



Leo and Bruce Thordarson Social Economy and Co-operatives Award

Value: \$1,500

The Leo and Bruce Thordarson Social Economy and Co-operatives Award is offered annually to a student who is enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy, Co-operatives, and Nonprofit Sector program through the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

This award recognizes father and son, Leo and Bruce Thordarson. Leo was raised in Mozart, Saskatchewan and was the first in the family to attend university at the University of Saskatchewan. Leo received three degrees including one in education, which led to a lifelong career in teaching and leadership in the field. Like his father, Bruce Thordarson attended the University of Saskatchewan. Bruce then devoted his life to serving the co-operative sector, including taking up posts as the executive director at the Cooperative Union of Canada (1979-1985) and the Director General for the International Co-operative Alliance (1988-2001), amongst roles in numerous other national and international co-operatives.

Inspired by Leo and Bruce Thordarson's legacy, this scholarship supports students in becoming the next generation of leaders in the co-operative, social economy, and nonprofit sector. It leverages the University of Saskatchewan's close relationship with the co-operative sector as evidenced by the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy, Co-operatives, and Nonprofit Sector, a program designed for working professionals and graduate students who are looking to gain an understanding of the historical and current conditions that lead to the creation of co-operatives, non-profits, and social economy organizations, and the vital roles that are played by these organizations in today's economy.

Application procedure:

Submission of a statement of no more than one page providing personal insight into the role(s) played by co-operatives, non-profits, and social enterprises in shaping your professional and/or academic career, and how this award will assist you in shaping your career. Selection will be based on: academic performance, demonstrated financial need, and the merits of the written submission.

Extended application deadline: November 30, 2025

Please submit applications to:

The Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
101 Diefenbaker Place, University of Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5B8
Email: coop.studies@usask.ca