



Youth In Care Tuition Waiver Program

Program:

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) is committed to accessible education. The Youth In Care Tuition Waiver Program provides tuition support for eligible students who have grown up in the care system in British Columbia.

The initiative is in response to the Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's, challenge to offer a tuition waiver for students who grew up in the care system. NVIT is committed to this program particularly due to NVIT's unique mandate to serve Aboriginal learners across the province. Statistics from the last fiscal year that show 52% of the 8202 youth in care in BC are Aboriginal.

The cost of education is a barrier for most students and even more so for youth in care. Studies have shown that programs similar to the Tuition Waiver Program result in youth in care being 50% more likely to attend post-secondary education. The Tuition Waiver Program is critical to increasing access to post-secondary education for Aboriginal youth in care and improving their quality of life.

Terms of the Youth In Care Tuition Waiver include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- the waiver is not applicable to tuition for Community Education or Continuing Studies courses;
- the waiver applies only to the tuition fees for the course; any other expenses necessary for participation in the course such as books, supplies, Student Society fees, lab fees, UPASS BC fees, theatre tickets, equipment rental, etc., must be paid by the student;
- as a minimum number of tuition-paying students are required in each course to enable it to be offered, NVIT reserves the right to limit the number of waivers admitted to a course under this policy and/or to apply the regular course fees in high cost courses;
- all refunds are subject to the Refund of Fees Policy – C.3.12.

Eligibility:

The Tuition Waiver Program is open to both current and prospective NVIT learners, across all programs/courses being delivered at either the NVIT Merritt or NVIT Vancouver Campus. For the purpose of the program, a youth in care is defined as an individual who is a resident of British Columbia and is living or has lived as a youth in care in British Columbia under one of the following conditions as defined by the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*:

- a Continuing Custody Order for a minimum of one year [pursuant to sections 41(1)(d), 42.2(4)(d) or (7) or 49(4), (5) or 10(a)];
- an Agreement with Youth [pursuant to section 12.2]; or
- a Transfer of Custody Order [pursuant to section 54.1].

In addition to the above, current and prospective learners will be eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- submit a complete and signed Application for the Youth In Care Tuition Waiver and an Authorization for Release of Information to the Enrolment Services Office;
- be at least 18 years of age during the academic year of study;
- demonstrate need for financial assistance;
- have an offer of admission to NVIT for the upcoming semester in a program leading to the completion of a certificate, diploma or undergraduate degree, **OR** be a continuing student maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.00 each semester and registered in a program leading to the completion of a certificate, diploma or undergraduate degree;

Please note: The Registrar's Office will review the eligibility of continuing students at the end of each semester and will notify the students.

Approved recipients do not need to apply each semester.

- Students are required to meet with an NVIT Academic Planner to review educational goals and preparedness. To book an appointment or for more information call NVIT Merritt campus at 250-378-3300, NVIT Vancouver campus at 604-602-9555, or toll-free at 1-877-682-3300.