ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

2026-2027 OFL/AIL JACK LAYTON LABOUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

Dear OFL Members,

We are proud to announce that we will once again be giving out the AIL/Jack Layton Labour Post-Secondary Scholarship in partnership with American Income Life (AIL) Canada.

Two OFL members, or the children of members, will be selected from a pool of applicants to each receive a scholarship in the amount of $2,500 to support them as they enter their first year of full-time post-secondary study for the 2026-2027 academic year. The scholarships will be awarded in honour of distinguished trade union activists who have made a significant contribution to the life and growth of the labour movement in Ontario.

Eligible candidates must:

- Be a current member, or the child of a member, of a local union affiliated to the OFL;
- Be enrolled for the 2026-2027 academic year to enter their first year of full-time study (leading to a diploma or certificate) at a public Ontario community college or the first year of an undergraduate program (leading to a degree) at a publicly funded Ontario university;
- Not have any prior post-secondary studies; and
- Be currently enrolled or not more than two years out of secondary school.

The criteria for selection of the scholarship winners will be based on:

- An original essay, video, or spoken word podcast submission on the topic outlined in this year's application package.
- Evidence of understanding the role and significance of the Canadian labour movement.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **November 6, 2026**. An Application Form is on page 2.

The OFL is committed to social justice and equity and believes strongly that post-secondary education provides important opportunities that should not be limited by tuition fees or student debt. We hope this scholarship helps make education more affordable while we fight to make access universal. We proudly encourage women, Black and racialized people, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, and those from other equity-seeking backgrounds to apply for this scholarship.

The OFL represents more than one million unionized workers in Ontario from 50 affiliated unions and is proud to have the support of American Income Life (AIL) Canada, a 100% union company that is a leader in providing supplemental insurance benefits. For more information on AIL Canada, visit: www.AILife.com.

Please circulate this call for applications to help ensure that these scholarships are made known as widely as possible.

In solidarity,

Laura Walton
OFL PRESIDENT

Angel Martinez
OFL YOUNG WORKERS' COMMITTEE CHAIR

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE

OFL/AIL JACK LAYTON LABOUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

2026-2027

PART ONE: THE STUDENT

(completed by the applicant - please print)

Last Name:_____ First Name: _____
Address:_____
City, Province:_____ Postal Code: _____
Email:_____ Cell: _____

a) Post-Secondary Studies (Intended program of study for the 2026-2027 academic year. Scholarships are pending acceptance of an offer/proof of admission.)

Public College or University: _____
Program of Study: _____

b) Voluntary Self-Identification Survey for Applicants from Equity-Seeking Groups (Please check all that apply.)

I identify as ...

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis)
- ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Racialized
- ☐ Person with a disability

c) Mandatory Checklist for All Applications (Please check that all the required documents are included, and all sections are completed.)

I have enclosed the following documents:

- ☐ Completed application forms
- ☐ Proof of Enrolment (e.g. Letter from registrar, tuition invoice) in a Public College or University
- ☐ Statement of goals and interests (see next page)
- ☐ Essay, video or podcast submission on this year's topic
- _____ Total number of pages enclosed

All information on this application will be kept strictly confidential.

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE insurance company in Canada

PAGE 2: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

PART TWO: AFFILIATED UNION

(completed by an officer or designate of the union - please print)

Full Name of Parent or Applicant Who is a Union Member: _____

Employer:_____ Occupation:_____

Union:_____ Local:_____

*I, the undersigned, attest that*_____*is a member in good standing in this local union, which is affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Labour.*

Name of Local Union Officer/Designate:_____ Signature:_____

Tel:_____ Email:_____ Date: _____

PART THREE: ORIGINAL ESSAY, VIDEO OR PODCAST SUBMISSION

All applicants must submit **ONE** of the following:

1. ESSAY: 1,000-word max, typed essay. **OR**
2. VIDEO: 10 minutes max, of you explaining your answer **OR**
3. PODCAST: 20 minutes max, a discussion or interview with someone else.

Submissions should answer ONE of the following three prompts:

1. **Good Jobs**
   Young people are experiencing much higher unemployment than other age groups while many available jobs offer low wages, unstable hours, and few opportunities for advancement.

   What should the Ontario government and the labour movement do to ensure that young people can find stable, well-paid, unionized employment?

2. **Affordability**
   The Ford government removed rent control from most rental units first occupied after November 2018. Rising housing costs are now making it harder for many young people to live independently or remain in their communities.

   How does housing insecurity affect young workers, and what role should unions play in the fight for affordable housing and stronger tenant protections?

3. **Artificial Intelligence**
   Young workers entering the workforce may be among the first to experience the effects of artificial intelligence on hiring, entry-level jobs, workplace training, scheduling, performance monitoring, and job security.

   How is artificial intelligence changing the opportunities and working conditions available to young workers, and what should unions, governments, and employers do to ensure that young workers are protected, properly trained, and able to share in the benefits of technological change?

Disclaimer: This is a union piece. What matters is the quality of your work and ideas. If we find that your submission is beneficial, it could be featured in a future OFL or Young Workers Committee campaign.

PART FOUR: DECLARATION, DEADLINE & DESTINATION

I hereby confirm that all information submitted herewith is true and complete. I declare that my essay, poster, or video submission is my own original work and reflective of my independent thoughts. I acknowledge that the OFL retains the right to publish the names of winners, their photos, and submissions (wholly or in part).

Your Name:_____Signature: _____

Completed Application Form and required documents must be received by email or regular mail no later than October 13, 2026 to:

Email:

info@ofl.ca

Subject: **OFL/AIL Scholarship**

OR

Mail:

Ontario Federation of Labour,

ATTN: OFL/AIL Scholarship

895 Don Mills Rd. Suite 600,

Tower Two, Toronto, ON M3C

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FOR EMAIL SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE ENSURE YOU RECEIVE A REPLY CONFIRMATION EMAIL. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF YOUR SUBMISSION PLEASE RESEND YOUR SUBMISSION TO **INFO@OFL.CA,** OR CONTACT MARGUERITTE LOFOLI AT MLOFOLI@OFL.CA FOR ASSISTANCE.

PLEASE NOTE THE OFL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST, MISSING, INCOMPLETE, OR REDIRECTED SUBMISSIONS OF APPLICATIONS, ENTRIES OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE.

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