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## **Press Release**

### **Eating Disorder Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador Announces 2024 Scholarship Winners**

At its Annual General Meeting held today the Eating Disorder Foundation of NL (EDFNL) announced the 2024 winners of the Renata Elizabeth Withers Memorial Scholarships.

This year's winners are KALEY BURRY from Corner Brook and BRIANNA POWER from Gander. Both are students at Memorial University with interests in mental health. Both plans to further their studies with a focus on eating disorders. (See attached Bio's)

Board Chair Vince Withers said, "the Foundation is always happy to be able to support students who have an interest in eating disorder treatment and research, and who plan to stay in the province and pursue careers in the area of mental health."

In addition to awarding its 2024 Scholarships, the Foundation presented its audited financial statements and various reports to those attending the meeting. In his report for the annual general meeting Mr. Withers appealed to families to continue to come forward. "We are here to support you and once you make the initial step the next day will be a better day."

The Renata Elizabeth Withers Memorial Scholarship was initiated in 2008 by the Withers Family in memory of their daughter who lost her battle with anorexia nervosa in 2005. Since the scholarship was established 32 post-secondary students have benefited from the financial support that comes from winning the scholarship.

The Eating Disorder Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (EDFNL) is a leadership advocacy group dedicated to promoting research and providing public support services and information about matters related to eating disorders, including information on available treatment services for individuals and families who experience disordered eating.

## Brianna Power

Brianna Power is from Gander. In 2023 Brianna graduated from Memorial University St. John's Campus with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry/Nutrition. She is currently in the second year of a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics program that is offered jointly by Memorial and Acadia University.

Brianna strongly believes in the importance of creating and supporting healthy relationships with food, either as a preventative measure or as part of a treatment plan. Brianna believes in a holistic approach to healthcare where a team of professionals work together to address all components of an illness such as eating disorders.

Brianna's long-term goal is to become a registered dietitian in Newfoundland and Labrador and work within a multidisciplinary team such as the Renata Elizabeth Withers Centre for Hope.



## **Kaley Burry**

Kaley Burry is from Corner Brook and a fourth-year psychology (Honours) student at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University. Pending completion of her undergraduate degree in the Spring of 2024 Kaley has applied to continue her education towards either the Master of Public Health or the Master of Community Health Program that is offered at Memorial's St. John's Campus.

Kaley has had an interest in mental health issues since she was in high school. She is currently a member of the executive of the Psychology Society and the Grenfell Campus Representative to the Canadian Psychological Association.

Once Kaley completes her educational objectives, she wants to continue to apply her skills in the areas of mental health and eating disorder awareness and resources. She is particularly interested in researching the impact of eating disorders in young women in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

