



WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS

EDUCATION POLICY

EMPLOYMENT, TRADES, AND CAREER TRAINING

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VISION

The vision of the West Moberly First Nations Education Department is: “Lifelong learning”.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this education policy is to provide alternative funding options and advisory support for West Moberly First Nations members who wish to access employment, trades or career training programs so that they achieve their desired career goals.

INTRODUCTION

It is the desire of Chief and Council of WMFN to support our members’ employment and career goals by providing them with funding options in support of the employment, trades and career training programs. This policy is meant to provide alternate funding options for WMFN Members who are unable to access funding through external agencies for such programs. It may also be applied where external funding agencies do not fully fund such programs or in situations where additional high school upgrading courses are required as prerequisites.

Chief and Council consider employment, trades and career training to be a high priority to advance the nation’s goals of self-sufficiency. This policy reflects that commitment by providing options for the equitable administration of WMFN’s financial resources for that purpose.

This policy is a living document subject to revision as the requirements of the membership changes. This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Education Manager and Chief and Council to ensure that the needs of the members are being met in an equitable and unbiased manner. Suggestions by WMFN members to improve the effectiveness of this policy are welcome and encouraged.

DEFINITIONS

Academic year - As defined by the educational institution and can vary from program to program.

Academic probation - A period of time during which the student is under strict academic guidelines because their current grades do not meet the required standard set by their academic institution. Academic probation will be closely monitored by the Education Manager.

ABE – Adult Basic Education

Conflict of Interest - Those covered by this policy must refrain from taking part, or exerting influence, in any transaction in which their own interests, including direct or indirect interests resulting from their immediate family or business relationships, may conflict with the interests of WMFN. (See the definition of Immediate Family later in this section.)

Continuing Student –

- Any student who has completed grade 12 or upgrading and is entering a post-secondary institution.
- Any student who attended a post-secondary institution the year previous and has maintained Good Academic Standing and has been accepted into the next year's program.

Dependent –

- A child under the age of 18 who usually resides full time in the sponsored student's home, OR who is attending school on a regular basis (70% or more attendance in all classes).
- A child under the age of 18 for whom the sponsored student usually pays regular child support.
- A common-law spouse or spouse who will have no other income (excluding BC Family Allowance) if the spouse is caring for child(ren) under the age of six.

ETCT Education Program Policy – Employment, Trades and Career Training education policy developed by West Moberly First Nations

Full-time Studies/Student - A full-time student is a student who is considered a full-time student by the education institution or organization delivering the program of study.

General Emergency – An unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state from an event(s) that impacts life, health, or property. (e.g. flood, earthquake, fire, violence, pandemic).

Good Academic Standing – A student meets or exceeds the minimum acceptable standards of academic performance required by the enrolling institution.

Good Financial Standing - A person who does not owe money to West Moberly First Nations, unless there is a written repayment agreement in place that has been honoured for the preceding 6 consecutive months (or as otherwise defined by the WMFN Interpretation Policy).

Immediate family – A Member’s spouse (including common-law spouse and same-sex spouse), parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren as well as “in-law”, step, and adoption relationships, and any relative permanently residing in the sponsored student’s household or with whom the sponsored student resides (or as defined in the WMFN Interpretation Policy).

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) – The federal government ministry responsible for the support of Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) or as the agency is renamed from time to time.

Part-time Studies/Student - A student who is enrolled at a post-secondary institution but is not considered full-time by the institution.

PSSSP Education Policy – Post-Secondary Student Support Program education policy developed by West Moberly First Nations in accordance with Indigenous Services Canada’s National Post-Secondary Policy. Its purpose is to provide federally sourced financial and advisory support to WMFN membership to achieve their education goals.

Member - Any person who is registered on the most current WMFN Registry List (or as defined by the WMFN Interpretation Policy).

Spouse - A person that is married or has been in a common-law relationship for more than 12 continuous months.

Transcripts - A record of a student’s grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) from a post-secondary institution. **Official Transcripts** are copies of a sponsored student’s entire permanent record of grades earned at a post-secondary institution, and usually bear that organization’s official seal and signature. **Unofficial transcripts** are copies of a sponsored student’s recent grades that have been received by a sponsored student from their program provider, but which are not considered to be an official transcript of grades by that organization.

UCEPP – University and College Entrance Preparation Program

WMFN – West Moberly First Nations: a First Nations Community located in northeastern British Columbia, Canada.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Financial sponsorship of the educational programs discussed in this policy is entirely dependent upon the availability of WMFN revenues. Such support will be provided within the limits of the WMFN financial resources allocated annually for the purposes described in this document.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible to receive Employment, Trades, or Career Training (ETCT) support, an applicant must:

- a) Be a registered WMFN member.
- b) Be in Good Financial Standing with West Moberly First Nations as defined by the WMFN interpretation policy. If the debt to the Nation is due to a previous education funding default, the Education Manager will review the applicant's current circumstances to determine if there is a reasonable expectation of probable success.
- c) Have been accepted into an eligible educational institution or organization as defined in Section 3 of this policy.
- d) Provide a signed confirmation that, prior to applying to the ETCT program all external education funding opportunities have been exhausted. Such external sources include programs available through industry sponsors as well as those offered by non-profit organizations and government agencies. ETCT funding support will only be considered for those applicants who do not qualify for such externally available funding opportunities or for those who can demonstrate that their applications to such programs have been unsuccessful in whole or in part.
- e) Complete an ETCT Program Sponsorship Application Form and submit it to the WMFN Education Manager.

3. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Eligible education institutions must be one of the following:

- a) A certified educational institution or affiliated organization delivering adult secondary school upgrading or employment or trades-oriented courses.
- b) A certificate, diploma or degree granting post-secondary institution which is:
 - 1) Recognized by a province or territory (in Canada or abroad). Institutions abroad will be considered eligible only for those applicants whose usual place of residence is in the same country where such educational institutions are located.

OR

 - 2) Educational organizations recognized to deliver post-secondary programs by arrangement with an eligible post-secondary institution.
Links to lists of eligible Canadian and International institutions are included in Appendix B
- c) If the educational institution or organization does not meet the eligibility criteria specified above, the applicant must include with their application a letter explaining why they wish to attend that particular institution and explain why it is necessary for their career or employment goals. The Education Manager will determine whether an exception to the

eligibility criteria will be allowed based on the reasons provided in that letter. Consideration will be given to institutions that offer programs not offered by accredited institutions as outlined above but that have a reasonable probability of contributing to future career goals and likelihood of employability for the applicant.

4. ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

Eligible programs must:

- a) Be offered by eligible institutions as defined in Section 3 of this document.
- b) Provide a means to advance the applicant's qualifications for full-time employment through adult secondary school upgrading or through employment or career training.
- c) Consist of full-time studies as defined by the institution or organization delivering the program.

OR

Be a part-time program which provides a means to advance the applicant's qualifications for full-time employment; either through adult secondary school upgrading or by enabling applicants to obtain required pre-requisites for employment or career training. Such part-time programs are not eligible for living allowance support except as specified in Section 5 of this policy.

- d) WMFN Members may be eligible for ETCT funding of *safety training programs* under the following conditions:
 - 1) The total sponsorship funding for safety training courses for an individual WMFN Member over a three-year period may not exceed the maximum amount specified in section 8 of this policy.
 - 2) Applications for sponsorship of safety training courses must include a written plan showing how such courses will improve employability for available jobs or contribute to qualifications for certification in the chosen trade or career.
 - 3) Sponsored students of safety courses *must honor their commitments* to attend the courses as scheduled. If unanticipated circumstances require re-scheduling, students are obligated to notify the institution or organization providing the training prior to the deadline established and in accordance with that institution or organization's policies. However, if this is not possible due to a serious accident or illness, or other personal crisis, please reference section 16. Students sponsored for a safety training course who fail to meet the above-mentioned obligation or who otherwise fail to demonstrate a sincere attempt to complete and pass their sponsored safety course (as judged by the instructor of that course) will:
 - i) be held responsible for reimbursing West Moberly First Nations for all costs associated with that course.
 - ii) be ineligible for additional West Moberly First Nations sponsorship of safety courses under this policy for a period of twelve months following the date when they were originally scheduled to take the course.
- e) Delivery method may be in-classroom, e-learning, distance learning, or virtual learning as long as the program meets all eligibility criteria. Alternative delivery methods (e-learning, distance learning, virtual learning) may require additional reporting and compliance requirements (see 16 e).

5. ELIGIBLE SPONSORSHIP COSTS

a) Eligible costs for WMFN sponsorship consideration include:

- Tuition and other mandatory student fees
- Required books
- Required supplies and/or materials as listed in course calendar/description
- Official transcript fees
- Application Fees
- Living Allowance for full-time studies
- Tutoring
- Emergency travel expenses
- Student relocation travel expenses

b) **Application and pre-enrollment fees**

Applicants typically apply to more than one education institution and may be charged fees for each application. Generally, these *application fees* are not eligible for sponsorship by the ETCT program because most such expenses occur prior to the applicant's approval for sponsorship.

However, an application fee or other mandatory fees charged by an educational institution where an applicant is later granted formal admission is eligible for reimbursement under this program. Such a fee will be considered a payment made in advance by the sponsored student toward their mandatory student fees. Once an applicant has been formally accepted to an educational institution, a receipt issued by that institution for this fee may be submitted to the WMFN Education Manager for reimbursement.

c) **Tuition and other mandatory student fees**

- 1) Eligible costs include actual tuition costs and mandatory fees from the educational institution or organization.
- 2) Applicants who attend an eligible private educational institution or organization will be eligible for sponsorship of tuition costs and mandatory student fees; however, such sponsorship will not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged for a comparable program at an eligible public educational institution or organization located in the province or region in which the applicant normally resides.

d) **Required books, supplies and/or materials**

Eligible costs include books, supplies and/or materials that are required for the program. Optional books and general school supplies (pens, paper, backpack, binders etc.) are the responsibility of the student.

e) Living allowance

Living allowances are expected to cover normal daily living expenditures such as food, lodging, and local travel. Living allowances are not expected to cover personal debts incurred prior or during attendance at post-secondary institutions. This includes, but is not limited to, credit card payments, vehicle loans, personal debts, bank loans or business loans.

Generally, only applicants applying as *full-time students* for eligible ETCT programs are eligible for living allowance support. However, ETCT sponsored *part-time* students may submit a written request to apply for living allowance support or partial living allowance support if they can establish that the lack of such support would prevent them from being able to enroll in the courses they require for employment or to meet the pre-requisites for an employment or career oriented program. Such written requests must be submitted to the Education Manager.

Living allowance rates

- 1) Living allowances will normally be direct deposited to student bank account on the first of the month. However, when this is not possible, the Education Manager will arrange for a cheque to be issued to the student for the period in which direct deposit to their bank account is not possible.
- 2) If a student begins or ends a program part way through a month, the part of their living allowance that is not allocated for accommodation will be pro-rated.
- 3) If ABE and UCEPP students are not maintaining attendance requirements as defined by the institution, their living allowance may be pro-rated accordingly. Continued absenteeism may result in funding being terminated (if absenteeism is due to Personal Crisis or General Emergency, please reference section 16).
- 4) The maximum living allowance rates are calculated using the Canada Student Loan (CSL) rates which are periodically updated. WMFN living allowance rates will be reviewed annually (see Appendix A).
- 5) Advances are not available except in the event of emergency travel as outlined in section 5.
- 6) Qualifying criteria for eligible dependents are outlined in the Definitions section of this policy.
- 7) Social Assistance: All applications will be cross-referenced with the WMFN Social Assistance Department to avoid duplicate funding. If an applicant received social assistance for the month that they are applying for a living allowance, the amount sponsored through the ETCT program will not exceed the difference between the maximum sponsored living allowance and the amounts received from the Social Assistance Department. Furthermore, an applicant cannot receive the dependent amount if they are also receiving Social Assistance or Guardian Finance Aid (GFA).

f) Tutoring

Tutoring assistance may be available if a student feels that they require tutoring to be successful in their studies. The student must receive permission from the Education Manager to employ the services of a tutor and all costs must be pre-approved by the Education Manager. Upon approval, a student must submit a copy of the tutoring contract to the Education Manager and arrange for the tutor to forward all tutoring

invoices to the WMFN Education Manager for payment. Sponsored tutoring costs per student may not exceed \$600 per semester.

g) Travel Expenses

1) Student Relocation Travel

The following support for student relocation travel expenses is available for eligible students attending an ETCT program funded under this policy:

Reimbursement for the actual cost of one return trip to the eligible student's permanent place of residence from the enrolling institution for every 16 weeks of full-time studies (not more than two round trips per academic year) for the student. Additional costs for transporting a student's dependents are eligible for reimbursement, provided those dependents accompany the student on the sponsored trips. Where a program qualifies for reimbursement of two round trips during an academic year, one of these may be applied to holiday travel costs between an eligible student's place of study and their permanent place of residence, as long as this occurs during a semester break of sufficient duration.

Students must submit original receipts to the Education Manager within a month of returning to school following the eligible trip. If receipts are not submitted within this timeframe, the student will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Note: Daily travel costs between a student's residence and the institution delivering their ETCT program are considered normal cost of living expenses and will be included in student's budget calculation for their ETCT funding application. However, for those students who do not qualify for living allowance funding, applications for the support of such daily travel expenses may be considered at the discretion of the Education Manager if a student's access to their ETCT funded program would be prevented without such assistance.

2) Travel for Required Exams

Students taking classes through distance education or e-learning who are *required* to travel to another location to complete their required exams are eligible for travel support. However, requests for modifications such as taking the exam in the local school under the supervision of a teacher or school principal should be first examined to minimize travel costs.

3) Emergency Travel

Financial assistance may be available to students for costs related to emergency situations. Emergency situations which may be eligible for assistance include circumstances in which a student or their immediate family has been affected by bereavement, life-threatening or incapacitating accidents or illness or General Emergency.

Applications for emergency travel funding must be made to the Education Manager by email, mail, or fax, by the affected student or someone acting on their behalf. If a written request is not practical due to urgency associated with the emergency or a temporary lack of access to written communication services, the Education Manager may accept a request for emergency travel by phone, provided the identity of the eligible student involved in the emergency can be verified. A written copy of the request must be forwarded to the Education Manager as soon as possible.

Subject to approval by the Education Manager, advances may be given for emergency travel. Recipients must submit original travel receipts to the Education Manager within one month of resuming their funded program or within one month of withdrawing from it if that occurs.

If receipts are not submitted, the amount allocated will be deducted from the next living allowance installment. If there are no installments scheduled, the amount allocated will be considered Accounts Payable to WMFN and subject to the Good Financial Standing policy.

4) Eligible Travel Costs:

Sponsored students and their dependents may receive assistance for: bus fare, airfare, ferry fare, and/or other approved methods of transportation associated with eligible travel. Gasoline expenses resulting from the use of a personal vehicle may also be an eligible expense for such travel. Total travel costs may not exceed the *most reasonable and economical* method of travel available.

The total funding available for eligible travel costs per fiscal year may not exceed a maximum amount established by Council and the Education Department when the annual WMFN Education Department budget is approved. No other monies will be available to students for this purpose once this fund has been expended. Expected travel costs will be included in the sponsorship agreement budget.

6. SPONSORSHIP PRIORITIES

- First Priority** WMFN members who are continuing full-time ETCT students or who are returning for the next portion of their program requirements for certification (e.g. Trades Certification).
- Students must have maintained Good Academic Standing during the previous term or terms of their program. If a student's grade transcripts are not available when their funding application is reviewed, a written confirmation from the associated program director verifying that they have maintained Good Academic Standing will be accepted to meet this requirement.
- Second Priority** WMFN members who have graduated from high school with a Dogwood Diploma or equivalent within the last 24 months and who are applying to the ETCT program for a program of full-time studies for the first time.
- Third Priority** WMFN members who have not received previous sponsorship for a full-time education program through the ETCT or PSSSP programs and who wish to enroll in a full-time program of studies.
- Fourth Priority** WMFN Members who are applying for ETCT funding for a short-term or part-time program (e.g. industry tickets or certificate programs) or support for Adult Basic Education.
- Fifth Priority** WMFN Members who have previously been sponsored and completed a certification program.

Applications for sponsorship which do not qualify under the priorities listed above will be considered for approval on a first-come first-served basis.

7. APPLICATION DEADLINES

An application for funding through the ETCT program must be submitted sufficiently far in advance to meet the deadlines set by the educational institution offering the program for which the applicant is seeking sponsorship. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify and meet such deadlines.

8. ANNUAL MAXIMUM FUNDING FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS

- a) The total maximum sponsorship per year per applicant for ETCT programs is \$50,000 (including living allowance and travel where applicable). This amount aligns with the program sponsorship maximum specified in the WMFN Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) policy and it may be amended if that policy's maximum should change.
- b) The total maximum sponsorship per applicant over three years for safety courses and industry-related tickets is \$5000, including the cost of any equipment required for those courses.
- c) Maximum sponsorship for required books and supplies is not to exceed \$2000 per year.

9. LIMITS OF ASSISTANCE

Assistance can be provided for:

- Adult Basic Education (Dogwood diploma or equivalent) (Maximum 12 months – may be taken over more than one period. Cumulative funding will not exceed the equivalent of 12 months full-time.)
- Adult Regular High School (ARHS) Graduation Programs (Dogwood high school diploma or equivalent). (Maximum 24 months – may be taken over more than one period. Cumulative funding will not exceed the equivalent of 24 months full-time.)
- Employment related short-term training and certification including safety training and industry-related tickets.
- University / College Entrance Preparation ((Maximum 24 months – may be taken over more than one period. Cumulative funding will not exceed the equivalent of 24 months full-time. Subject to confirmation of successful completion of previous term)
- Five levels of post-secondary education:

Level 1	Certificate / Diploma
Level 2	Undergraduate Degree Program
Level 3	Graduate Degree / Advanced or Professional Degree
Level 4	Doctoral Degree
Level 5	Trades Certification

Students may be eligible for more than one program at each level and in any order. (Subject to Sponsorship Priorities – Section 6)

Students who became eligible for assistance and who have previously completed a portion of post-secondary studies without assistance from WMFN will not be reimbursed for previous expenses.

10. ETCT PROGRAM EXTENSIONS

When sufficient funding is available, applications may be considered for WMFN students who have completed their ETCT sponsored trades or career program but who wish to improve their qualifications in their chosen field through additional full-time training.

Students may receive funding for up to one additional year to extend their qualifications within their chosen field of study. This request must be made to the Education Manager in writing by mail, fax or email in accordance with ETCT Program application requirements outlined in this policy.

This request must include a written recommendation from the Program Administrator, Dean, or Department Head of the student's program. Requests will be approved based on available funding and prior student success in the sponsored program.

An applicant who qualifies to be considered for a program extension according to the above criteria will be evaluated as a First Priority candidate, providing that the requested term occurs immediately following the final scheduled term of their sponsored program. Otherwise, they will be evaluated per Section 6, Sponsorship Priorities.

11. DISTRIBUTION OF ETCT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF APPROVED APPLICANTS

Tuition, books, and other mandatory student fees for ETCT Program approved applicants will normally be paid directly to the education institution or organization in which the student is enrolled. However, if there are compelling reasons why an approved applicant must pay such fees themselves or via a third-party sponsor, they may request a reimbursement of that payment by submitting a written request to the Education Manager along with receipts and an explanation of the reasons involved. In such a case, the Education Manager will provide the student with a written reply to their request within ten working days of receiving it.

12. APPLICATIONS

a) Application Access

An application can be requested from the Education Manager. The application can be submitted in person, by mail, fax or email.

b) Required Application Content

The following must be submitted in full, with required signatures and in time to meet the educational institution deadlines as discussed in Section 7 of this policy. The Education Manager is available to assist with the application process. However, the Manager will not complete any part of the application for the potential student.

- 1) ETCT funding application form
- 2) Photocopy of status card, both sides of the card is required
- 3) Documentation as detailed below for the indicated types of institutions or programs:
 - i) University, College or Technical School
 - A copy of an acceptance letter from the eligible institution or organization which identifies the applicant and the program in which they have been accepted.
 - ii) Trades, Apprenticeships and Other Employment Oriented Programs:
 - A copy of an acceptance letter from the eligible educational institution or organization which is the program provider to which the applicant has been accepted.
 - Documentation from the institution which demonstrates that the program will:
 - provide courses required for entrance into a recognized trade or skilled occupation.
 - provide courses that are eligible for credit at other educational institutions or organizations providing similar programs and which are recognized for their career value by the industries or occupations for which they are intended.
 - Copies of all completed application forms required by the program provider that are specific to their institution or organization.
 - iii) Adult Basic Education (ABE) OR University and College Entrance/Preparation Programs (UCEP):
 - A copy of an acceptance letter from the eligible institution or organization which identifies the applicant and the program in which they have been accepted.
 - Official documentation from the post-secondary institution which states that:
 - the program will provide the applicant with the courses required for entrance into college, technical school, university, etc.
 - the applicant will be eligible for acceptance into a regular college or university credit program upon successful program completion.
- 4) Copy of official high school transcripts, previous post-secondary transcripts, or test results from college entrance exams as appropriate.
- 5) Program costs including tuition, school fees, books and/or supplies.

- 6) A personal (family) budget (for applicants that are eligible for living allowance)
- 7) A letter of intent including:
 - A description of education plan including career and education goals
 - Employment trend and job availability in chosen field
 - Your previous experience in chosen field
 - A timeline indicating start and end dates
 - Program courses and associated program costs and
 - A projected monthly budget of income and expenses while attending school

13. APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS

- a) Applications will be reviewed within 10 working days after being received by the Education Manager to determine:
 - 1) Completeness (including all application content). If an application is not complete, the Education Manager will contact the applicant regarding required information.
 - 2) Eligibility of the educational institution or organization in accordance with Section 3 of this policy.
 - 3) Eligibility of the program in accordance with Section 4 of this policy.
 - 4) Where a trades or employment program is delivered by an educational organization, verify that it is a program recognized by a professional certification or licensing body (such as the Industry Training Authority (ITA)) or that it will provide a direct path to employability within the focus occupation for students completing the program.

- b) The Education Manager will:
 - 1) Request by written memo to the WMFN Finance Department to confirm whether the student/applicant is in Good Financial Standing with WMFN.
 - 2) Request by written memo to the WMFN Social Assistance Department to confirm whether the student/applicant is or has received social assistance recently.
 - 3) Group applicants according to the ETCT priorities in Section 6 to determine how many students can receive funding.
 - 4) Update the total remaining budget available for the fiscal year using the costs provided by the applicant.
 - 5) Contact applicants who have not previously received funding support through this program to make an appointment for a telephone, virtual, or in-person interview with the Education Manager.
 - 6) Determine whether WMFN will support the applicant for funding by referencing the applicant information and applying Sponsorship Priorities (Section 6) and Limits of Assistance (Section 9) of this policy.
 - 7) Notify all applicants by letter and/or email whether they have been accepted for funding and include any reasons for sponsorship approval or denial.

14. APPROVED STUDENTS

Applicants approved for funding will be sent a confirmation of sponsorship outlining WMFN sponsorship and student expectations.

15. APPEALS PROCESS

See West Moberly First Nations Appeals Policy.

16. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS WHILE ENROLLED IN A FUNDED PROGRAM

While the student is enrolled in a funded program, the student must communicate with the Education Manager regarding the following items:

a) Sponsorship Deadlines

It is the student's responsibility to inquire with the institution's registration department regarding the deadlines for sponsorship forms to be submitted to the school. Students must notify the Education Manager by email or fax of the education institutions deadlines for sponsorship forms to be submitted from WMFN to the institution at least three weeks prior to the deadline.

b) Book Requirements

It is the student's responsibility to inquire with the institution's bookstore regarding the required books and/or supplies for the program. The student must identify all the books required, the associated costs and the total cost of books that include applicable taxes. This information is to be emailed or faxed to the Education Manager two weeks prior to the start of each semester.

c) Grades/Transcripts

Sponsored students must submit copies of Unofficial Transcripts to the Education Manager following the completion of each semester.

Upon completion of a program, sponsored students must request an Official Transcript be sent to the Education Manager from the educational institute.

For programs or courses that do not provide transcripts, a Certificate of Completion will be accepted to meet this requirement.

If the student does not submit the transcripts, the student may be ineligible for further sponsorship including living allowance, tuition, and books until the transcripts are submitted.

d) Contact Information, Dependents, Marital Status Change

- 1) Students are required to inform the Education Manager (preferably in writing via email) of any change in contact information, dependents, or marital status. Any changes must be submitted within 30 days of the change.
- 2) Changes to dependents or marital status may increase or decrease the living allowance for a student. Verification will be required when adding a dependent.
- 3) Changes in marital status or in the number of dependents which result in a change in the calculation of a student's living allowance will be deemed to be in effect during the month immediately following the month in which the change occurred.
- 4) Students that misrepresent the status of dependents will be responsible to pay back living allowances collected in error.

e) Required Grades and Attendance

- 1) Students are required to maintain Good Academic Standing for the duration of their sponsorship. Good Academic Standing will be calculated according to the institution or training organization in which the sponsored student is enrolled.
- 2) ABE, ARHS, UCEPP, and alternative delivery method students will be closely monitored for student success. Students are expected to meet program expectations to maintain good academic standing. Monitoring of attendance, assignment submission, and/or module/unit completion will be required, as necessary. Details will be discussed with the Education Manager at the time of application interview or at any time during the contract as required to support student success and written in the WMFN Student Sponsorship Agreement.

f) Personal Crisis or General Emergency

In circumstances where personal difficulties or a General Emergency are seriously impairing a student's academic performance, the student shall notify the Education Manager immediately to discuss the situation. Options will be discussed with the Education Manager in accordance with this policy on a case-by-case basis.

If exceptions to a student's academic responsibilities (as defined in Section 16 of this policy) are sought by a sponsored student because of a personal crisis or General Emergency, a written request from the student must be submitted to the Education Manager for consideration along with official documentation verifying the nature and expected duration of the crisis (when possible). Assistance may also be available for students requiring financial support for travel expenses which are associated with a personal crisis or General Emergency as explained in Section 5 of this policy.

g) Change in Program Course Load

It is the student's responsibility to inform the Education Manager of course changes prior to registration or during a semester in which they are enrolled. The student must discuss any such changes with the Education Manager who may request that the student to see a program advisor from the education institution in which they are registered. A revised course outline must be submitted when requesting a course change demonstrating how the course change will affect the original program outline.

h) Course Failure

Funding will be provided the first time the student is required to repeat a course within a program. Funding to repeat additional failed courses is at the discretion of the Education Manager. If the student fails a course, they must provide the Education Manager with a written plan for successful completion of the course and reasons supporting continued funding.

However, if failure of a course is due to a serious accident or illness, other personal crisis, or extenuating circumstances, please reference section 16.

i) Renewing an Application

- 1) Full time students, who have received sponsorship for one year of a multi-year program, must renew their application each year of their program in accordance with the application requirements explained in Section 12 as well as with all sections of this policy dealing with ETCT program funding requirements.

- 2) A renewal application will include:
 - i) ETCT Program Application Form
 - ii) Updated Information Release Consent Form
 - iii) Transcript of previous term(s)
 - iv) Updated information of other supporting documents as appropriate

17. ACADEMIC PROBATION OR SUSPENSION (Full Time Students)

- a) Students that have been placed on Academic Probation by the academic institution must achieve Good Academic Standing within the period of time permitted by their program provider or their ETCT funding will be terminated. Students that must re-take failed courses, are responsible for paying the costs involved and are not eligible for reimbursement under the ETCT program.
- b) Full-time sponsored students placed on academic suspension by their post-secondary institution will not be eligible for sponsorship for one academic year or until they are accepted by the institution back into an eligible program as a full-time student, whichever is less. In either case, the application requirements for renewal of an ETCT sponsorship apply (see Section 16).

18. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF FUNDING

Cause of suspension or termination of student sponsorship can be issued for:

- a) Fraud
- b) Failure to comply with the Student Requirements While in School (Section 16).
- c) Partial or full withdrawal from a sponsored program without prior notification to the Education Manager
- d) Breach of any of the ETCT policies

19. PENALTIES

Students who have failed a semester will be responsible for repaying WMFN all sponsored costs related to the semester. However, if failure is due to a serious accident or illness, or other personal crisis, please reference section 16.

20. ETCT POLICY AMENDMENTS

ETCT Policy Amendments will follow the WMFN Policy Amendment Process

Note: Amendments to this policy will only apply to new ETCT contracts signed after the amendment is approved by WMFN Council.

21. OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

WMFN may not be able to fund all potential applicants and those applying to the ETCT program are expected to first exhaust all other available sources of funding.

Possible sources of funding are included in Appendix C.

REVIEWED & APPROVED

This WMFN Education Policy (ETCT) has been reviewed and approved by a quorum of Council on April 16, 2016, coming into force on April 16, 2016:

Councillor: Clarence Willson

Councillor: Laura Webb

Councillor: Patricia Brown

Councillor: Dean Dokkie

This policy has been reviewed and amended by a quorum of Council:

Dates:

June 1, 2021

September 28, 2023

APPENDIX A - LIVING ALLOWANCE RATES

Note: the following are the current living allowance rates. These are calculated using the Canada Student Loan (CSL) rates and they are subject to annual review.

<https://studentaidbc.ca/>

**PLEASE CONTACT THE EDUCATION MANAGER FOR
INFORMATION REGARDING WMFN LIVING OUT RATES.**

APPENDIX B - ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Eligible Canadian Institutions:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1429541743524/1531402273996>

Eligible International Institutions:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1433334714906/1531402394547>

APPENDIX C - OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

CANADA STUDENT LOANS

The mission of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) is to promote accessibility to post-secondary education for students with a demonstrated financial need by lowering financial barriers through the provision of loans and grants, and to ensure Canadians have an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to participate in the economy and society.

For more information on CSLP, visit <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/>

NORTH EAST NATIVE ADVANCING SOCIETY (NENAS)

Employment oriented training programs eligible for funding and available to all First Nation, Status, Non-Status and Inuit individuals who reside in Northeast B.C.

10328-101st Avenue

Fort St John, BC V1J 2B5

Phone: 250 787 0887

Fax: 250 785 0876

Email: nenas@nenas.org

ITA - Industry Training Authority

Trades training, apprenticeship applications and testing.

<http://www.itabc.ca/>

Phone: (778) 328-8700

Toll Free in BC - 1-866-660-6011

Email customerservice@itabc.ca

8th Floor – 8100 Granville Avenue

Richmond, BC V6Y 3T6

ISC Aboriginal Bursary Online Search

The purpose of the Aboriginal Bursary Online Search is to provide Aboriginal students with a valuable tool to facilitate their pursuit of post-secondary studies. These awards are made available by various organizations and institutions. Bursaries may be searched by regions, disciplines, providers and key words.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1351185180120/1351685455328>

To apply for bursaries the organizations that are awarding them must be contacted. Contact information is provided on the Web site.

<http://www.studentawards.com/>

This website directs applicants to thousands of scholarships, bursaries and cash awards.

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)

Using an integrated approach, ASETS will link your training needs to labour market demands, providing you with training or skills upgrading and with help finding a job.

<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/aboriginal/asetts/index.shtml>

Indspire

Indspire (formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation) offers financial assistance (scholarships and bursaries) through three major categories: Post-Secondary Education, Fine Arts and Cultural Projects and Health Careers

<http://indspire.ca/news/4120>