



1004-213 Notre Dame Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3
T: 1.800.661.0253
F: 204.947.5195
www.wrla.org

NEWS RELEASE

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WRLA Awards \$20,000 in Education Grants

WINNIPEG, MB -- The Western Retail Lumber Association (WRLA) is excited to award \$20,000 in education grants to 15 recipients. To celebrate WRLA's 130th anniversary, each scholarship recipient will receive \$1,300 towards their post-secondary education.

"This year, more than ever, we wanted to honour our members by giving back to their employees and employees' children. The WRLA would not be where it is today, after 130 years, if it wasn't for our strong membership base, and the continued support and commitment that these businesses have for our association and the industry," says Liz Kovach, WRLA president. "Once again, we had top caliber applicants. These individuals work hard to better themselves and contribute to their communities, and the WRLA is happy to honour their hard work."

The 2020 scholarship recipients are: Carissa Esplin, Balcarres, SK; Brooklynn Harder, Warman, SK; Mackenzie Johnston, La Salle, MB; Jennifer Kokotailo, Prince Albert, SK; Dakota Moffat, Winnipeg, MB; Carlos Nogales, Port Moody, BC; Rhett Rogess, Calgary, AB; Emily Schneider, Sturgeon County, AB; Claire-Xi Song, Port Coquitlam, BC; Sydney Tessier, High Bluff, MB; Michael Thiessen, Austin, MB; Dana Vanderhorst, Langley City, BC; Lelia Weiland, Dundas, ON; Claire Welikoklad, Red Deer, AB; and Emily Wheatley, Calgary, AB.

"Since the beginning of my university journey, I have hoped to pursue an interdisciplinary career combining computer and environmental engineering in order to develop new and innovative technologies to protect our world's ecosystems. Being the recipient of the WRLA 2020 education grant means pursuing both a bachelor's and master's degree along this path with much more financial peace of mind, and allows me to focus on working hard towards my goals without letting other barriers get in the way," says recipient Claire-Xi Song of Port Coquitlam, BC.

WRLA represents 1,200 member firms in the building supply industry across Western Canada, including hardware stores, manufacturers, suppliers and lumberyards. Funds for the education grants program are raised at WRLA's annual golf events in Winnipeg, Calgary, Saskatoon and Kenosee.

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For more information, contact:

Lea Currie, Marketing & Communication Manager
Cell: 204-793-3636
leac@wrla.org

Liz Kovach, WRLA President
Cell: 204-770-2416
lkovach@wrla.org