



Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship Announcement

The Canadian Association of Physicists and the Canadian Association of Physicists Foundation are thrilled to announce the creation of the **Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship**, made possible by a very generous gift from the Carswell Family Foundation. Starting in 2020, the Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship, valued at up to \$5000, will be awarded annually. Up to two such scholarships will be awarded each year to physics students with a strong academic record and who are passionate about teaching. Applicants must have completed or be enrolled in the final year of a physics degree at a Canadian university and plan to enroll in a Canadian post-degree teacher training program that leads to a provincial teaching license, such as an After-Degree Bachelor of Education program. This scholarship recognizes the critical importance and value of having people who are trained in, and passionate about, physics engaging young Canadians in the classrooms of this country.

The global economy has evolved to become more dependent on innovation as we face challenges ranging from climate change to the medical needs of an aging population. Those with a physics education are ideally suited to solve the problems of today. Yet the impact that physics and those with a physics education have on everyday lives is not widely understood.

The **Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship** will raise awareness at all levels of society that physics education is a vital, highly valued and rewarding career path while reinforcing the fact that a major in physics is valuable for many careers, not just research. Educators at all levels are crucial in that they must provide students of all genders and backgrounds with the passion, confidence and science literacy that will inspire them to seek out and succeed in gaining a physics education at the university level.

The Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship is designed to increase the number of highly qualified and dedicated physics teachers by, on the one hand, encouraging physics majors to pursue a post-degree teacher training program and, on the other, encouraging physics educators to first complete a BSc in Physics before enrolling in the teacher-training program of their choice.

Details of the scholarship, including criteria, the nature of the award and application procedures, are given in the attached document. Please distribute it as widely as possible in order to bring this exciting opportunity to the attention of all potential applicants. We ask that you make every effort to encourage all physics graduates, or students in their final year, who have a strong academic record and enjoying teaching to apply, including those from groups that are under-represented in physics.

Thank you for working with us to encourage and inspire a new generation of outstanding physics educators.

Sincerely,

CAP and CAPF Presidents



Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship: Eligibility and Criteria

Background and Description

The *Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship* was established in 2019 with a very generous endowment of \$250,000 from the Carswell Family Foundation. It recognizes the critical importance and high value of having people who are trained in, and passionate about, physics engaging young Canadians in the physics classrooms of this country.

Allan Ian Carswell (CM, FRSC) is an internationally recognized pioneer in the field of laser radar (lidar). In 1974, Dr. Carswell founded the company, Optech Incorporated, which grew to over 300 employees. Optech was acquired by Teledyne Technologies in 2015 and continues as Teledyne Optech, an international leader in laser instrumentation. Dr. Carswell was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2005. He served as the President of the Canadian Association of Physicists during 1985.

The Allan Carswell Physics Educator Scholarship will be awarded annually to one or two outstanding Physics students who are enrolled in a Canadian university and who have completed or are in the final year of a Physics degree and who plan to enter a post-degree teacher training program that leads to a provincial teaching license, such as an After-Degree Bachelor of Education program. Recent graduates and graduate students are also encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will have a strong academic record and a demonstrated passion for physics and physics pedagogy. The first scholarship will be presented at the 2020 CAP Congress at McMaster University. It is hoped that the winners will be able to attend in order to accept the award in person.

Amount of the Award

Each Scholarship-holder will be awarded up to \$5000. Scholarships will be awarded annually to up to two successful applicants. It is expected that this amount will go towards tuition and, if the amount is sufficient, other incidental costs of the corresponding post-degree teacher training program.

Each Applicant Must:

- have graduated from, or be in the final year of, a physics degree at a Canadian university. Eligible degrees include: an undergraduate degree with a physics major, or any graduate degree in physics.
- have applied to, or will apply to, a post-degree teacher training program at a Canadian university for the upcoming academic year. Eligible programs are those which, upon completion, are required to obtain a teaching license in the relevant province.
- have strong academic credentials and a demonstrated passion for physics and physics pedagogy.
- provide a minimum of two letters of reference, a nomination letter signed by Physics Department Head/Chair confirming enrolment or graduation, and latest transcripts.
- write one page (500 word maximum) explaining why they are interested in this scholarship and how winning the scholarship will make a difference

All eligible applicants with strong academic records who love to share their passion for physics are encouraged to apply, including those from groups that are under-represented in physics.

Details on how to apply will be available on the CAP website in January 2020.