



TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF CANADA FOUNDATION

YEAR **IN REVIEW**

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION LEADERS

2024

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Foundation is a registered charity established in 2003 to address the challenges associated with a shortage of skilled people available for planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining Canada's transportation infrastructure.

Vision

A robust and diverse Canadian transportation workforce

Mission

Developing tomorrow's transportation leaders



Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

AS we enter into the Foundation's third decade, we continue our efforts to support the education and development of tomorrow's transportation professionals. This year once again, with the help of its many supporters, the TAC Foundation awarded **18 scholarships worth over \$83,000** to college and university students across Canada.

The impact of the TAC Foundation is truly exceptional, with a total of **645 scholarships** awarded since its inception, valued at over **\$2.7 million**. This financial support has enabled hundreds of Canadian students to complete their transportation studies and become our current professional colleagues. Many of them are already in leadership positions in our field and contributing to the Canadian transportation sector.

This year, we undertook a **major strategic planning exercise**, during which we reviewed our mission and vision and defined three major strategic directions for the years ahead.

The plan will be unveiled in detail at the next TAC annual conference, to be held in Vancouver at the end of September. However, allow me to give you a sneak preview of our new mission and vision.

Our mission, "Developing tomorrow's transportation leaders" speaks to our commitment to nurture the next generation of industry innovators and problem-solvers. As we look to the future and consider Canada's evolving demographics, strength and diversity, we are inspired by what we can achieve together and **our new vision – "A robust and diverse Canadian transportation workforce"** – captures this.

We hope that you will continue to work with us over the next decade, supporting our mission to make this vision a reality. On behalf of the TAC Foundation, I am enormously grateful for your strong support.

Jean-François Gysel, P. Eng., PhD
TAC Foundation Executive Director

Together,
we are providing
financial support
to tomorrow's
transportation
professionals
across Canada.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The strategic priorities of the 2024 to 2029 and beyond strategic plan are:



Board
Optimization



Resource
Development Excellence



Brand Building &
Communication

► FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a critical priority for the Foundation.

Its Executive Director and members of the Board invest significant energy in establishing and nurturing relationships with current and potential donors and communicating the value of supporting students in transportation-related programs of study. Those efforts have resulted in donations to the Foundation totalling approximately \$3.8 million since it was established in 2003, with another \$130,000 committed for future years. **The Foundation's past and future commitments have exceeded \$3.9 million.**

The Foundation is grateful for support received in 2024 from governments, private sector companies, and associations that provided for a generous scholarship program and enabled the Foundation's operations. Current donors and their cumulative contributions are listed later in this report. In 2024, the public sector across Canada provided an increased level of support compared to recent years. **The Foundation truly appreciates all annual contributors,** as our activities would not be feasible without them.

► MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The main goals of the Foundation's Marketing and Communications committee are to **raise the profile of the TAC Foundation, enhance communication and collaborations and broaden the outreach efforts.** We aim to promote the Foundation's activities to attract valuable donors and high-caliber scholarship applicants.

The communications strategy includes multiple messages promoting the programs to universities/colleges and TAC members in the educational institution category and **encouraging active participation from scholarship recipients to promote the success stories of the Foundation's work.** General and targeted posts are made across various platforms, including TAC News, X, and the Foundation's own LinkedIn account.

PROGRAMS

► SCHOLARSHIPS

Since the academic year 2004/05, the Foundation's Scholarship Program has awarded **645 scholarships valued at almost \$2.7 million** to students at the graduate, undergraduate (university and college) and entrance level in transportation-related disciplines.

In 2024, the Foundation was pleased to award 18 scholarships totaling \$83,225. A list of the 2024 scholarship recipients is contained herein and is also available on the Foundation website.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the leadership of Janelle Warren and Rebecca Farrugia and the contributions of more than 60 volunteers who reviewed scholarship applications this year.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND

For 2024, the Foundation has allocated **\$2,500** to its Student Activities Fund.

Applications can be submitted by individuals or clubs/teams/associations pursuing field trips, educational experiences, and infrastructure or equipment, enhancing real-life learning opportunities and encouraging involvement in and selection of transportation-related studies and careers.

► INTERNSHIP SERVICE

In 2024, the Foundation promoted paid summer internship positions. These internships **provide students with valuable experience in real-world situations** and allow employers to benefit from the national reach of the Foundation and find and recommend strong candidates that could be considered for future permanent roles.

Two companies (EGIS and GHD) used the Internship Service in 2024. A total of **21 applications** were received and shared with the participating companies, which then independently managed their selection and hiring process.

AASHTO STEM OUTREACH SOLUTIONS

The Foundation champions Canada's American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) STEM Outreach Solutions (formerly TRAC) program. Day-long sessions offer hands-on activities to introduce high school students to the world of transportation design and engineering, seeking to inspire them to consider related careers. **A successful event was held in Ottawa in September 2023** with support from Englobe, TAC and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Another event is being planned for 2024.

LEADERSHIP

The Foundation's Board of Directors currently comprises **13 leaders in the transportation sector** who support the Foundation's mission.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (JULY 2024)

- Gerry Chaput, Arcadis, Foundation President
- Jean-François Gysel, Foundation Executive Director
- Scott Stewart, Scott Stewart and Associates, Foundation Treasurer
- Jim Weir, Morrison Hershfield Limited, Foundation Vice-President
- Ryan Essex, The Miller Group
- Keith Foster, Englobe
- David Hein
- Vimy Henderson, PTech Engineering Solutions Inc.
- Keri-Ann Hobson, GHD
- Mauricio Lopez, EllisDon Corporation
- Frédéric Pellerin, Québec Ministère des transports et de la mobilité durable
- Janelle Warren, Trojan Technologies
- Sarah Wells, Transportation Association of Canada

OFFICERS

- President – Gerry Chaput
- Vice President – Jim Weir
- Executive Director – Jean-François Gysel
- Treasurer – Scott Stewart

COMMITTEE LEADERS

- Fundraising – Jean-François Gysel
- Internships – Vacant
- Marketing and Communications – Vimy Henderson
- Student Outreach – Keith Foster
- Scholarships – Janelle Warren



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As noted in the Fundraising section, approximately **\$3.8 million** has been received for the **TAC Foundation programs**.

Of that, almost **\$2.7 million** has been paid out to date in the form of **scholarships**.

The TAC Foundation holds some assets in reserves, including an endowment fund and a long-term capital fund, and works on a break-even basis for its annual operational expenses.

The **2023 audited financial statements** can be found online at <https://www.tac-atc.ca/en/connect-with-our-community/tac-foundation/>.

2024 DONORS

PLATINUM* \$50,000 or more



GOLD* \$25,000-\$49,999



SILVER* \$15,000-\$24,999


BRONZE* \$1,000-\$14,999




* Cumulative contributions over multiple years


SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The TAC Foundation honoured **18 deserving students** with scholarships in 2024.

\$6,000	Arcadis
	Mwendwa Kiko Doctor of Philosophy, Civil Engineering University of Toronto

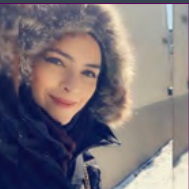
\$6,000	The Esch Foundation
	Oforiwaah Pee Agyei-Boakye Doctor of Philosophy, Geography University of Minnesota, Twin Cities


\$6,000	The Esch Foundation
	Maria Vetrici Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering University of Toronto

\$5,000	AtkinsRéalis
	Neshon Missighian Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering University of Waterloo


\$5,000	Atlantic Industries Limited
	Madeline Whitehouse Master of Science in Civil Engineering University of New Brunswick

\$5,000	EllisDon Corporation, in honour of Stephen Damp, past TAC Foundation President
	Seyedshayan Barary Master of Engineering Toronto Metropolitan University


\$5,000	MORR Transportation Consulting
	Rulla Al-Haideri Doctor of Philosophy, Civil Engineering Carleton University

\$5,000	Stantec Women in Engineering
	Olivia Wiper Bachelor's Degree, Civil Engineering & Society McMaster University

\$5,000	TAC Foundation, in honour of Dr. Ralph Haas
	Adriana Ceric Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering University of Waterloo

\$5,000	TAC Foundation
	Addison Hiller Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering University of British Columbia


Congratulations to all of the deserving recipients!

\$5,000	TAC Foundation
	Kristi Hunter Bachelor of Engineering Science Western University

\$5,000	TAC Foundation
	Gabriel Andrade Lanzaro Doctor of Philosophy, Civil Engineering University of British Columbia

\$5,000	TAC Foundation
	Teodora Stan Maîtrise en sciences de l'environnement Université du Québec à Montréal

\$5,000	TAC Foundation
	Benjamin Turgeon Doctorat en génie civil Université Laval

\$2,725	Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited, Future Leaders Scholarship
	Patrick Hehl Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology - Transportation Mohawk College

\$2,500	CCMTA Road Safety
	Christopher McCarthy Civil Engineering Technology, College of the North Atlantic

\$2,500	Colas Canada
	Cody Moote Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology - Transportation Mohawk College

\$2,500	Colas Canada
	Thalia Thompson Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology - Transportation Mohawk College



Transportation Association of Canada
Foundation
401-1111 Prince of Wales Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3T2

For donor and volunteer enquiries:

[Dr. Jean-François Gysel](#)

TAC Foundation Executive Director

**For scholarship/internship applications
and general enquiries:**

foundation@tac-atc.ca | 613-736-1350

