

Scholarships & Awards

The RCAF Heritage Fund is supporting both an annual scholarship and an annual essay-writing contest.

Keith Hodson Scholarship

Named after Air Vice-Marshal Keith Hodson, this annual scholarship opportunity is worth up to \$4,000 and is open to Canadian students pursuing a graduate degree (MA or PhD), provided at least one year remains in their program and their thesis focuses on one of the topic areas below:

1. Canadian military aviation—history / historical operations;
2. RCAF and national security;
3. RCAF policy and doctrine;
4. RCAF organizational and development issues;
5. RCAF operations;
6. RCAF and equipment acquisition;
7. Canadian space policy and issues;
8. Canadian air defence as well as sovereignty policy and issues; or
9. Global air and space power issues (such as coalition operations, air policing, future aviation technology and space).

Applications for the Keith Hodson Scholarship must be received no later than the first Friday of the year in which the award will be given. The application must include the applicant's name and contact information; the academic institution; the degree program; a letter of reference from the thesis advisor; the contact information of the thesis advisor; and a short (750-word) synopsis of the thesis topic.

J. A. Wilson Air Power and History Essay-Writing Contest

This annual contest, focused on the same topics as the scholarship, awards \$1,750 for the winner and \$750 for the runner-up. These researched, scholarly papers must be original and not previously published. Submissions for the contest are to be received no later than the last Friday of November. Late submissions will not be considered.

Submission guidelines:

- a. Submissions may be in either official language.
- b. Submissions must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length, not including endnotes/footnotes.
- c. Submissions must be written in accordance with The Chicago Manual of Style.
- d. Submissions must use Oxford English Dictionary or Petit Robert spelling.

- e. Submissions must be submitted digitally in Microsoft Word or rich-text format.
- f. All supporting tables, images and figures that accompany the text should be sent in a separate file (i.e., not embedded in the text). Original vector files are preferred; high-resolution (not less than 300 dpi) PSD or JPG files may be submitted.
- g. Copyright permissions are required for all materials that do not originate from the Department of National Defence or the author.
- h. Submissions must include a brief biography of the author (250 words), including their current position/occupation and contact information (phone number, email).

For more information on the contest and J. A. Wilson's contribution to the RCAF as an airminded thinker, refer to the ["Essay Contest" article](#) in *Royal Canadian Air Force Journal* volume 9, issue 4.

Submission

Scholarship applications and essay submissions must include "Essay Contest" or "Scholarship" in the subject line and must be sent to the [RCAF History and Heritage group mailbox](#). Please ensure an acknowledgement of receipt is obtained no later than 2 weeks after submission.

If there are any questions about the suitability of a thesis topic or the applicability of an essay, please contact the RCAF Chief Historian, [Dr. Richard Mayne](#).

The selection criteria for the scholarship and essay are based solely on the RCAF Heritage Fund Committee's assessment of how the submission will advance air and space power studies. All scholarship applicants will be notified of the results, but only the top three essay authors will be notified.

By submitting an essay, authors agree that winning essays may be published in the *Royal Canadian Air Force Journal*.

NOTE: To mark the RCAF 2024 Centennial, the value of the scholarship and the essay contest awards are doubled!

