



Media Contact:
Nicole Reader
Chair, Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Initiative Foundation
778-242-1378 (cell)
info@cloverdaleroodeofoundation.com

SURREY STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS, NEW SCHOLARSHIP CREATED BY CLOVERDALE RODEO YOUTH INITIATIVE FOUNDATION.

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CLOVERDALE, BC: In June 2020, while the world came to a halt due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair postponed, one of the things that didn't stop was the Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Initiative Foundation annual scholarship. Seven grade 12 students from across the city of Surrey were awarded \$1000.00 scholarships for post-secondary education by the Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Initiative Foundation.

"As a Board we collectively agreed to proceed with awarding scholarships during the pandemic, whether there was a rodeo or not, because people are in a time of financial need more than ever, and this is not a time to hold back, but to give and lend a helping hand, says Foundation Chair Nicole Reader."

The recipients, all of whom were part of the graduating class of 2020, will use their \$1000.00 scholarships for a variety of post-secondary institutions across British Columbia.

The 2020 Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Foundation recipients:

- **Vincent Labador – Johnston Heights Secondary**
- **Nisha Nijjar – Fleetwood Park Secondary**
- **Aashna Thapar – North Surrey Secondary**
- **Natasha Kalinic – Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary**
- **Alexander Thornton – Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary**
- **Taya Suttill – Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary**
- **Skye Graham – Clayton Heights Secondary**

"Each of these graduates are incredibly deserving of these awards," says Foundation Chair Nicole Reader. "The entire community should be proud of these young people."

The foundation adjusted its scholarship criteria, so applicants did not require having previous volunteer experience at the Cloverdale Rodeo in order to be eligible, as long as they had volunteer experience with another organization.

The Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Initiative Foundation will also be awarding scholarships this year under its new criteria. The application deadline for the **2021 scholarships is Friday, May 21st, 2021**. Scholarship applications can be found at <https://www.cloverdalerodeofoundation.com/about-the-scholarship/>

Not only has the Cloverdale Rodeo Youth Initiative Foundation continued to support the youth community throughout the pandemic, but the organization has also been provided the opportunity to establish an additional scholarship through its organization called The Isabella Olson Scholarship Award "Rising Above".

The "Rising Above" scholarship was established in loving memory of a Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary student, Isabella Olson, on behalf of her loving family. Isabella was an extraordinary and inspirational young individual who strived to 'Rise Above' the various obstacles she faced while always remaining determined to succeed.

To honour Isabella's legacy a \$2,000.00 scholarship has been created to recognize an inspiring Lord Tweedsmuir grade 12 student who is "Rising Above" obstacles, whether personal, mental health, bullying, or family related complications. A student who has the determination to continue doing well in school, who may participate in school activities community services and/or may have work experience.

"Isabella's inspiring spirit was a source of strength to all who knew her, and it is our esteemed honour to be able to present this award and assisting inspiring students in achieving their dreams, says Foundation Chair Reader."

The application deadline for the 2021 Isabella Olson Scholarship Award "Rising Above" is **Friday, May 21st, 2021**. Scholarship application can be found at <https://www.cloverdalerodeofoundation.com/rising-above-scholarship/>