

## **RATIONALE FOR AWARD SELECTIONS**

Periodically, questions arise in relation to the recipients of bursaries, scholarships and awards distributed by COBSS. Sometimes, deserving students do not receive awards, yet others are given more than one. The following is intended to provide some insight into why this may happen.

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS) is an independent group of volunteers who oversee the distribution of awards to students graduating from high schools throughout the Central Okanagan. These awards are from monies contributed by individuals and businesses in the region. The bursaries, scholarships and awards, while generous, contribute only partially towards the cost of the first year at a post-secondary institution.

Historically 43-50% of donors are involved in the selection process.

Approximately 35% of the awards are classified as bursaries. These awards must be presented to students whose application demonstrates a significant financial need.

Some awards have very specific criteria, thus significantly reducing the number of applicants and potential recipients. Others require that the recipient be a child or grandchild of a member of an organization.

Members of COBSS participate in allocating awards and must abide by the criteria set by the donor.

Unfortunately, the number of applicants always exceeds the number of awards available, so not every applicant will receive an award. COBSS does specify, however that if a student's plans change and he/she will not be continuing on to post-secondary education, he/she is to notify COBSS and the alternate recipient, chosen by the donor / allocator, will be given the award.

As an organization, COBSS strives to increase the donor base so as many students as possible, who desire to pursue post-secondary education, will benefit.

Submitting an application to COBSS does not guarantee that the student will receive a bursary, scholarship or award.