



# The Karn Nichols Passion and Purpose Award

# Eligibility Requirements

The Karn Nichols Passion and Purpose Award will be awarded to:

- A high school student currently enrolled in Grade 12 or recent graduate (no more than 3 years since graduating or receiving GED).
- Enrolled in post-secondary education at a College or University.
- Has previously attended MacPhee Centre programs.
- Demonstrates helping others and making a difference to those around them.
- Regularly contributes to their community, as demonstrated by long-term commitment and leadership as a volunteer, student, artist and/or athlete.
- Has a focus and awareness as to how passion and purpose intersect in their lives.



# Selection Criteria

- A short piece of writing (350-500 words) or a 3 minute video that;
  - Introduces who you are
  - Tells what your academic and career goals are
  - Explains your participation with The MacPhee Centre
  - Outlines the importance of the bursary for you and your financial situation
  - This does not need to be formal! It's so that the people who give the scholarship get to know who you are!
- Portfolio (A collection of 4-8 Artworks [digital copies] or 2 minutes minimum of video/animation) of any creative nature in any medium
- Your letter of acceptance from the post-secondary institution you will be attending

# Application Checklist

- Application Information Sheet \***
- Official High School Transcripts**
- Official Letter of Acceptance** from post-secondary institute
- A **short essay** (300-500 words) that
  - Introduces who you are
  - Tells what your *academic and career goals* are
  - Explains your participation with the MacPhee Centre
  - Outlines the importance of the bursary for you and your financial situation
- Portfolio** of any creative nature in any medium (a collection of 4-8 Artworks [digital copies] or 2 minutes minimum of video/animation)

\*You can find this on our website (printable and digital), in the application package or in person at the MacPhee centre.

# Submitting Your Application

Applications must be submitted by email or in person by **Thursday April 30, 2026**. Please note once your application is submitted, you can no longer make edits.

Applications can be emailed to: **diana@macpheedcentre.ca**

Applications can be dropped off in person at:

**MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning**  
**50 Queen Street**  
**Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**  
**B2Y 1G1**

## Have questions?

Please contact the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning by email at [diana@macpheedcentre.ca](mailto:diana@macpheedcentre.ca) or by phone at 902-469-2851.

## About the Award



The award honours Karn Nichols for her leadership and contribution to the community and was first awarded in 2021. The Passion and Purpose Award is a thank you to Karn for all her hard work and dedication to the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning.



The fund will provide up to one (1) individual scholarship totalling \$1,000 annually, and the exceptional opportunity to build a relationship with Karn while exploring career possibilities.

## About the MacPhee Centre

At the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning, we empower youth through art in a welcoming, inclusive environment supported by our community. We envision a world where empathy and diversity thrive and challenges are opportunities for growth. Through art, we inspire leadership, collaboration, and innovation, fostering a spirit of creativity.

Our mission is to provide a safe, youth-driven space for exploration and self-expression. Together, we're shaping a future where kindness and cooperation reign and every dream is supported. Our mission is to build a world where every young person can realize their full potential through the transformative power of art.

# Karn Nichols

## Former Chair of the MacPhee Centre Board, 2015-2021

*“Some journeys are direct, some are circuitous; some are heroic, and some are fearful and muddled. But every journey, honestly undertaken, stands a chance of taking us toward the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”*

~ Parker J. Palmer

Karn is a one-of-a-kind human and service leader. She is ethical and virtuous, honest and thoughtful and leads by example. Karn’s focus on people and systems sets the foundation for what the MacPhee Centre is to our youth and community. She is a lifelong learner grounded in doing what is right. She believes in living an authentic life, staying true to her passions, and feeding her soul with things like nature and writing.

Karn started volunteering with the MacPhee Centre in 2009 after she heard Social Entrepreneur Bill Strickland speak about his creative learning centre in Pittsburgh. Karn, a new St. Mary’s University student, sat in the first row. She was mesmerized by how much passion and purpose Bill exhibited when he spoke about the work he did.



The MacPhee Centre was inspired by Bill's work in the US. When Karn initially got involved, it was the seed of an idea in the hearts and minds of a few founding Board members. Karn connected with these folks and offered to help out wherever she could. Over the years, she went from selling fundraising tickets to chairing our Board of Directors for over six years, finally finishing up in 2021.

During her time as Board Chair, Karn put in over 3,500 hours of volunteer time. In addition to volunteering where needed, she provided mentorship and coaching to the MacPhee Centre team and established our Advisory Council. She also ensured we remained focused on ensuring MacPhee created the conditions for youth passion and purpose to connect through the arts.

This award was created as a thank-you to Karn for her dedication and hard work at the MacPhee Centre.

# Scholarship Application Information Sheet

MacPheeCentreForCreativeLearning

## Applicant Information

Legal Name*:	_____	Date of Birth:	_____
	<i>First Last</i>		
Preferred Name:	_____		
Address:	_____	Phone:	_____
	<i>Street address Apt/Unit #</i>		
	_____	Email:	_____
	<i>City Province Postal Code</i>		
Scholarship Applying For:	<input type="checkbox"/> Karn Nichols Passion and Purpose Award <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Fisher Memorial Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> Both (Just send one application, we will use for both awards)		

\*Your legal name is the name on your I.D. or birth certificate. If you are the successful applicant, we will issue a cheque payable to this name.

## Participant Information

Applicants will have previously attended one or more MacPhee Centre program.

When did you last attend programs?	_____
What program did you attend most recently?	_____

## Education

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Attended From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? Yes  No  Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Post - Secondary Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Prospective Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Enrollment Status: Full-time  Part-time

## Disclaimer and signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Karn Nichols Passion and Purpose Award Acknowledgement

**Initial below** to I acknowledge that if successful in receiving the KarnNichols Passion and Purpose Award, I am given the opportunity to participate in a mentorship conversation, building a relationship with Karn in exploring career and education opportunities.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_