

A SHORT

# FINANCIAL GUIDE TO POST-SECONDARY FOR B.C. FORMER YOUTH IN CARE STUDENTS



## WHO IS THIS FOR?

### STUDENTS

This guide is for current or former youth in care students who want to learn their financial options for post-secondary.

### & ANYONE REALLY...

Social workers, support workers, parents, siblings, professionals, can also benefit from learning about these resources!

Students, our piece of advice for you: You are valued. You are worthy. You can do it. We believe in you.

## WHAT'S IN HERE?

We have literally combed through the depths of the internet to provide you with this guide!

**In here, you will find information about:**

### Tuition Waiver Information

B.C. Provincial Tuition Waiver ..... page 1-7  
Private Tuition Waivers ..... page 3

### Additional Funding Available

What is a scholarship, bursary, fund? ... page 6  
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### External Awards

Community Financial Aid ..... page 11-12

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S

# PROVINCIAL TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM (PTWP)

LEARN IN 4 STEPS



1. LEARN



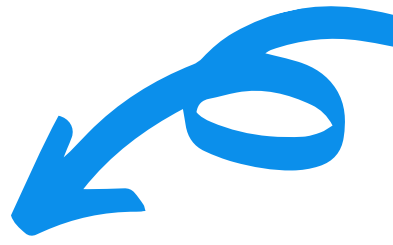
2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



3. CHOOSE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION & PROGRAM



4. APPLY

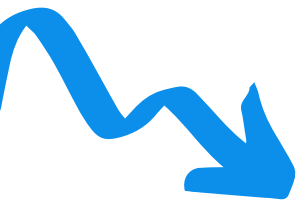


## STEP 1

### WHAT IS THE PTWP?

Funded by the Provincial B.C. Government, the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program \(PTWP\)](#) is a program for former B.C. youth in care ages 19-26 years old who are planning to or, currently attending either full-time or part-time studies by paying for their tuition (**yes – you read that right, full tuition paid for!**).

The intent of the PTWP is to be inclusive, if an individual falls outside the eligibility criteria, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) will consider exceptions on an individual basis.



## STEP 2

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, students must be:

- ✓ Residents of British Columbia; or
- ✓ Have been placed in another province under a Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) Interprovincial Placement Agreement;
- ✓ Studying full- or part-time at a B.C. public post-secondary institution; the Native Education College or one of 10 approved trades training providers (see below for a full list of eligible institutions);
- ✓ Between the ages of 19-26 (inclusive) or,
- ✓ 17 or 18 years of age, and have graduated from high school and are no longer in care of MCFD; and
- ✓ Formerly in any B.C. MCFD or DAA Legal Status or Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Child in Home of Relative program for at least 24 months or 730 days (consecutive or accumulated in any combination)

# STEP 3: CHOOSE YOUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION

After you determine your eligibility, the next step is to decide your post-secondary institution of choice and program of study. Below you will find the 25 partnering institutions.

## LIST OF ELIGIBLE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The PTWP covers a wide range of study programs in:

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
 Camosun College  
 Capliano University  
 College of New Caledonia  
 College of the Rockies  
 Douglas College  
 Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
 Justice Institute of British Columbia  
 Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
 Langara College  
 Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 North Island College  
 Northern Lights College  
 Coast Mountain College  
 Okanagan College  
 Royal Roads University  
 Selkirk College  
 Simon Fraser University

Thompson Rivers University  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of Northern British Columbia  
 University of the Fraser Valley  
 University of Victoria  
 Vancouver Community College  
 Vancouver Island University  
 Native Education College  
 Boilermaker Training Centre  
 Construction and Specialized Workers  
 D.C. 38 Joint Trade Society  
 Electrical Joint Training Committee  
 Floorlayers Union  
 IUOE Local 115 Training Association  
 Pile Drivers Local 2404  
 Piping Industry Apprenticeship Board  
 Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre  
 Society  
 Trowel Trades Training Association

## THE PTWP COVERS...

- ▶ Credit and non-credit courses leading to a certificate, diploma, credential or undergraduate degree
- ▶ Courses taken during unclassified qualifying years, non-credit-based trades programs and continuing education programs eligible for student financial assistance
- ▶ Apprenticeship training
- ▶ Any non-credit courses associated with lifelong learning or competencies related to the labour market
- ▶ The program **does not apply** to Masters, PhD or post-graduate courses or programs or any Adult Basic Education programs and/or fees.

## STEP 3: CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY

To learn more about programs and post-secondary institutions to find the perfect fit for you, contact the institution's enrolment office

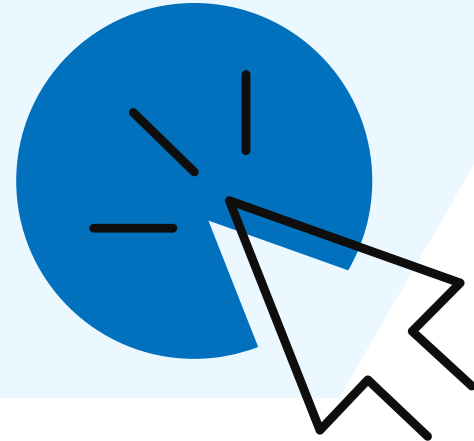


# STEP 4: APPLY ONLINE

The PTWP application can be downloaded online at [StudentAidBC.com](http://StudentAidBC.com)

Students must submit a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program Application form through the financial aid office at their post-secondary institution.

Many different institutions also have staff to help students navigate through this application. Staff are also able to connect students to other relevant resources available.



## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** Download the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program Application form and complete Sections 1 and 3.
- 2** Visit your institution's financial aid office and bring your application form to them so they can validate your eligibility and complete Section 2.
- 3** Your institution will submit your application form to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training who verifies your time-in-care with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The verification process can take up to 6 weeks depending on the complexity of your records search.
- 4** If you are eligible, your institution will not collect any tuition fees or registration deposits from you. If you have already paid your fees, your tuition fees will be reimbursed by the institution.



## Questions?

If you have any questions or are wanting further information, please review the Tuition Waiver Frequently Asked Questions or contact the **Systems Navigator** at [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca)

## Other Resources

If you are ineligible for the PTWP, some institutions offer additional private waivers for former youth in care. **Click the logo to head over to the application!**



University of British Columbia



University of Victoria



Vancouver Island University



Nicola Valley Institute of Technology



British Columbia Institute of Technology



Justice Institute of British Columbia



Langara College

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q1. How do I know if I qualify?

You will be asked to complete a Tuition Waiver Program Application form to disclose information and verify your identity through your signature. Your institution will submit your completed application form to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training for verification from the Ministry of Children and Family Development or from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The verification process can take up to 4-6 weeks depending on the complexity of your records search.

## Q2. What happens if I have already paid for the current school year?

If you have already paid tuition and mandatory fees and are eligible for the Tuition Waiver Program, you will be reimbursed by your institution provided it is within the same semester.

*See Q9: Can I claim a waiver retroactively?*

## Q3. What are tuition fees and what is covered?

All tuition and the mandatory fees you pay to your institution to successfully complete the program/courses you are enrolled in will be covered. Students that qualify for the Tuition Waiver Program may also be reimbursed for their application fees.

## Q4. Can I still access other/existing programs?

The Tuition Waiver Program serves the specific purpose of waiving tuition fees for former youth in care and is not intended to replace existing programs. Other programs that help offset educational costs for former youth in care will continue. Contact your institution's financial aid office to determine eligibility for other programs and bursaries.

## Q5. What if I am already receiving funding through another program (e.g., Youth Education Assistance Fund or Agreements with Young Adults), am I still eligible for a tuition waiver?

Yes.

## Q6. Where can I find information about the Tuition Waiver Program?

[Information is available on the StudentAid BC website here](#)

## Q7. Tuition is just one piece. What other supports are available?

Many institutions have various supports in place already. Please contact your Student Services Department or equivalent.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Q8. What happens if I must drop out after having my tuition fees reimbursed?**

You will be reimbursed by your institution, provided it is within the same semester, upon verification of eligibility by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. If you must withdraw after the course/program drop date, you are not required to repay tuition.

## **Q9. Can I claim a waiver retroactively?**

Students may claim reimbursement for tuition paid at any time during the same semester.

## **Q10. What if I am a part-time student?**

Part-time students are also eligible for the Tuition Waiver Program.

## **Q11. Is successful completion a determinant of whether a tuition waiver is issued?**

No. If you meet all eligibility criteria and have been issued a tuition waiver, your tuition fees will be waived for the duration of your undergraduate studies program until you are awarded your credential, regardless of your age.

## **Q12. If I transfer institutions, will the tuition waiver funding continue to my new school?**

If you transfer to another eligible institution, funding will transfer along with you. You will not need to reapply for the funding. You will need to contact the System Navigator at [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca) to ensure that your funding carries over to your new school.

## **Q13. For applicants with exceptional circumstances:**

You must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined on the StudentAid BC website. However, if you believe your time in care was miscalculated by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, you may contact [waivervalidation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:waivervalidation@gov.bc.ca).



If you have any questions about the Provincial Tuition Waiver, please contact [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca)

# Additional Education Funding Supports



Tuition is only one part of the many expenses as a student. Here, you will learn about different types of financial funding to cover the costs of going to school. These supports below can cover expenses such as tuition, textbooks, housing, food, and other living expenses.

Scholarships, Bursaries, Grants and, Funds

Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEAFF)

Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF)

Student Loans

Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)



## Scholarships Bursaries Grants & Funds

Scholarships, bursaries, funds and grants are pockets of money you apply for and are awarded. **You do NOT have to pay it back** – it's all yours for your educational journey. What scholarships, bursaries, grants and funds have in common is that it's all money, money, money for you to go to school. They are very similar but also different.

Here are the differences:

### Scholarships

Money awards you get for having high grades or, other achievements

### Bursaries

Money awards given to you based on your financial need

### Grants

Money awards you get based on high grades or, financial need

### Funds

Money awards you get based on financial need based on the eligibility set

It's also very important to read the **eligibility criteria** for each. All scholarships, bursaries, grants and funds have different eligibility criteria, deadlines and application processes. Some will require you to write an essay, answer questions, submit tax forms and some don't.

It is extremely important to ensure that you meet all the requirements for what you are applying for.

## Where can I find these scholarships, bursaries, grants and funds?

Great question! The majority of scholarship, grant and bursary information is found online. [AgedOut has a great resource HERE](#). You can also reach out to you your high school counsellor and they will be able to connect you to scholarships, bursaries and grants you are eligible for. When you arrive at post-secondary, you can connect with your financial aid office and they can connect you to the right resources.

# Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF)



**\$5,500**  
per program  
year for up to  
4 years

Going to school is expensive – oh gosh, we know! The Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF) is a B.C. grant for former youth in care ages 19-24\* that can cover expenses outside of your tuition up to **\$5,500 per program year for 4 years.**

This fund can cover textbooks, phone bills, rent, child care and more.

**\*Are you outside ages 19-24?**

You can fill out an appeal form and try your best to access this fund.

## Learn More

Click here for the [Youth Educational Assistance Fund Application Form](#)

[Youth Educational Assistance Fund Application Form](#)



## Instructions:

1. Download the [application form](#)
2. Check the eligibility criteria and learn more about the fund
3. [Fill out sections 1 & 3 in the application form](#)
4. If you are a first time applicant, you will need to attach a letter from any Ministry of Children and Family Development office or delegated Aboriginal agency stating you are a former youth-in-care.
5. If you are **not** applying for financial assistance through StudentAid BC, a financial aid officer at your school must also complete a [confirmation of enrolment form](#).

If you are denied funding and want to appeal, please complete an appeal form and submit it along with the documentation listed on the form to StudentAid BC.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this grant you must meet **ONE** of the following legal criteria:

You must be a former B.C. youth in continuing custody order (COO):

(a) Who was:

- (i) In the continuing custody of a director designated under Section 91 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) pursuant to that act; or
- (ii) Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to section 51(1)(a) of the Infants Act; or,

(b) Who was under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the Adoption Act:

- until the person turned 19 years of age or for at least five years immediately prior to the youth's adoption or permanent transfer of custody to a person other than a parent under s.54.1 of the CFCSA.

If you don't know if you meet the above legal criteria, please contact your former social worker, any Ministry of Children and Family Development office or any delegated Aboriginal agency for help.

In addition to meeting one of the legal criteria above, you must **ALSO** be:

- > A full-time student or a student with a permanent disability studying at a 40 per cent course load.
- > Registered to take post-secondary level courses from a designated post-secondary institution in a program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree that is at least 12 weeks long.
- > Between 19 and 24 years old





# Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF)

## More Information

The Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF) helps students with their living expenses, supporting them to pay their rent on time, purchase groceries, pay for vital mental health care treatment, covering the cost of textbooks, school supplies, child care and other expenses.

## Eligibility Criteria

This fund is for students attending full time or part time in a post-secondary institution on the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Contact your school's financial aid or the student support navigator and they can discuss your options further with you.

**MORE INFO: [WWW.YOUTHFUTURES.CA](http://WWW.YOUTHFUTURES.CA)**



# Student Loans



Student loans help you cover the cost of post-secondary. This is **borrowed money** you can use for your education funded by StudentAid B.C., however you have to pay the amount back once you graduate. Many times for loans, you would also need to pay interest on top of your debt.

When you apply for a student loan, you are also automatically assessed and can receive numerous **grants** (money you don't need to pay back), if you are eligible!

For more information, you can contact your financial aid office at your post-secondary to see if this is the right fit for you.

## Do Your Own Research!

[Student Loans on AgedOut](#)

## Insider Tips:

- Hundreds of scholarships, bursaries, grants, and funds go unrewarded because students do not apply into them.
- Ask for support, simply: "I want to learn more about my options for funding". Your post-secondary's financial aid office know many different funds you have not heard of. They can connect you to the funds you're looking for.





# Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)

## Q1. What is an Agreement with Young Adult (AYA)?



- The AYA program provides financial support to young adults who, at the time of their 19th birthday, who were receiving services under a Continuing Custody Order, a Youth Agreement, or were in the guardianship of the director of adoption or of a director under Section 51 of the Infants Act.
- Eligible young adults must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational program or a vocational training program or attending either a rehabilitation program or a life skills program. The purpose of the agreement, and policy designed to inform it, is to “help a young adult with a status specified in section 12.3 of the CFCSA, successfully transition to adulthood”
- AYA provides support for up to 48 months, from age 19– 26 (day of 27th birthday). The 48 months of support do not need to be used consecutively and program choices can change or alter or involve multiple programs. They must however be at least 12 weeks in length.



## Q2. What kind of programs qualify me for the AYA program?

- The AYA program is evolving – young adults will have increased access to rehabilitative, mental health services, life skills training and support to help them to be connected to their culture and traditions.
- Now there a variety of options for life skills programming, through an individualized program for 5 hours minimum a week or through an in-person/facilitated life skills program that is on the list of approved life skills providers.
- Now more than ever young adults need to access rehabilitative and mental health supports that are flexible and available. The minimum hours have been adjusted in policy from 15 hours a week to 10 hours a week.
- You can also combine each of the program areas to support a young adults’ educational, life skills, mental health, and rehabilitative needs. They can combine goals and activities in each of these areas for a minimum requirement of 10 hours a week.

## Q3. How would I know if the program I want allows me to be eligible for AYA?

- Ask your GSW, your caregiver, your teacher, AGEDOUT.COM, call our office, call your local AYA team or social worker or call central screening





# Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)



## Q4. Can I live anywhere in the province or country and remain on AYA?

- You can live anywhere within Canada and be on AYA- This needs to be assessed/planned with your AYA social worker.
- Note: Tuition Waivers are only in B.C. at this time.

## Q5. Can I be on Persons with Disability (PWD) if I'm applying to AYA?

- AYA is a needs-based program and should not be looked at as a means of financial support in place of other financially sustainable plans. If a young person has a diagnosed disability, they, with the support of their social worker, caregiver, youth worker, family, should be applying to PWD up to 6 months before they turn 19. PWD would be the primary funder if the young person was successfully on it and applying to AYA.
- Where do I find information about this? [www.agedout.com](http://www.agedout.com)



## Q6: I have a question about AYA, who do I ask?

- Every young person is unique, and their circumstances are individual to them.
- Always check [www.agedout.com](http://www.agedout.com) for information that will be accurate and up to date,
- Ask? Reach out to call central screening, speak with your guardianship social worker. Don't hesitate to do your own research
- For social workers: iConnect- AYA online "Resource Center" with great "on line" tools.

## Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Contact Information:



- 1) [www.agedout.com](http://www.agedout.com)
- 2) Delta MCFD Office: (604) 501-3237
- 3) Central Screening Office  
(604)660-4927 or,  
1-800-663-9122
- 4) Vancouver AYA Office: (604) 660-6868
- 5) North Fraser AYA Office: (604)-660-2214

# COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT



FOR FORMER YOUTH IN CARE STUDENTS

## What is community financial support?

These are funded by different community organizations and are given to the general public. These awards below are not connected with post-secondary institutions and it's open for anyone in the public meaning anyone that is eligible can apply for them.

On the next page, we have compiled a list of 6 B.C. specific bursaries that you can apply for.



**Am I allowed to apply for these bursaries even if though I'm already on the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP) and/or on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)?**

**YES!! You are.** You can apply for all of these resources at the same time. You are allowed to apply and receive different scholarships while accessing different financial aid programs at the same time. Go ahead and apply, apply, apply!

## General Scholarships Banks

Here are some websites that compile scholarships all over Canada that you can apply for. Click the logo to head over to their website!



## OTHER POCKETS OF CASH

Here's a couple of other ways you can fund your tuition for post-secondary

**GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES, FUND**

**POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS FUNDS**

# COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

FOR FORMER YOUTH IN CARE STUDENTS



All financial supports have different deadlines & eligibility criteria. Some deadlines may have already passed however, they are also offered every year. So mark your calendars for next year!

## **1** Federation of B.C. Youth in Care Networks' Dream Fund

- For youth who are current/formerly in care, minimum of 12 months in government care
- Ages 14-24 years old



**What's available?**

Up to **\$2,500** per semester, 3X a year (October, March, July)



## **2** Federation of Community Social Services of B.C. Youth Education Bursary

- For youth who are current/formerly in B.C. care who plan to pursue a career in the field of Human Services
- Ages 30 years old or younger in the year of the application



**What's available?**

Up to **\$2,000** per academic year



## **3** The HSBC Bank Canada National Transformation Project

- For youth who are current/formerly in B.C. care
- Currently or previously on a Youth Agreement (YA) or on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)
- Up to 25 years old (29 years old in exceptional circumstances)



**What's available?**

Up to **\$5,000** per academic year



## **4** Howard Legacy Youth Fund

- For youth who are current/formerly in care, with a minimum of 12 months in government care
- Ages 17-26 by the application date deadline



**What's available?**

**Two \$2,000** bursaries per academic year



## **5** Adoptive Families Association of B.C. Youth Bursary

- For youth who have joined their families by legal adoption
- Ages 17-26 by the application deadline date



**What's available?**

**Two \$2,000** bursaries per academic year



## **6** Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia

- For youth who are current/formerly in B.C. care or been in the continuing custody of Ministry of Family and Development (MCFD)
- Be at least 19 years old



**What's available?**

Up to **\$4,530** per academic year

