



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 9, 2021

The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) announces an EXTENDED deadline to August 16, 2021, for the Immediate Entrance Bursary for all Indigenous Grade 12 Graduates in BC.

In response to *Indian Control of Indian Education* (1972), the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) was created by the five founding bands of the Nicola Valley in Merritt, BC. In 1995, NVIT became a public Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) and is currently the only Indigenous PSI in BC. NVIT has two campuses, one located in Merritt and the other in Burnaby, and provides community-based post-secondary opportunities throughout BC. The vision of the five founding bands is reinforced through the emerging landscape to Indigenize education through the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP). The NVIT Immediate Entry Bursary directly responds to BC's Bill 41 – 2019: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Specifically, removing a financial barrier provides Indigenous learners greater access to post-secondary opportunities at NVIT, resulting in an educational experience immersed in Indigenous ways of knowing.

NVIT first offered the Immediate Entry Bursary in September 2018 to all students graduating from Grade 12 in School District 58. In 2020, NVIT's commitment to closing the education gap was reinforced by further expansion of the NVIT Immediate Entry Bursary program to include **all Indigenous Grade 12 graduates** across the province of British Columbia. Both SD 58 Grade 12 graduates and Indigenous Grade 12 graduates from BC can apply to either of NVIT's campuses in Merritt or Burnaby. They will receive an Immediate Entry Bursary of \$2,729 to be used for the first-year tuition. To be eligible, students must be grade 12 graduates who transition directly from high school to NVIT and meet one of the following criteria:

- graduate from School District 58 (Indigenous or non-Indigenous)
- graduate from BC First Nations School that is registered with the BC First Nations Schools Association OR
- Indigenous graduate from any public school in BC

To qualify for the bursary, students must apply and have a final acceptance letter from NVIT by August 16, 2021. To be accepted, final transcripts and any other admission prerequisite documents must be received no later than 4:30 PM, August 16, 2021. Students must also complete and submit an Immediate Entry Bursary application (available from Enrolment Services) before the deadline.

- NOTE - The Immediate Entry Bursary is non-transferable and can only be applied towards the first-year tuition. (i.e. unused portions cannot be applied to subsequent years).

For more information, please contact Sue Sterling-Bur, Associate Vice President of Students and Registrar, (250)378-3347 or ssterling@nvit.ca.

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