



## **McEWEN FAMILY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

During the 1960s and 1970s, Jim, Joan, and Jill McEwen each received an excellent education at David Thompson (DT) during challenging circumstances and persevered to achieve rewarding careers in engineering, law, and medicine thanks to outstanding teachers and parental encouragement. The McEwen family is grateful for the enriched education received within our public school system that led to happy, fulfilling lives and opportunities to help others. Jim McEwen used his PhD in biomedical engineering to create innovative new medical technologies that improve the quality of life for several thousand patients everyday around the world and led to many awards including two honorary doctorates, and appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The McEwen Family Awards and Scholarships were established to express the family's gratitude by providing recognition to students who excel academically in the face of personal or family adversities, demonstrate the imagination and stamina needed to successfully innovate, and/or demonstrate compassion by helping to improve the quality of life of others throughout their education. This financial assistance is provided to help give others similar opportunities. As circumstances permit, recipients of these awards are asked to consider establishing similar awards in the future.

Graduating DT students are invited to apply for the following awards:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Number Available</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Dr. Jim McEwen Innovation Award</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$6 250</b>
<b>McEwen Family Scholarship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$6 250</b>
<b>Principal's Award</b> , sponsored by the McEwen Family	<b>1</b>	<b>\$6 250</b>
<b>Mak Ikuta Award</b> , sponsored by the McEwen Family	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1 875</b>
<b>Opportunity Award (Potential for Future Achievement)</b> , sponsored by the McEwen Family	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1 875</b>
<b>McEwen Family Awards</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$1 250</b>

### **GENERAL CRITERIA**

All scholarship applicants must be eligible for admission into an accredited post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate program, preferably in a field through which they will apply creative thinking skills to become the problem solvers, innovators, and leaders of tomorrow.

Applicants must be:

- focused on achieving their potential through academic and creative pursuits;
- enthusiastic about learning and intellectual exploration; and
- actively engaged in activities to improve the lives of others, within their school or in the outside community.

Applicants should demonstrate one or more of the following:

- excelled academically, especially in the face of personal, family or financial adversities;
- shown the imagination to innovate and the stamina to succeed in their innovations; and
- helped to improve the quality of life of others throughout their education.

These scholarships encourage students to be critical, creative, and compassionate thinkers, and provide financial support for the first step in a lifetime of learning.

## APPLICATION

Each applicant is only eligible for one McEwen award, so you should apply for only one or two awards with criteria that are most pertinent to your specific situation. If your application better reflects the criteria of another McEwen award, then you may receive a more suitable award.

Applicants must submit a personal statement that explains how their personal experiences and achievements reflect the specific criteria of the award. Each applicant should submit only *one* personal statement. All submitted information will be held in confidence. Please include information that would be significant to your application such as:

- To supplement the financial information provided on the DT Scholarship Application, is there any further confidential information that reflects your financial need, especially if that need may make it difficult or impossible for you to pursue post-secondary education at this time?
- Are you the first in your immediate family to plan to go to university, college, or other post-secondary institution? What is motivating you to do so?

You are encouraged to ask a trustworthy individual to carefully proofread your personal statement such as a teacher, relative, or mentor.

Please include the name of a teacher, administrator, staff member, or community mentor who is most familiar with the supplementary information provided in your personal statement. A letter of recommendation may be submitted by your reference to support your application. Please ensure that your reference can write a meaningful letter with specific examples that describe your abilities and potential – see suggestions and examples at <http://mitadmissions.org/apply/prepare/writingrecs>.

Some applicants may be contacted to obtain further information. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chan in room 319 or [pgchan@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:pgchan@vsb.bc.ca).

**Submit your application (in a pdf or .docx file) to [pgchan@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:pgchan@vsb.bc.ca), and 2 paper hardcopies (in a sealed envelope, labelled with your first and last name, and student number) to Mr. Chan in room 319, by February 28, 11:59pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**If circumstances permit, it is hoped that the recipient of the McEwen Family Awards might assist future students similarly in the future.**

**DESCRIPTION FOR EACH AWARD: Read thoroughly before completing your application.**

**Dr. Jim McEwen Innovation Award**

**\$6 250**

This award is given to a DT student who has exhibited an exceptionally innovative accomplishment, talent, skill, or ability, well beyond any expectations and requirements of courses taken by the student. The emphasis is on innovation related to science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) that may have a foreseeable benefit to others. In extraordinary circumstances, this award may extend to exceptional creativity demonstrated in the arts.

In your personal statement, please address some or all of the following criteria questions pertinent to your specific situation:

- What have you accomplished that is exceptionally innovative in an area of engineering, science, applied science, or technology beyond what was required for your courses?
- How could you see your innovation eventually being of benefit to others?
- How was it innovative? What motivated you? What did you learn?
- Is there a teacher or mentor outside the school, who is most familiar with your innovation?

**McEwen Family Scholarship**

**\$6 250**

The successful applicant:

- demonstrates financial need for post-secondary education;
- has achieved an average of 80% in Term 1 and Term 2 in courses taken at DT during the regular school year (with the exception of Community Service, Work Experience, and Career Prep);
- has clearly demonstrated genuine compassion by working to improve the quality of life of others within the school or the outside community through appropriate self-initiated activities or in volunteer/leadership capacities;
- is planning to enroll in at least 80% or more of a full course load (usually 4 out of 5 courses per semester or its equivalence) leading to a degree at an accredited college or university in an undergraduate program of your choice;
- is a Canadian citizen, has Permanent Residence status in Canada, or is a Landed Immigrant;
- submits a reference letter from an individual familiar with the volunteer contributions – please ensure that this individual can provide meaningful feedback that supports the descriptions in your personal statement.

In your personal statement, please address some or all of the following criteria questions pertinent to your specific situation:

- Explain how your financial situation is a serious handicap for enrolling in post-secondary education.
- Describe your post-secondary education goals
- Provide a brief summary of your achievements, self-initiated pursuits, and volunteer activities, and how they contributed to improving the quality of life of others. Include a short reflection on how these achievements and activities have personally impacted you, i.e. describe how meaningful the work is to you, what you have learned from your involvement, and why you chose to contribute to these volunteer activities.

Distribution of award:

- To receive the first disbursement (\$3125), you must be enrolled in a minimum of four full-time courses at an accredited college or university (verification required).
- To be eligible for the second installment (\$3125) in a subsequent semester, you must remain enrolled in a minimum of four full-time courses and achieve a GPA of 2.5 in the previous semester. A transcript of marks will be requested.
- The award must be claimed in two of the following three terms after graduation from high school.

**Principal's Award**, sponsored by the McEwen Family

**\$6 250**

This special award is not based on scholastic standing, but rather is intended to be awarded to the student who has:

- demonstrated the greatest improvement at DT;
- overcome significant personal obstacles in graduating; and/or
- achieved something remarkable inside or outside the school that is richly deserving of recognition, and that might not otherwise be recognized.

In your personal statement, please address some or all of the following criteria questions pertinent to your specific situation:

- Have you achieved something remarkable at school or outside the school, in face of significant obstacles or problems, that is deserving of recognition and yet that may not be known within the school?
- Have you had to deal with a significant problem or obstacle in your personal life, health or family situation that may have affected your performance in school?
- What success have you had in overcoming any obstacles or problems, leading to your graduation?

**Mak Ikuta Award**, sponsored by the McEwen Family

**\$1 875**

This is given to a student who has:

- demonstrated academic achievement;
- overcome difficulties that might have prevented those achievements; and
- demonstrated outstanding personal initiative in some exemplary way, such as:
  - helping others realize their potential, within or beyond the school, or
  - pursuing one or more challenging opportunities to create or support an event or program that helped solve a problem within the school or community, or
  - excelling in some form of self-initiated academic enrichment – succeeding in an interschool provincial, national, or international competition such as a science fair, an especially challenging, self-selected combination of advanced placement courses, or other comparable achievement

This award is sponsored by the McEwen Family to honour Mak Ikuta, an outstanding teacher at DT who personified all that is best in the teaching profession. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, he did his best to help individual students discover and develop their talents, and overcome difficulties within and beyond the school. He inspired students to realize their individual potential and encouraged them to help others do the same. Mak Ikuta is fondly acknowledged by his former students to be one of their most influential teachers at a crucial time of their lives.

**Potential for Future Achievement Award**, sponsored by the McEwen Family

**\$1 875**

This award targets the student who is recognized by staff as having greater potential for future success than is evident in academic marks. The student may face challenges in the home, financial, emotional, and/or learning areas. Staff will have observed the student in one or more of the following areas:

- consistent hard work on assignments that may not translate into marks;
- passion and/or effort in a subject area;
- participation and effort in class work;
- involvement in the life of the school;
- marks improvement in some particular area of learning during the high school experience; and/or
- has knowledge of a particular challenge or challenges faced by the student

In your personal statement, please address some or all of the following criteria questions pertinent to your specific situation:

- Have you achieved something remarkable at school or outside the school, in the face of significant obstacles or problems, that is deserving of recognition and yet that may not be known within the school?
- Have you had to deal with a significant problem or obstacle in your personal life, health or family situation that may have affected your performance in school?
- What success have you had in overcoming any obstacles or problems, leading to your graduation?
- Have you demonstrated your compassion by finding opportunities to help others, while achieving your remarkable accomplishment or overcoming your specific challenges?

*Students who have difficulties with written expression may request to do an interview with a scholarship committee or prepare an interactive/multimedia presentation in lieu of a written personal statement.*

**McEwen Family Awards**

**7 awards at \$1 250 each**

These awards are provided to graduating students, based on a combination of:

- academic achievement;
- leadership and/or service;
- nature and level of contributions within the school and/or in the larger world aimed at improving the quality of life of others; and
- an evaluation by the Scholarship Committee of other factors based on the information provided in your personal statement.

In your personal statement, please address some or all of the following criteria questions pertinent to your specific situation:

- Regarding your involvement in school activities and in activities in your larger community, what do you consider to be your major accomplishments and how have they helped others?
- What motivated you to become involved? How long have you been involved?
- What have you learned, and how have you benefited from your involvement?

or

- Have you had to take on unusual responsibilities within your family while going to school that may have limited your ability to participate in school activities or to be involved with community activities and services? For example, have you had to spend time to help care for one or more family members or have you had to work part-time to help support yourself or your family? Please explain, being as specific as possible.