

To whom it may concern,

I believe that being involved in school activities engages us to appreciate our education, to make connections with our peers through clubs and help others who may go unrecognized. There are group politics that need to be considered and we have to learn how to navigate through it all. This presents challenges at times but it also gives us the opportunity to be more understanding and to work together as a collective for everyone's benefit. That's why I made the choice to run for president of our student body last spring. As president, I spend around fourteen hours per week, leading and mentoring other leaders to organize and see to completion countless activities benefiting all students. Some other activities and volunteering I take part in is: the Breakfast Program at my school five days a week, helping serve at St. George Anglican church's community meals, cooking and serving food at the Ronald MacDonald House, helping run fitness sessions at Special Olympics and this past year I was captain of my field hockey team. With these activities, I've had the opportunity to practice my time management skills to remain on the principal's honours list throughout my four years at high school and this year I took two university courses.

I think it's important to take initiative now because I need to prepare myself for bigger challenges in the future, that will affect me and how I may overcome them. Possibly help with some of the challenges that could affect the world. That's why I took action and spoke out for the unmet need of banning single-use plastic bags in Moncton, New Brunswick. I started with this idea because it's firstly, an insidious threat to our environment on multiple levels and secondly, a simple first step for people to help the environment on a greater scale. I created an online petition with over 2300 signatures, spoke to the city council, did interviews, handed out over 20 letters to businesses in Moncton and spoke at two climate strike rallies. With that, I know there are plenty more obstacles to conquer, whether it be influencing environmentally friendly lifestyles or being a part of the solution, and I'm willing to continue to do so in the future.

This experience was important because it taught me that being vulnerable and taking risks is more important than being in any state in your comfort zone.

Ever since I was little, I always knew one thing- to do something that makes me and other people happy. Now that I'm thinking more seriously about my future, I will be going into Arts and Sciences at Queen's University whether it be online or not. From there, I'm hoping to go into some form of environmental science. All in all, I would like to challenge myself to be some form of a leader in my community.

This scholarship will certainly strengthen my opportunity to take the career path I want and have worked for. I believe my experiences and involvement fit amiably with the requirements and this scholarship will make a significant benefaction to further my education. I am committed to undertaking leadership goals and work hard both academically and in my community.

Now more than ever, during these difficult times I'm thankful of how much my Mount Royal family has positively impacted my life. Mount Royal was the first community I belonged to and showed me to support others and give back wherever possible. Whenever I feel lost or confused, I've always felt stability belonging to the Mount Royal family and it has given me an important relationship with God that I will carry with me for a very long time.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I hope you're staying healthy and safe.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gingles