CANADIAN OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION TRUST FUND

FONDS DE FIDUCIE DES OPTOMÉTRISTES CANADIENS POUR L'ÉDUCATION

May 27, 2025

2025 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 2025, the COETF received a total 18 applications. Of those, 15 were granted at least partial funding totalling $44,583.67 for projects or research. COETF is pleased to announce access to additional funding from the Dorrie Morrow Fund. The Dorrie Morrow Fund provides additional funding for projects that support children's vision, particularly for marginalized and at-risk children who do not have access to regular vision care. This year, the Dorrie Morrow Fund funded projects to the amount of $ 14,583.67. Our new partnership with FBC allows COETF to share award applications that would interest FBC and qualify for additional funding.

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

Institution	Total Applications Received	Total Funding Requested	Total Applications Approved	Total Funding provided
Total Waterloo School of Optometry Applications	10	$ 56,519.80	10	$ 31,133.67
Total Montréal École d'Optométrie Applications	7	$ 29,200.00	5	$ 13,450.00
Independent	1	$ 4,000.00	-	-
Total for 2025	28	$89,719.80	15	$ 44,583.67
Totals (since inception)		**$8,586,793.61**		**$2,253,825.17**

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SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO		
Cassandra	Huynh	Evaluating efficacy and cytotoxicity of rutin as a novel anti-inflammatory compound for treating ocular surface disease
Sharon	Qiu	Comparing the Fit and Performance of Scleral Lenses with Oval and Circular Limbal Zones
Nijani	Nagaarudkumaran	Examining Autophagy Activity in Human Ocular Surface Cells
Anne Marie	Yeboah	Eye Tracking and Concussion
Parvin	Shokrollahi	Design and Preparation of 3D printed Ocular Inserts for Anti-viral Drug Delivery to the Eye
Sarah	MacIver	At- Home Modified Diurnal Intraocular Pressure Patterns in Asian and Caucasian Patients with Normal Tension Glaucoma
Shilpa	Gorla	Investigating the presence of TRPV1 and TRPV4 channels and their role on the biomechanics of chicken lenses
DORRIE MORROW FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS (UW)		
Ashita	Bidarkar	PERG and mfERGs following short-term chromatic adaptation in myopes and non-myopes
Erica	Chow	Effects of atropine treatment on KCNQ5 deficient zebrafish
Lauren	Hoare	The impact of amblyopia on walking in children
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, MONTRÉAL		
Kariane	Laramée	Stimulating the brain with light to restore vision using optogenetic
Guillaume	Bellemare	Development of a preclinical experimental model to study cortical blindness
Behiye	Sanliturk	Effect of topical timolol on optic nerve head oxygenation in a healthy control group
Melissa Claire Krystel-Jazmin	Chabane Li Moya-Alvarez	Grassy Narrows Anishinaabe First Nation: association between environmental exposure to mercury and retinal structures, observed by optical coherence tomography (OCT).
DORRIE MORROW FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS (UM)		
Jean-Marie	Hanssens	Validation of a low-cost pediatric acuity chart