



Scholarships For Students with Disabilities

Show Notes

Guests:

- Sheldon Brown, CNIB Scholarships
- Katja Newman, NEADS (National Educational Association of Disabled Students)

Episode Summary:

In this episode, Sheldon Brown highlights CNIB's wide range of scholarships and bursaries, which support students across Canada, addressing both financial need and accessibility requirements for those with sight loss. Katja introduces NEADS' financial assistance program, which offers grants and partner-funded scholarships, aimed at reducing student debt and improving accessibility on campus.

Both speakers emphasize the importance of early preparation, meeting eligibility criteria, and making an emotional connection in scholarship applications. Katja also mentions disabilityawards.ca, a useful resource to search for additional disability-specific scholarships.

Websites:

- CNIB Scholarships: www.cnib.ca/scholarships
- NEADS Financial Assistance Program: www.neads.ca
- Disability Awards Directory: www.disabilityawards.ca

Key Terms and Definitions:

- **Scholarship:** A form of financial aid that is awarded to students to support their education or training. Unlike loans, scholarships do not need to be repaid.
- **Grants:** A form of financial aid that is awarded to students to support their education or training. Like scholarships, grants do not need to be repaid.

- **Assistive Technology:** Devices and software designed to help people with disabilities, such as screen readers (e.g., JAWS) and voiceover systems.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever applied for a scholarship or bursary? What was the application process like for you?
- How did receiving a scholarship impact your ability to focus on your studies or other goals?
- What challenges did you face when trying to find scholarships you were eligible for?
- How have you used scholarship funds in ways that went beyond just covering tuition?
- Can you share any strategies that helped you write a compelling scholarship application?
- How did your experience with scholarships change your perspective on education or career planning?
- If you were to give one piece of advice to someone applying for a scholarship, what would it be?
- What has been your experience with regional or community-specific scholarships?
- How have you navigated the process of gathering documents like transcripts and reference letters for scholarship applications?
- Can you share a time when a scholarship made a significant difference in your education or career journey?

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