

**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND
TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM**

1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

This policy outlines a Tahltan Nation program aimed at providing financial support for Tahltans pursuing post-secondary education and trades training opportunities. This policy is one of two Tahltan Nation programs relating to education and training. If you are seeking funding for short-term training/certification, please refer to the applicable policy. This policy is subject to change at any time and will be administered at the discretion of the Advisory Board.

1.2 Objectives

The goals of this program are to:

- encourage Tahltans to pursue post-secondary education and training programs
- maximize the benefits of economic growth in Tahltan territory
- strengthen connections between the Tahltan Nation and individual Tahltans
- promote greater self-reliance throughout Tahltan communities
- ensure that financial support is spread broadly throughout the Tahltan Nation
- utilize the benefits that come from Tahltan Aboriginal rights and title to further invest in our people

1.3 Education Director

The Education Director is employed by the Tahltan Central Government and is responsible for: (i) managing the implementation of this policy, (ii) being the key contact person for all potential applicants, (iii) making funding recommendations, and (iv) receiving and resolving any funding decision appeals.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Education Director.

1.4 Tahltan Education and Training Advisory Board

The Tahltan Education and Training Advisory Board (“**Advisory Board**”) was formed in response to a members’ resolution at the 2017 Tahltan Central Government Annual General Assembly. The Advisory Board’s primary role is to develop and implement policies aimed at supporting Tahltans pursuing education and training opportunities. The Advisory Board is also responsible for all final funding decision under this policy.

The Advisory Board consists of:

- Chad Norman Day, acting as Chair;
- Adrian Carlick, representing the Tahltan Central Government;
- Curtis Rattray, representing the Tahltan Band Council;
- Jolene Hawkins, representing the Iskut Band Council; and
- Ann Ball and Maureen Johnstone, representing the Tahltan community at-large.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Applicant Eligibility

To qualify for post-secondary education and trades training funding under this policy you must be of Tahltan ancestry and be a registered member of the Tahltan Central Government.

2.2 Program Eligibility

The Advisory Board will only consider applicants with proven acceptance or registry in connection with an “Eligible Post-Secondary Institution”.

Eligible Post-Secondary Institution means:

- Any Canadian public post-secondary institution
- Any Canadian institution that is designated by StudentAid BC
- Any Canadian institution that is accredited by the Private Career Training Institutions Agency
- Any Canadian trades training institution designated by the Industry Training Authority

Applications in connection with any institution that is not an Eligible Post-Secondary Institution may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to a recommendation of the Tahltan Education Director and approval by the Advisory Board.

3. Funding Categories

3.1 Tuition

The Tahltan Nation will provide up to the full cost of tuition for the semester to successful applicants.

The amount awarded may not fully cover an applicant’s tuition since awards will be subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board.

3.2 Required Books and Supplies

The Tahltan Nation will provide up to the full cost of any books or other supplies required for the semester to successful applicants.

The amount awarded may not fully cover an applicant’s tuition since awards will be subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board.

3.3 Living Allowance

The Tahltan Nation will provide a living allowance of up to \$1000/month for successful applicants without Tahltan dependents and up to an additional \$250/month per dependent for successful applicants with Tahltan dependents. Only applicants attending full-time studies will be eligible to be awarded a living allowance.

The actual amount awarded for living allowance may be less than the amount stated above since awards will be subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board.

4. Maximum Annual Funding

4.1 Maximum Annual Funding

To ensure that financial support for education and training is spread broadly throughout the Tahltan Nation, the maximum that each Tahltan may receive in total financial support for education and training each academic year (September – August) will be \$5,000.

This maximum includes financial support provided for tuition and books under this funding program and financial support provided from outside financial support programs.

4.2 Funding Allocation

Any funding awarded will be allocated first to tuition and second to required books and supplies.

For example, if an applicant was awarded \$2000 of funding for a semester but the cost of their tuition was \$1800 and the cost of their books was \$700, the applicant would be reimbursed \$1800 for tuition and \$200 for books.

5. Payment Methods

5.1 Tuition

Tuition costs will be paid directly to the Eligible Post-Secondary Institution.

5.2 Required Books and Supplies

Required Books and other supplies may either be paid directly to the Eligible Post-Secondary Institution or reimbursed to the applicant upon submitting receipts to the Education Director.

5.3 Living Allowance

Living allowance will be paid directly to the applicant, either by cheque or direct deposit, in equal monthly portions throughout the semester.

6. Applications & Assessment

6.1 Application Deadlines

Applications must be received by the Education Director by the following deadlines for each applicable semester:

- Fall Semester (Sep-Dec): June 30th (September 30th for 2018)
- Spring Semester (Jan-Apr): November 30th
- Summer Semester (May-Aug): March 31st

6.2 Notice of Funding

All applicants will receive notice within 60 days of the application deadline stating whether the applicant has been awarded funding and, if so, the amount of the funding. Any student that has not received a notice by this date should contact the Education Director.

6.3 Assessment Criteria

The Advisory Board will attempt to provide funding to all qualified applicants. However, since available funding will be limited and may change each year, the Advisory Board may allocate funding in a manner that prioritizes some applicants over others. When this is the case, the Advisory Board will consider the following criteria in determining the amount of funding to award each applicant:

- **Connection to the Tahltan Nation.** The Advisory Board will give a strong preference to any applicant that demonstrates a strong connection and contribution to the Tahltan Nation. This will be assessed based on the applicant's personal statement.
- **Priority Applicants.** The Advisory Board will give priority to applicants that are continuing studies in program that they have received funding support for in past semesters and applicants who have recently graduated high school.
- **Likelihood of Future Employment.** The Advisory Board will give preference to applicants entering programs in areas of high employment demand, particular in areas relevant to the Tahltan Nation or the economic activity occurring within Tahltan territory.
- **Other Funding Sources.** The Advisory Board will give preference to applicants that have not received education and training related funding from other funding sources, including third party scholarships and government grants.

6.4 Appeals

Any disputes regarding a funding application or payment must be submitted to the Education Director within a timely manner. The method for resolving of any appeal will be at the sole discretion of the Education Director.

6.5 Student Expectations

Successful applicants will not be asked to adhere to any formal reporting requirements; however, the Education Director may from time to time reach out to check in on an applicant's progress. Should this occur, it is expected that the successful applicant will respond promptly to the Education Director.

Successful applicants are expected to successfully complete each semester that they receive funding for. If at any time a successful applicant discontinues his or her studies, he or she must notify the Education Director immediately. Should this occur, the successful applicant will not be asked to repay any funding already provided; however, any future funding requests by the same applicant will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.