

The Karin Khuong (2K) Memorial Award for Courage & Resiliency

Karin Khuong

Karin Khuong loved life, family, school and sports. Although she played all sports, basketball was her passion. On the court she was happy, creative, and determined. She loved to compete and her family loved watching her perform. She began playing at Castle Park Elementary, where she earned the nickname 2K, and later for club teams Poco Galaxy and VK Basketball. In 2018 Karin led the Poco Galaxy to the final of the Junior NBA Canadian Championship. Karin was diagnosed with stage 4 rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), a soft-tissue childhood cancer, in Sept. 2018. The community rallied around her and she held off the disease long enough to return to practice and to play in games for Terry Fox Secondary School. She cheered on her teammates during the 2018-19 season when Terry Fox went 35-0 and won the British Columbia junior girls' high school basketball championship. While Karin was undergoing treatment, she attended every practise and every game, acting as one of the team's managers and statisticians. In 2020, Karin stepped on the court for the Ravens in the BC Provincial Championship to a thunderous applause by the fans. It was the last time she put on the Terry Fox uniform. Karin Khuong passed away October 4th, 2020 at 16 years old.

The Terry Fox community welcomed Karin in grade 9 and surrounded her with love when she needed it most, and the many friends and teachers at Castle Park and Citadel Middle provided a nurturing environment that enable Karin to blossom. Karin and her family made beautiful friendships in the basketball and school communities, and they are forever grateful to the teachers, coaches, teammates and friends who inspired her every day and shared in Karin's beautiful life.

Karin had extraordinary strength, courage and resilience, and for the last two years of her life #2KStrong trended often in social media. Karin was also charismatic, funny, and kind. Karin's joyful and positive character inspired and uplifted everyone she met. She brought people together. She was determined, tenacious and incredibly skilled playing the game she loved. Karin worked hard for everything she achieved, and she brought beauty to everything in her life.

Karin's goal was to play basketball at Simon Fraser University, and with her determination, she would have achieved it. Now she is going to assist other students chase their post-secondary dreams. This is the Khuong's way of thanking the Port Coquitlam community for sharing in Karin's life.

Criteria

One to four awards will be granted annually to any grade 12 student in Port Coquitlam who meets the following criteria:

- In their grade 11 & 12 years is enrolled in Terry Fox Secondary or Riverside Secondary.
- Is in good academic standing with a minimum overall grade of 75%
- Has competed in at least **one sport**, or has been a **team manager** for at least one sport, at their high school in their grade 11 or 12 years
- Has demonstrated high standards of leadership, athletic performance or service to a team at their high school
- Has demonstrated a passion for their sport and a willingness to share their knowledge with younger athletes.
- Will be attending a post-secondary institution in the fall of the award

Applicants are required to submit a **brief outline of their competitive sports participation or volunteerism with a team** (maximum 250 words) and to **compose an essay** (up to 500 words) on the following topic:

Why do you think you deserve the 2K scholarship (e.g. Adversity, excellence, financial need)?

Any additional documents will NOT be accepted or reviewed by the committee.

Fund Administration

A total of \$2,000 will be awarded each year for a total of \$20,000 over 10 years.

2021 - \$2,000	2026 - \$2,000
2022 - \$2,000	2027 - \$2,000
2023 - \$2,000	2028 - \$2,000
2024 - \$2,000	2029 - \$2,000
2025 - \$2,000	2030 - \$2,000

The selection committee reserves the right to select one to four candidates each year, and to determine the amount each candidate will receive for a total of \$2,000 each year. For example: 1 candidate receives \$2,000; 2 candidates receive \$1,000 each; 3 candidates receive \$666 each; 4 candidates receive \$500 each.

If a suitable candidate is not found in a given year, any unspent allocation money will be carried forward to the following year, and awards may double.

Funding will be provided in the fall following the award presentation. Students will be required to be enrolled in a post-secondary school at the time the funding is granted.

The Karin Khuong (2K) Memorial Award Selection committee

The selection committee shall be chaired by Cindy Carkner, community advocate, and wife of Terry Fox girls' basketball coach Mike Carkner. The selection committee shall be comprised of the following individuals: Jen Khuong (mother); Jacob Khuong (brother); Justin Khuong (brother); Caitlyn Chan (friend); Kianna Frost (friend & teammate); Alisha Weloy (friend & teammate); Enzo Hickman (friend), and Diego Hickman (friend).

The acting secretary is Kianna Frost.

Deadlines

Applicants are required to submit their information by **May 15, 2026**. Successful applicants will be notified in **June**. Award applications can be submitted to the scholarship committee at **2kstrongscholarship@gmail.com**. By submitting an application, applicants agree to have their personal information verified by a high school counsellor.