

## WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM?

- The program waives tuition and eligible fees for B.C. students with lived experience in government care.
- It applies to programs and courses leading towards certificates, diplomas, and degrees at the undergraduate level, while studying full- or part-time at one of the 25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions, the Native Education College, and 10 union trades training providers.
- Currently, over 800 former youth in care are benefiting from the program, showing an increase from 189 former youth in care when the program was launched in 2017.
- Students are enrolled in all types of programs - social work, academic arts, nursing, pre-medical studies, trades, business administration and graphic design.

## WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

- Adopted through the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA); or
- Formally in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's Child in the Home of a Relative Program; or
- Formerly in any of the below B.C. MCFD or ICFSA Legal Statuses for at least 24 months (730 days).

### Eligible Legal Statuses:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ■ Continuing Custody Order | ■ Permanent Transfer of Custody Order   |
| ■ Temporary Custody Order  | ■ Temporary Transfer of Custody   |
| ■ Special Needs Agreement  | ■ Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to the <i>Infants Act</i>               |
| ■ Voluntary Care Agreement | ■ Under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the <i>Adoptions Act</i> |
| ■ Youth Agreement          |   |
| ■ Extended Family Program  |   |
| ■ Interim Custody Order    |   |

## Effective August 1st, 2023:

- Removal of age criteria.
- Eligibility for those who turn(ed) 19 in any legal status regardless of time in care.
- Introduction of a new annual \$3,500 grant to cover additional education costs like books and computers.

## Quick Facts:

- About 2,100 students currently in the post-secondary education system are recipients or are eligible for the tuition waiver program.
- To date, the program has paid roughly \$13 million in tuition and eligible fees for about 1,900 former youth in care studying at B.C. public post-secondary institutions, the Native Education College, and 10 union trades training providers.

## Quotes:

- *"The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program offers to those who have been in care, the possibility to make strong strides towards the life they want to live, even if they, like me, once thought that life was unattainable."* Mallory, VIU
- *"Overall, it's been a big stress reliever and allowed me to focus on my studies."* Kyle, SFU
- *"Now, my narrative is more than my past. I identify as a university student, professional and activist."* Ruby, VIU

## Timeline:

- **Pre-September 2017:** A voluntary patchwork of bursaries and grants at 11 public post-secondary institutions
- **September 2017:** Expansion to all 25 public post-secondary institutions
- **Budget 2018:** \$2 million annually for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program
- **Budget 2018:** Expansion of the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Agreements with Young Adults
- **June 2018:** Announced \$250,000 contribution to the Youth Futures Education fund for additional wrap around supports
- **July 2018:** expanded to 10 union trades training providers
- **Budget 2020:** \$4 million annually for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program
- **Budget 2023:** \$19.2 million dollars over three years for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program expansion.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

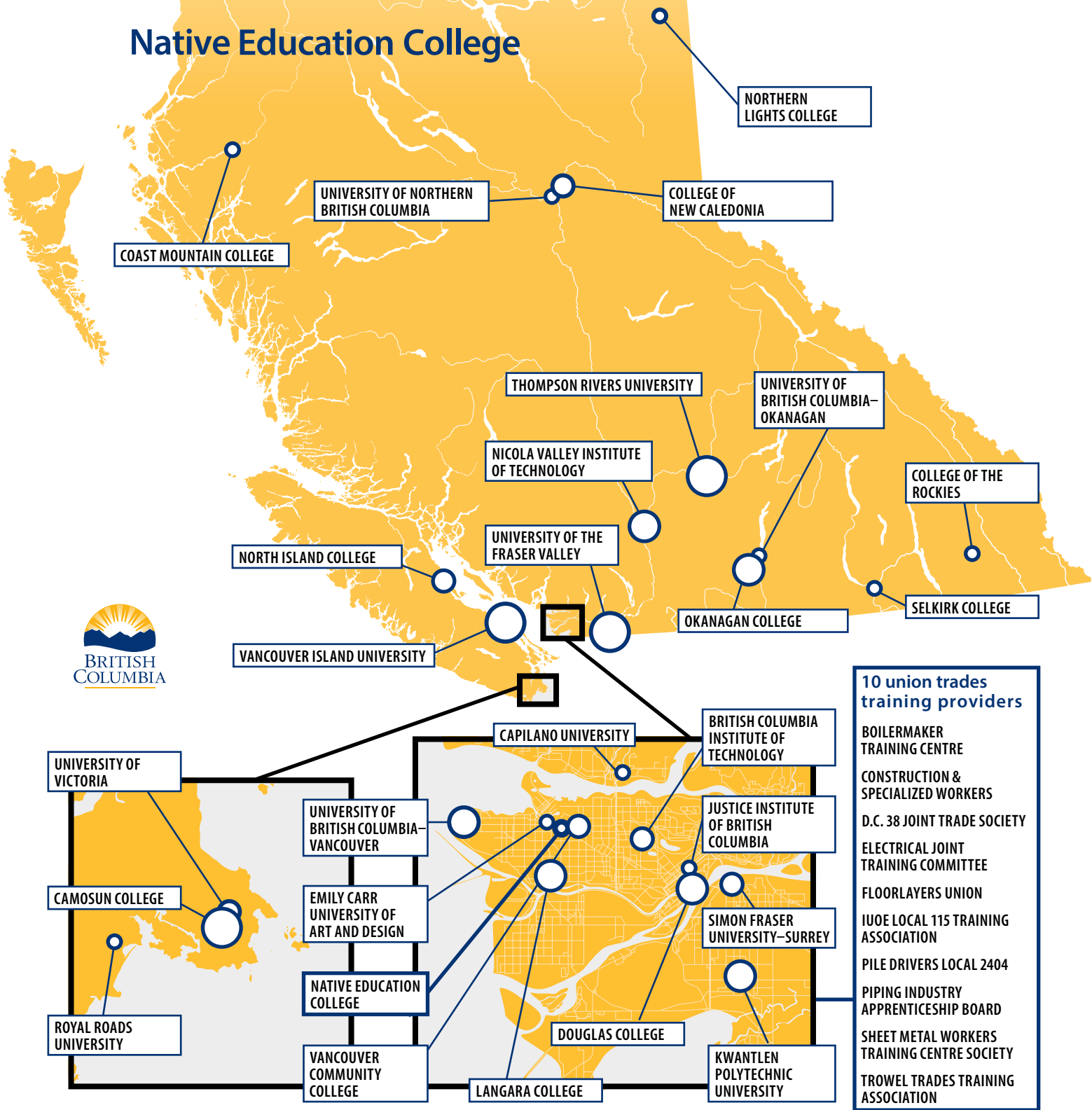
- Want to learn more? Visit [gov.bc.ca/tuitionwaiver](https://gov.bc.ca/tuitionwaiver)
- Have a question? Email [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca)
- Current students can visit their institution's financial aid office and complete an application form to validate their eligibility.

# WHERE CAN I STUDY?

**25** public post-secondary institutions

**10** union trades training providers (*all Lower Mainland*)

## Native Education College



- 10 union trades training providers**
- BOILERMAKER TRAINING CENTRE
  - CONSTRUCTION & 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

