

DR. ROBERT MCCLURE AWARD

Impact Report | For Toronto Eglinton Rotary Club

Prepared November 2025



Supporting TMU Midwifery Students

This report celebrates the profound legacy of the Dr. Robert McClure Award in Health Science. For nearly a decade, your generous support has created critical pathways for Indigenous students within the Faculty of Community Services at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).

Your gift has empowered future nurses, midwives, and public health professionals to pursue careers grounded in equity, advocacy, and specialized community care.

This report includes impact stories and how your gift has shaped the next generation of compassionate Canadian healthcare leaders.

**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**

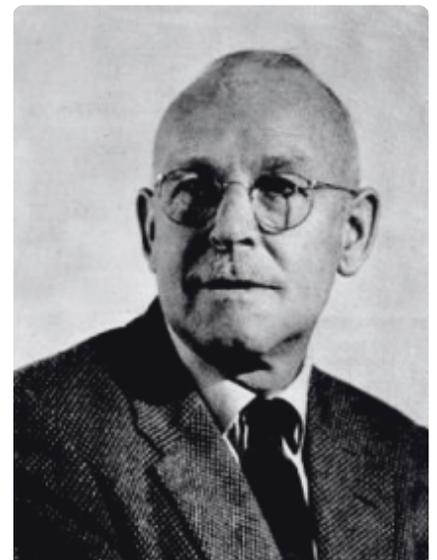
Dr. Robert McClure Award

Named to honour Dr. Robert McClure, a distinguished surgeon and dedicated humanitarian, this award supports Indigenous students pursuing degrees in Health Sciences programs within Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Faculty of Community Services.

The fund was established in 2016 with a generous gift of \$50,000 from the Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton, and its life was extended in 2019 with an additional \$30,000 contribution. It is open to students who self-identify as Indigenous persons in Canada and are enrolled in one of four specialized programs: the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, the Midwifery Education Program, the School of Occupational and Public Health, or the School of Nutrition.



Dr. Robert Baird McClure, affectionately known as "Dr. Bob," was a humanitarian and gifted surgeon who impacted countless lives globally. After earning his medical degree in 1922 from the University of Toronto, McClure became a pioneer in using radium to treat cancer and played a key role in advancing rural medicine and family planning in China. Committed to empowering communities, he developed training programs that enabled local people to support their own healthcare services. During the Sino-Japanese War, he served as Field Director for the International Red Cross and Medical Commandant of a Quaker ambulance unit, often risking his life to deliver care. McClure continued to share his knowledge through speeches and tours to former locations. His legacy is one of courage, compassion, and a lifelong drive to improve healthcare.



Ashley Matthews

Midwifery, BHSc '28
Member of the Metis
Nation of Ontario



What was your reaction upon learning the news?

"I was extremely grateful and excited to learn the news! I felt very honoured and appreciated to be selected for this award.

What will you do with the funds?

The funding will support me to continue my studies here in Toronto. I moved here less than a year ago from Northern Ontario, which has been challenging, scary and a major adjustment. I am solely supporting myself by working part-time as a Registered Nurse.

After you graduate, what are your goals for the future?

Continue to pursue my dream of becoming a midwife!

My goals for the future include moving back to my hometown, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to work as a Northern and Indigenous Midwife to serve my community, which is currently short of healthcare providers in women's healthcare, specifically birth workers.

Do you have any messages for the donors?

Thank you for being so generous and kind, and for investing in my future. I feel extremely grateful and blessed. I look forward to making the most of this opportunity and will honour your support through my continued dedication to my education and to future service in my northern community as a midwife."

Recipients

2025

Ashley Matthews
Midwifery, BHSc '28

Crea Ferguson
Midwifery, BHSc '28

2024

Victoria Ridenour
Nutrition and Food, BAsC '23

Starr Trudeau
Collaborative Nursing, BScN '25

2023

Doriesha Watson-States
Midwifery, BHSc '25

2022

Kristen Meechan
Midwifery, BHSc '23

2021

Jasmine Allan-Sferruzzi
Midwifery, BHSc '21

Emma Bilodeau
Midwifery, BHSc '21

Gillian Kyle
Midwifery, BHSc '25

2020

Emma Bilodeau
Midwifery, BHSc '21

Taryn Dinova-Owl
Midwifery, BHSc '23

Crea Ferguson

Midwifery, BHSc '28
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

After you graduate, what are your goals for the future?

"I aspire to work as an Indigenous midwife, helping the Indigenous community to return to traditional birthing practices and improve postnatal health outcomes for Indigenous birthing persons and their families.

I began considering midwifery as a future career after attending an Indigenous full-spectrum birthworker training hosted by Aunties on the Road. I also worked at the Ottawa Birth and Wellness Centre, where I had the opportunity to interact with many other midwives.

I was previously a student research assistant on the Fireweed Project, a research project based at the University of Victoria examining abortion access and experiences for Indigenous individuals in Canada.

"I am called to midwifery as the scope of practice is widened to allow for greater access to safe and culturally relevant care."

2019

Jasmine Allan-Sferruzzi -
Midwifery, BHSc '21

Rachel Bach - Midwifery,
BHSc '21

2018

Doriesha Watson-States, BHSc
'25

Alyssa Gagnon - Midwifery,
BHSc '21

Sarah Martineau (Midwifery,
BHSc '21

2017

Jasmine Allan-Sferruzzi -
Midwifery, BHSc '21

Alyssa Gagnon Midwifery,
BHSc '21

Sarah Martineau Midwifery,
BHSc '21



THANK YOU

Thank you, Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton, for empowering these incredible students to reach their academic potential at TMU through your generous gift. We are deeply grateful to you and each member for championing these meaningful awards

Anthony Bakerdjian

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Faculty of Community Services

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