



Are you continuing your education at either college or university?



HOW DOES FULL-TIME SPONSORSHIP WORK?

It is really quite simple once you have found an eligible school/program. Under Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's guidelines and GRFN's Post-Secondary Operating Guidelines, here are some highlighted and important things to know:

GRFN APPLICATION FOR POST-SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP:

- **Submit your application** for sponsorship by the appropriate deadline for the session that you want to start.

DEADLINES for FULL-TIME and PART-TIME SPONSORSHIP

Spring/Summer starts: March 15th

Fall starts: May 15th

Winter starts: October 15th

All applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the deadline for which you applied. Please know that these application deadlines are strictly adhered to!!

Sponsorship is not guaranteed for the length of your program....you must re-apply for sponsorship every year by the appropriate application deadlines.

- The Post-Secondary Counsellor will review your application for sponsorship and your identified **"Education Plan"** to see if your school and program meet the criteria for sponsorship
- Sponsorship decisions are usually made within two weeks after each deadline. You will receive an email with the decision.
- Final sponsorship decisions are based on the **"PRIORITY LIST"** described in the GRFN Post-Secondary Operating Guidelines. When you apply for sponsorship, you will be assigned a priority number according to the established priority list; New High School Graduates are a priority #2. This list is designed to provide fair and equitable access to the limited post-secondary assistance.
- You will need to confirm your intentions to "attend" or "not attend" to the Post-Secondary Counsellor once the sponsorship decisions have been made. This is necessary in the event that there is not enough monies in the post-secondary budget to sponsor every applicant. The Post-Secondary Counsellor needs to know who is really going and who has changed their mind to determine if more students can be sponsored.
- Because the Post-Secondary Counsellor does not receive any paperwork from the college/university, it is your responsibility to submit your official paperwork to the office in a **timely manner**. This includes things like your OCAS/OUAC receipt, your acceptance letter, residence acceptance, tuition fees invoice, etc.....**note: Garden River does not pay late fees!**



- **Full-time sponsorship is not unlimited.** The maximum full-time funding available to you is based upon the actual length of an eligible program at an eligible school.
 - For example: for a 3 year degree, you would be allowed 3 academic years of full-time funding to complete your degree requirements. If, after this time, you are not quite complete, you can apply for an extension up to one academic year or continue on with part-time funding. There are conditions to who can apply for an extension. (See your full copy of the GRFN PS Operating Guidelines for full details).
- **IMPORTANT: Sponsorship is not guaranteed for the entire length of the program. Everyone must re-apply by the appropriate deadlines every year. The application deadlines do not change.**
- We (GRFN members) are allowed enough full-time sponsorship to complete **ONE** program at each level of education provided that once you start your studies, you **continue upwards on the education ladder.** (i.e. certificate, diploma, undergraduate degree, masters, and ph.d)
 - Example: If you started at university and graduated with your degree and then decided you wanted to continue your studies at the college level or get a second undergraduate degree (which are both not steps going upwards on the education ladder), the most that you may get for funding would be *part-time (which is all the basic sponsorship EXCEPT there is no monthly living allowance)*.
 - If you are within one year of completing your current level of education, you cannot go down to a lower level of education and maintain your full-time sponsorship. You would only be eligible for part-time sponsorship.
- **IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH PRIORITY NUMBER THROUGHOUT YOUR POST-SECONDARY STUDIES BY BEING SUCCESSFUL IN ALL OF YOUR COURSES.** As long as you are a continuing and successful student, you will be moved up to and remain a Priority #1: Continuing Student.
- The **Student Contract** that you will sign with your application for sponsorship is a binding contract with the Education Unit. In this contract, you agree to:
 - ▶ stay on track by being a responsible student that **attends all of your classes**, otherwise, you could be discontinued immediately for poor attendance,
 - ▶ **Note: IT IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE TO JUST MISS CLASSES NOR IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO NOT DO YOUR REQUIRED COURSEWORK FOR ANY AND/OR ALL OF YOUR CLASSES,**
 - ▶ study regularly,
 - ▶ complete all requirements for your classes **on schedule - don't be late submitting and don't miss ANY required work...**quizzes, tests, exams, assignments, projects, etc.,
 - ▶ of course, doing all of the above, will help you **pass all of your courses**,
 - ▶ if you fail two or more classes, have poor attendance and/or the school places you on probation or academic warning, you will be placed on **PROBATION** by the Education Unit,
 - ▶ and last but not least, and just as important as the rest, **you must keep me updated regularly on your REAL progress...**don't just tell me what you think I want to hear - if something is not working or you are struggling, I need to know so that I can help you get the help that you need to be successful.

These are all necessary things to do in order to maintain your higher priority number for continued sponsorship each year.



IMPORTANT:

- if you ever have any questions or concerns about **ANYTHING CONCERNING YOUR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**, please call me, email me or come in to my office.
- if you **change your education plans in anyway, you have to let me know before.....**whether you want to add or drop a course, switch programs or if you change your mind about attending....all changes must be reported to me so that I always have your information up-to-date
- I am here to help you be successful in your studies. If you have good news to share, please share it with me; if you start experiencing some difficulties, don't wait to ask for help....**ASK EARLY.....**In addition to my services, there are people at your school that are there to help you too! **BUT YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR HELP.**

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EDUCATION LADDER

Below is a description of the EDUCATION LADDER that is referred to and used by this Education Unit when assessing and determining individual applicant's eligibility for post-secondary sponsorship. *Remember that according to the INAC guidelines, and in order to continue your studies with full-time funding, you must move upwards on the education ladder.*



Ph.D Degree:	(requires completion of a Master's degree as an admission requirement)
Masters Degree:	(requires completion of a Bachelor's degree as an admission requirement)
Post-Degree:	(requires completion of a Bachelor's degree as an admission requirement; i.e. B. of Education, etc.)
University Degree:	(Bachelor's, usually 3 or 4 years)
Post-Diploma:	(requires completion of a diploma as an admission requirement)
Diploma:	(usually two years or more at college)
Certificate:	(usually one year at college)



MONTHLY ASSISTANCE FOR A FULL-TIME STUDENT

Here is a basic breakdown of what your first deposit would look like and what you can expect on a monthly basis thereafter. Please know that we issue your assistance on the LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT MONTH....so end of August is for September, etc).

(note: this is an example & it only applies to students not living in RESIDENCE and that have moved away to attend college)

SEPTEMBER (to be deposited automatically to your bank account)

Monthly Living Allowance:	\$ 675.00	eg. for a single student (naturally this is based on your personal allowance category and marital status/dependents)
Regular Travel at \$80/week/month:	\$ 320.00	*for your bus pass, gas, parking fees, etc. or if you don't need either, use to cover more of your living expenses.
Books/Supplies advance:	\$ 400.00	*if you go over \$350 when buying your mandatory books/supplies, you can submit for a reimbursement
Total Deposit for September:	<u>\$1,395.00</u>	

NOTE: you have to buy your mandatory books/supplies from this money ! buy them as soon as you find out what you need. You should be able to find the official list on your student portal. Please do not wait until the last minute because the bookstore can sell out and you might not get the textbooks and supplies that you need...which will mean that you won't be able to do the readings, etc...then you will get behind on your coursework and studying and then it will only get worse from there.

Now, provided you remain a full-time student for the year, your **average monthly assistance** for the other months (again, scheduled for automatic release on the LAST FRIDAY of every month) will be:

October, November, December, February, March and April will be:

Monthly Living Allowance:	\$675.00
Regular Travel at \$80/week/month:	<u>\$320.00</u>
Total average deposit for other months:	\$995.00

PLEASE SAVE, SAVE, SAVE AND BUDGET WISELY!

Post-secondary sponsorship is ONLY an assistance. It is not meant to cover all your expenses while at school. You will need to save your own monies now and during your summer break to offset the cost of your college or university studies.

I hope that this breakdown will help you to budget your money wisely throughout the school year AND encourages you to start saving now to cover the rest of your living expenses.

Before you go buying or doing things that you shouldn't be spending your money on, please remember there are no early releases or advances of your cheques.

POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSSSP) FUNDING HISTORY:

- Although we view funding to attend post-secondary studies as a treaty right, the plain and simple fact is that government doesn't. They have always tried to change and discontinue this funding for many years, claiming only elementary and high school education was included in our treaties. First Nations members and our politicians have continued to fight this almost every year with protests, rallies, etc..
- The Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) provides financial assistance for First Nation students attending post secondary institutions and is currently administered through First Nations and First Nations organizations. First Nations were alerted that an Internal Audit by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) found some deficiencies in the PSSSP. Major faults were found in the areas of tracking outcomes, transparency and overall program management, which prompted INAC to examine options for alternative delivery of the program. Although First Nations communities and organizations have successfully administered the PSSSP for decades, and have in many cases developed the ability to track critical information over and above that of the baseline data required by INAC, First Nations have not been included in the effort to seek solutions that will reduce deficiencies and maximize the number of students benefiting from the program.
- **The FUTURE of funding for PSSSP from the government is still not certain.**
- As a result of the 2% cap on Post-Secondary Education funding by INAC in 1996/1997, the funding that each First Nation receives from INAC is not provided based upon our needs. It has been provided based upon an old funding formula that existed prior to the cap. The Ontario government has increased tuition fees approximately 5% each year which means that the annual 2% increase for PSE funding doesn't cover the increased tuition fees which then results in less monies available each year to go towards funding our students.
- Should the funding received from INAC for the Garden River Post-Secondary Student Support Program be inadequate to provide sponsorship to all of our eligible applicants, Garden River Chief and Council will have difficult decisions to either sponsor our eligible members based upon the budget and priorities alone until the monies are expended OR to go in deficit to fund more or all of the eligible applicants.

