

Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society
Annual General Meeting
The Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" Scholarship Report
Submitted by The Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" Scholarship Committee

April 13, 2023

2022 was the ninth year of the Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" Scholarship. The Scholarship is an Edmonton Folk Music Festival (EFMF) program that recognizes and honours EFMF volunteers who demonstrate, through their actions and attitudes, a positive motivation to be engaged meaningfully in the community and the world at large. Persons selected will have a spirit of adventure, a desire to communicate, and a willingness to share their knowledge and experience with others. Don Snider embodied these qualities over 40 years of working in the arts, as Production Manager of the EFMF for 21 years, and travelling the world.

The committee considered six complete applications in 2022. One conflict of interest was declared by a committee member about one of the applicants. The committee member recused themselves of the conversation related to that applicant. Ultimately that applicant was not selected for an award. No other conflicts of interest were declared. The committee met via Zoom in July 2022. Four applications were not recommended for awards.

Cara Au was awarded two years of funding, with payments of \$5,000 scheduled in the autumns of 2022 and 2023. Some details about Cara and excerpts from the autobiography she provided:

- Cara was six months old at her first Folk Fest and has never missed it since. She began volunteering with Enviropower at 12 years old and has been on Family Crew as an assistant coordinator and volunteer since 2014.
- Cara obtained her Bachelor of Social Work through the University of Calgary (Edmonton Campus) in 2021.
- Cara has volunteered with the World University Service of Canada since 2018, which inspired her to pursue a Master in International and Development Studies, at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, in the field of refugees and migration.
- In the summer of 2020, Cara led a team of 15 researchers to run a national study analyzing social work student experiences in practicum during COVID-19 across Canada.
- She is currently coordinator of an international participatory study of a girls' education program in Pakistan with the Canadian Association for Children's Education in Pakistan

In 2022 funds were again available to provide a second award. Rye Fournier was selected for a \$2,000 one-time award. Some details about Rye from their autobiography:

- Rye Fournier studied Drama and Philosophy at the University of Alberta and hopes to continue their education with the university with an MFA in Theatre Directing.
- Outside of school they are closely involved in Camp Van-Es, a summer camp at South Cooking Lake.
- At camp, they are most proud of their involvement in creating and offering a gender expansive cabin for those who don't feel comfortable in one for "boys" or "girls".

- The Edmonton Folk Music Festival has always been a major part of their life. In fact, they always joke that they have been attending Folk Fest for longer than they've been alive, as their mother Terry Olson coordinated Family Crew when she was 8 months pregnant.

In 2022 Chyana Deschamps received their second year of funding.

Since the scholarship began in 2014, 16 students have received awards and \$97,000 has been paid to recipients. The success of this scholarship is a testament to EFMF's exceptional volunteer program and the positive contributions EFMF volunteers make to society.

A recap of the Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" Scholarship Committee adjudication process is as follows:

- Copies of all the applications are provided to each committee member and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Manager of Volunteers through the online portal.
- The Manager of Volunteers looks over the list of applicants and flags any concerns regarding a volunteer's status for the committee to discuss.
- Any conflicts of interest are declared, and that committee member abstains from participating in any conversations or providing any recommendations regarding that applicant.
- Each committee member provides an initial recommendation of "Yes," "No," or "Maybe" for each applicant.
- The recommendations are compiled, and the applicants are organized into tranches based on the number of "Yes" votes they have received. This process allows the committee to focus its discussion in the adjudication meeting on the few applications that received mostly "Yes" votes.
- A discussion at the committee meeting determines the final recommendation to the EFMF Society Board of Directors.

This process was followed to the satisfaction of the committee in 2022.

The application was hosted on Edmonton Community Foundation's online portal system in 2022, and is currently being hosted there for 2023. The 2023 application is largely unchanged from the 2022 version. A launch page on EFMF's website and can be found here: <https://edmontonfolkfest.org/scholarship/>

In 2022 the committee consisted of:

- Alex Draper (Committee Chair)
- Linda Brenneman-Snider (Snider Family Representative)
- Laurel Allison (Snider Family Representative)
- Alan Burant
- Marigold Kinley
- Marianne Stover
- Laurel Allison
- Larry Bejcar
- Stuart Muir (Board Representative)
- Gerrit Bjalek (Board Representative)
- Drew Walker (Board Representative)

Marianne Stover served as a resource to the committee.

For 2023, no new members are expected to join the committee. Gerrit Bjalek and Stuart Muir are not participating as committee members in 2023.

In 2023 the committee anticipates selecting one recipient to receive a two-year award of \$5,000 annually, and a one-time \$2,000 award. The application deadline for the Scholarship will be April 30, 2023. The committee will meet shortly afterward to determine a recipient.

An initial committee meeting was held in February 2023 and three questions were discussed:

- What has been working well?
- What has not been working well?
- What changes, if any, would we like to see in the scholarship program?

Some initial changes are planned for 2023. Recipients will be listed on the volunteer wall of fame at the 2023 Festival. Also, the EFMF board voted in favour of increasing the Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship’s budget from \$12,000 to \$15,000. beginning in 2024.

To meet deadlines associated with profiling the Scholarship in EFMF media, the committee intends to select recipients by May 30, 2023, and bring those recommendations to the June 6, 2023 EFMF Board meeting.

The Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship committee plans to recommend updated Terms of Reference in late 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Draper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Draper

On behalf of the Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship Committee