



# Gordon MacDonald / Margo and Dorene Thoms Fund Terms of Usage

---

## About the Fund

The fund was established in 1981 by Dorene Thoms in memory of Softball BC Umpire-In-Chief Gordon McDonald. A year later, Dorene added the name Margo to the fund in memory of her daughter. The fund was renamed in 1992, adding the name of the fund's founder and long-time administrator, Dorene Thoms. The move was made to recognize Dorene's efforts and dedication to this worthwhile endeavour.

Built on contributions from friends and colleagues of these individuals, the fund grew primarily from yearly contributions from the Vancouver Umpires Association. Since 1986, a portion of each Softball BC umpire's annual membership registration fee has been allocated to the fund.

The Fund annually awards up to three (3) \$1,000 bursaries to support an active, registered Umpire in British Columbia who is attending a recognized post-secondary program. To date, in excess of \$25,000 has been disbursed to help with the education of individuals from the Softball BC umpire community.

## Contributions to the Fund

Financial contributions to the fund are made through a \$3 levy assessed to all umpire registrations.

## Fund Management

### Application

The deadline for applications is August 1 of each year.

Applicants must complete the application form, which is available online (Softball BC Website), and be accompanied by

- Proof of attending any form of post-secondary education (photocopy is sufficient)
- A Letter of Reference - may be from a teacher, dean, DUIC or another supervisory role

### Eligibility Requirements

- Current active and registered umpires in British Columbia who are attending a recognized post-secondary institution.
- Son or daughter of a registered BC Umpire.
- If the applicant is a currently registered BC Umpire, they must have been registered for the two years preceding the application.
- If the applicant is a minor umpire, then they need only be registered in the current year.

- A recipient can receive the bursary only once. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to reapply when they meet the eligibility criteria.

**Selection Committee**

The Gordon McDonald/Margo and Dorene Thoms Bursary Committee, which is comprised of the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief (Chair) and the District Umpires-in-Chief.

The Chair shall, no later than October 1st of each year, provide to the selection committee a compilation of the scholarship applications, confirmation of the number and value of the bursaries, and identify changes to the eligibility criteria for the bursary program. The recommendation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors no later than November 1 of each year.

To honour the memory of the fund's founders, the PUIC will consult with Mark Thoms and Callum McDonald on changes to the bursary's selection criteria. ,

**Selection, Notification and Report**

1. The Selection Committee shall select the recipients of the bursary by an email ballot.
2. The Provincial Umpire-in-Chief (Chair) will notify the recipient(s) of their successful application. The Softball BC Office will issue the bursary payment.

**Timelines**

- Feb. 15 - May 1 Application available online. PUIC to ask every clinic instructor to share with their participants. Softball BC to post on social media.
- Aug. 1st Deadline for submissions to be received by the Softball BC office. Late submissions may be accepted, but will only be considered if there are insufficient applications to disburse three awards in a given year.
- Sep. 1st Ballots and other information emailed to voting members
- Oct. 1st Deadline for responses, which go to the Softball BC office
- Oct. 15th Winners notified and monies mailed to winners

**Annual Budget and Fund Allocation**

Financial control and signing authority over the fund will be in accordance with Softball BC's financial management policies.

The office shall annually provide, no later than May 15th, confirmation of the funds available for allocation for the upcoming fiscal year.

The PUIC shall prepare an annual report for the Board and Membership at a date to be determined by the office.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHO WAS GORDON MCDONALD**

Gordon McDonald was raised in Vancouver near South Memorial Park. He was involved in sports his entire life. His softball career dates back to 1938. While in the service, he was instrumental in organizing the softball team. Upon his return to civilian life in 1944, Gordon began coaching the Eliers Jeweller's Basketball Club. His teams went on to win 14 National Championships in the 1950's. His basketball team competed in two Pan American Games, winning a silver medal at the first. Gordon was a top-ranked basketball official and worked basketball at the Pan American Games. He was the long-time allocator for the Vancouver and District Basketball Officials Association, serving in that post well into the 1970's.

Gordon's greatest love, however, was softball. He served as UIC for the Province of British Columbia for over 20 years. He was the long-time allocator for the Vancouver Umpire's Association and the province's chief educator, conducting rule clinics throughout the province. Mr. McDonald had a great feel for officiating. He understood the gray areas of the rule book. His common-sense approach to officiating made him one of the top umpires for many years. His rule knowledge was unchallenged. He was always available to answer the "what if's" of the game, many times taking calls late into the night.

Gordon suffered a heart attack while officiating a game in a recreational women's league. He was sixty-one years old. He is survived by his wife, Edith, and four sons.

In 1982, Gordon Cameron McDonald was made a Life Member of Softball BC, and in 1995, Gordon's career was completed with his induction into the Softball BC Hall of Fame.

**WHO WAS MARGO THOMS**

Margo was the daughter of Dorene Thoms, who was a former Softball BC Board Member in the 1970's and an active umpire. Margo played softball in Burnaby in the Y.M.C.A. program as well as with the Burnaby Minor Softball Association (organized by Dorene and Jack Best). Margo played junior ball as a pitcher and was captain of the Kirby Misfits. As a member of the Kirby's, Margo helped run the Softball BC Lottery for the first two years of its inception. Dorene and Jack Best were the originators of the first lottery program.

Margo volunteered many hours to Softball, including the 1977 National Tournament at South Memorial Park. Her entire life was built around the love of softball. She was struck down in her early life while travelling to a softball game in Haney. Dorene and Margo had a close relationship with Gordon, and it was that relationship that prompted Dorene to direct all donations, rather than flowers, to the bursary fund.

**WHO WAS DORENE THOMS**

Dorene was involved with softball at all levels. She umpired for many years, and most people will tell you she took no guff. She coached Minor and Senior softball. Her junior team, the Kirby Misfits, was one of the better junior teams in the late '70's. During the late 1970's, Dorene served as a Board member. She was not afraid to speak up and spent countless hours defending and backing the Province's officials. Dorene sponsored Major Women's softball during the early 1980's through her business Hiker's. The team was among the strongest in the country, but usually finished second to the Alpha Sport Dynasty.

From 1982, she nurtured and administered the Scholarship fund. She was a dedicated lady who 'told it like it was' or, as Dandy Dan says, 'told it the way she thinks it was'. She received the Hall of Fame Special Recognition award at the 1995 AGM. Shortly after that AGM, Dorene was admitted to hospital, where she died on November 15, 1995, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Elmer, of 48 years, her son, Mark, and her daughter, Karen.