



ALEF-BET SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOUR OF ZOIA BELENKOVA

Celebrating Jewish Learning, Leadership, and Community Engagement in Windsor-Essex

The Alef Bet Scholarship honours the legacy of Zoia Belenkova and her lifelong commitment to Jewish learning, leadership, and community. This scholarship supports individuals at different stages of life who are actively involved in Jewish life in Windsor-Essex.

To broaden its impact, the scholarship is offered across **three categories**, each designed to recognize and support engagement with Jewish learning and community leadership:

- **Hebrew School Students** – for younger students developing their Jewish identity through formal Jewish education.
- **University and College Students** – for emerging leaders balancing academic pursuits with Jewish involvement on campus.
- **Adult Learners** – for those continuing or returning to Jewish learning and community leadership later in life.

To be eligible for the scholarship, (General eligibility applies to all students)

- Reside in the Windsor-Essex region.
- Demonstrate ongoing involvement in Jewish life or community.
- Financial need is not a consideration.
- Submit a completed application form and all required essay(s) and documentation.
- Applicants may apply under **only one category per year**.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Hebrew School Students (Grades 1–12)

Purpose: To support students in Grades 1–12 who are engaged in Jewish learning and active in the Windsor-Essex Jewish community.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be enrolled in a Hebrew/Jewish day school or a supplemental Hebrew school program in Windsor-Essex.

Application Requirements:

Short essay (300–500 words) responding to:

- “What have you (and your family) done for the Jewish community in Windsor?”
- “How do you hope this scholarship will help you (and your family) continue contributing to the Jewish community?”

Letter of support from a Hebrew school teacher or community leader.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Involvement in synagogue, youth groups, volunteering, cultural events, or Jewish advocacy.
 - Family's commitment to Jewish life in Windsor.
 - Thoughtful vision for future community involvement.
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2. University and College Students

Purpose: To recognize and encourage young Jewish leaders contributing to Jewish life while pursuing post-secondary education.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be enrolled in or accepted to a post-secondary institution (college or university in Canada).
- Must be an active member of the Jewish Student Association (JSA) at the University of Windsor.

Application Requirements:

Proof of enrollment and active involvement in JSA.

Short essay (500–700 words) responding to:

- “How has your involvement in Jewish student life shaped your leadership or identity?”
- “How do you plan to contribute to the Windsor Jewish community in the future?”

Evaluation Criteria:

- Leadership and involvement in Jewish campus life.
 - Commitment to Jewish identity, learning, or advocacy.
 - Clear plans to give back to the Windsor Jewish community (e.g., mentoring, volunteering, teaching).
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3. Adult Learners (Age 25+)

Purpose: To support adults pursuing Jewish learning or leadership development for the benefit of the Windsor Jewish community.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be 25 years of age or older.
- Must be engaged in Jewish learning or leadership programs (e.g., Hebrew classes, adult Jewish studies, synagogue leadership training, Jewish educator development).

Application Requirements:

Short essay (500–700 words) responding to:

- “What have you done for the Jewish community in Windsor?”
- “How will your continued learning benefit the community?”

Letter of support from a rabbi, educator, or Jewish organizational leader.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Personal investment in Jewish growth and leadership.
- Clear connection between current/future learning and community contribution.
- Reflective, thoughtful, and goal-oriented responses.