

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A NON-ENDOWED FUND

NAME OF NON-ENDOWED FUND

Marc-André Bédard Right to Equality Memorial Scholarship

INTRODUCTION

A giant of Quebec politics, a person of conviction and a fervent advocate for rights and freedoms, Marc-André Bédard was also one of the most distinguished alumni of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section.

From Lac Saint-Jean, Marc-André Bédard received his Licentiate in Law in 1959, before being called to the Quebec Bar the following year. He practised law in Chicoutimi until he was elected to represent the riding of the same name in 1973, under the banner of the Parti québécois.

He was named minister of justice November 26, 1976, a position he held until 1984, working alongside René Lévesque, with whom he was very close. He established Quebec's Conseil de la magistrature and acted to amend the province's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in 1977 to correct a blatant injustice: discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 1982, he tackled another weakness in the charter, the fact that it only applied to new laws and not to those in effect.

Minister of state for electoral reform, government house leader, vice-premier, solicitor general — Marc-André Bédard took on responsibilities over the years that spoke to his zeal for work and the esteem in which his colleagues held him.

He didn't run in the 1985 election, returning to his first love, practising law. In the years that followed, he contributed to many different boards (Société nationale de fiducie, Universitas Foundation of Canada, Musée du Saguenay, etc.) and chaired fundraising campaigns for many charitable organizations, including Maison Jean Lapointe, the Red Cross and Moisson Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

Mr. Bédard received an award for his efforts to fight homophobia from Quebec's Fondation Émergence, as well as the Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean Bar's medal of merit. He became a lawyer emeritus of the Quebec Bar in 2007 and was named to the Ordre national du Québec in June 2013.

PURPOSE OF FUND

To award a scholarship to students studying full time in the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, who have demonstrated a commitment to the right to equality and the promotion of rights and freedoms through their personal and social achievements.

FUND DETAILS

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

1. be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, a person with protected or refugee status, or an international student;
2. be admitted full time in the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section of the University of Ottawa; and
3. have demonstrated a commitment to the right to equality and the promotion of rights and freedoms through their personal and social achievements.

Value of award:	\$5,000
Number of awards:	1
Award frequency:	Annual
Level or program of study:	Undergraduate
Application contact:	Financial Aid and Awards Service
Application deadline:	March 31

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be made through Online Scholarships and Bursaries, which can be accessed through the uoZone portal. They should include a letter (max. 500 words) describing the applicant's personal and social achievements that demonstrate the latter's commitment to the right to equality and the promotion of rights and freedoms.