

Endowment fund supports N.B. medical learners

Saint John's Pat Darrah remembered through a new medical student scholarship endowment fund

New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc.

When Sean Darrah thinks about his father's driving role in the establishment of Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, he recalls how Pat Darrah pursued the initiative with a sense of humbleness and pride.

"His commitment to the creation of a medical school in our province ensured our residents were awarded the opportunity to study medicine and contribute to the region as physicians," he said.

For over 60 years, Pat Darrah was one of New Brunswick's most prominent industry and community leaders and activists. Throughout his professional career, he oversaw numerous developments that have helped improved many aspects of Saint John and the province. He died on June 11, 2020 following a brief illness at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

In honour of this legacy, Darrah's family has enlisted the help of the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc. (NBMEFI) to establish the Pat Darrah Memorial Medical Education Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund intends to support two bursaries to New Brunswick-born medical students, in perpetuity, for a total of \$10,000 a year. For every year of the \$5,000 scholarship received, a student will pledge to work in the province for one year as a physician.

"I could not think of a more fitting way to recognize his incredible legacy to this province than to create scholarships for a school he helped create," said Darren McLeod, the foundation's executive director. To date, \$110,000 has been raised for the scholarships with a goal of \$250,000 to fulfill the vision of creating two bursaries in perpetuity to honour his memory.

In the past decade, the NBMEFI has awarded 292 medical school scholarships to 143 alumni with 132 of those recipients on return to service pledge agreements to become the next generation of our province's physicians. In June, it provided a record 42 scholarships with \$304,000 being allocated to scholarship students. The foundation is the only not-for-profit organization in Canada dedicated to providing scholarships to New Brunswick residents who pledge a return to service agreement to practise here.

This unique recruitment strategy works because there are young people every corner of this province who aspire to pursue several years of intensive education and training so one day, they can take care of the sick, alleviate suffering, and save lives. However, for many the barrier is financial and that is where this endowment fund helps student achieve their goal of becoming physicians in our province.

You can directly support the two scholarships in Mr. Darrah's name by contributing to the fund at nbmeded.ca/patdarrah or by mail to New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc., 70C Hampton Road, Rothesay, NB E2E 5L5. Alternatively, you can contact our office by phone (506) 848-0036 to make a gift too.

The Pat Darrah Memorial Medical Education Scholarship Endowment Fund was established by Darrah's family and the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc. PHOTO: Contributed

