

Latest Lennon/Cullen Scholarship Winners Continue Tradition of Excellence

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[Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto](#)

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto is pleased to announce the recipients of the Father Paul Lennon/Doreen Cullen Social Work Scholarship, both of whom are continuing in the tradition of excellence associated with the namesakes of this award.

Michael Fullan, Catholic Charities' Executive Director, and Scholarship Committee Chair Nancy McElhinney say they were pleased the committee was able to award two scholarships, given the caliber of candidates. Each recipient will receive \$5,000.

This year's winners are Reshawn Jeffers Hunter and Jonathan Ng. Ms. Hunter, who currently serves as the Director of Programs at Rosalie Hall, is working on a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at Wilfrid Laurier University, with course work that includes a focus on social justice and transformational practice. Mr. Ng is a Master of Social Work student at the University of Toronto's Factor-Intenwash Faculty of Social Work, with specialization in Health and Mental Health, and collaborative specialization in Addiction Studies.

Mr. Ng credits his arrival as an employee at St Bernadette's Family Resource Centre in 2017 with his interest in social work, noting that his involvement "has enabled me to be on the front line to work with individuals who are most in need of social support, a vast majority of whom are persons of colour, recent immigrants, and much more."

Ms. Hunter, who has been working with vulnerable youth through Catholic social service agencies for 17 years, says her time at Rosalie Hall and, before that, Sancta Maria House, has demonstrated that "the values of faith, mercy and compassion can be the foundation for meaningful and life-changing work with children, youth and families."

“The committee was very impressed by the applications Reshawn and Jonathan submitted, as each has a strong resume, but when the committee interviewed the applicants in online sessions, we were in immediate agreement that they were exceptional candidates who will provide exceptional service to the community,” says Mrs. McElhinney. “Our meetings with them, while virtual, were filled with energy and positivity and gave us great hope.”

Mr. Fullan agreed.

“As someone who knows Fr. Lennon and had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Cullen, I can say with confidence that Reshawn and Jonathan are carrying on in the style of social work these two so gracefully demonstrated, an approach that puts the dignity of the whole person first, with kindness and support and compassion,” agrees Mr. Fullan. “At a time when societal challenges make daily headlines it is wonderful to know schools of social work are seeing such talented students. We are in good hands with the likes of Reshawn and Jonathan.

The Father Paul Lennon/Doreen Cullen Social Work Scholarship was established in 2013 to mark the centennial of Catholic Charities. The scholarship is named in honour of two dynamic executive directors who made a significant contribution to the development of Catholic Charities, its member agencies and its social service outreach.

The scholarship, which is designed to be awarded annually, is open to applicants who are entering into their 2nd year or beyond in a degree-granting Social Work or diploma-granting Social Services program. Staff in Catholic Charities’ member agency who are looking to further their credentials are also eligible to apply. Please visit our website, <https://ccat.ca/communications/scholarship/>, for the application criteria.



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