Clarence Elliott spent more than five decades advising Great-West Life on mortgages and real estate-investment. It’s a rare opportunity to retire twice from the same firm, but Clarence Elliott was a rare individual, and after retiring in 1975, after thirty-five years of service, he rejoined Great-West Life as a consultant and continued to advise and assist the company until his second retirement at age 80 in 1990. Mr. Elliott’s largest project with Great-West Life was the $100 million Place Bonaventure in Montreal, which later became the subject of a book that Clarence published in 1988. Over the years he also served as a director for the Oxford Development Group, Granite Holdings of Canada Ltd., Paloma Petroleum Ltd. and Equitable Real Estate Investments Corp. Ltd.

Mr. Elliott passed away in 1995, but prior to this his friends (Steve Demmings, Gillian Ewing and Ernie Johnston) who worked with Clarence at Great West Life approached their colleagues in 1994 to attain their financial support. They then established a fellowship to support graduate student work at the University of Manitoba. As noted in the terms of reference: “This award of up to $10,000 will be awarded annually to full-time students based on their GPA (grade point average), as well as the breadth of their academic interest and extracurricular activities.”

Due to Mr. Elliott’s broad interests and desire to support students who might come from a rural background, it was determined when the award was initially established that students in the following departments were to be considered eligible:

- Agricultural Economics (Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences)
- Architecture (Faculty of Architecture)
- Business Administration/Management (Faculty of Management)
- City Planning (Faculty of Architecture)
- Economics (Faculty of Arts)
- Statistics (Faculty of Science)

Since the Fellowship began in 1995/96 37 deserving students have benefitted from over $119,000 which has been allocated for graduate level study. During that time period thirty-two students (86.5%) from the Faculty of Architecture have benefitted directly by receiving approximately $101,500 (85% of total funds given) from the G. Clarence Elliott Fellowship. (Department of City Planning, 17 recipients; Department of Architecture, 10 recipients; Department of Landscape Architecture, 3 recipients; Environmental Design Program, 2 recipients).

We congratulate all of you.

This year (2008-2009), all of the recipients were from the Faculty of Architecture. (This is the eighth time this has occurred.) Congratulations to:

Corey Greenham, Architecture

Kaelen Wiseman, City Planning

Matthew Fitzgerald, City Planning

Mr. Steve Demmings (M.C.P. 1978), was instrumental in creating the award and provides on-going management of the fellowship. Steve was a foundering member of the candidate selection committee and has served in this capacity since 1995. Natalie Laden of Great West Life has served as a committee member since 2005. In keeping with the real estate management and investment training that Steve developed at Great-West Life early in his career, since 1990 he has also taught an elective course entitled “The Development Process for Design Professionals,” a course available to all graduate students in the Faculty of Architecture.

Steve is currently the CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission and maintains his strong connection with the faculty through the Clarence Elliott Fellowship. In 2006, Great-West Life stepped up to the plate again and made an additional five-year commitment of $25,000, which will be matched by the University of Manitoba, thus increasing the total capital of the Fellowship to over $250,000 in 2008.

For more information about this award, or to make a donation in support of this Fellowship please contact:

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