



**HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE
MANITOBA NURSES UNION LOCAL 10
EDUCATION TRUST FUND**



FORTIETH YEAR

In 1979, the Executive of the then MONA Local 10 were informed that a decision must be made about monies that had accumulated from a rebate from the Unemployment Insurance Commission (now the Employment Insurance (EI) Commission). After much discussion, the members of the Executive (Mary Lynn Brooks, Beth Brunsdon Clark, Laurie Moser, Kaye Freskiw, Leslie Walsh, Barry Bradley, Linda Newton, Roberta Lowry, Lesley Carrington and Sandy Linton) developed a proposal to use the accumulated funds to establish a trust fund to support nurses from the Local who wished to pursue further education. The motion was approved by a 2/3 majority of the membership. The EI Commission sent a letter to the Local commending the creativity and uniqueness of this idea.

The Executive recommended the Trust Fund would “provide opportunities for educational advancement and professional development for the members of the Union...” Three major activities were identified in the original agreement between MONA Local 10 and the Health Sciences Centre. They were bursaries, support for conference attendance and seminars/training sessions approved by the Local. There have been some changes over the past 40 years in funding guidelines; currently members are supported for formal education at the university/community college level (individual courses and bursaries), conferences and certification in a specialty nursing designation.

The vision of those members of the Executive has truly been realized. The following information provides specifics in support of this statement:

Total funds disbursed: \$2,534,956.47

Number of applicants: (1992 – 2018) 3425

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We also looked at the pattern of applicants for the period 2012 to 2018 to determine the number of repeat applicants versus single applications. Out of 244 courses funded there were 227 applicants. Seven hundred and fifty one nurses received funding from a total of 836 conference applications. These conferences are held world-wide and cover a wide range of specialty nursing areas such as forensics, critical care, emergency, operating room, diabetes education, burn care, trauma and violence in the workplace, mental health, pediatrics, dialysis to name a few. We are encouraged that a significant number of applications are going to many different nurses while also being pleased that we are able to fund repeat applicants a well. For example of the latter, the Board was delighted to celebrate the attainment of her baccalaureate degree by a staff nurse who took more than 10 years to complete her degree. Her life circumstances deemed she could only take one course at a time until the successful completion of her degree.

From the financial perspective, the Board is also pleased with the growth of the capital investments of the Fund. From the initial amount of \$106,000 the Fund at the end of 2018 was valued at **\$528,187.13**. Several factors have contributed to this growth.

The first is the receipt of the ongoing rebate from the Employment Insurance Commission. The second was a significant donation from Local 10. And, the final factor is an overall positive return on investments based on financial advice provided by Richard Clark Financial Services Inc.

The current Board of the Education Trust Fund acknowledges the vision and the responsible stewardship of previous Board Members and Administrators. Their wisdom and hard work has meant the members of Local 10 will be able to access support for their professional development for many years to come.

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