

THE TERI BONNAH MEMORIAL BURSARY

The Association of Collaborative Family Professionals (Edmonton) - (ACFP(E)) - established the Teri Bonnah Memorial Bursary in 2016 to provide financial assistance to newer members of the ACFP(E) who wish to pursue training or education that will develop their leadership skills.

Who was Teri Bonnah?



Teri was a registered nurse and certified counsellor. Throughout her nursing career Teri worked at all levels of the nursing profession, including management with Alberta Health Services. After retirement, Teri became a Certified Professional Coach. Becoming a coach was a natural extension to her background in health care and counselling. To this new career she brought her strong leadership skills and extensive organizational and executive experience, which made her a well-respected colleague and a valuable asset to the ACFP(E). Teri did not shy away from challenges, and was skilled in sharing feedback respectfully and constructively.

Teri stepped into leadership roles on the Board and committees of the Association of Collaborative Family Professionals (Edmonton) almost as soon as she joined the ACFP(E) in 2011. She advocated that standards of practice be created and met, and that new skills be shared and new knowledge acquired. Teri insisted that individual members needed to get to know each other better, and that the Association needed to know and understand its membership better. Teri encouraged people to become involved, and to be courageous enough to make mistakes, since “courageous mistakes” lead to learning and improvement. She worked to build unity among the ACFP(E) membership, and encouraged members to be heard and to listen to each other, and to take responsibility for the operation of the ACFP(E).

Teri passed away in October 2015, after a cancer diagnosis earlier that same year.

Purpose and Philosophy of the Teri Bonnah Memorial Bursary

Teri understood that ACFP(E) members need strong leadership skills to keep the collaborative community healthy and that the health and strength of collaborative practice in Alberta depends on new members taking on leadership roles. Teri believed that only with such skills would members be able to build collaborative practice as an approach to dispute resolution that the public values and the justice system respects and supports. She consistently urged the collaborative practice community to nurture new members who show talent and the inclination to take leadership roles. To continue Teri’s vision of nurturing new members for leadership roles in the ACFP(E), the ACFP(E) established the Teri Bonnah Memorial Bursary in 2016.

Who can apply for The Teri Bonnah Memorial Bursary?

- 1.1. Applicants must be current members of the ACFP(E).
- 1.2. They should demonstrate an inclination to take leadership roles in the ACFP(E).
- 1.3. Preference will be given to:
 - 1.3.1. Applicants who propose to attend training or education that will develop their leadership skills; and
 - 1.3.2. Newer members of the ACFP(E), for example, those who have been members for less than five years.
- 1.4. The Bursary may be awarded to an individual more than once in different years; however, preference shall be given to applicants who have never before received the Bursary.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE TERI BONNAH MEMORIAL BURSARY

1. This Teri Bonnah Memorial Bursary (the Bursary) was established by a motion made at the February 2016 Board meeting to honour Teri Bonnah after her death in October 2015.
2. The within Bursary policy was adopted by the ACFP(E) at the June 22, 2016 Board meeting to provide guidance to the selection committee. The Bursary policy is subject to change by subsequent Board motion.
3. The Board budgeted \$2000 for the 2016 calendar year for the Bursary, to allow for up to two awards of \$1000 each. \$2000/year will be provided each year thereafter for the bursary award, until the Board amends this policy. Unawarded bursaries will not be carried forward to the following year.
4. The Bursary may be awarded to up to two recipients in a given year. If no applicants are considered to be worthy by the Bursary selection committee, no award will be given in that year.
5. A Bursary selection committee (the Committee) shall be convened, and the following individuals shall sit on the committee:
 - 5.1. The immediate Past Chair of the ACFP(E), or one of the immediate Past Co-Chairs, as the case may be; and
 - 5.2. Two other members of the ACFP(E) recruited by the past Chair. These two other members shall preferably have been ACFP(E) members for at least three years, and will not be current Board members.
6. The members of the Committee shall not be replaced until after the Bursary has been awarded in that calendar year, notwithstanding the possibility of an intervening Board election.
7. The Bursary will preferably be awarded at the annual AGM, but the timing of the award each year shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
8. The Committee shall solicit applications from the ACFP(E) general membership. A notice inviting applications shall be sent out to the ACFP(E) general membership in the fall of each calendar year, or as soon thereafter as reasonable. This notice shall advertise the Bursary's purpose, philosophy, selection criteria, and format to be followed by applicants. Committee members are allowed to contact potential applicants individually to encourage them to apply for the Bursary.
9. The Committee shall alone decide which of the applicants will receive the Bursary. That is, the selection committee's decision shall be final and is not subject to Board approval.
10. In selecting Bursary recipients, the Committee shall make reference to the following selection criteria established by the Board:
 - 10.1. The Bursary shall be awarded only to current members of the ACFP(E).
 - 10.2. Preference is to be given to applicants who propose to attend training or education that will develop their leadership skills.
 - 10.3. Preference is to be given to newer members of the ACFP(E), for example, membership of less than five years.
 - 10.4. The applicant has demonstrated an inclination to take on leadership roles in the ACFP(E).

- 10.5. While the Bursary may be awarded to an individual more than once in different years, preference shall be given to applicants who have never before received the Bursary.
11. Bursary funds will be released as a reimbursement when the recipient provides receipts related to the training or education undertaken by the recipient.
12. Each Bursary recipient shall have up to 18 months following the announcement of the award to complete the proposed training/education and submit receipts to the Committee for reimbursement. Bursary awards not claimed by reimbursement within 18 months will lapse, and be reallocated to the general revenue of the ACFP(E).