

2026 Bev LaPointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades

About the Scholarship

The Bev LaPointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades was established by Kootenay Career Development Society in memory of Bev LaPointe, founding member of the KCDS Board, and KCDS Board Chair from May 2004 to December 2012.

Bev was a dedicated supporter of workers' rights, particularly women's rights. She was also a committed member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, holding several positions, including President of CUPE 339 Nelson Municipal Workers and General Vice President of the CUPE BC Executive Board. Bev was also the first woman to be hired by the City of Nelson's parks and public works department, where she was employed for 32 years (1980-2012).

Over the course of her career, Bev continuously tackled new challenges, driving snowplows, city buses, and street sweepers, and using humour to help break down gender stereotypes. If you knew Bev, you might have heard her say in response to her critics, "you bet I drive like a woman!" which helps capture the spirit of this scholarship.

Launched in May of 2016, the Bev LaPointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades is a \$4,000 scholarship awarded each year to a self-identifying female student pursuing training in a trade. The successful applicant must be enrolled, either full-time or part-time, in an accredited college, university, vocational school, or apprenticeship program, recognized by Skills Trade BC (<https://skilledtradesbc.ca>).

Eligibility

- Applicants must be registered as a full-time or part-time student in a formally recognized trades training program; and,
- Reside in the KCDS service region: Nelson, Castlegar, Salmo, Kaslo, the Village of Slocan and RDCK areas D, E, F, G, H, I & J, as well as Trail, Rossland, Warfield, Fruitvale, Montrose, and RDKB areas A & B; and,
- Self-identify as a woman.

Application Requirements

- ✓ Bev Lapointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades application form
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ Proof of residence
- ✓ Proof of enrollment in a trades training program
- ✓ Essay outlining the applicant's training goals and career objectives, how they meet labour market demand in the region, and what motivated the applicant to pursue a career in the trades.
- ✓ At least one reference letter

The deadline to submit applications is May 31, 2026. The Scholarship Selection Committee will begin reviewing applications after June 1, 2026. The criteria have been included on page three of this application package.

Please send completed applications to:

Savina Kelly
c/o Kootenay Career Development Society
#3 - 86 Baker St Nelson, BC V1L 4G9
scholarship@kcds.ca

Deadline for submission is May 31, 2026

APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please type or print clearly.
2. Return the completed application and all other required documents included in the application checklist.
3. Submit completed applications by May 31, 2026.

If you have questions about the application form, please contact scholarship@kcds.ca

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant name (Last Name)	Given name(s)	E-mail Address:
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Home address	Telephone Number
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City/Town	Province	Postal Code
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Confirmation of residency (requirement) attached?	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>
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TRAINING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Name of trade and trade training program:

Name of the training institute:

I certify that I have carefully read and completed the application, and the statements made therein are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature:	yyyy/mm/dd
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Internal Use Only: Date Application Received _____

Bev LaPointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades

Please ensure all the required documents are included with your application package upon submission:

1. Bev Lapointe Memorial Scholarship for Women in Trades application form.
2. A current resume.
3. Proof of residence in the KCDS service delivery area.
4. Proof of enrollment in a trades training program.
5. An application essay outlining your training goals and career objectives, how they meet labour market demand in the region, and what motivated you to pursue a career in trades.
6. At least one reference letter.

Application essay:

This is an opportunity to introduce yourself to the Bev LaPointe Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee and for the Committee to learn more about you. Use this opportunity to describe yourself, your ambitions and interests, and what experiences helped shape you. You should include in your essay your training goals, what motivated you to pursue a career in trades, how you expect to apply newly acquired skills, and how they will benefit your community. Also include how this scholarship would contribute to your success, specifically relating to pursuing a career in the trades. The essay should be no longer than 1,000 words typewritten though handwritten essays will also be accepted.

Selection criteria:

The Scholarship Selection Committee begins reviewing applications in June, after the May 31st deadline has passed. The Scholarship Selection Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate each application package:

- The applicant has completed the application form, meets all the application requirements, and has included all supplemental documentation
- The applicant has clearly demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in the trades
- The applicant demonstrates a commitment to see the training through to completion
- The applicant is pursuing a trade for which there is high demand and/or is relevant to the regional labour market
- The applicant demonstrates an intent to reside in the region upon completion of the training

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Final Checklist – please review before submitting your application:

Did you remember to:

- Review the eligibility criteria to make sure that you qualify (See page 1 – Eligibility)
- Complete all sections of the application form
- Sign and date the application form
- Include proof of enrollment in a trades training program
- Include proof of residence in the KCDS service delivery area
- Include an updated resume
- Include at least one reference letter
- Include your application essay
- Verify the accuracy of all information provided
- Submit by the deadline – May 31st, 2026