

POST-SECONDARY AND TRADES FUNDING 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 opportunities. The program will be administered by the Tahltan Central Government (the BC society that act as the governing body of the Tahltan Nation).

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 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**”) consists of 4-6 Tahltan representatives appointed by the Tahltan Central Government and 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.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Applicant Eligibility

To qualify for post-secondary education and trades funding under this policy you must be of

Tahltan ancestry and be a certified 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. Any applications received for programs offered strictly online from online Canadian institutions will require full time course load of four (4) courses per semester and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Funding Categories

3.1 Tuition

The Tahltan Nation may provide up to the full cost of tuition for a semester to successful applicants, subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board. The total amount of tuition reimbursed by the Tahltan Nation may not be the entire amount claimed, and it may be necessary for applicants to cover costs above the amount reimbursed through other means of funding.

3.2 Required Books and Supplies

The Tahltan Nation may provide up to the full cost of any books or other supplies required for the semester to successful applicants, subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board.

3.3 Living Allowance

The Tahltan Nation may provide a living allowance of up to \$1,700/month for successful applicants without Tahltan dependents and up to an additional \$300/month per dependent for successful applicants with Tahltan dependents, subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board. Only applicants attending full-time studies (post-secondary or trades) will be eligible to be awarded a living allowance and amounts may be pro-rated. If an applicant receives a living allowance through a separate program, the Tahltan Nation may top-up the applicant’s living allowance by awarding the difference.

3.4 Travel Expenses

Applicants who are required to travel in order to attend a course in-person may be eligible for up to an additional \$2,500 in travel expense reimbursement subject to available funding and the discretion of the Advisory Board. Travel expense reimbursement will only be made upon the applicant providing acceptable receipts.

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 \$10,000.

This maximum includes financial support provided for tuition, books, living allowance and travel expenses under this funding program and financial support provided from other financial support programs.

4.2 Funding Allocation

Any funding awarded will be allocated first to tuition, second to required books and supplies, and last to living allowance and travel.

For example, if an applicant was awarded \$2,000 of funding for a semester but the cost of their tuition was \$1,800 and the cost of their books was \$700, the applicant would be reimbursed \$1,800 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 and Travel Expenses

Living allowance and travel expenses 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): Last business day of June of Current Year
- Spring Semester (Jan-Apr): Last business day of November of Current Year
- Summer Semester (May-Aug): Last business day of March of Current Year

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, funding will be allocated subject to the discretion of the Advisory Board. In allocating available funding, 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

An applicant may appeal the Advisory Board's decision about a funding application or payment by submitting notice of the appeal, including all relevant details supporting the appeal, to the Education Director within 14 days of the applicant's receipt of that decision. The Education Director will forward any appeals to the Advisory Board, which shall make a final determination upon consideration of the facts of the dispute and inform the applicant of its determination within 14 days of receipt of the appeal.

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.

Applicants may be required to apply for additional funding through federally funded programs such as the First Nation Band to which they are registered and to the local Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) organizations. The Education Director can identify cost sharing opportunities and request students to complete application processes to optimize fiscal management of resources.