

2026 ATU Scholarship Opportunity

Ken Foster

Memorial Scholarship



APPLY BY
**March 31
2026**

2026 ATU Scholarship Awards

- Five scholarships — \$8,000 each
- One additional \$2,000 scholarship for a technical or vocational school applicant

Recipients are encouraged to pursue studies that strengthen union and community organizing and continue Foster's fight for fairness and justice.

This year's ATU scholarships pay tribute to Ken Foster, ATU Canada's first Director and a trailblazer for transit workers across the country.

Foster began as a Bus Operator with Local 1505 and rose to become the voice for members nationwide—advocating on legislation, education, health and safety, and labor rights. His leadership shaped the future of ATU members across Canada.

Ken Foster Memorial Scholarship

How to Apply

- 1 Create an account at **atu.communityforce.com** and complete the prequalification form (you'll receive an email if you're eligible to proceed).
- 2 Enter your personal and academic details and upload your official transcripts and recommendation letters.
- 3 Write a brief personal statement and respond thoughtfully to the essay questions.
- 4 Review and proofread your application, then submit it by **March 31, 2026**.
- 5 Save your confirmation and monitor your email/portal for updates.



Selection of Recipients

- An independent committee of community, academic, and labor leaders reviews all applications.
- ATU officers, members, and staff do not participate in the final selection.
- Applicants are judged on academics, community/extracurricular involvement, and essay quality.
- Awards: 5 academic winners + 5 alternates; 1 technical/vocational winner + 1 alternate.
- If a recipient doesn't meet program requirements, the award goes to the next eligible alternate.
- Winners are notified by email and complete a form to release funds.
- Scholarship checks are sent directly to the school for tuition, books, and related fees.

Essay Details

For Residents of the United States

Applicants are required to write an essay of no less than 500 words and no more than 750 words in English, French or Spanish, on the subject of:

"Organized Labor's Contribution to the Welfare of the People of the United States"

For Residents of Canada

Applicants are required to write an essay of no less than 500 words and no more than 750 words in English, French or Spanish, on the subject of:

"Organized Labour's Contribution to the Welfare of the People of Canada"

NOTE: The essay will be evaluated on an analysis of the topic - the facts and arguments that are presented, as demonstrating that the student understands the topic, and the effectiveness of the essay in demonstrating how organized labor benefits everyone, whether they are union members or not. Grammar, style, organization, and presentation will also be evaluated.

Deadline

The completed application must be submitted online by **March 31, 2026**

