



# Italian Canadian Cultural Association of Nova Scotia 2026 Youth Bursary Program

(902) 453-5327

www.iccans.org

office@iccans.org

The ICCA is pleased to offer a **Post-Secondary Bursary** for the youth in our Association who have been accepted into a post-secondary program in **September 2026**.

**Total Bursary Value:** \$1,500 total

**Number of Recipients:** Top 3 applicants (shared amount of \$500 each)

## Eligibility Criteria

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To be considered, applicants must:

- Be of **Italian descent** (parent or grandparent).
- Be a current ICCA member in good standing, **or a dependent (e.g., living at home) within a family membership that has been in good standing** for at least the past 12 months.
- Have a **minimum grade average of 80%** or higher for high school graduates or **3.5 GPA** or higher for those currently in post-secondary.
- Be under the age of 25 years.
- Provide a **letter of acceptance** from a post-secondary institution for September 2026.
- Submit a **professional résumé**.
- Show a **commitment to volunteerism** at the ICCA. Please describe:
  - Past contributions, and/or
  - How you plan to volunteer in the future.

## Submission Requirements

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### Part A – Creative Component

Choose **ONE topic** from the list below, and present it in **ONE of the following formats**:

**Formats (Choose One):**

- A written essay (approx. **500 words**)
- A video (approx. **5 minutes**)
- An artistic creation (e.g., painting, poster, diorama, etc.)

**Topics (Choose One):**

1. How has being of Italian heritage influenced you as an Italian Canadian youth? Share both positive and challenging experience.
2. Tell us about your family's heritage in Italy. What do you know about the region they are from - its culture, traditions, or landscape? Have you visited (or would you like to visit)? If so, what would you like to see or experience? You may also reflect on why your family may have chosen to leave that region to come to Canada.
3. Share the story of a family member's immigration to Canada. What challenges did they face, and how would their experience differ today?

### Part B – ICCA and Youth Engagement

Please provide **2–3 detailed suggestions** on how to **encourage more young people to volunteer and contribute to the ICCA**.



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## Application Instructions

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**Deadline:**

**May 31, 2026**

**Submit your entry as follows:**

- **Essay or Video:** Email to [office@iccans.org](mailto:office@iccans.org). Use the subject line: “Bursary Application – [Your Name]”

*NOTE: If the file is too large to email, send via Google Drive or Dropbox or submit as a zip file*

- **Artistic Entry:** Must be dropped off at the ICCA office **by appointment only**. Contact us in advance to arrange a time.

## Judging Criteria

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Our panel of 3 judges, consisting of ICCA members and educators will review applications and choose the top 3.

Judges will be given entries separately and will not be able to discuss them for the judging process. Each judge will rank each submission based on the following criteria listed below and send in their final scoring to the ICCA Secretary who will then share with the Board of Directors to review the final decisions on the top 3 recipients.

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Weight
Relevance to Topic	Thoughtful, clear response to the selected topic	25%
Creativity & Originality	Shows personality, insight, or artistic expression	25%
Effort & Quality	High-quality work, complete and polished	20%
Connection to Heritage	Strong cultural awareness or family history	20%
Youth Engagement Ideas	Thoughtful, actionable suggestions for ICCA	10%

## Award Distribution & Minimum Application Requirement

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If fewer than three eligible applications are received, the ICCA reserves the right to:

- Award fewer bursaries,
- Adjust the distribution of the total bursary amount, or
- Withhold the bursary if minimum eligibility criteria are not met.

If you have any questions, reach out to the ICCA Secretary at [office@iccans.org](mailto:office@iccans.org)