

NEWS RELEASE

Malala Yousafzai and Pearson College team up for Education Equality

The new scholarship in honour of the Nobel Prize winner secures opportunities for females to study in Canada on the shores of the traditional territory of the SC'IAÑEW First Nation



PEARSON COLLEGE UWC

650 Pearson College Drive, Victoria, BC, Canada, V9C 4H7

P: +1 250 391 2411 E: info@pearsoncollege.ca www.pearsoncollege.ca

Located on the unceded territory of the SC'IAÑEW (Beecher Bay) First Nation

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Pearson College UWC and Malala Yousafzai have aligned missions and created a scholarship for females from Pakistan and Afghanistan to study at Pearson. The scholarship removes the financial and access to education barriers that can exist in those countries allowing the selected students to join the mission-based, experiential learning program on Canada's only UWC campus.

"The United World Colleges give students a learning experience they may otherwise never be able to access," said Jason McBride, Head of Pearson College. "Partnering with Malala ensures we'll continue to break barriers to education and create changemakers who can further the mission around the world."

Yousafzai knows the challenges better than most. She was shot on a school bus at the age of 15 for speaking out in support of education for females and has become a beacon for those denied that opportunity. According to the Malala Fund there are more than 120 million girls out of school every day, and she is committed to finding a seat for everyone.

"I travel to many countries to meet girls fighting poverty, wars, child marriage and gender discrimination to go to school," said Malala Yousafzai, co-founder of the Malala Fund. "We are working so that their stories, like mine, can be heard and together with Pearson we can amplify the message."

Hassin Mehtarkhil has lived that same fight for education. A student from Afghanistan in her final year at Pearson College, it's the scholarship she earned that gave her an opportunity that otherwise wouldn't have been available.

"I'm one of the lucky people from Afghanistan and having access to education inspires me so much," said Mehtarkhil. "I see myself in the future as one of the top lawyers focused on girls' education and I want everyone to have access to education along with justice and fairness in the world."

The selection process to identify the first recipient of the Malala Yousafzai Peace Scholarship will begin as soon as possible with an intake target for August 2026.

To arrange interviews, contact Dan McIntosh at 250-858-5649 or DMcintosh@pearsoncollege.ca

Recorded livestream - <https://www.youtube.com/live/8R6a0iqltfw>

Background:

Malala Fund is working for a world where all girls can learn and lead. Malala Fund advocates for resources and policy changes needed to give all girls a secondary education, invests in local education leaders and amplifies the voices of girls fighting for change. Learn more at malala.org.

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Founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (Canada) and located along Pedder Bay on the unceded territory of the SC'IA'NEW (Beecher Bay) First Nation, Pearson's mission is shared among the 18 UWC's worldwide in which "education is a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future". As a two-year, pre-university school, our 210 students aged 16 to 19 are selected from more than 155 countries and across Canada to join us in pursuit of that mission. All students take part in the International Baccalaureate program and 75% of students attend on full or partial scholarships. Learn more at www.pearsoncollege.ca and www.uwc.org



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