

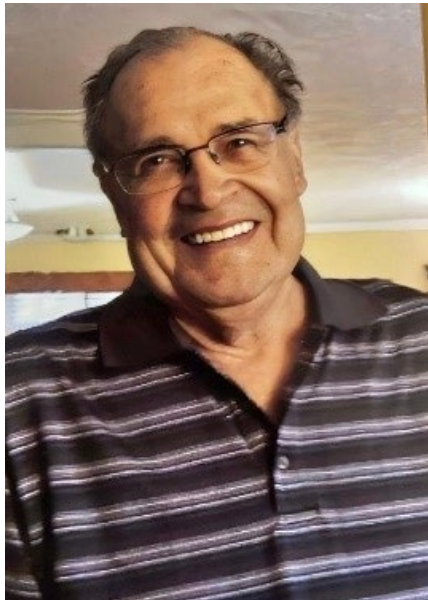
GEORGE COOK SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDE

ABOUT MDS

M'akola Development Services (MDS) is a professional development consulting firm committed to supporting vibrant, diverse communities in British Columbia. Our clients span British Columbia, and our work involves planning, developing, and operating high-density, mixed-use, multi-family affordable housing projects for public, private, and non-profit clients. MDS is the partner organization of M'akola Housing Society, which is the largest Indigenous affordable housing provider in British Columbia.

ABOUT GEORGE COOK



The George Cook Scholarship Fund was created to honour the life, teachings, leadership, and unwavering commitments Elder George Cook made to Decolonization, the Friendship Centre Movement, Affordable Housing, and Urban Planning for Indigenous communities across British Columbia.

Tłatłatlawis (George Cook), born in Alert Bay in 1929 at the Cook family home, descended from noble lines that reached back to several Kwakwaka'wakw tribes, the Komoks and the Mowachaht of Friendly Cove. George stepped into his political and community leadership by becoming the Chief Councilor of the Namgis in 1969, and was known for his thoughtfulness, humility, and kindness. George was a part of many significant moments in British Columbia's and Canada's history – such as advocating against the White Paper policy and the possible devastation it could have caused Indigenous communities or being present for the formation of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Elder George Cook served as M'akola Housing Society and M'akola Development Services' Elder Advisor, ensuring M'akola weaves commitments made to improving living conditions for Indigenous peoples while reinforcing traditional practices and cultural beliefs through every aspect of the Societies' work.

M'akola Housing Society and M'akola Development Services are honoured to present this award in Tłatłatlawis' honour.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The George Cook Scholarship will provide a financial award, and an opportunity to participate in MDS' annual summer internship.

- Scholarship Amount: One-time award of **\$5,000.00**
- MDS Annual Summer Internship Placement: Opportunity to participate in a paid, full-time, 3-month (May – August) internship to gain real-world planning, development, Indigenous

relations, and affordable housing industry experience.

- Work on projects across British Columbia related to affordable housing development, operations, policy, and planning.
- Office locations in Victoria/Langford, Courtenay, and Vancouver.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONS

Up to two scholarships will be awarded over **six regions** to Indigenous students enrolled in a Post-Graduate Urban planning program.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- Indigenous Students in Canada living in British Columbia.
- Applicants of any age.
- New or continuing students accepted into a Post-Graduate Urban Planning program in Canada.

Demonstrated financial need, as well as life experiences, challenges, and triumphs, will be taken into consideration.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- **What qualifies as a Post-Graduate Urban Planning program?** A Post-Graduate Urban Planning program may include a Master's program, post-graduate diploma or certificate program in any field related to Urban, Regional, and Community Planning, Development, Indigenous Relations, Housing or Public Health.
- **If it is a Multi-Year/Term Program can students apply for the future Year/Term? Or if they have already enrolled, could they retroactively apply for the M'akola Bursary?** The program is intended for future use only and can be applied towards a new enrollment or the next year/semester of a multi-year course.
- **If a student is successful in securing a M'akola Scholarship from us, and are in a multi-year program, can they reapply for each year?** Winners of M'akola Scholarships may only apply once.
- **If a student was unsuccessful in securing a M'akola Scholarship, can they reapply?** Yes, all students who have yet to obtain a M'akola Bursary are encouraged to apply again.

- **If a student is successful in securing the George Cook Scholarship, do they have to participate in the Internship?** No. Internship participation is not a mandatory requirement to be eligible for the scholarship. However, it is a unique opportunity to gain real-world work experience in Urban Planning, Affordable and Non-Market Housing Development, Construction Management, Community Engagement, Facilitation, and Housing Policy and Research. MDS strongly encourages successful students to seriously consider participating in MDS' annual paid summer internship program.

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

Please ensure you include all the following when applying. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Completed Application Form
- Cover Letter, describing the following:
 - Your future plans and how your chosen course/program will support them.
 - Why you feel you are a potential candidate for this award, highlighting examples of your commitment to your community, and your interests in Planning and/or Development.
 - Your experience as an Indigenous person and how that has helped shape your decision to attend school.
- Reference Letter
 - From school counsellor, administrator, teacher, employer, mentor, or community member.
- Current Transcript
- Proof of Acceptance in a Post-Graduate Urban Planning program
 - A copy of your class schedule, proof of enrollment, course contract, or a letter of acceptance for the following Fall semester. Your name and program should be clearly shown.
- Proof of Canadian Residency, examples:
 - BC Drivers Licence, BC Identity Card, BC Services Card, a recent BC Hydro Bill (in your name and address), or any recent Provincial Government issued letter (in your name and address).
- Completed Void Cheque/Direct Deposit Form
 - See the last page of this document.
 - *If a cheque is preferred, please let us know. This option will take longer to receive.*

Note: Scholarships must be claimed within 3 months of the date awarded.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Obtain an application form (<http://makola.bc.ca/>, <http://makoladevelopment.com/>, or for a paper copy see the address below.
2. Complete and sign the application, and ensure you include:
 - Ensure you have attached all documents from the *Requirements to Apply* section.
3. Email (preferred), snail-mail, fax, or deliver your application in person to:

Email: awards@makoladev.com

Attention: Scholarship Committee
M'akola Development Services
107-731 Station Avenue
Victoria, BC V9B 5N6

Telephone: (778) 265-7589

Fax: (250) 590-0248

4. Once all applications have been reviewed, all applicants will be notified via email.

DEADLINE

Please submit your application to awards@makoladev.com by Thursday, **June 12, 2026**. Any applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to reapply the following year, if appropriate.



GEORGE COOK SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

(Month / Day / Year)

Email: _____

Region: _____

(See Map Below)

Cell Number: _____

Alternate: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Street Address / City / Postal Code)

Self Identity Declaration

Status – Band Affiliation: _____

Non-Status

Métis

Inuit

Other: _____

REGIONS

- FRASER VALLEY
- KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY
- METRO
- VANCOUVER ISLAND
- NORTHERN
- THOMPSON-OKANAGAN



INSTITUTION & FINANCES WHILE IN SCHOOL

Program Name: _____

Institution: _____

Length of Program: _____

Full-Time Part-Time

Monthly Incoming during Schooling: _____

Monthly Rent/Mortgage: _____

Source of Income: _____

Cost of Entire Program: _____

List any additional costs that may be associated with your program:

PREVIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION – MOST RECENT SCHOOL YEAR

School Name: _____

City: _____

Graduation Year & Month: _____

List of courses taken this school year (if applicable):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

FINANCIAL

Explain any financial barriers to attending school:

How many children under 19 are in your home, including yourself if applicable? _____

Do you have dependents? Yes No

Are you from a single-parent/single-income earning household? Yes No

Have you secured any funding for the upcoming enrollment period from other sources? Yes No
(i.e., band funding or scholarships?)

If yes, what is the amount of funding you have secured? _____

PERSONAL/FAMILY

What challenges have you faced, or will you face, in your decision to pursue a post-graduate degree in Urban Planning?

Are you the first person in your family to attend post-secondary education? Yes No

Do you identify as a person with a disability? Yes No

If yes, please provide details: _____

Are you a current or former M'akola Housing Society tenant? Yes No

If no, are you a current or former tenant of another affordable housing provider? Yes No

RELOCATING

Do you have to move to a new city/community to attend school? Yes No

If yes, how far is the distance? _____

What are some challenges financial or personal for relocating?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/INFORMATION

What interests you in the Planning and/or Development fields?

What is your motivation to apply for this scholarship? What about M'akola and our work interests you?

What are your goals and plans for when you finish this post-graduate program?

How do you hope to change your life, your family's life, or your community through Planning?

Is there anything else we should know about you?

CLOSURE

It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure their application is complete, and that all required information, documents, and letters are enclosed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A reminder to use the checklist in the *Requirements to Apply* section to confirm.

Please note that recipients receive funds upon formal acceptance at a post-secondary institution.

By signing below, I understand if I am a recipient of this award, my name will be on the M'akola website for one year.

Signature of Applicant

Date



DIRECT DEPOSIT ENROLLMENT FORM

M'akola Development Services has switched from cheques to direct deposit for scholarship and bursary recipients. All direct deposit payments will be accompanied by email confirmation and an electronic cheque stub.

Please complete steps 1-4, below, **and** be sure to include:

- A Void Cheque or Direct Deposit Form, from your bank
- The email address you wish to have payment confirmations sent to.

For any questions regarding the completion of this form, please email awards@makoladev.com.

All information supplied on this form is kept confidential and does not permit M'akola Development Services access to other banking information or accounts for any purpose other than making deposits.

1. Complete table below (**Please Print Clearly**):

Name:	
Address:	
Email Address for Payment Notification:	
Name of Bank:	
Bank Address:	

2. Attach a void cheque or direct deposit form from your bank.
3. Signature:

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Date

4. Please forward this form to awards@makoladev.com