Eleven remarkable Canadian students awarded Rhodes Scholarships to study at the University of Oxford

MONTREAL (November 26, 2026) – Eleven academically accomplished and civic-minded young Canadians have won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships for Canada this year, continuing an extraordinary legacy that began in 1903.

From award-winning law and business graduates to emerging entrepreneurs and researchers tackling complex challenges in mathematics and environmental science, Canada's Rhodes Scholars Elect are making their mark across a wide range of academic disciplines. Beyond the classroom, they are driving meaningful change in their communities - championing affordable transit, expanding access to education, advocating for workers' rights, and working to strengthen health care.

They will be heading to the University of Oxford in October 2027 to join a cohort of more than a hundred Scholars from around the world to undertake post-graduate studies and become part of a strong community of people determined to make a positive difference in the world.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the world's preeminent and oldest graduate fellowship, based at the University of Oxford since 1903. The first Canadian Rhodes Scholars took up residence in Oxford in 1904 and since then, over a thousand Canadians have been awarded this scholarship.

The Rhodes selection process aims to award scholarships to those with proven academic excellence who also show exceptional character, leadership, the energy to use their talents to the full and a commitment to solving humanity's challenges. Each year eleven scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants from across the country as follows: British Columbia (1); the Prairies (3 from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories); Ontario (2); Quebec (2); the Maritimes (2 from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI); and Newfoundland and Labrador (1).

The rigorous and holistic selection process is administered by six Selection Committees across the country that reflect the breadth of Canadian excellence, including distinguished members of the community, renowned experts and leaders throughout all fields of endeavour. Many students who apply for a Rhodes Scholarship find that taking part in our rigorous selection is a profoundly positive experience which leaves them well-placed for academic and professional opportunities worldwide.

Rhodes Scholars form a lifelong community of people in many fields and careers, united by a commitment to having a positive impact on the world. Scholars from Canada have gone on to pursue impactful and remarkable careers in public service, academia, business, law, and medicine, amongst others. This year's winners continue the extraordinary legacy of excellence.

Richard Pan, National Secretary for Canada, said:

"Our eleven Rhodes Scholars deeply impressed the Selection Committees with their intelligence, passion, and most importantly, their humanity. We need leaders and doers like these in the world. They each carry a profound sense of responsibility to the communities around them and the will to make a difference. As proud as we are of our Scholars' achievements to-date, we are even more excited for their contributions to come."

Profiles of the 2027 Canadian Rhodes Scholars Elect

Newfoundland and Labrador (1)

Russell Noseworthy (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
Born and raised in St. John's, Russell is an avid community servant. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours, Co-op) and a Diploma in Public Policy (Economic Policy) at Memorial University, where he served as his class's student council president, portfolio manager of The Fund, Memorial's student-managed investment fund, and co-chair of the faculty's 61st annual Business Day conference. His committee work spanned the student union, faculty council, program review committee and presidential search committee. That leadership earned him the Frank H. Sobey Award, one of Atlantic Canada's top honours for business students. Outside of university, Russell volunteers as a youth basketball coach and a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Since graduating, he has worked with Stryker in operating rooms across the province, supporting orthopaedic surgeries. He hopes to bring this experience to Newfoundland and Labrador's public service, helping the province make better use of its health care resources.

Maritimes (2)

Isaac Arnold (Syracuse University)
Isaac is originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia and recently graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology. He has started multiple companies with a focus on improving health of veterans and the elderly, has performed research in rare genetic diseases, and has been an invited speaker on Artificial Intelligence at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Isaac has represented Canada in U18 ice hockey, played for his university hockey team, and is a volunteer with Canadian Blind Hockey.

Luke MacKinnon (Cape Breton University)
Luke is presently completing his BSc with Honours in Mathematics at Cape Breton University. In addition to undergraduate mathematics research and serving as the President of the Engineering Society, Luke is an accomplished musician, and founder of Coastline Band, a student group that has performed on and off campus. He volunteers with the New Waterford Community Wellness Center, and with Cape Breton University STEM outreach programs.

Québec (2)

Félix Bouchard (Université Laval)
Félix Bouchard holds a law degree from Laval University, where he graduated with the highest GPA in his cohort and won the Faculty of Law Gold Medal. He clerked for the Quebec Court of Appeal's Chief Justice, volunteered for three years with the Mobile Legal Clinic for the Unhoused in Quebec City, and now works at Stikeman Elliott LLP in Montreal. He is also a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec's Medal and the Royal Society of Canada's Justice Abella Prize. Beyond law, he pursued an international athletic career, representing Canada as a member of the National Road Cycling Team, and studied classical piano for 12 years. From January to June 2027, he will clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa in Johannesburg.

Clémence Vallières (Université du Québec à Montréal)
Clémence Vallières completed a B.A. in political communication from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) in May 2025. After graduating, she worked as a press relations officer for the Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS), where she led

media campaigns on the institute's proposals. Previously, Clémence was involved with the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ) on a project aimed at increasing youth voter participation for the 2025 Canadian federal election. Political involvement has brought Clémence a sense of belonging and community, as she represented her peers in a student association, acted as an organizer in a women's rights group, and has been involved with progressive political parties. A fervent feminist, she also co-organized a conference on women's rights amidst the Woman, Life, Freedom movement in Iran.

Ontario (2)

Elijah Aedo-Castillo (McGill University)
Elijah Aedo-Castillo graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in Philosophy. He is passionate about social policy, particularly improving youth outcomes in Canada and globally. Elijah was an Associate Editor of the undergraduate history journal Historical Discourses and a Research Assistant to historian Catherine Desbarats. He was also a Charles Taylor Student Fellow through the Yan P. Lin Centre's Research Group on Constitutional Studies. He served as Vice-President of the Political and Advocacy portfolios of McGill's Black Students' Network, sat on the University's Advisory and Accountability Panel on Black Student Life, and worked with the Branches program to expand educational access for high school and CEGEP students across Canada. He currently serves as an intern with the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme.

Halyna Bowley (Harvard College)
Halyna is in her fourth year studying math at Harvard College. Her previous research is in low-dimensional topology and combinatorics. Most recently, she wrote a paper characterising balancedness properties of a specific sub-family of infinite words. For the past two years she has served as the co-captain of her school's Mock Trial team and is particularly passionate about the intersection of mathematics and the law. Our systems of governance are becoming increasingly technological; communicating math effectively, humanly, is critical to preserving meaningful civic engagement.

Prairies (3)

Eric Horbal (Carleton University)
Eric Horbal is a community leader and policy researcher from Regina, Saskatchewan. A graduate of the University of Regina, Eric is pursuing a Master of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University as a recipient of the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship. His research spans the labour movement, health policy, social inequality, and energy transitions, and he has experience translating complex evidence into practical policy recommendations through his work with Efficiency Canada and Carleton University. Beyond academia, Eric has been actively involved in community organizing and advocacy, having served as vice-president of RWDSU Local 539 and chair of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's Young Workers Committee. He also serves on the board of the Regina Community Clinic and mentors young people as a curling coach.

Shehab Mansour (University of Toronto)
Shehab Mansour graduated from the University of Toronto's Rotman Commerce program, where he studied Finance and Economics with a focus in Data Science. Having moved from Egypt to Canada as a child, he is passionate about helping newcomers find their footing and be heard. That commitment led him to found Ahlen, a free multilingual tutoring initiative for newcomer students. As President of the University of Toronto Students' Union, Shehab worked to make student life more accessible, leading initiatives on affordability and food

insecurity. Shehab spent three years as a residence don, supporting students adjusting to campus life, and served on the executive committee of the University of Toronto's Arab Students' Association.

Sophia Young (University of Alberta)
Sophia Young is an award-winning climate advocate and researcher who has turned ideas into policy. Driven by a belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to be fully alive, Sophia works to dismantle systemic barriers and build more equitable communities. She led a campaign making public transit free for children under 14 in Regina, benefiting more than 50,000 youth. She now scales this work nationally through Get on the Bus, supporting transit advocacy in 31 communities and helping expand accessible transportation to a total of 336,400 youth. She is completing a BSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alberta, where she has researched the fate and transport of microplastics in aquatic environments.

British Columbia (1)

Annushka Agarwal (Harvard College)
Annushka Agarwal is completing a B.A. in History and Mathematics at Harvard College. She grew up in Vancouver, where she spent much of her time observing and thinking about marine life. Those experiences led her to study the history of whaling, an industry that was destructive to marine ecosystems but also enabled a rich coexistence between people of different origins. Before Harvard, Annushka attended Pearson College UWC, where she lived in community with an appropriately idealistic group of young people from across the world. She was part of the Canadian National Debate Team and continued to debate in college while coaching younger students. An aspiring journalist, Annushka has reported on topics ranging from maternal mortality to Vietnam War-era draft evasion.

About the Rhodes Trust

The Rhodes Trust, based at the University of Oxford, is an educational charity that creates brighter futures for individuals and the world.

The Rhodes Scholarship began in 1903 and is the world's pre-eminent graduate fellowship, bringing postgraduate students to the University of Oxford. Over 8,000 Rhodes Scholars, from more than 50 countries, have gone on to serve at the forefront of education, business, science, medicine, the arts, politics and beyond. All this is made possible by the generosity of our Second Century Founders, John McCall MacBain and the Atlantic Philanthropies, as well as over 3,000 other benefactors from around the world.

We are based at Rhodes House in Oxford, which has been transformed into a world-class facility for gathering, learning and collaborating. Rhodes House is home to most of our staff team.

The applications for the 2028 Rhodes Scholarships will open in June 2027. More information about the Scholarship application be found at: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply.

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