



Press Release

Annual District Awards Ceremony Cancelled

For Immediate Release - **Nanaimo, BC – May 1, 2012** Today the [Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation](#) (NLSF) reluctantly announced that the annual ***District Awards Ceremony*** held at the Port Theatre each June will not be held this year. This is the first time in 30 years that the ceremony has been cancelled.

The evening ceremony is an opportunity for graduating students to meet and thank donors who provide awards, bursaries and scholarships each year through the NLSF.

The teachers of School District 68 have always been an integral part of the ceremony as they know the students and they help the Foundation connect with each Award recipient. Their help includes coordinating and volunteering their time. This year, however, these are considered extra-curricular activities that teachers are currently withdrawing in their job action.

“The Foundation is very disappointed that the District Award Ceremony will not happen this year, but this will not have an impact on the selection process or students receiving their awards prior to the end of the school year,” said Erin van Steen, Executive Director, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation. “This year 406 awards totaling over \$320,000 will be given out to students thanks to our generous donors who are committed to seeing young people in our community pursue their post-secondary education.”

Erin Van Steen will be contacting all donors to make sure their questions are answered and to explore other ways for donors to meet their award recipients. The volunteer Board of Directors from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation will be contacting students who did receive awards individually after May 9th, via phone. Awards can be picked up at the Foundation office at John Barsby Secondary or will be distributed either at the individual school commencement ceremonies or at another presentation coordinated by the schools. A full list of award winners will be published on the Foundation website in June.

Since 1982, NLSF has helped thousands of young people by providing scholarships, awards and bursaries to District 68 graduating students. The Foundation looks forward to working with teachers next year on the much-loved Awards Ceremony.

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation works with School District 68 to better the lives of students through support programs and scholarship programs. To make a donation to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, please contact via www.nlsf.ca or (250) 753-4074.

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