

Karl Anderson Foundation Bursary

Number of Awards: 4

Amount of Each Award: $1,000.00

Eligibility: Open to students who attend secondary schools in the City of Prince George and and who intend to enrol on a full-time basis in a post-secondary institution.

Criteria: Demonstrated satisfactory academic achievement and financial need.

Selection Process: Selected by the School District #57 Awards Committee.

Special Conditions: A letter of reference outlining involvement in extracurricular activities must accompany application.

The Legacy of Karl Anderson: Investing in the Future of Prince George Students

The story of the Karl Anderson Foundation begins with the remarkable journey of a young immigrant who arrived in Northern British Columbia with little more than ambition, determination, and a willingness to work hard.

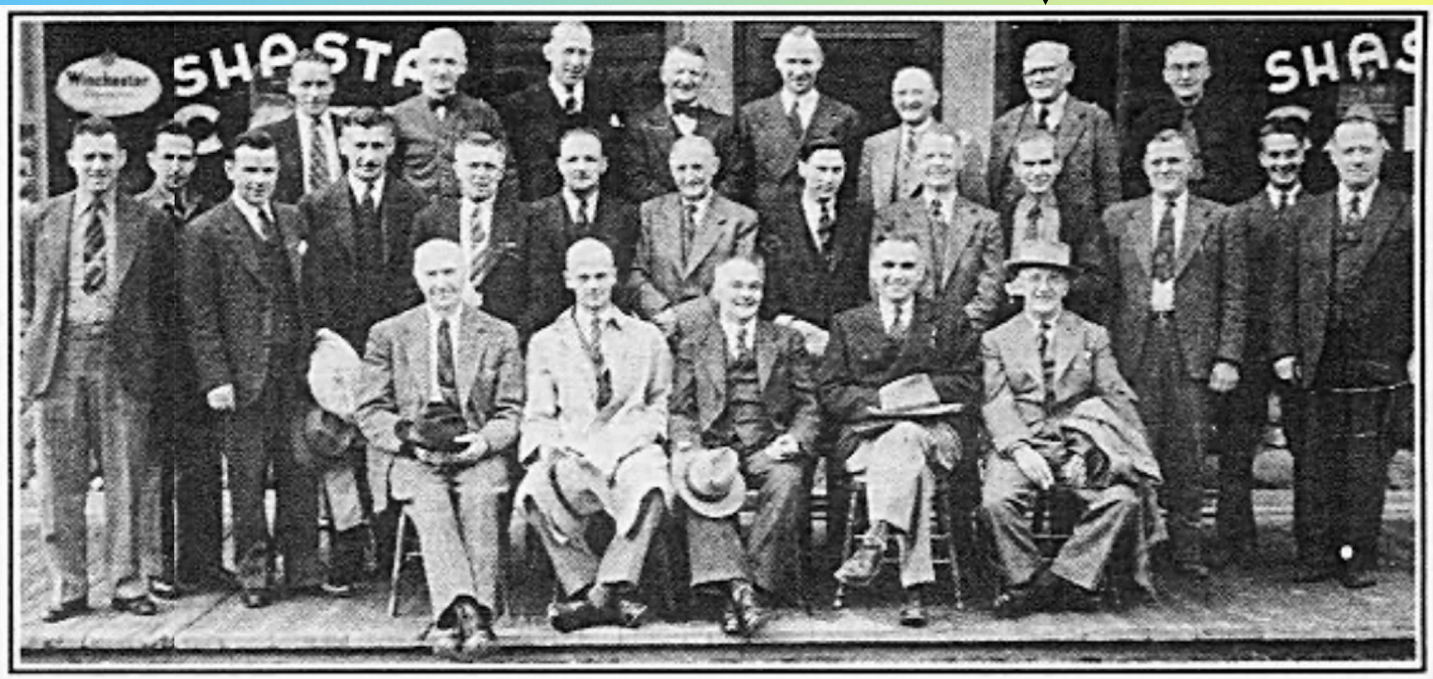
Karl Anderson was born in Denmark and left his homeland at an early age as a member of the Danish Navy. Eventually making his way to Canada, he arrived in the rapidly growing community of South Fort George in 1913. Like many pioneers of the era, Anderson started modestly, opening a newsstand opposite the sternwheeler landing in South Fort George.

As Prince George developed, so did Anderson's business interests. In 1914 he relocated his store to a permanent building on George Street in the newly established townsite of Prince George. Through hard work and business acumen, he became one of the community's most successful entrepreneurs. During the 1930s and 1940s, Anderson built considerable wealth through the sale of beer and other business ventures, establishing himself as a prominent local businessman.



Karl Anderson in front of his storefront (1914)

Beyond his commercial success, Anderson was deeply committed to community service. On October 30, 1942, he became a **charter member** of the **Rotary Club of Prince George**, helping establish what would become the city's most influential service organizations. He was also a founding member of the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Brotherhood in America, maintaining strong ties to his Danish heritage while contributing to his adopted community.



The Rotary Club of Prince George gathered outside of their meeting place, the Shasta Cafe, on September 22, 1944. Back Row, left to right, Bill Armstrong, John Lynch, Dr. Lester King, Gordon Wood, Bill Ranby, Ivor Guest, Karl Andersen, John Nilson; second row Bud Moore, Percy Williams, Neal MCKelvie, Harold Assman, Sam Stevens, Jackson Barber, Ken Irwin, Jack Ratledge, George Williams, Martin Caine, Bill Russell, Jack Nicholson, Bill Grant; front row: Vice-president John McInnis Sr., treasurer Alex Cross, President Alex Moffat, secretary Everet McEachern, and Sgt.-at-Arms Earl Fulmer.

-Bert Bridgeman Photo

Recognizing the importance of education and opportunity, Anderson took steps to create a lasting legacy. On March 18, 1950, he was granted a Certificate of Incorporation under the British Columbia Societies Act, creating what became known as the Karl Anderson Foundation. For its first several years, the foundation remained largely inactive, recording neither revenue nor expenses while Anderson continued to build his estate.

Karl Anderson passed away on July 8, 1957. When his will was probated on January 22, 1958, the foundation received a bequest of $27,500—a substantial sum at the time. Anderson's will provided clear direction for how those funds were to be used. He stipulated that bursaries be awarded to male graduates of Prince George high schools who intended to pursue university education.

His will also established a unique governance structure that remains in place today: all members of the foundation must be active members of the Rotary Club of Prince George. This requirement reflected Anderson's confidence in Rotary's commitment to service, integrity, and community leadership.

Operating under the Societies Act, the Karl Anderson Foundation maintains a constitution and bylaws that guide its activities. The foundation's directors are responsible for managing and overseeing the investment of its assets, with the objective of generating sufficient returns to fund bursary awards on an ongoing basis while preserving the foundation's capital. Directors are also responsible for overseeing the selection process for bursary recipients.

The foundation awarded its first bursary in 1959, providing $200 to a deserving local student. Since then, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been distributed to students pursuing higher education. The amount awarded each year has varied based on investment performance and the foundation's ability to balance current support with long-term sustainability.

Since approximately 2005, the foundation has worked closely with School District 57. Through this partnership, the district promotes the bursary opportunity annually and assists in identifying eligible candidates based on the criteria established by the foundation.

More than six decades after the first bursary was awarded, Karl Anderson's vision continues to benefit young people in Prince George. As of 2025, the Karl Anderson Foundation has assets valued at approximately $165,000 and remains dedicated to supporting local students pursuing university education.

What began with a young Danish sailor arriving in South Fort George in 1913 has evolved into a lasting educational legacy. Through prudent stewardship, Rotary leadership, and a commitment to student success, the Karl Anderson Foundation continues to fulfill the wishes of its founder by investing in the future of Prince George, one student at a time.