

Introducing the Clan Cunningham International Educational Scholarship Fund

by Dr. Bill Cunningham, Chairman of the Educational Scholarship Fund Committee

CCI is pleased to announce the establishment of its first Educational Scholarship Fund. In 2015, the CCI Governing Council gave its approval to the concept of a scholarship fund to grant financial awards to CCI members to further their education in studies pertaining to Scotland and/or Clan Cunningham, in such areas as, but not limited to: history, culture, music, dance, genealogy, or to undertake any other viable project that would promote Scottish culture and/or Clan Cunningham.

The Scholarship Fund Committee, consisting of Dr. Bill Cunningham, Chairman, and long-time members, Carole Bishop and Beverly Lueke, were duly appointed by the Governing Council after the 2016 Triennial meeting. Using its own ideas and some from the highly successful scholarship programs of other clan organizations, the Committee developed a detailed policy statement and a comprehensive application form. Both have recently been approved by the Council. These documents can be found on the CCI website. Key facts to note are that all applicants must be CCI members age 10 years or older, and that the Committee will select the winners based on merit, not financial need.

To make reasonable amounts for awards, the Committee will wait until at least \$500 has been raised and placed in its account before soliciting applications and establishing an application deadline. If fund raising starts now, we hope this amount and even more can be raised by January 1, 2018, so that the first scholarship awards will be able to be granted in late April 2018. Members will be informed when the funds raised will allow these dates to be finalized and the actual application process can be started for 2018. The Committee will review the applications, select winners and determine the amount of the awards.

The CCI Educational Scholarship Fund will be supported solely by donations from members and perhaps other organizations. Members can make donations to the Fund by using a CCI Contribution form found on the CCI website. Forms may be mailed with a check or money order in USD funds to David Pickens, CCI Secretary-Treasurer; or you can visit the CCI Website and make set donations of \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 through PayPal using the Membership/Renewal/Contribution button. Because CCI is an IRS approved 501c3 educational charitable nonprofit organization, all donations to the Fund are tax deductible for US citizens. Making a donation in the memory or celebration of a loved one is always a nice thing to do, and such contributors may be recognized on the annual list of donors published in the newsletter. Individual amounts will not be shown. All donations, large and small, are welcomed and much appreciated.

The Council is also looking at ways to allocate some of the funds from the annual membership dues to the Fund each year. The Fund will soon be advertized at CCI host tents, in its handouts, publications, on its website and Facebook page. However, each of us needs to get the word out to our family members and others that this fund is an excellent opportunity to promote Clan Cunningham and its homeland of Scotland through studies and projects by its members.



*Kendra Cunningham
competing at the
Fergus Ontario Games*