



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2021

Youngest Ever Recipient of the James McGregor Stewart Award Announced

HALIFAX, N.S. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS), and the James McGregor Stewart Society are pleased to announce the winner of the 2021 Award of \$1000: Hope McInnis, a grade 12 student from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. The seventh recipient of this annual Award, Hope is the youngest awardee to date, and represents a generational shift in the notion of 'disability'.

Hope is an athlete, a leader, a student, a family member. She is self-reliant and strives for greatness. "She inspires me!" said one of her nominators. She was chosen from a highly competitive field of candidates. She will be enrolling in Cape Breton University in the fall and is interested in pursuing a career in Psychology.

The Award honors James McGregor Stewart (1889-1955), a native of Pictou, Nova Scotia and survivor of polio as a youth, and recognizes leadership, effective advocacy, and the outstanding personal achievement of a person with a disability. The Award captures the spirit of Stewart who overcame many barriers, despite a reliance on crutches throughout his life.

"One wouldn't simply say Hope has 'overcome' her disability, she has thrived on it," said Gus Reed, Co-founder of the James McGregor Stewart Society. "She never stops - from her sledge hockey team to achievement in school to raising funds for the food bank, she's a going concern!"

"It's exciting to see a younger generation being recognized for this Award," said Daniel Holland, CEO of CFNS. "Hope has demonstrated that barriers of any type do not have to stand in the way of your goals. Her dedication shows that young people living with any kind of challenges can overcome them when they have the right mindset, and the support of their communities."

The James McGregor Stewart Award was established in 2015 by friends of the James McGregor Stewart Society through CFNS. First in his class at Dalhousie Law School in 1914, Stewart was also President of the Students' Council. He went on to head a Halifax law firm that became the present-day Stewart McKelvey. He was Chairman of Dalhousie's Board of Governors. In 2000, *Canadian Lawyer* magazine named him as one of Canada's 10 greatest lawyers. He is also one of fewer than 500 Canadians to be awarded the Commander of the British Empire for services to the Empire in WW II.

Hope's Award will be presented on June 30, Stewart's birthday. More information about the James McGregor Stewart Award can be found on our [website](#).

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For information about attending the award presentation, contact:

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About Community Foundation of Nova Scotia

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is an action centre for philanthropy. We provide the knowledge and support for communities, charities, and citizens to realize their individual potential and collective possibilities. Our mission is to build strong, vibrant and diverse communities throughout Nova Scotia by enabling and inspiring effective philanthropy.

We're part of the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) movement - the national network for Canada's 191 community foundations. CFC's purpose is to relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs. Combined, the network holds \$5.8 billion in assets and reaches 90 per cent of Canadian communities. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia was established in 2008 and currently has more than \$16 million in philanthropic investment under management, disbursed and committed grants of more than \$6 million and manages and supports more than 100 funds across the province, including 23 scholarship and award funds.

Contact for Interviews

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