

MitoScholars

Empowering youth living with mitochondrial disease
to focus on their futures.



Kerriane Kozack

Tsawwassen, British Columbia

BAH Psychology (2nd year)

Queen's University - Kingston, Ontario

Meet Kerriane Kozack, a university student from British Columbia who lives with LHON, a rare inherited form of vision loss. The onset of this mitochondrial disorder appears in a person's teens or twenties. Burry and clouded vision are usually the first symptoms of LHON. Over time, vision in both eyes will worsen with a loss of sharpness and ability to see colour.

After struggling with unexplained symptoms for years, Kerriane was finally diagnosed with Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON), a rare mitochondrial disorder. This restricts the physical activities she can partake in due to her exercise intolerance, fatigue, and migraines, and she has to be conscious of how she paces herself. "As my academics are immensely important to me, this often means missing out on peer and social activities to prioritize my health and education," she says.

Kerriane shares, "Thank you so much for selecting me for the MitoScholars 2023 scholarship. This will make a huge impact on my education this year."

We're thrilled to support Kerriane in her studies and wish her all the best for the year ahead!