**Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award**

**Application Form**

**Instructions**

1. Complete and submit this form and all attachments electronically.
2. The following must be attached in order for your application to be processed:
   * University transcripts for your last completed degree and your current studies.
   * The following references:
3. A letter from your thesis supervisor validating your statement about the value of your thesis to the Canadian geoscience knowledge base.
4. A letter from one other person (ideally this will be a previous employer in the mineral industry or in a geological survey) attesting to your merits for this award.
5. Submit your completed application to Krishana Michaud, [kmichaud@pdac.ca](mailto:kmichaud@pdac.ca)
6. The deadline for submission is December 15.

**Note:**

1. **The application and all attachments must be submitted in one email.**
2. **Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply.**

**Deadline for applications**

December 15, 2023.

**Announcement of award recipient**

The selection committee will announce the award winner on February 1, 2024.

**Further information**

Questions about this application or the award should be addressed to Krishana Michaud, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, [kmichaud@pdac.ca](mailto:kmichaud@pdac.ca)

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

1. **Full name**
2. **Date of application**
3. **Your address, telephone number, and email address while at university**

Street address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone (including area code)

Cell phone (including area code)

E-mail

1. **Your permanent address, telephone number, and email address**

Street address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone (including area code)

Cell phone (including area code)

E-mail

1. **The degree(s) that you have already completed**

University

Degree

Subject/specialization

Date completed

1. **The degree that applies to this award**

University

Degree

Subject/specialization

Commencement date

Planned completion date

1. **Please provide details about any other current awards or scholarships that you are receiving**
2. **Scholarly contributions**

Refereed journal articles published or in press (ie, accepted in final form)

Refereed journal articles accepted subject to revision (including date of acceptance letter and journal manuscript number)

Refereed journal articles submitted (including date of submission and journal manuscript number)

Unrefereed contributions (same order as above: published/in press, accepted, submitted)

Posters or talks (abstracts) - international meetings/workshops

Posters or talks (abstracts) - national meetings/workshops

Posters or talks (abstracts) - regional meetings/workshops

Other contributions

1. **The following details about your planned thesis** (see notes below)

Title of thesis

Location of work

Description, including present status (maximum 500 words)

1. **The following details about the geoscience mapping component of your thesis** (see notes below)**:**

Total amount of time spent in the field conducting mapping for your thesis (in weeks or months)

Description of the mapping strategy and objectives (Maximum 250 words)

1. **A map that illustrates the nature and content of the thesis project** (see notes below)
2. **Please answer the following question** (see notes below)

How will your thesis contribute to Canadian geoscience mapping? (Maximum 500 words)

1. **References** (see notes below)

Please supply the following details about the people who are providing your references.

***Supervisor***

Name

Title

Full university address, including department

Telephone number (including area code)

Email address

***Second reference*** (ideally from a previous employer in the mineral industry or in a geological survey)

Name

Title

Company/organization

Position

Full company/organization address

Telephone number (including area code)

Email address

# Application Guidelines

# Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award

**Objective of the award:**

The objective of the award is to encourage and support a graduate student in Canada whose thesis embodies the concept of increasing our knowledge of the geological history of Canada through field mapping. The thesis will meet this requirement by incorporating mapping as a significant component.

Mary-Claire Ward, the former Chairman of Watts, Griffis and McOuat Ltd., was a tireless and vocal advocate for government investment in basic geoscience in Canada. She was especially supportive of mapping programs to ensure Canada’s geological knowledge base was conceptually and factually correct in order that it might support private sector investment in the mineral sector.

**Selection committee**

The selection committee for the Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award comprises representatives of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), Watts Griffis and McOuat Limited (WGM), the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC) and the Geological Association of Canada (GAC).

**Criteria for evaluation**

The applications will be evaluated based on a combination of the academic excellence of the individual, the excellence and innovation of the thesis project, the degree to which the individual isadvancing the mapping-based geoscientific knowledge of Canada, and the evidence of progress as indicated by scholarly contributions (papers, talks, posters).

**What constitutes mapping**

The committee views geoscience mapping as any field-based study whose aim is to provide 2-D and 3-D maps (portrayals) of reasonably sized areas of Canada, and an understanding of the geological evolution of those areas/volumes (meaning complementary lab studies of various types). A significant boots-on-the-ground component is expected though this may be integrated with other methods such as remote sensing, geophysics, etc.

**Student eligibility**

In order to be eligible for this award, the student must still have active student status until at least the last day of April. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply.

**Notes**

***Section 9:***

**The following details about your planned thesis**

Title of thesis

Location of work

Description, including present status (maximum 500 words)

The committee will consider the following in its review:

*Is this a well thought out thesis project, with clearly identified problems, clear plan of how to address and solve the problems, and the best use of techniques or technologies to address the problems?*

Other considerations:

* clear grasp of the geological problems to be solved
* role of field mapping in the completion of the thesis
* well-developed plan in place to solve the problems
* accomplishments so far
* complementary follow-up analyses
* innovation
* conciseness

***Section 10***

**The following details about the geoscience mapping component of your thesis**

Total amount of time spent conducting field mapping for your thesis (in weeks or months)

Description of the mapping strategy and objectives (Maximum 300 words)

The committee will consider the following in its review:

*Is geoscientific mapping a significant component of the thesis project? To what extent is the applicant involved in planning and conducting the mapping?*

Other considerations:

* Is the mapping scale and strategy commensurate with the objectives of the research?
* Innovative mapping approaches
* Integration of different types of mapping data or techniques
* Use of standards, where applicable

***Section 11***

**A map that illustrates the nature and content of the thesis project.**

* The map should be provided in the form of a single PDF of any dimension and at any scale (digital/GIS data will not be accepted)
* A short text caption should be provided, in the style of a figure caption within a paper/thesis
* The map document can, if desired contain ancillary material such as cross-sections, stereonet projections, stratigraphic logs or other data collected in the field
* The map must have been created by the student during the course of their current degree program. If the map was created in conjunction with others (e.g. an open file release with GSC/provincial/territorial geological survey), the student must clearly specify their role in the creation of the map.

The committee is looking for:

*The relationship/information the map provides, and the insights gained that could not have otherwise been achieved without the map.*

Other considerations:

* How was the information gathered?
* What information was recorded?
* Logistical aspects of fieldwork

***Section 12***

**Please answer the following question**

How will your thesis contribute to Canadian geoscience mapping? (Maximum 500 words)

The committee is looking for:

*The degree to which this thesis project truly contributes to increasing the understanding of the Canadian geoscience knowledge base through mapping.*

Other considerations:

* is the size of the region covered commensurate with the desired outcomes?
* intention to get the mapped information into the public domain
* publication plan
* does this project fill a fundamental knowledge gap?
* conciseness

***Section 13***

The letter of reference by each of the sponsors **will be a valuable component of this application** and should support the reasons for this particular applicant to be chosen as the winning candidate. Brief and uninformative letters will have a negative impact on the applicant’s chances of winning the award. The committee will evaluate the degree to which the supervisor believes in the student and the project.

*Your application will be acknowledged once received. If you do not receive an acknowledgement or if you have any questions about your application or about the award, please send an email to Krishana Michaud,* [*kmichaud@pdac.ca*](mailto:kmichaud@pdac.ca)