

## The Annual Cathie Nicholl Scholarship for the Linlathen Projects 2023

The Linlathen Project aims to develop and nurture a community of theological scholars in Eastern Ontario; it is the intent to encourage all participants to think deeply about an important topic in a theological context, equipping them to return with new perspectives and/or renewed energies to their own daily communities. Long term, the Linlathen Project hopes to facilitate meaningful theological dialogue and build deep Christian community. With this goal in mind, we are committed to exercise ecumenical hospitality as modeled by Thomas Erskine in his nineteenth century Linlathen ministry (Romans 12).

*In keeping with the above objectives, the Committee offers the “Cathie Nicholl Scholarship” each year. This is a T.A.-ship for a graduate student -- of Theology or with theological interests -- in or from Eastern Ontario. Cathie Nicholl was a significant personal influence on three of the original committee members during their student years, and we firmly believe that Linlathen is a full embodiment of her teaching in our own lives. As such, we have committed to honour her work and continue to support her passions with this scholarship.*

The Cathie Nicholl Scholarship 2023 includes free conference registration plus room & board at the not-very-luxurious-but-hopefully-very-welcoming Windstone Farm, in Beckwith Ontario, for either the Spring or Summer Linlathen Conference (May 18-21, with ShadK and Steve Prince; August 3-6 with Chelle Stearns and Erica Grimm). The recipients of this scholarship will be present to be an assistant during the conference – from Wednesday evening through to Sunday evening (ie an extra pair of hands for the guest speaker, but also generally... from facilitating conversation and participating in outdoor walks to setting up chairs to helping serve meals and doing dishes...alongside other academics doing the same). The recipient will attend all group discussions/events, and is invited to participate in the general conversation and fun throughout the conference. It is expected that the Cathie Nicholl Scholars will richly benefit from relationships built and conversations listened to and participated in whilst here; they are assistants during this period, whose main goal will be to help facilitate the conference as part of the ‘Linlathen Team.’

It is hoped that in the days following the conference the Cathie Nicholl Scholars will write a short draft 'report' of the retreat (approx 3-4 pages), and be willing to either attend one follow-up committee meetings for assessment of the conference to facilitate planning of future endeavours, or, to submit a list of recommendations/insights, if such attendance is not possible.

### **A brief on Cathie Nicholl:**

Cathie Nicholl (1910 - 2004) served as an Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship staff working with university students for 51 years and was also instrumental in the development of Pioneer Camps across Canada. She was awarded the Order of Canada for her life-long contribution to the lives of Canadian youth. Cathie was the eldest daughter of Scottish missionaries in Northern China, who inspired in her a life-long love of reading scripture and singing hymns. Her early years were spent studying at Cheefoo School in Yantai, northern China: “There was a wholesome, normal spiritual foundation for everything [we] did. They constantly stretched us. They never undershot us.” Shortly before she turned 19, Cathie left China for Toronto, intending to train as a teacher -- in preparation for which she took Canadian history and business courses. She was sidetracked by a job however, one which intervened in her own academic plans but ensured university engagement for the remainder of her life: she became ‘secretary’ in the fledgling Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Soon, she was working directly with undergraduates and graduate students, challenging them intellectually, spiritually, relationally – seeking to encourage (and model) a holistic expression of living fully the Life More Abundant. “When I started, I didn’t plan to work for 50 years, but was very conscious of the fact that God had called me into this thing ... I loved the kids. They were like adrenaline to my system.” This Inter-Varsity vocation took Cathie to each of Canada’s provinces, as well as to Jamaica, pioneering high-school chapters in addition to her university work. She also directed Pioneer Camps in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. Although Cathie never married and had no children, she yet had thousands of young people around the world for whom she was a life-changing mentor and life-long friend. Many are now themselves models of similar holistic expressions of faith in educational institutions and relationship-oriented communities across the globe.

For more on Cathie Nicholl, see: [www.canadianchristianleaders.org](http://www.canadianchristianleaders.org); also, the video of Cathie’s work produced by Wilbur Sutherland & IMAGO in 1990, titled: *This May Be Your Life’s Work: A film about Christian Leadership Training Based on the Life of Cathie Nicholl*.

### Applications for CNS scholarship:

\* To be submitted by February 29th to [linlathenlectures@gmail.com](mailto:linlathenlectures@gmail.com), cc [kjeffreyjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:kjeffreyjohnson@gmail.com).

\* Must include two personal references: one from clergy/chaplain/or university professor, the other from someone who has known you for at least 5 years.

\* Please include CV.

\* Please answer the following 6 questions on a separate page:

1. Explain why you are interested in being a Cathie Nicholl Scholar at Linlathen.
2. How did you find out about this scholarship?
3. What specifically about the 2023 Linlathen conference theme appeals to you?
4. What is your current area of academic study? (this need not relate specifically to conference theme)
5. What are your personal areas of leadership skills?
6. If you were given an opportunity to contribute in leadership to this conference, what area(s) would most appeal (music, reading, acting, leading discussion, outdoor activities, walks, prayer, etc)?

\* Books recommended by the speakers will be included as part of the scholarship award. The Cathie Nicholl Scholars will be expected to read at least one these in advance of the conference, as well as familiarize themselves with the work of **A Rocha Canada** ([arocha.ca](http://arocha.ca)) and **Imago Arts** ([imago-arts](http://imago-arts)) and of the incoming speakers.

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To read more about the Linlathen Lectures, please go to [ww.linlathen.com](http://ww.linlathen.com). You will be able to read about former CNS scholars on the CNS page, explore the general Linlathen vision, and review material from previous conferences. Introductory videos are also available on our [YouTube site](#).