



**May 19, 2026**

## 2026 COETF Annual Awards Program

The Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF) was created in 1976 to assist programs in research, education and human resources development in the vision and eye care field in Canada.

Through its annual Awards Program, the COETF has supported faculty development, research and/or specialized education programs carried out by graduate students and investigative projects conducted by undergraduates and faculty at Canada's schools of optometry, as well as projects undertaken by independent practitioners or members of the public.

In 2026, the COETF received a total 24 applications. Of those, 20 were granted at least partial funding totalling \$50,000.00 for projects or research.

Research and academic support are vital to our profession. The Trust Fund is opening doors for new ideas that will resonate throughout optometry in Canada. The COETF is self-funded by optometrists and we are proud that COETF has provided more than \$2million in research funding since 1977. Please give generously and often. Your support will go a long way to making us stronger and better equipped to face the future of health care in Canada. To donate online or download a donation form please [click here](#).

The deadline for applications each year is in early February. For additional information about the application process or a copy of the application form, contact [coetf@outlook.com](mailto:coetf@outlook.com)

Institution	Total Applications Received	Total Funding Requested	Total Applications Approved	Total Funding provided
Total Waterloo School of Optometry Applications	13	\$ 70,459.00	13	\$ 35,420.00
Total Montréal École d'Optométrie Applications	8	\$ 33,239.00	6	\$ 13,580.00
Independent	3	\$ 30,375.00	1	\$ 1000.00
Total for 2026	24	\$134,073.00	20	\$ 50,000.00
<b>Totals (since inception)</b>		<b>\$8,720,866.61</b>		<b>\$2,303,825.17</b>



## The COETF Annual Awards Program for 2026 – Results

<b>SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO</b>		
Victor	Opoku-Yamoah	Exploring the Critical Periods for the Maturation of Visumotor Behaviour in Typically Developing Children
Supriya	Aryal	The relationships between attention, visual processing speed, and reading in amblyopic children
Erica	Chow	Sub-Cellular location, protein variation, and visual behavioural impacts of KCNQ5 in zebrafish
Kristine	Dalton	Measuring dynamic visual acuity in a paediatric population
Yangchen	Dolker	The role of ocular motor function during static balance in children with amblyopia
Shilpa	Gorla	Do physiological temperatures affect the activity of lens microcirculatory system modulators?
Lauren	Hoare	The impact of ocular motor dysfunction in walking in children with amblyopia
Heather	Hudecki	Colour Vision in Pilots
Nijani	Nagaarudkumaran	Autophagy-Related Genes as Biomarkers of Ocular Surface Aging
Vicky	Shah	Mitochondria-derived metrics to evaluate biological aging of ocular surface tissues
Hitesh	Sharma	Evaluating tear film stability by fluorescein-induced ocular surface cooling variability
Yuning (Cindy)	Sun	Harnessing neuroplasticity to boost stereopsis in adults with amblyopia
Ivy	Vong	Role of lysosomal membrane stability and protease activity in the pathogenesis of Sjögren's disease dry eye
<b>SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, MONTRÉAL</b>		
Carlos	Freytas-Palomo	Serotonin and dopamine receptors in the retina: unveiling novel mechanisms participating in neurovascular coupling during diabetic retinopathy.
Kariane	Laramee	The Therapeutic Merit of the Chaperone Clusterin (CLU) in age related macular degeneration
Antoine	Cuvillier	Le niveau de remplissage des flacons de larmes artificielles influence-t-il la force nécessaire à l'instillation ?
Margaux	Anselmet	Mesure non invasive de la stabilité du film lacrymal à l'aide d'un nouvel appareil portable utilisant un téléphone intelligent
Chris Jemel	Allati Mezen	Évaluation de la précision de ChatGPT dans le diagnostic du glaucome à partir de données cliniques longitudinales au sein de la Clinique Universitaire de la Vision
Patrick	Greiss	Studying the effect of arterial stiffness on the hallmarks of diabetic retinopathy
<b>INDEPENDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS</b>		
Faiyaz	Abid Ali Khan	Characterizing the role of CASK in the outer Retina