



For Immediate Release

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Jean Lumb Foundation Doubles 2020 Scholarship Grants and encourages other giving foundations to join the battle against COVID-19

The COVID-19 global pandemic is filled with news that is disturbing and frightening. Not all of the news is bad news. We hear about so many inspiring and good news stories of people stepping forward to help that bring smiles to our faces. Witness the outpouring of gratitude for the incredible and tireless work of frontline workers who keep us safe, fed, and protected. And to all the frontline workers, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

And when we win the battle against COVID-19, and we will win, there will still be challenges for everyone, particularly our students. In the months ahead, summer jobs will be harder to find for students and some families will continue to face difficult economic times. The result is that our youth will face economic challenges to continue in their chosen education and career choices.

To meet this challenge, the Jean Lumb Foundation will double the number of scholarships it will grant in 2020, so that more students will have a chance to follow their dreams. For this year, our Foundation will grant 15 students \$1,000 each as part of the annual Jean Lumb Awards, double our previous years.

Furthermore, we challenge other giving foundations to join the COVID-19 challenge for our youth and increase their annual awards in 2020 to students.

“It is paramount for us to step up and provide a beacon of light, hope and encouragement for our youth during these challenging and unusual times,” said Arlene Chan, president of the Jean Lumb Foundation. “Students are facing unanticipated or unmanageable financial demands due to the lack of summer jobs, reduced family income, and other challenges directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Jean Lumb Awards, now in their 23rd year, recognize high school students of Chinese heritage in seven areas of achievement: academics, community services, athletics, the arts, defense of the environment, innovation, and dignity of life. Since their inception in 1998, over \$100,000 of

scholarships have been awarded to over 100 young people. Application details are available at www.JeanLumbFoundation.ca.

The awards program takes inspiration from its namesake, the late Jean Lumb, the first Chinese Canadian woman to receive the Order of Canada, who consistently showed her positive and strong leadership in the best and worst of times. Her often daring activism dealt with such difficult issues as saving Toronto's first Chinatown from the bulldozer and advocating for changes to Canada's anti-Chinese immigration laws.

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