



R.R. Smith Bursaries in Education Established since 2006

Information sent out to members by Peter Minshull then President of R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation at that time.

Retired teachers have a long history of providing scholarships for students. It is fitting therefore that the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, an organization to which BCRTA members belong, has been designated by Justice Brenda Brown, as the charity responsible for seeing that \$150,000 from the BCTF fine goes to helping deserving BC students attend post-secondary educational institutions. The first goal listed in the Foundation's constitution is "to provide scholarships and bursaries to doctoral students in any area, which advances public education, and deserving students, to enable them to attend post-secondary educational institutions".

The R.R. Smith Board of Directors is pleased to announce that The RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation has established an endowment at each of the public universities in British Columbia that grant degrees in education. These institutions are: The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, The University of Victoria, Thompson Rivers University, Vancouver Island University, and The University of Northern British Columbia.

Each of these universities will use the endowment to create at least one RR Smith Bursary in Education for students enrolled in an Education Degree program or a professional teacher-training program. From now on, these universities will award R.R. Smith Bursaries in Education annually. To qualify students must be enrolled in an Education program, demonstrate financial need, and have an academic record indicating that they are likely to succeed in the program. Students who qualify may apply through the university they are attending.

The \$150,000 used to establish these bursaries came from a donation that the BCTF made to the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation. This donation was one of three charitable donations made by the BCTF instead of paying a fine to the court as a result of the teachers' strike. The directors of the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation have worked carefully to comply with the agreements made in court when this donation was agreed to instead of a fine.

Each year R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation receives reports from the universities.

