

Sarah Baker Memorial Fund: 2027 call for applications

A gift was made to the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) in memory of Sarah Jocelyn Baker by the members of her extended family. Sarah was born in Calgary in 1951 and died in Ottawa in 2006. Sarah was positive, full of humour, loyal, and inspired. She had a genius for getting the right answer to the bottom line. She loved people, animals and birds, and growing things. Hers was the sort of vision that Y2Y embraces.

Summary:

Y2Y is pleased to announce funding for early-career researchers at postsecondary institutions in Canada to study applied conservation-related issues that help advance Y2Y's mission and vision. An award of up to \$5,000.00 CAD is available for the 2027 funding cycle.

Criteria:

- Current graduate student or postdoctoral fellow at a post-secondary institution in Canada, studying resource management, environmental studies, wildlife biology, human dimensions of conservation, or similar fields.
- Research project will help to advance Y2Y's conservation vision and create tangible conservation outcomes in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. There must be a practical, applied component to the research (i.e. indicate the partnerships or processes through which research results will be incorporated into policy changes and/or on-the-ground conservation benefits). While the applicant does not need to be the person carrying out such implementation, it is important to know what steps are involved, by whom, and approximately when.
- The recipient will enter into a written agreement with Y2Y and submit reports on progress toward project goals on a schedule as set by Y2Y. A final report presenting the completed work and a thank you letter to the donor will be submitted by the agreed upon deadline(s).

Benefits for recipient:

- Financial support for an education-related project and experience
- Acquire knowledge and experience through an experiential-learning project with Y2Y, including opportunity to network with Y2Y staff and partners as opportunities arise
- Communications support and tools from Y2Y staff (e.g., newsletter, online articles, advice)

To apply:

Applications may be sent to graham@y2y.net until **11:59 pm, Mountain Time, 26 November 2026**. The recipient will be selected in December 2026, with the funded project expected to commence in 2027.

Please send all application materials as a single PDF called *FirstnameLastname_SarahBakerFund2027.pdf*.

Learn more about Y2Y: <https://y2y.net> and the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund: <https://y2y.net/grants/>.

Y2Y is committed to more diverse, equitable, and inclusive conservation. We strongly encourage applications from members of equity-seeking, minoritized, and/or marginalized groups that have not had equal opportunities to participate in conservation and/or research.

Sarah Baker Memorial Fund – 2027 application form

Cover sheet – 1 page

Applicant's name and work mailing address, including institution and department:

Phone number and email address:

Master's, PhD, or postdoc and year in program:

Advisor's name, department, and email address:

Project title (<200 characters including spaces):

Amount requested (up to \$5000 CAD):

Name and contact information for two professional references (one can be your current advisor):

Applicant's resume or short CV – maximum 2 pages

Application questions – maximum 2 pages¹

1. **Location and conservation problem:** Where do you work in the Y2Y region? What is the acute conservation problem? Why is research needed to address that problem?
2. **Goals & objectives:** What are the overall goal(s) and objective(s) of this project?
3. **Collaboration:** Who else (individuals and/or groups) is working on this project or in a related conservation or management program? How will you collaborate with them (be specific)?
4. **Methods:** Summarize your research methodology (field, analysis, and/or lab work). Avoid jargon.
5. **Implementation:** How will your results be used to make positive changes to conservation practice and/or policy? How does this help to advance the broader Y2Y vision and mission?
6. **Personal statement:** Describe your experience in conservation or related activities (e.g., community, communication, leadership, policy, diversity-equity-inclusion). What motivates you to do this work?

Budget – maximum ½ page

Provide a project budget (template below). Modify expense items and add/remove detail as needed.²

Expense items	Description	Total cost (CAD)	Request from Y2Y
Salary, stipend			
Professional fees, honoraria			
Rent, utilities, telephone			
Equipment, supplies, postage			
Travel			
Printing, photocopying			
Other (specify)			
Total expenses (CAD)		\$	\$

¹ If you include citations (not required), they count as part of this two-page section.

²Y2Y does not pay institutional overhead or indirect costs.