field of study, and provide leadership qualities.

Eligible applicants must fulfill all application requirements. Failure to submit all required documents by the deadline will disqualify the applicant.

Applications can be forwarded via mail or fax, and must be received by the deadline. The deadline for submitting applications is March 1, 2015 to Heroes of Our Time Awards, Attn. Selection Committee, 55 Metcalfe St, Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5. Only successful candidates will be notified by telephone.

CHECKLIST: Only applications received by the deadline and containing all of the following will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.

______ Completed application form ______ Essay ______ Official Transcript ______ 2 Reference Letters

I have read and understand the requirements for applying for the Heroes of Our Time Awards. I understand that the decision of the Selection Committee is final and there is no appeal process for applicants. I agree to allow the Assembly of First Nations to verify the information provided in my application.

Applicant’s Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

Date received by AFN: ___________________________ Signature: _____________________________

Complete application by March 1st deadline: YES_________ NO ______