



Interior Health

Indigenous Educational Financial Support Guide

- Last Updated: June 26, 2025 -

Land Acknowledgement

Interior Health (IH) would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Däkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tsilhqot'in Nations.

Partnerships

Interior Health recognizes Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), Métis Peoples, and urban and 'away from home' Indigenous Peoples in the Interior region who contribute to the diverse landscape of Indigenous Knowing and Being.

Get In Touch With Us

Email the Indigenous Recruitment team at IndigenousEmployment@InteriorHealth.ca.



Table of Contents

About Interior Health	4
A Guide for Indigenous Students	5
Indigenous Recruitment at Interior Health	5
Getting Started	6
What to Consider When Applying	7
General Information	7
Indigenous Specific Funding and Awards	9
Friendship Center Funding	9
ATCO Indigenous Education Awards Program	10
BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries	11
British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)	12
Canada Post Indigenous Education Grant	13
Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Young Indigenous Entrepreneurs	14
Ch'nook Scholars Program	15
Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund	16
Cenovus Indigenous Scholarship Program	17
Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society	18
Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)	19
TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples	20
Indspire – Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships	21
New Relationship Trust Bursaries and Scholarships	21
Future Generations Foundation	22
Blackbird Security Indigenous Bursary	23
Scholarships and Bursaries for Health Care	24
Access to Practical Nursing Education Incentive Bursary	24
Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarships	25
Health Sciences Association Bursaries	26
National Education Bursary	26
National Union of Public and General Employees	27
New Relationship Trust - Nursing Program	27
Chief Joe Mathias – Nursing Scholarship	28
Additional Resources	29



Interior Health was established as one of five geographically-based health authorities in 2001 by the Government of British Columbia. We are responsible for ensuring publicly-funded health services are provided to the people of the Southern Interior.

Guided by our core values of compassion, quality, safety, and integrity, we continually strive to live out our overarching vision - health and well-being for all.

Our mission is to work together to improve quality of life for individuals and communities, inspired by innovation and partnerships. Through our unwavering commitment to these principles, we desire to create a positive and lasting impact.

We take great pride in delivering top-notch healthcare services to the communities and individuals in the Southern Interior of beautiful British Columbia. We are dedicated to establishing new benchmarks of excellence in health care delivery throughout the province. We strive to create an environment where you enjoy the work you do, your place of work, and the people around you.

Everyone plays an important role in the care continuum.

Together, we create great workplaces.



A Guide for Indigenous Students

Education and training can feel out of reach due to costs, but there are many sponsorship opportunities, grants, awards, and financial supports available to Indigenous students. Each year, millions of dollars in scholarships go unclaimed. Interior Health created this guide to highlight financial supports for students of First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit ancestry.

Note: Financial supports listed in this guide are not administered by Interior Health. Eligibility requirements, deadlines, and details are subject to change. We encourage you to contact the funding providers directly to confirm the most up-to-date information.

Indigenous Recruitment at Interior Health

The Indigenous Recruitment team plays a key role in supporting Interior Health's commitment to a more inclusive health-care system, where diversity, inclusion, and addressing Indigenous-specific racism are priorities across the organization.

The team primarily supports the recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees and encourages First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit applicants to self-identify when applying or within their cover letters and resumes.

The team - Indigenous Recruitment Lead, Indigenous Recruiter, and Indigenous Employment Advisor (IEA) - offers support to Indigenous jobseekers and employees.

- Resume & Cover Letter Writing Tips
- Application Processes
- Interview Readiness Coaching
- Onboarding and Career Exploration
- Ongoing Employment Support

Community and Youth Engagement

- Attending Indigenous employment and career events.
- Engaging youth and community members in exploring health-care careers.
- Fostering relationships with community and members.
- Building relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.

Organizational Awareness

- Promoting Indigenous-focused hiring practices.
- Developing culturally sensitive employment materials.
- Promoting diversity and inclusion efforts within Interior Health.

Getting Started

Bursaries

A bursary is a financial award given to students to help cover educational costs based on financial need. Unlike loans, bursaries do not need to be repaid. They are often designed to support students facing financial hardship and may have specific eligibility criteria such as income level, geographic location, or other circumstances.

Scholarships

A scholarship is a financial award given to students based on merit, such as academic excellence, athletic ability, artistic talent, or other achievements. Scholarships may also consider other criteria like leadership qualities, community involvement, or affiliation with a specific group or organization. Scholarships do not need to be repaid.

Other Awards

Grants

Typically fund specific projects or research based on need or proposals.

Fellowships

Support advanced study, research, or professional development, they often have specific terms, such as a research focus or a period of mentorship.

Prizes

One-time monetary or non-monetary awards given as recognition for a specific achievement or competition. These are often merit-based and may not be directly tied to financial need.

Awards of Excellence

Celebrate outstanding academic, professional, or extracurricular contributions. These may or may not include a monetary component.

Each award has its own purpose and eligibility criteria.

What to Consider When Applying

You should always read the eligibility criteria to ensure that you qualify for the funding. Like writing a cover letter for a job, you should consider the **Five Ws**.

- **Who** Consider who is reading your application.
- **What** Make sure you provide all the necessary documents the application is requesting. This can include an essay, video, resumes, transcripts, financial statements, or letters of recommendations.
- **Where** Ensure you know how to apply. Depending on the program you may need to submit online, via email, or by mail.
- **When** Record application deadlines and submit materials well in advance. Be aware of rolling deadlines or awards with multiple application periods.
- **Why** Customize your application to emphasize why you're a strong fit for the award and highlight relevant achievements, experiences, and aspirations that align with the award's goals. Showcase how receiving the award will benefit your education, career, or community. Explain any unique challenges you've overcome or how you plan to use the opportunity to create change.

General Information

➤ First Nations Students

Band Funding

Status (or Treaty) First Nations students may be eligible for post-secondary funding through their Band. Each Band has its own application process, policies, and funding priorities, which can vary widely. Demand and wait lists also differ. Students should contact their Band's education department for these specific application details.

- Eligibility for Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)
- Eligibility for University College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP).
- The Band's application process.
- A copy of their post-secondary policies and processes

➤ Métis Students

MNBC Skills Training, Employment, and Post-Secondary (STEPS)

The Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) [Skills Training, Employment & Post-Secondary \(STEPS\)](#) programs offer support for Métis trainees, jobseekers, and students pursuing further education. MNBC may be able to assist with skill upgrades, job searches, and educational goals. While headquartered in Surrey, MNBC has regional offices in Nanaimo, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Prince George, Terrace, Fort St. John, and Surrey. For more information, visit [MNBC - Skills Training, Employment & Post Secondary Regional Offices](#).

➤ Inuit Students

Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy Funding

Funded by the Government of Canada, the [Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy Funding](#) aims to improve the socio-economic outcomes for Inuit students by providing support for post secondary education. It covers application fees, tuition, travel costs, childcare, books and supplies, living expenses, mentorship and counselling. Managed regionally by:

➤ [Inuvialuit Regional Corporation](#)

Representing the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in Northwest Territories

➤ [Makivik Corporation](#)

The organization representing the Inuit of Nunavik in Quebec.

➤ [Nunatsiavut Government](#)

Regional government of Nunatsiavut in Newfoundland and Labrador

➤ [Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated](#)

The organization representing the Inuit of Nunavut

How to Apply

Inuit students, service providers and post-secondary institutions who are interested in accessing available funding should consult [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#) or their respective Inuit land-claim organization.

To learn more about accessing Post-Secondary Education funding, please refer to the [Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy: National Guidelines 2024 to 2025](#).

Indigenous Specific Funding and Awards

➤ Friendship Center Funding

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres provides the following education resources:

- The [Post-Secondary Student Support Program \(PSSSP\)](#) provides eligible First Nations students with funding to access education opportunities at the post-secondary level, including university and college entrance preparation programs.
- The [First Citizens Fund \(FCF\) Student Bursary Program](#)

Amount

Between \$700 - \$1,200

Eligibility

Post-secondary students of Indigenous ancestry (status, non-status, Métis, Inuit) who:

- are permanent residents of British Columbia.
- are registered in a British Columbia recognized post-secondary institution.

About

The First Citizens Fund Student Bursary Program provides financial awards to Indigenous students enrolled in post-secondary education. Bursaries ranging from \$700 - \$1,200 are awarded to students who meet all eligibility requirements and who demonstrate significant financial need. Students apply for the bursary after they successfully complete a semester of post-secondary school.

The Province of British Columbia funds the First Citizens Fund Student Bursary Program while the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres administers it. Both parties are honored to support Indigenous students in pursuing educational opportunities at the post-secondary level.

➤ **ATCO Indigenous Education Awards Program**

Learn more about the [ATCO Indigenous Education Awards Program](#).

Amount

- **Merit Awards (\$750)** – For students completing Grades 10 – 12.
- **Bursaries (\$1,200)** – For students enrolled in trade/community technical college diploma or certificate program.
- **Scholarships (\$1,800)** – For students enrolled in degree or graduate programs.
- **Bridging Awards (\$1,000)** – For students registered in an upgrading program (Adult Basic Education) or University Preparation program.

There is a maximum of one award per applicant per student year. Students may re-apply each year if they wish to be considered for another award.

Eligibility

You can apply for one of our Indigenous Education Awards if you:

- Self-identify as Indigenous in Canada (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis).
- Are enrolled full-time in junior/senior high school (including upgrading) or an accredited post-secondary institution or training/certificate program.
- Are not a child of an ATCO employee.

About

As long-standing committed partners with Indigenous communities, ATCO is proud to be supporting students from First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities in their quest for education. ATCO recognizes the systemic barriers and different challenges Indigenous students face in their pursuit for higher education. Regardless of your field of study, ATCO's IEA Program is designed to support students who are dedicated to their educational journey, maintaining a balanced lifestyle and being positive role models in their communities and schools.

➤ **BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries**

Learn more about the [BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries](#).

Amount

- **Randy Brant Memorial Award (\$8,000)** - Awarded to our top applicant, based on a combination of academic achievement, community involvement, and pursuit of a career at BC Hydro.
- **Scholarships (\$5,000)** - Available to full-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs related to BC Hydro careers.
- **Bursaries (\$2,000)** - Available to part-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs related to BC Hydro careers.

Eligibility

- BC First Nations, Indigenous Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit students who are residents of B.C. and are enrolled in an accredited full-time post-secondary program. Students in Grade 12 planning to pursue a full-time, accredited post-secondary education within Canada are also eligible to apply.
- We support students in trades, diploma, and degree programs that are related to the work we do. For further details on the Eligible Areas of Study, check the list [here](#).

About

Scholarships and bursaries are available to Indigenous students from B.C. First Nations or Indigenous permanent residents of B.C. who are studying at an accredited post-secondary institution in a program that matches a career at BC Hydro.

BC Hydro also offers work experience and training opportunities. These programs are designed to help Indigenous people learn about the work environment and gain first-hand experience to get started on a path towards a career they're interested in.

Check out these programs [here](#).

➤ **British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)**

Learn more about the [British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society](#).

Amount

Laptop

Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in Formal education at any level from kindergarten to post-secondary OR taking courses through an accredited institution AND be actively attending.
- Applicants must be of Indigenous ancestry.
- Applicants must not have received/be receiving any other support for equipment from Nation, community, or other organization/program.
- Applicants must be a Canadian resident.
- Applicants must be low-income OR...
- Applicants identify as living with a disability AND be low-income.

About

To assist the continued participation and success of Indigenous students and Indigenous students with disabilities, in their education and eventually, in their future employment to apply [Submit a Request Under Jordan's Principle](#).



🔴 Canada Post Indigenous Education Grant

Learn more about the [Canada Post Indigenous Education Grant](#).

Amount

\$2,000

Eligibility

- ▶ Are a Canadian and a member of a First Nation, Métis or Inuit community.
- ▶ Have been out of school for 1 year or more and are returning.
- ▶ Have already returned to school and completed 1 full year of studies.
- ▶ Have never received this award in the past (you can apply as many times as you want, but you can only receive the award once).

About

A panel of Canada Post representatives and a member of the Indigenous community read and evaluate all submissions and select the winners.



➤ **Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Young Indigenous Entrepreneur Award**

Learn more about the [Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Young Indigenous Entrepreneur Award](#).

Amount

\$10,000

Eligibility

- **Business Performance** - Shows evidence of financial stability and measurable outcomes from their entrepreneurial efforts. Demonstrates resilience in overcoming business challenges.
- **Potential for Growth** - Demonstrates potential for business growth and has a clear vision for the future of their business.
- **Leadership** - Provides opportunities and inspires other young Indigenous entrepreneurs or community members and is committed to being a change maker or innovator.
- **Community Impact** - Has actively engaged with and supported their community and demonstrated a commitment to giving back.

About

This award highlights the enterprising spirit of Indigenous entrepreneurs under the age of 35 who are driving the Indigenous economy forward. It recognizes their innovative spirit, business acumen, leadership, and positive impact on their communities. Individuals can self-nominate, and this prestigious award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize to benefit your business.



🔴 Ch'nook Scholars Program

Learn more about the [Ch'nook Scholars Program](#).

Amount

\$2,000

Eligibility

- ▶ Ch'nook Scholars is open to status and non-status First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students studying full-time in a business program at a post-secondary institution in British Columbia or at the University of Calgary.

About

The Ch'nook Scholars program gives Indigenous post-secondary business students the tools and connections they need to succeed in their studies and careers, as well as a range of other benefits. Initially developed in 2007 as a scholarship for Indigenous Business Students, Ch'nook Scholars has evolved into a program that complements post-secondary business education and works to develop leadership skills and business knowledge. Ch'nook Scholars also benefit from knowledge and advice from current industry leaders.



📌 Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund

Learn more about the [Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund](#).

Amount

Varies

Eligibility

- Are members or citizens of a British Columbia First Nation (or BC Indian Band) – British Columbia First Nation means a band (within the meaning of “band” in the Indian Act) that is located in British Columbia.
- Are enrolled at an eligible post-secondary educational institution as a full-time, or part-time, student.
- Are pursuing studies that lead to a degree or to a certificate or diploma from that institution.
- Are in financial need and demonstrate merit.

About

The Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund is a nationally registered charity established in memory of the late Chief Joe Mathias to support Chief Mathias’ vision of post-secondary education for all First Nation persons. The Fund is an incorporated society under the Society Act of British Columbia.

The purposes of the Society are to advance education by providing educational scholarships to deserving British Columbia First Nation students who are in financial need and who demonstrate merit, in order to improve access to post-secondary education so that deserving British Columbia First Nation persons can acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate in a changing economy and society.



➤ **Cenovus Indigenous Scholarship Program**

Learn more about the [Cenovus Indigenous Scholarship Program](#).

Amount

\$5,000, renewable for up to four years, or to the completion of your degree.

Eligibility

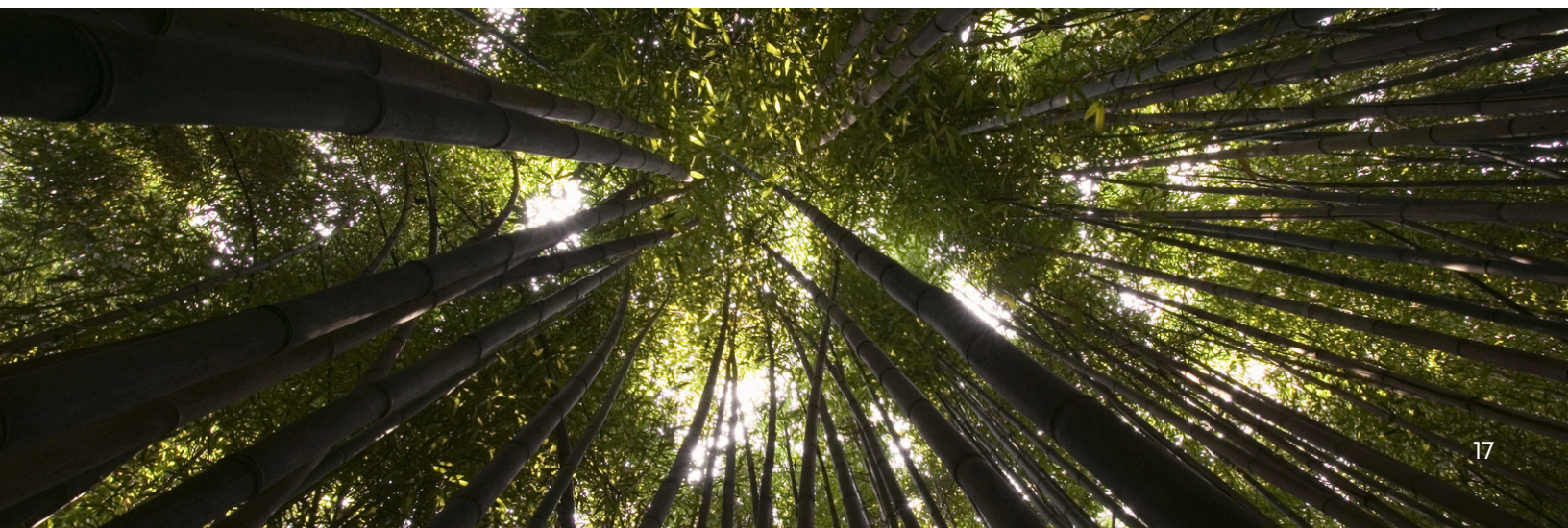
- Indigenous ancestry.
- Residing in Canada, preference for those residing near Cenovus operating areas.
- Pursuing a full-time degree, diploma or certified trade.

About

Indigenous Scholarship Program is designed to:

- Encourage Indigenous students to pursue and complete post-secondary education.
- Increase the number of Indigenous professionals and role models in communities where we operate.
- Further the potential for local employment in the oil and gas industry.
- Give Indigenous students the opportunity to join the Cenovus team through a variety of roles.

Cenovus embraces the opportunity to contribute to the strength and sustainability of the communities where they work and live. They believe that investing in education creates a strong foundation for a bright future.



➤ Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society

Learn more about the [Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society](#).

Amount

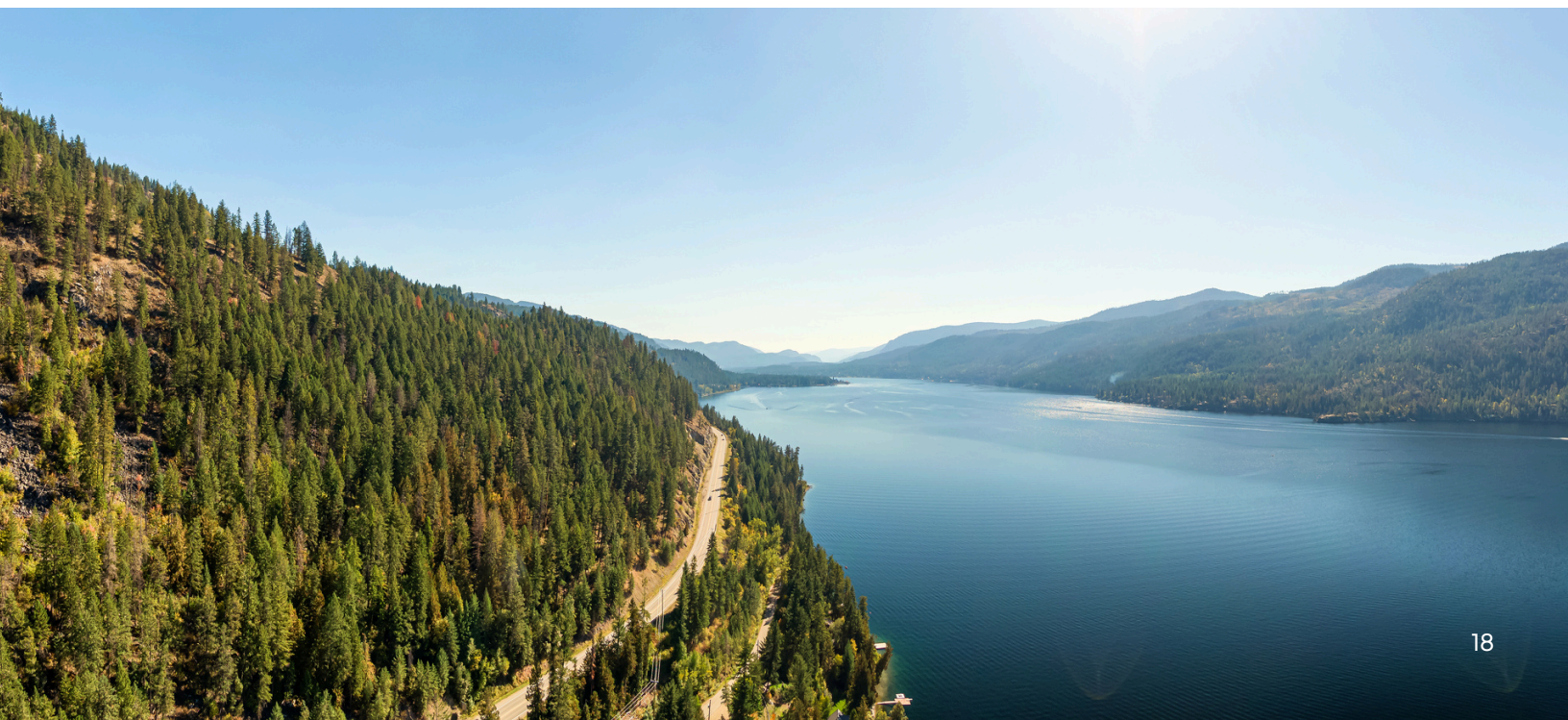
- **BC Aboriginal Student Award** - \$1,000 - \$5,000
- **Masters/Doctoral Studies Award** - \$5,000 (multi-year) for students pursuing Masters or Doctoral studies.
- **Teacher Education Award** - \$1,000 - \$2,000 (multi-year) for students pursuing a teaching certificate.
- **Apprenticeship/Certificate/Diploma** - \$1,000 - \$2,000
- **Undergraduate Award Applicants** - \$2,000

Eligibility

- Please visit [this link](#) for eligibility criteria for each scholarship.

About

The Society offers four Award programs for students pursuing post-secondary education in BC. They are available to students who identify as Indigenous, defined as First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis or Inuit. All are renewable to provide sustained funding over multiple year years.



➤ **Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)**

Learn more about the [Native Women's Association of Canada \(NWAC\)](#).

Amount

- **Michael Melancon-Koffend Student Awards** - \$1,000
- **Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award** - \$1,000
- **Nellie Makokis Carlson Commemorative Student Award** - \$1,000

Honours Indigenous activist, Nellie Makois Carlson, and all she has done for Indigenous rights. We celebrate her memory by awarding three hard-working mothers and/or primary caregivers working toward making a better future for their children.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be pursuing post-secondary studies (open to all fields of studies).
- Award is intended for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people.
- Open to all age groups.
- Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- Priority given to students committed to improving situations of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people in Canada politically, culturally, economically, or otherwise.

About

Every year, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) provides scholarships and bursaries to young Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and/or gender-diverse students.



➤ **TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples**

Learn more about the [TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples](#).

Amount (25 Scholarships Available)

- **Tuition Each Year** - \$10,000
- **Living Expenses Each Year** - \$5,000
- **Employment Opportunities at TD**

Eligibility

- Regardless of your field of study, scholarships are open to First Nation, Métis and Inuit who are members / citizen of a First Nation, Métis or Inuit community who:
- have applied for a full-time minimum 2-year program with an approved post-secondary institution for the next year of study, or are enrolled in, or accepted to, a full-time minimum two-year program with an approved post-secondary institution for the next year of study.
- Employees of TD and its subsidiaries and their children are not eligible for these scholarships.

About

Together with [AFOA Canada](#), a not-for-profit led by Indigenous Peoples, we've worked to build a scholarship for Indigenous Peoples. Through it, 25 scholarships are available to be awarded annually, worth up to \$60K over 4 years.



➤ **Indspire – Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships**

Learn more about the [Indspire – Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships](#).

Amount (66,000 Awards Available)

Varies

Eligibility

- Full and part time studies in college, university, skilled trades, apprenticeships, and technology programs.
- You only need to complete the application once to be considered for all applicable bursaries and scholarships.

About

Since 1996, Indspire has provided over \$217M in financial support through more than 66,000 bursaries, scholarships and awards to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

➤ **New Relationship Trust Bursaries and Scholarships**

Learn more about the [New Relationship Trust Bursaries and Scholarships](#).

Amount (Multiple Available)

Varies

Eligibility

- First Nation (status or non-status) member of a B.C. First Nation Community and planning to attend an accredited post secondary institution on a full-time basis.

About

By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, NRT and Partners are building the capacity of our communities, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and creating the skilled work force that will enable BC to meet its future economic/social development needs. Awards are available to eligible students as:

- **Scholarships** - Awarded at the Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctorate levels.
- **Bursaries** - Awarded to students pursuing Certificates, Diplomas, Trades and Associate degrees.

➤ **Future Generations Foundation**

Learn more about the [Future Generations Foundation](#).

Amount (Multiple Awards Available)

Up to \$20,000.

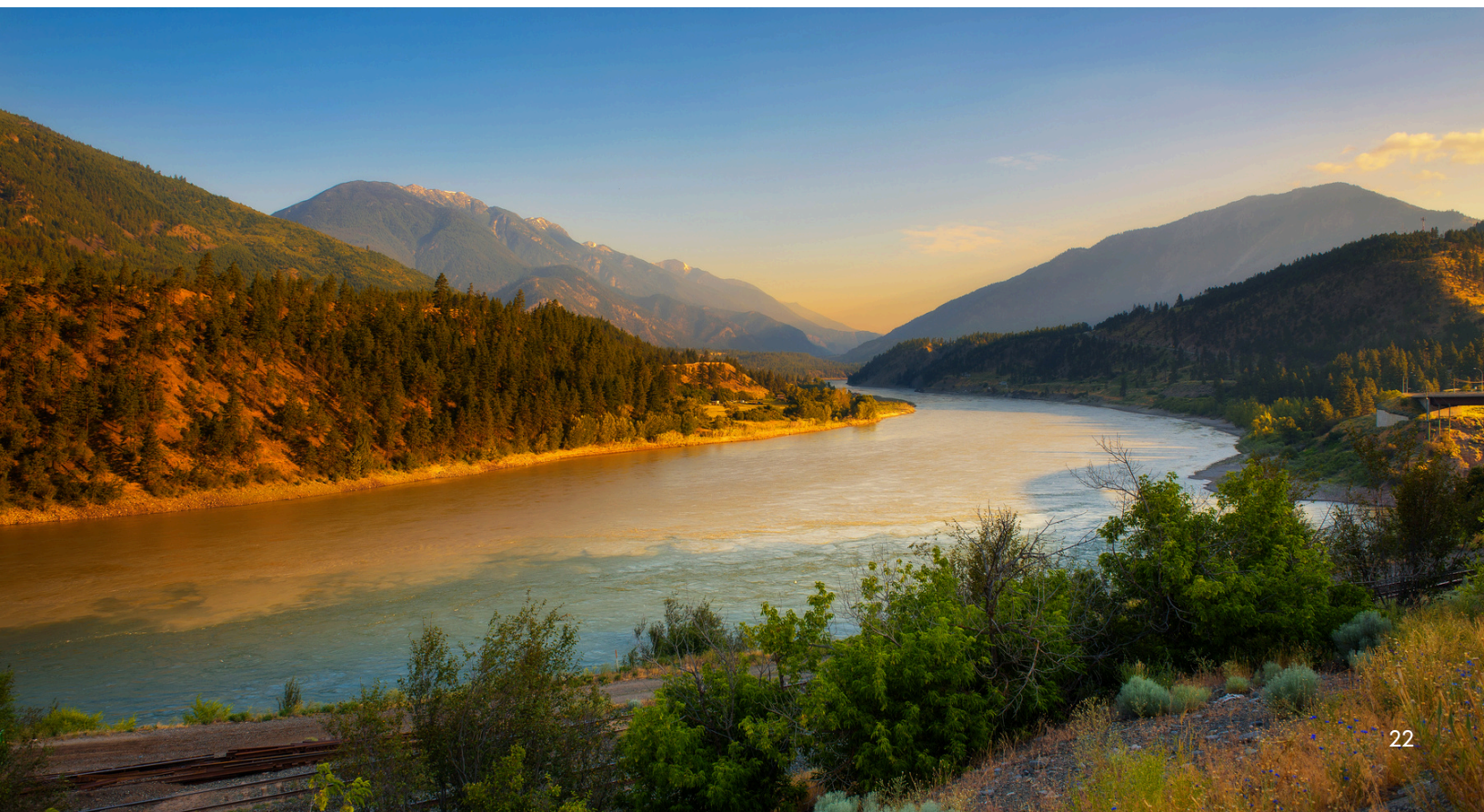
Eligibility

- First Nations individual over the age of 18 before December 31 of current year with preference is given to former students of residential schools.

About

The FG Foundation provides financial support through organizations, individuals, and the Continuing Their Journey Program. Our goal is to help First Nations and communities address the impacts of the residential school system. We support initiatives like cultural preservation, education, and healing, with tailored eligibility criteria, grant limits, and timelines to meet the diverse needs of First Nations.

Eligible First Nations individuals can apply for funding as scholarships, training & trades, and cultural learning. More information can be found [here](#).



➤ **Blackbird Security Indigenous Bursary**

Learn more about the [Blackbird Security Indigenous Bursary](#).

Amount (Seven Bursaries Available)

Cover the annual cost of the Basic Security Training (BST), SCRT-1651 BST Theory, and SCRT-1656 BST Assessment).

Eligibility

- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or have refugee status.
- Open to Indigenous students planning to enrol in the online delivery of Basic Security Training (BST) at JIBC.
- Demonstrated financial need not met by other available sources of funding including student loans, grants, sponsorship, work income, etc.

About

The bursary provides support for Indigenous students in financial need planning to enroll in the online delivery of Basic Security Training (BST) at the Justice Institute of British Columbia. The bursary was established in 2021 by [Blackbird Security](#).



Scholarships and Bursaries for Health Care

➤ Access to Practical Nursing Education Incentive Bursary

Learn more about the [Access to Practical Nursing Education Incentive Bursary](#).

Amount

Up to \$10,000.

Eligibility

- Applicant is in their first semester and can demonstrate proof of first-term enrollment in a recognized Access to Practical Nursing (APN) program at a BC-based public institution.

About

- The APN program is a unique career ladder program for Health Care Assistants (HCAs) wishing to train as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).
- The APN program allows students to apply training and experience garnered as an HCA to accelerate their training as an LPN. Incentivizing HCAs to enroll in this program will help to retain HCAs in BC's public health system and to expedite the number of LPNs available to support more immediate LPN staffing needs.



➤ Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarships

Learn more about the [Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarships](#).

Amount

- **Baccalaureate** - \$750 - 4,000
- **Masters and Nurse Practitioner** - \$1,000 - \$5,000
- **Doctoral** - \$1,000 - \$20,000
- **Practical Nursing** - \$750 - 3,000
- **Scholarships to advance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** - \$3,000 - \$20,000
- **Internationally Educated Nursing Award** - \$1,500 - \$3,000
- **CNSA Membership Awards**

Eligibility

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- Must be enrolled in nursing program in Canada. RN, IEN, NP, LPN, or RPN.
- Must meet these [program and timeline requirements](#).

About

The Canadian Nurses Foundation provides scholarships for nursing students across Canada at the baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. levels.



➤ **Health Sciences Association Bursaries**

Learn more about the [Health Sciences Association Bursaries](#).

Amount

- Twenty \$2,000 full-time and four \$1,000 part-time bursaries are available to HSA members or their children (aged 35 or younger).
- Ten \$2,000 scholarships are available to HSA members or their children (aged 35 or younger).
- HSA provides two \$2000 bursaries to Indigenous students from BC who are continuing or proceeding in any HSA-related field.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a member in good standing of HSA or be the child (aged 35 or younger) of an HSA member, who is continuing or proceeding to a full-time or part-time program of studies in any field leading to a recognized certificate, diploma, or degree at a public post-secondary educational institution.

About

Offers [bursaries and scholarships](#) to students pursuing careers in health sciences, including nursing, medicine, and allied health professions.

➤ **National Education Bursary**

Learn more about the [National Education Bursary](#).

Amount

\$2,000

Eligibility

- Enrolled full-time in an eligible nursing program of at least four months in length at a designated B.C. post-secondary institution that leads to a Certificate, Diploma or Degree recognized for practice in B.C.

About

This program provides bursary funding, awarded each year, to qualified nursing applicants who demonstrate the greatest financial need.

➤ **National Union of Public and General Employees**

Amount

\$2,500 per award.

Eligibility

- Health Sciences Association member and their families.

About

Health Sciences Association is an affiliate member of the National Union of Public and General Employees, and that means HSA members and their families are eligible to apply for a number of NUPGE scholarships.

➤ **New Relationship Trust - Nursing Program**

Learn more about the [New Relationship Trust - Nursing Program](#).

Amount

- Four years of Certificate, Diploma, or associate degree funding.
- Four years of Undergraduate post-secondary funding.
- Four years of Masters post-secondary funding.
- Awards are given annually and students must provide proof of enrollment in an [eligible](#) Nursing program located in British Columbia.

Eligibility

- First Nations (status or non-status), Metis, or Inuit.
- Planning to attend or attending an accredited Nursing program at a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis within British Columbia.
- A resident of British Columbia.

About

Nursing Scholarships and Bursaries are awarded to students pursuing Nursing studies at the Diploma, Undergraduate, or Masters level. This program is open to all Indigenous nursing students who study and reside in British Columbia.

➤ Chief Joe Mathias – Nursing Scholarship

Learn more about the [Chief Joe Mathias – Nursing Scholarship](#).

Amount

\$2,000 - \$10,000

Eligibility

- Are members or citizens of a British Columbia First Nation.
- Have been accepted or are enrolled full-time or part-time in an accredited post-secondary nursing program. Programs can include Practical Nursing Diploma, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing (BSPN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), or Doctorate in Nursing (DN).
- Have been accepted or are enrolled into a bridging, certificate, or pathway program that is leading towards a degree or diploma in nursing, at an eligible post-secondary institution.
- Demonstrate financial need.

Priority will be given to candidates who can demonstrate their commitment to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of First Nations communities in British Columbia.

About

The Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund is a nationally registered charity established in memory of the late Chief Joe Mathias to support Chief Mathias' vision of post-secondary education for all First Nation persons. The Fund is an incorporated society under the Society Act of British Columbia.

In 2025, with the assistance of the Province of BC, we are pleased to announce the addition of the Chief Joe Mathias BC Indigenous Nursing Scholarship, a new five year scholarship program aimed at supporting First Nation students in BC who aspire to pursue careers in the field of Nursing.

Additional Resources

This resource could not have been created without all the dedicated people and organizations supporting Indigenous Education. Interior Health has taken information from these organizations and attempted to compile the most relevant information in this document. Here is a list of additional resources we used in creating this document.

▶ [Aboriginal Learning Links](#)

A scholarship is a financial award given to students based on merit, such as athletic ability, academic excellence, artistic talent, or other achievements. Scholarships may also consider other criteria like leadership qualities, community involvement, or affiliation with a specific group or organization. These do not need to be repaid.

▶ [Okanagan Training & Development Council \(OTDC\)](#)

Mandate is to promote self-sufficiency for Indigenous Peoples by connecting labour market and community needs through the provision of employment, training, programs, and services.

▶ [Aboriginal/Indigenous Training & Employment Centre \(ATEC/ISET\)](#)

Provides employment services to unemployed and under-employed Indigenous individuals residing in our service area, regardless of their origin in Canada.

Service Area

Lytton, Boothroyd, Kanaka Bar, Siska, Skuppah, Nicomen, Cooks Ferry, Oregon Jack Creek, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Bonaparte, Clinton, high Bar, Blue River, Simpcw, Barriere, Whispering Pines, Adams Lake, Chase, Neskonlith, Little Shuswap, Salmon Arm, Splatins, Kamloops, and Tk'emlups.

▶ [British Columbia's Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training](#)

Dedicated to working in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to succeed in an integrated, relevant and effective British Columbia post-secondary system.

▶ [First Nations Health Authority](#)

The first and only provincial First Nations Health Authority in Canada. They are working to transform and reform the way health care is delivered to BC First Nations. They have their own [Scholarship and Bursary Resource Guide](#).

➤ [Indigenous Youth Internship Program](#)

A 12-month paid internship for Indigenous youth in B.C., which includes a government ministry placement and work with Indigenous organizations.

➤ [Lethbridge College Indigenous Services](#)

Dedicated to providing academic, cultural, and career services to their indigenous students. This document was inspired by [Lethbridge College's Scholarship and Bursary Resource Guide](#).

Scholarship & Bursary Search Tools

➤ [Yconic](#) prepares Canadian students and their parents for college and university. Get scholarship updates and application tips straight to your inbox.

➤ [Scholartree](#) is an online platform that helps students pay for their education through scholarships.

➤ [Scholarships Canada](#) is part of the SchoolFinder Group. The site has been helping students find scholarships since 1997.

Our mission is to help students realize their dreams. We do this by making it possible for students to attend the school of their choice without being limited by the cost. The website lists all relevant scholarships and bursaries free of charge. We endeavour to update each listing on an annual basis. Students are matched to scholarships and bursaries when they create an account.

In addition to matching, Scholarships Canada provides additional resources such as Scholarship Deadline Alerts. These are available in the dashboard.

➤ [Student Life Network](#) provides the opportunity to sign up to learn more about the best scholarships, giveaways and offers for Canadian students.

➤ [AgedOut](#) is for young adults who were in government care in BC. It's an up-to-date warehouse of information on resources and services available to young adults and a learning tool to help people feel empowered as they leave care.

AgedOut was built after listening to the voices of former youth in care to make sure the site meets their needs. To learn more about educational supports click [here](#).