



## **2017 Rick Blight Leadership in Action Scholarship for Athletes**

### ***BACKGROUND***

Born in Manitoba in 1955, Rick Blight had a long career as an exceptional athlete, selected by the Vancouver Canucks 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 1975 NHL draft.

As is often the case with high performance athletes, Rick experienced both highs and lows over his career. He was a top scorer for the Canucks during his first three years in the NHL, leading the team in scoring in the '76-'77 season. Rick played in the NHL for another three years before traveling to Switzerland to continue his career in the minors after a knee injury.

Rick retired from professional hockey in 1983 and began a career as a stockbroker before moving back to Manitoba to manage his family's tractor/implement business. He was a prominent and well liked business man in the community. Rick never gave up his love of sports and excelled in both curling and golf. Rick also continued to be involved in hockey, coaching his son's teams for a number of years.

Rick died by suicide in 2005 at the age of 49, leaving his wife, children and 4 grandchildren to cherish his memory. He was very proud of his children's accomplishments; his son is now a high school teacher and his daughter a registered nurse.

### ***PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP***

In tribute to Rick's life, the Crisis Centre is offering the *Rick Blight Leadership in Action Scholarship for Athletes* as a means to recognize the presence of mental wellness within athletics. Athleticism has the potential to be incredibly life promoting. It can also be competitive and prioritize physical wellness at the expense of mental and emotional well-being.

The *Rick Blight Scholarship* seeks to recognize athletes who have demonstrated both a dedication to leadership in their sport *and* an ongoing investment in their personal mental wellness and/or that of their sports team or community.

Actions in support of one's personal mental wellness and/or that of their sports team or community may be demonstrated through things such as visiting a mental health professional, encouraging peers to reach out when in need, involving oneself in emotionally-sustaining community activities, supporting anti-stigma efforts, forming LGBTQ alliances, or attending community events mandated to promote mental wellness.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- A leader in your personal mental wellness and/or that of your sports team, or community;
- Demonstrating a dedication to your sport;
- Currently enrolled in Grade 12 at a Lower Mainland/Sea-to-Sky Corridor high school;
- Fulfilling the requirements of the application package.

## **VALUE**

Five scholarships valued at \$1,000 will be awarded.

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

You may choose to submit Section D through a **video format**. Please contact us in advance for further details and discussion.

### **Complete Application Package Checklist (must include the following):**

- Application Form (Sections A to D)
- Signed reference letter from a teacher or community leader
- Current high school transcript

### **Send ALL documents in one package by mail to:**

Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC  
*Rick Blight Leadership in Action Scholarship for Athletes*  
763 East Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5T 1X8

**Completed application packages must be received by 4:00pm on Friday, March 3, 2017. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.**

Award recipient(s) will be asked to attend the Crisis Centre's Annual General Meeting (at our listed address) in May 2017 to receive their scholarship. **Recipient(s) may be asked to film a short video, provide a sound bite, or write a testimonial/blog post with us to raise awareness of the scholarship program and to highlight their contributions to mental wellness.**

I agree that I will make every effort to attend the Crisis Centre's AGM on May 3, 2017 to receive my scholarship.

## 2017 Rick Blight Leadership in Action Scholarship for Athletes Application

Section A: Personal Information		
First Name:	Last Name:	
Home Address:		
City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Phone # (cell, or home):	Email Address:	
<b>How did you find out about this scholarship? (Please check all that apply)</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Counsellor</span> <span>Teacher</span> <span>Internet</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Community Organization</span> <span>Publication/Mailing List</span> <span>Friend</span> </div>		
Section B: Academic Information		
Current Secondary School:		Graduation Date:
Street Address:		City:
Province:	Postal Code:	School Phone #:

<b>List two careers you are considering, in order of preference, and briefly describe why. Please indicate if you are uncertain.</b>	
<b>1)</b>	
<b>2)</b>	

**Section C: Community Service and Volunteer Activities**

Please describe your community involvement (outside of school) starting with the most recent:

<b>Activity/Organization</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>

**Section D: Personal Statements**

*Please do not exceed 3,000 characters for each question.*

- 1. Tell us how you have made mental wellness a priority in your life as an athlete.**

**2. Tell us about the contributions you have made in leadership or community service to support mental wellness within your sports team or community.**