



Grand River Post Secondary Education Office

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The Future of the Post Secondary Student Support Program is at Risk – You Can Help

To all Six Nations post secondary students and families,

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is reviewing the post secondary student support program and considering a range of options for change. (See the GRPSEO web site for more information)

INAC states it wants to increase student access to post secondary education and to ensure the maximum number of students are benefitting *from the resources that are currently available*.

INAC states the review will also look to ensure that funding reaches students *who need it most*.

INAC has not made any commitment to lift the 2% annual funding cap that has resulted in over 200 unfunded eligible Six Nations post secondary students each year.

The Six Nations Council will conduct a lobby in Ottawa in the coming weeks.

Six Nations members and allies can help achieve the following outcomes by sending strong messages to INAC and the Government of Canada about the future of post secondary funding.

OUTCOMES:

- A. **Six Nations is seeking** a commitment from INAC and the Government of Canada to remove loans and the Canada Student Loans system as options for changes to the Post Secondary Student Support Program for Six Nations.
- B. **Six Nations is seeking** a commitment to long term post secondary student supports that will maintain Six Nations community-based post secondary education funding delivery and supports as these are critical to:
 - 1) student success and
 - 2) student enrolment in strategic studies where graduates can contribute to the community and to society in general in areas of need.
- C. **Six Nations is seeking** increased funding to the Post Secondary Student Support Program so that:
 - 1) Every eligible Six Nations post secondary student will receive adequate funding. (NOTE: increased Six Nations participation in post secondary education comes from the growing Six Nations post secondary age population and increased high school completion rates.)
 - 2) Funding will cover the actual costs of being enrolled in post secondary education (tuition, books, cost of living and necessary technology supports).
 - 3) Funding will support the needs of Six Nations learners (e.g. mature students with dependents).

Six Nations post secondary graduates can help meet the needs of the changing labour market while building a vibrant and sustainable Canadian economy.

In the coming weeks the GRPSEO will be issuing an information kit to households. The kit will contain post cards to send to INAC Minister Stahl and Prime Minister Harper. You can mail these free of charge. The kit will also contain other information.

We will continue to keep you informed. If you have ideas or questions feel free to contact me or your education counsellor.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jamieson
Director of Student Services & Counselling