



Leo and Bruce Thordarson Social Economy and Co-operatives Award

Award Value: \$1,500

This award supports Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) students in becoming the next generation of leaders in the co-operative, social economy, and nonprofit sector.

Eligibility:

Open to Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy students at the University of Saskatchewan or University of Regina who are enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy, Co-operatives, and Nonprofit Sector (GSECN) and demonstrate financial need. The successful application will be chosen based on academic performance, financial need, and the merits of the written submission.

How to Apply:

Send an email to coop.studies@usask.ca (subject: Thordarson Application) with an attachment that includes: a) a personal statement (500 words maximum) providing 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 and b) 2-3 sentences describing financial need. The successful application will be chosen based on: academic performance, demonstrated financial need, and the merits of the written submission.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026



Established by family members, this award was created in memory of Leo and his son Bruce and their contributions to the co-operative sector. Raised in Mozart, Leo was the first in the family to attend university. He earned three degrees at the University of Saskatchewan, including an education degree which led to a lifelong career in teaching and leadership. Like his father, Bruce Thordarson attended USask, then devoted his life to serving the co-operative sector, including posts as executive director of the Co-operative Union of Canada (1979-85) and Director General for the International Co-operative Alliance (1988-2001).