

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ENDOWED FUND

NAME OF ENDOWMENT FUND (OTSS^[1])

DON E. MCALLISTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Don McAllister was Curator of Fishes at the Canadian National Museum of Natural Sciences, Canada for 28 years (1958-1986), and under his tenure the collection ballooned from 4,638 specimen lots to about 410,000 catalogued specimen lots for Canadian material acquired through staff collection as well as donations, purchases, and a few trades with other institutions. He later became Senior Biodiversity Advisor and retired in 1994.

Don wrote a wide variety of articles and books for scientific and popular audiences. He also served as the founder and editor of two journals, *Sea Wind* and *Canadian Biodiversity* (later named *Global Biodiversity* in 1993 and *Biodiversity (Journal of Life on Earth)* in 2000). He published and edited over 620 scientific papers, books, popular articles and book reviews in his career of 45 years from 1957 to 2001. He had 119 separate collaborators but he was first author on 90% of the publications.

Areas of particular interest for Don during the first 30 years of his career centred on fishes, particularly Arctic marine fishes, sculpins, smelts, Pleistocene fossils, fishes in the National Capital Region, conservation of rare and endangered fishes (he was among the first members of COSEWIC - the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), development of computers for museum work, conservation techniques for museum specimens, early application of GIS analysis to questions of biogeography and evolution, a computerised list of world fishes, and the banning of cyanide use in capturing tropical aquarium fishes. He was an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, from 1969 to 1992 and at Carleton University from 1981 to 1993.

His last 15 years were devoted to biodiversity and conservation of natural resources through the founding and editorship of journals, through lobbying efforts, and through serving on such committees as the IUCN SSC Coral Reef Specialist Group as co-chair. He was twice a member of the Canadian delegation to the negotiations for the Convention on Biological Diversity and was a member of the Canadian delegation to scientific and technical advisory body for the Biodiversity Convention and a participant in the Global Biodiversity Forum.

The donors thank the Government of Ontario which helped create this fund through its generous matching contributions.

PURPOSE OF FUND

Provide financial assistance to graduate students working on the taxonomy/systematics of fishes, or on biodiversity/conservation issues.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Eligibility Criteria:

The applicant must:

1. be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident or a person with the protected/refugee status;
2. be registered as a full-time graduate student in the Faculty of Science, Department of Biology at the University of Ottawa;
3. be an Ontario resident, as per OSAP^[2] rules;
4. demonstrate financial need, as determined by the Financial Aid and Awards Service of the University of Ottawa;

5. be studying in the area of taxonomy/systematics of fishes or on biodiversity/ conservation issues; and
6. demonstrate acts of activism or voluntarism (i.e. membership in natural history groups or environmental non-governmental organizations).

Value of the Award: Variable

Number of Awards: Variable

Frequency of the Award: Annual

Level of the Award: Graduate

Application Contact: Financial Aid and Awards Service

Application Deadline: March 2

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be made through Online Scholarships and Bursaries, which can be accessed through <https://scholarships.uottawa.ca>, and should include:

1. the Financial Questionnaire;
2. the Curriculum Vitae on Online Scholarships and Bursaries;
3. a non-official copy of the applicant's transcript;
4. a confidential letter of recommendation, ideally from a professor in the Department of Biology, sent to the email bioassis@uOttawa.ca; and
5. a letter describing the applicant's accomplishments and why they are deserving of the scholarship.

^[1] OTSS: Ontario Trust Student Support

^[2] OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program