



DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION LEADERS



2025

TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF CANADA FOUNDATION

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the Executive Director



"I have been inspired by the passion and commitment of the sector in helping us build a stronger, more diverse transportation workforce across Canada."

Since beginning my role as Interim Executive Director of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Foundation, I have been inspired by the passion and commitment of the sector in helping us build a stronger, more diverse transportation workforce across Canada. From across the country, professionals have been helping us to fulfill our mission to develop tomorrow's transportation leaders by supporting students and promoting careers in transportation-related fields. I am so happy to be part of this great community.

Working together this year an additional 16 scholarships were awarded totaling **\$71,950 in funds to assist students** pursue advanced education that will go to support Canada's transportation sector. That brings the **total number of scholarships to 661** since 2004/05 with a **value at nearly \$2.8 million**. That is an incredible achievement.

But more work needs to be done to ensure that the sector continues to thrive through the advancement of new leaders into the field. After a successful planning exercise conducted by the Foundation in 2024, there is a renewed focus on expanding its activities with a goal of assisting more young Canadians to enter into the transportation sector.

To achieve that, the Foundation, led by its volunteer Board of Directors, has made a commitment to strengthen our partnership with the Transportation Association of Canada and industry and education leaders. An objective for the coming year is enhanced resource development and fundraising activities so that the support of the Foundation and the impact on educating transportation leaders of the future can be expanded.

Together, we are shaping the future of transportation in Canada. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this important work.

Ed Sluga, CFRE
Interim Executive Director

Introduction

The TAC Foundation is a registered charity established in 2003 to address the challenges associated with a shortage of skilled people available for planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining Canada's transportation infrastructure.



Vision

A robust and diverse Canadian transportation workforce.



Mission

Developing tomorrow's transportation leaders.

Strategic Priorities

Board optimization

Resource development
excellence

Brand building
and communication

Fundraising

Fundraising is a critical priority for the Foundation. Its Executive Director and members of the Board invest significant energy in establishing and nurturing relationships with current and potential donors and communicating the value of supporting students in transportation-related programs of study. Those efforts have resulted in **donations to the Foundation totalling approximately \$3.96 million since its establishment in 2003, with an additional \$89,000 committed for future years.** The Foundation's **past and future commitments have exceeded \$4 million.**

The Foundation is grateful for the support received in 2025 from governments, private sector companies, and associations that provided for a generous scholarship program and enabled the Foundation's operations. Current donors and their cumulative contributions are listed later in this report.

Marketing and Communication

The main goals of the Foundation's Marketing and Communications Committee are to **raise the profile of the TAC Foundation, enhance communication and collaboration and broaden outreach efforts.** We aim to promote the Foundation's activities to attract valuable donors and high-caliber scholarship applicants. **The communications strategy includes multiple messages promoting the programs to universities/colleges and TAC members in the educational institution category** and encouraging active participation from scholarship recipients to promote the success stories of the Foundation's work. General and targeted posts are made across various platforms, including TAC News and the Foundation's own LinkedIn account.



Programs

Scholarships

Since the academic year 2004/05, the Foundation's Scholarship Program has awarded **661 scholarships valued at almost \$2.8 million to students** at the graduate, undergraduate (university and college) and entrance level in transportation-related disciplines.

In 2025, the Foundation was pleased to **award 16 scholarships totalling \$71,950**. A list of the 2025 scholarship recipients is contained herein and is also available on the Foundation [website](#).

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the leadership of Janelle Warren and Rebecca Farrugia and the contributions of more than 80 volunteers who reviewed scholarship applications this year.

AASHTO STEM Outreach Solutions

The Foundation champions the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) STEM Outreach Solutions (formerly TRAC) program in Canada. **Day-long sessions offer hands-on activities to introduce high school students to the world of transportation design and engineering**, seeking to inspire them to consider related careers. A successful event was held in Ottawa in November 2024 with support from Englobe, the Cement Association of Canada, Morrison Hershfield, TAC, and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. **Another event is being planned for 2025.**

Student Activities Fund

For 2025, the Foundation has **allocated \$1,200 to its Student Activities Fund**. Applications can be submitted by individuals or clubs/teams/associations pursuing field trips, educational experiences, and infrastructure or equipment, enhancing real-life learning opportunities and encouraging involvement in and selection of transportation-related studies and careers.

Leadership

The Foundation's Board of Directors currently comprises eight leaders in the transportation sector who support the Foundation's mission. They are:

Board of Directors

(as of June 2025)

Gerry Chaput

Arcadis,
Foundation President

Scott Stewart

Scott Stewart and Associates,
Foundation Treasurer

Keith Foster

Englobe

Keri-Ann Hobson

GHD

Mauricio Lopez

EllisDon Corporation

Frédéric Pellerin

Québec Ministère des
transports et de la
mobilité durable

Janelle Warren

Trojan Technologies

Sarah Wells

Transportation Association
of Canada

Officers

Gerry Chaput

President

Ed Sluga

Interim Executive Director

Scott Stewart

Treasurer

Committee Leaders

Ed Sluga

Fundraising

Keri-Ann Hobson

Marketing and
Communications

Keith Foster

Student Outreach

Janelle Warren

Scholarships

Financial Highlights

Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded almost **\$2.8 million in scholarships to over 650 students.**

The TAC Foundation holds some assets in reserves, including an endowment fund and a long-term capital fund, and works on a break-even basis for its annual operational expenses. The 2024 audited financial statements can be found online at tac-atc.ca/tac-foundation.



Donors

Platinum* | \$50,000 or more



Gold* | \$25,000 - \$49,999



Silver* | \$15,000 - \$24,999



Bronze* | \$1,000 - \$14,999

Sina Varamini

Yukon Highways
and Public Work

*Cumulative contributions over multiple years

TAC Foundation Scholarship Recipients in 2025

\$6,000 ▶



The Esch Foundation

Aislinn Dressler

Bachelor of Engineering, Civil Engineering,
University of Victoria

The Esch Foundation

Felita Ong

Doctor of Philosophy, Civil and Mineral Engineering,
University of Toronto

The Esch Foundation

Hesam Rashidi

Doctor of Philosophy, Civil and Mineral Engineering,
University of Toronto

The Esch Foundation

Maren Wheaton

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Civil Engineering,
University of New Brunswick



\$5,000 ▶

AtkinsRéalis

Michael Funk

Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering,
University of Manitoba

Atlantic Industries Limited

Josephine Chisholm

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Civil Engineering,
University of New Brunswick

EllisDon Corporation, in honour of Stephen Damp,
past TAC Foundation President

Dominic Mothe

Bachelor of Engineering, Civil Engineering and Society,
McMaster University

MORR Transportation Consulting

Marina Aziz

Master of Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering,
University of Alberta

Stantec Women in Engineering

Leticia Harder

Diploma in Architectural and Engineering Technology,
Thompson Rivers University

Tetra Tech

Sam Pollock

Doctor of Philosophy, Civil Engineering,
University of Calgary

TAC Foundation, in honour of Dr. Ralph Haas

Tyler Hu

Master of Applied Science, Civil and Mineral Engineering,
University of Toronto

\$2,725 ▶

Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited,
Future Leaders Scholarship

Kim Khanh Luu

Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology - Transportation,
Mohawk College

Varamini Scholarship for Young Pavement Innovators

Cymone Alicia Walters

Bachelor of Technology, Construction Management,
George Brown College

\$2,500 ▶

CCMTA Road Safety Scholarship

Ao Yun Zhang

Bachelor of Applied Science, Civil and Mineral Engineering,
University of Toronto

Colas Canada

Barry Blus

Bachelor of Applied Science, Civil Engineering,
University of Waterloo

Colas Canada

Daniel Hanna

Bachelor of Engineering Science, Civil Engineering,
Western University





For donor and volunteer enquiries:

development@tac-atc.ca

For scholarship/internship applications and general enquiries:

foundation@tac-atc.ca | 613-736-1350

Transportation Association of Canada Foundation

401-1111 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON K2C 3T2



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Alberta Transportation
and Economic Corridors

AtkinsRéalis

Canadian Council of Motor
Transport Administrators

Colas Canada

EllisDon Corporation,
Civil Division

The Esch Foundation

Ministère des Transports et de
la Mobilité durable du Québec

Ontario Ministry of
Transportation

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Tetra Tech Canada Inc.

Transport Canada

Transportation Association
of Canada

Gold* | \$25,000 - \$49,999

Atlantic Industries Limited

Englobe Corporation

Manitoba Transportation
and Infrastructure

New Brunswick Transportation
and Infrastructure

Nova Scotia Public Works

Silver* | \$15,000 - \$24,999

MORR Transportation
Consulting

Paradigm Transportation
Solutions Limited

Bronze* | \$1,000 - \$14,999

Sina Varamini

Yukon Highways
and Public Works

*Cumulative contributions over multiple years

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