



OPAL SKILLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Terms of Reference:

Introduction:

MoveUP established this annual memorial scholarship in 2017 in recognition of the life works of a remarkable woman, Sister Opal Skilling.

An Honorary Lifetime Member of MoveUP, Opal Skilling began her journey in the labour movement in 1962 as a member of OPEIU Local 15. Local 15 later became COPE 15 before merging with COPE 378 (now MoveUP) in 2010.

Local 15 was created by fifteen brave women who worked for trade unions in British Columbia and was instrumental in demanding respect for women's work, at a time when that was far from a given within the labour movement. Local 15 acted as a conscience of the labour movement and was instrumental in ensuring that women in the workplace were treated equitably. Opal's tenacity bettered several rights and provisions within our collective agreements, many of which prevail today. Opal served for 38 years as the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 15. During her tenure the local grew to 1,900 members. Her influence is still felt today, in our operations and in our values.

Opal Skilling's legacy is recognized through this annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00. The Opal Skilling Memorial Scholarship will provide financial assistance towards continuing education in labour studies, women's studies or gender studies.

Eligibility:

The scholarship shall be available to members, spouses and their dependents who identify as women.

Application Criteria:

Applicants must submit a completed application form to the union, accompanied by a brief essay of 500 words or less outlining the benefits of union membership in today's workplace or on the positive impact women in the labour movement have had on Canadian society.

Application Process:

Applications must be received no later than January 1st each year. Application forms shall be posted on the MoveUP website and available by hardcopy upon request.

Selection Committee:

The selection committee shall be made up of three Table Officers as appointed by the President.

Selection Process:

Applications shall be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee. The successful candidate shall be selected by January 31st of each year.



Distribution of the Scholarship

- (a) The Scholarship must be used in the calendar year in which it is awarded.
- (b) Proof of acceptance into the educational course or program of the institution must be received prior to receipt of the Scholarship.

Financial Obligation

MoveUP shall endeavor to provide the Opal Skilling Memorial Scholarship on an annual basis however, only if funding is available.