



Atlantic Edge
CREDIT UNION

A. F. Walker Scholarship Program Guide 2025

About the Program

Atlantic Edge Credit Union (AECU) administers a scholarship annually on behalf of A. F. (Gus) Walker. This scholarship commemorates the unique contribution made by Gus Walker in the creation of Brook Street Credit Union. Gus Walker was a firm believer in the role that the co-operative movement could play in helping people become self-reliant. During the more than forty years he worked at the Corner Brook Mill, he held every executive position, including President of the Paper Makers Union. For ten years he was President of the Bowater's Employee Benefit and Welfare Association which imported and sold coal to its members at a significant savings. Through careful management the association accumulated a surplus of \$80,000.

When oil replaced coal as the preferred heat source, the coal yard went out of business and employees faced loss of their jobs. Gus Walker had the idea of using the surplus to start a credit union. Under his leadership, members were signed up. The staff, Walter Simms, and James Dingwell were trained in credit union management at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and on November 21, 1963, the Brook Street Credit Union became a reality.

In July 2009, Brook Street Credit Union amalgamated with Codroy Valley Credit Union to form Leading Edge Credit Union. In 2022, Leading Edge Credit Union and Eagle River Credit Union merged once more to form AECU. In 2024, AECU joined together with Hamilton Sound Credit Union and EasternEdge Credit Union to expand even further, with an expansive network that now totals sixteen branches throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. It was with great pleasure that Mr. Michael Walker, the sponsor for this scholarship, extended the award to all members of AECU throughout the province.

One successful applicant will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The winner will be announced by October 24.

Eligibility and Rules

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a legal resident of Canada
- Be AECU members or children/dependents of members.
- Entering first year post-secondary studies at a recognized institution.
- Be registered in full-time studies with a minimum duration of three years.
- Submit final transcript of marks.
- Present proof of enrollment in a recognized post-secondary institution.
- Complete an online application form including a brief description of financial needs (specifying other bursaries received for the current school year, contributions from summer employment, etc.).
- Provide a 200 to 500-word essay, with their application, on one of the following topics:
 - A historical view of the Credit Union Movement in Newfoundland and Labrador
 - The difference between Credit Unions and Banks
 - A description of the credit union and other co-operative organizations in your community.
- Submit a completed online application by September 19, 2025.

Award recipients must be willing to complete a brief testimonial and have their award acknowledged by AECU and media.

How to Apply

Applicants who meet the conditions outlined in the section above are eligible to apply. Please [click here to access the application](#). Incomplete, unsubmitted, or late applications will not be considered.

Note: To complete the online application form, applicants must create a free **Do Some Good** account. This platform connects individuals, charitable organizations, and companies to make a meaningful impact in their communities – [click here to learn more](#).

An account is required for several reasons:

- Ensures information security and credibility of the form and weeds out spam.
- Allows the applicant to view their submission afterwards and ensures privacy of information.
- Allows for ease of communication with the applicant.
- Allows us to track submissions quickly and securely.

Disclaimers

- Applicants may be contacted to verify identity and eligibility prior to processing applications.
- All information provided must be accurate, complete, and in no way misleading.
- AECU will not be responsible for any lost, delayed, misdirected, illegible, incomplete, damaged, or undeliverable applications, or any delay or failure to transmit, process, receive or consider applications, or technical failures of any kind.
- If for any reason AECU cannot run the award program as planned, AECU reserves the right to cancel, modify, extend, or suspend without notice.
- AECU may at any time, at their sole discretion, disqualify any applicant who: does not meet the eligibility criteria, fails to comply with these rules, attempts to enter the contest in any manner or through means other than described in these rules, or attempts to circumvent these rules.

Questions about the program?

Contact info@aecu.ca for more information.