



Press Release  
June 2023

**Announcing the MSA Wild Salmon Grant in partnership with St. Thomas University,  
generously funded by Mr. J.W. Bud Bird**

The Miramichi Salmon Association (MSA) is pleased to announce the newly established MSA Wild Salmon Grant in partnership with St. Thomas University, and generously funded by Mr. J.W. Bud Bird.

Mr. Bird has donated \$105,000 to support an annual \$5,000 grant to an Indigenous undergraduate student in their second, third, or fourth year of study at St. Thomas University. The grant recipients will engage in research, supervised by faculty members, with the primary objective of fostering public involvement in the conservation of Atlantic salmon within the Miramichi River watershed. This research endeavor will incorporate traditional Indigenous knowledge for the preservation of rivers and natural habitats. The project results will be made accessible through the Miramichi Salmon Association, serving as a platform for conservation efforts and public advocacy.

“During his career, Bud Bird has been an entrepreneur, elected representative, and conservationist, and is respected for his dedication to his province. His gift to STU will create new opportunities for our Indigenous students to complement their class learning with experiential learning and public engagement. Bud Bird has been a long-time supporter of STU, and we are pleased to work with him to benefit students,” said Dr. Kim Fenwick, Acting President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University.

Mr. J.W. Bud Bird, a prominent businessman hailing from Fredericton, has been an active member of the MSA Board of Directors, having served as President, Board Chair, and Chairman Emeritus. Recognized as an Honorary Director of the Miramichi Salmon Association, Mr. Bird has also served on the Board of Directors for the Atlantic Salmon Federation and served as Canada's Commissioner to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. His political career includes holding the mayoral position in Fredericton in 1969 and serving as the Minister of Natural Resources during his tenure in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1978. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Bird has consistently demonstrated leadership in Atlantic salmon conservation and advocacy.



“Throughout history, the wild Atlantic salmon has been a revered and treasured resource among Indigenous people; more recently, to all of us who have been so fortunate as to live near wild salmon rivers, that magnificent fish has become a symbol for environmental sustainability,” says Bud Bird. “I truly believe that only through such a united sense of working together in partnership among all concerned, can the wild Atlantic salmon resource be fully recovered and permanently sustained.”

Eligible students can apply by October 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration. More information, including scholarship criteria, will be posted to [https://www.stu.ca/upper\\_year\\_scholarships/](https://www.stu.ca/upper_year_scholarships/) in the coming months.

“We are very grateful that Mr. Bird chose to include the Miramichi Salmon Association in this important initiative. We look forward to working with future recipients on Atlantic salmon conservation for the Miramichi River watershed,” said Robyn McCallum, President of the MSA.



*Left to right: Hon. Graydon Nicholas (St. Thomas University Chancellor), Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Past MSA President and Chair), Dr. Kim Fenwick (St. Thomas University Acting President and Vice-Chancellor), Dr. Robyn McCallum (MSA President)*