WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM?

- The program waives tuition and mandatory fees for B.C. students who are former youth in care between the ages of 19 and up to their 27th birthday.
- The program applies to full-time and part-time certificates, diplomas and undergraduate degrees at 25 public post-secondary institutions, Native Education College and 10 Union Institutes.
- Currently, 687 former youth in care are benefiting compared to about 189 former youth in care in 2016-17.
- Students are enrolled in all types of programs—social work, academic arts, nursing, pre-medical studies, trades, business administration and graphic design.

Quick Facts:
- About 2,200 students in the post-secondary education system may be eligible.
- Top three schools with the most students receiving the waiver are VIU (83), Camosun College (76) and TRU (55).
- $2.6 million paid in tuition and fees to 24 public post-secondary institutions for 687 students as of November 2018.

Quotes:
- “People should keep in mind that youth in care come from very traumatizing pasts. Communication is something that a lot of youth in care really struggle with because they are moving around so much or are isolated.” Rose, Selkirk College
- “Overall, it’s been a big stress reliever and allowed me to focus on my studies.” Kyle, SFU
- “Now, my narrative is more than my past. I identify as a university student, professional and activist.” Ruby, VIU

Timeline:
- Pre-September 2017: A voluntary patchwork of bursaries and grants at 11 public post-secondary institutions
- September 1st, 2017: Expansion to all 25 public post-secondary institutions
- Budget 2018: $2 million annually for the provincial tuition waiver program
- Budget 2018: Expansion of the Ministry of Children and Family Development’s Agreements with Young Adults
- June 2018: Announced $250,000 contribution to the Youth Futures Education fund for additional wrap around supports
- July 1, 2018: expanded to 10 union-based training providers

WHAT IS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

- from British Columbia;
- aged between 19 to 26 years; and
- have been in care for a minimum total of 24 months.
- attend a B.C. public post-secondary institution, Native Education College or one of 10 union trades training schools.

Care is defined as:
- Continuing Custody Order
- Temporary Custody Order
- Special Needs Agreement
- Voluntary Care Agreement
- Youth Agreement
- Adoption
- Extended Family Program
- Permanent Transfer of Custody Order
- Temporary Transfer of Custody
- Interim Custody Order
- Child in Home of Relative

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Want to learn more? Visit gov.bc.ca/tuitionwaiver
- Got a question? Email tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca
- Current students can visit the institution’s financial aid office and complete a consent form to validate your eligibility.
WHERE CAN I STUDY?

25 post-secondary institutions
10 union institutes (all Lower Mainland)

Native Education College