



## Eligible Post-Secondary STUDENTS

### INAC BC Region Post-Secondary Student Support Program Funding

As per the INAC *Post-Secondary Education National Program Guidelines (2003)*, Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), eligible students must be

“Registered Indians or Inuit who have been resident in Canada for 12 consecutive months prior to the date of application for funding, and have been accepted by an eligible post-secondary institution into either a degree or certificate program, or a UCEP program, and maintain continued satisfactory academic standing within that institution. For students attending institutions outside of Canada, this residency provision applies only to their first year of studies.”

In BC, this means that all eligible students will meet **all** of the following:

- 1) Be a registered (status) Indian or Inuit
- 2) Have resided in Canada for 12 consecutive months prior to application (reside means you maintain a home there and do not have a mailing address elsewhere)
- 3) Been accepted into an eligible program at an eligible institution (see the INAC information sheets on these topics for more information)
- 4) Maintain satisfactory academic standing (generally this means attending and passing all classes)

### File Management/ Records

Each student file should include clear documentation of eligibility, including:

- status number
- address
- acceptance letter from an eligible institution and program
- copies of transcripts

Any documentation of academic probation or other special notations should also be kept on the student's file.

Please refer to INAC's *Education Programs and Services Handbook (2005)*, including the First Nations Education Steering Committee *First Nations Post-Secondary Education Handbook for BC Region (2005)*, for more detailed information on program guidelines and file management.



## Eligible Students Who Cannot Apply for Funding Through Their Band or Tribal Council

Most eligible students apply to their home communities through their Band or Tribal Council. There are several categories of eligible students, however, that need to apply through the Native Education Centre in Vancouver ([www.necvancouver.org](http://www.necvancouver.org)).

These include:

1. Northwest Territory members who do not meet Northwest Territory residency and now reside in British Columbia;
2. Inuit, including Nunavut members who do not meet Nunavut residency and now reside in British Columbia;
3. British Columbia registered members who do not have Band membership or an affiliation with a Band (BC General List); and
4. Non-band members who are affiliated with a BC First Nation (affiliation as indicated on Status Card)

The Native Education Centre offers Aboriginal Adult Basic Education (AABE), skills training certificates and diplomas as well as post-secondary funding support to urban Aboriginal students.

### Student Eligibility – Question and Answers

Q: I moved to BC from Nunavut 6 months ago – where do I go to apply for INAC post-secondary funding?

A: Visit the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) website at [www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/adult/fans/index.htm](http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/adult/fans/index.htm) to determine whether to apply through FANS or the Native Education Centre in Vancouver.

Q: I live in BC and I cannot get post-secondary funding from my Band in another province. Can I apply directly to INAC?

A: No. INAC BC Region does not retain any funding for direct applications. For information about INAC post-secondary funding arrangements in other regions/ provinces, please call our office at 1-800-665-9320 for a list of contacts or visit [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca).



- Q: I have been travelling in Asia for 2 years. Do I meet the residency requirements?
- A: Probably not, unless you have been travelling continuously, did not establish a home address in Asia, and maintained your home and address in Canada (this includes your parents' home, if that is where you lived before you left).
- Q: Where do I get a status card?
- A: If you are in Vancouver, you can come to the INAC BC regional office at 1138 Melville Street (call 604-775-5100 to check opening hours). Contact INAC's Status and Membership department at 1-800-665-9320 or 604-666-9006 for a list of other locations.
- Q: I am on academic probation. What should I do to retain my INAC funding?
- A: Under the INAC National Program Guidelines you need to maintain "satisfactory academic standing". Check with your education coordinator to see if there are specific guidelines in your Local Operating Policy around this issue. Generally, a letter will be placed on your file and if you do not live up to the terms of your probation and return to satisfactory academic standing, your funding will be discontinued.
- Q: I was on academic probation 3 years ago and quit half-way through my program. Can I return to school and receive INAC funding?
- A: Yes, although the months completed toward the program will count toward the Level Limits (refer to the Post-Secondary Education National Program Guidelines).
- Q: Will my Band pay for my application fee(s)?
- A: They might, but they are not required to. This is not an eligible expense under INAC guidelines as you are not an eligible student until you are accepted into a program.
- Q: My band will not (or stopped) funding me because of where I live or the program I want to take. Can they do this?
- A: Yes, provided they are meeting the terms and conditions of the Post-Secondary Education National Program Guidelines. In this case, they would need to have clearly articulated in their Local Operating Policy which categories of students and/or programs are a priority for funding. Sometimes, policies are changed or available funding levels are altered and students should have a back-up funding plan in place.

**For more information on student eligibility contact your Band office and/or your Funding Services Officer at INAC BC Region at (604) 666-5171 or 1-800-665-9320.**