

K-RR Educational Championship Team (ECT) Information Handout

The Kenora-Rainy River ECT Team strives to develop and initiate strategies to support youth with Extended Society Care (ESC) to increase their awareness of, participation in and success at all levels of the education, including postsecondary education, training and employment. The broader sector language is still transitioning from Crown Ward to Extended Society Care, thus this document will refer to both terms. The Kenora-Rainy River Team currently has the following members:

- Vince Kastrukoff: Kenora Rainy River Child & Family Services (KRRDFS) www.krrdfs.ca
- Betty-Anne Johnson: Kenora Rainy River Child & Family Services (KRRDFS) www.krrdfs.ca
- Trevor Mason: Kenora Rainy River Child & Family Services (KRRDFS) www.krrdfs.ca
- Bill Kuzemchuk: Tikinagan Child & Family Services (TCFS) www.tikinagan.org
- Shelley Kardal: Anishinabe Abinoojii Family Services (AAFS) www.aafs.ca
- Richard Hodgkinson: Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) www.kpdsb.on.ca
- Gayle Mutrie: Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) www.kpdsb.on.ca
- Sue Devlin: Kenora Catholic District School Board (KCDSB) www.kcdsb.on.ca
- Chelsea Ogemah: Lead Assistant (KRRDFS) www.krrdfs.ca

Affiliations

- Weechi-it-te-win Child and Family Services
- Rainy River District School Board
- Seven Generation Educational Institute
- Northern Nishnawbe Education Council
- Confederation College

The K-RR ECT Team welcomes new members and affiliations. If you or your organization have a common interest with our team's purpose, contact any of the above members to request a meeting. The team meets monthly and is particularly interested in having young people (current or former Extended Society Care recipients) join our team or be an advisor to the team.

Current and Former Individuals in Extended Society Care (previously known as Crown Wards)

Individuals who were in extended society care and other youth 21-24 years old who left the care of a Children's Aid Society may be eligible for a Living and Learning Grant (LLG). This grant provides additional funds above the regular full-time OSAP aid limits. You're automatically considered for this grant when you submit an OSAP Application for Full-Time Students. Supporting documents may be required to confirm your eligibility. The required documents are outlined when you submit your application. The LLG is exempt from Ontario Works (OW) and ODSP income assessments, which means that students who are on OW or ODSP, and who receive the LLG will not see a change in the level of support provided to them through OW or ODSP.

Individuals 18 to 24 years old as of the start of their study period who were in extended society care with an Ontario Children's Aid Society and were adopted on or after August 1, 2013 may also be eligible. Contact your OSAP financial aid office for details on the review process to be considered for this grant.

Search "OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program". Look for "Forms"

- o Verification of Status with Ontario Children's Aid Society (download the form for the current school year). This is a very important form. Complete it with the assistance of CAS you were in care with.

Refund Application Fees

If you are or were in extended society care in Ontario... regardless of age, income or adoption status, you can get a refund for the fees you pay when you apply to:

- an approved program at college or university
- a first postsecondary degree, diploma or certificate

K-RR Educational Championship Team (ECT) Information Handout

You can apply for a refund for your current academic year as well as for application fees you paid for the two previous academic years. The refund amount depends on the school(s) you applied to.

To apply:

- print an Application Reimbursement Program form (OSAP website)
- complete and sign the form (it includes information about your status and education)
- mail the form to the address in the application

Youth-In-Transition Workers (YITW)

When youth leave the care of a CAS, research shows they do not do as well as other young adults. Youth living in poverty have reduced opportunities to access the educational, financial and social resources needed to escape poverty and are therefore at greater risk of experiencing long-term negative outcomes.

Youth-In-Transition Workers provide support to youth who are between the ages of 16 and 24 (inclusive); and were subject to either:

- o A ESC Order, a legal custody Order, or a formal customary care agreement immediately prior to the youth's 18th birthday; or
- o Were eligible to receive services at ages 16 and/or 17.

The Youth-In-Transition Workers help eligible youth develop the goals they would like to achieve in the program. They support youth leaving care to identify, access and navigate adult service systems relevant to their needs, and transition to adulthood, providing emotional support. They connect youth to existing supports and resources in the community including:

- Housing supports Education resources Employment services and training;
- Life Skills training (e.g. financial management, household management);
- Health and mental health services Legal services.

Search "Youth In Transition Worker" and add your community...

Choose a YITW office location close to you:

- Rainy River area catchment:
 - o Weechi-it-te-win Family Services (toll free 1-800-465-2911)
- For Anishinabe Abinoojii Family Services (AAFS) clients
 - o Workers are in several affiliated FN communities (807-468-6224)
- Sioux Lookout and area of Kenora catchment:
 - o Ontario Native Women's Association (toll free 1-800-677-0816)
- Thunder Bay:
 - o Thunder Bay Counselling Centre (toll free 1-844-542-0610)
 - o Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (toll free 1-855-623-8511)

Seven Generations Educational Institute

Seven Gens is a wonderful educational institute with campus sites in Kenora and Fort Frances. They offer a variety of programs from secondary support to post-secondary, apprenticeships & trades, and workshops. They also offer student success programming and customized training.

Go to www.7generations.org. Search "Seven Generations Educational Institute" for more information.

K-RR Educational Championship Team (ECT)
Information Handout

Ontario First Generation Bursary

The Ontario First Generation Bursary is for postsecondary students whose parents have never attended postsecondary studies. It's for students with financial need attending a publicly-assisted college or university in Ontario only.

How much can you get... The amount of bursary available varies. It ranges from \$1,000 to \$3,500. The actual amount awarded is determined by your school. Contact your post-secondary school's financial aid office for details.

Metis Students

Métis students can apply for the Métis Student Bursary Program (MSBP) at the Financial Aid Office, Aboriginal Student Liaison Centre or through Student Support Services at the participating college or university. Bursary applications are available to students following registration in the fall. Deadlines are school specific and bursary recipients are announced in the winter. Students may reapply for bursaries and/or scholarships each year when they register for school. The bursary amount will vary depending on the accumulation of interest each year. The MNO strives to expand and enhance the program to create more opportunities for Métis students in post-secondary education.

Call 1-800-263-4889 or email education@metisnation.org for more information.

Students With Disabilities

If you have a permanent disability, you could be eligible for full-time OSAP funding if you're studying at 40% or more of a full course load. To be considered for this benefit, you must self-identify as having a permanent disability when applying for OSAP. For more info re the definition of "permanent disability" go to OSAP website and search permanent disability. You can also get specialized help if you are having trouble repaying a student loan.

You can get additional aid to help pay for disability-related educational services and equipment. Through one application, you can be considered for the:

- Bursary for Students with Disabilities
- Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities

Benefit Plan That You Can Access as a Young Adult

There is an Aftercare Benefits Initiative (ABI) that offers free health and dental benefits through Green Shield Canada, and also offers counselling and life skills support services through Shepell. These services are available to eligible youth between age 21 up to their 29th birthday.

Go to www.oacas.org. Search "Aftercare Benefits Initiative" for more information re:

Eligibility Benefit Coverage FAQs Resources Apply Now

Changes to OHIP (OHIP+)

Effective January 1, 2018, more than 4,400 drug products are free for anyone age 24 years or younger. You don't need to enroll... all you need is an Ontario Health Card number and an eligible prescription. All babies, children and youth age 24 years and under who have OHIP coverage are automatically covered by OHIP+. You do not have to enroll or register to access OHIP+ – coverage is automatic. OHIP+ coverage will stop on your 25th birthday, but you may qualify for other financial help with prescription drug costs. If you're going to university or college in another province, your prescriptions may still be covered by OHIP+ if you: remain insured by OHIP, have a valid prescription, and get your medications from a pharmacy in Ontario. You may be able to get a larger "travel supply" of your medication before leaving Ontario.

Search "OHIP+" for more information.

K-RR Educational Championship Team (ECT)
Information Handout

Continued Care & Support for Youth (CCSY)

In 2013, the Continued Care & Support for Youth (CCSY) program replaced the former Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM) guidelines. Through CCSY, youth ages 18, 19, and 20 can receive financial and other supports from a Children's Aid Society (CAS). This support is intended to help youth build on their strengths and meet their goals during their transition into adulthood.

Search "Policy Directive: CW 001-18 Continued Care and Support for Youth" for more information. You can also contact your local CAS.

Voluntary Youth Service Agreement (VYSA)

Effective January 1, 2018 Ontario implemented new services for 16-17 year old youth in need of protection. This new service replaced the previous Renewed Youth Support program. The new Child Youth and Family Services Act (2017) has new terminology.

Search "Protection Services for 16-17 year olds" for more information and pdf handouts

What is Stay Home For School (SHFS)

In September 2015, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced a range of new and expanded supports to improve outcomes and stability for children and youth in and leaving care. The SHFS initiative came into effect on June 15, 2016. SHFS extends funding to caregivers to continue providing a stable home for eligible youth from ages 18 to 21 who need additional time to complete high school. CAS' will provide an eligible caregiver with a per diem that is equivalent to the per diem that the caregiver received from the society prior to the youth's 18th birthday.

If you are a child in care (age 17) and this appears to fit with your situation, contact your CAS / children's services worker and explore this option.

Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE)

The Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE) savings program is an investment in you, in your future, and your goals. Children in care receive an OCBE savings payout after they turn 18 years of age. This money can be used to support your post-secondary education as well as other goals. Talk with your CAS worker about your Learning Plan.

Indigenous Bursaries Search Tool

The OSAP website has an Indigenous Bursaries Search Tool with a list of over 600 bursaries, scholarships and incentives across Canada. Click on the name of the bursary to view more information about the award including a description, value, institution, deadline (if applicable) and contact information. You can filter the bursaries using drop-down menus.

K-RR Educational Championship Team (ECT)
Information Handout

TELUS Mobility for Good – Children’s Aid Foundation

TELUS’ Mobility for Good™ program will provide youth (CCSY Youth) with access to a TELUS cell phone plan at \$0 per month, which will include unlimited nationwide talk and text and up to 3GB of monthly data usage. This service will help youth to stay in touch with friends and workers, and access important services and resources, including employment and academic opportunities. Youth who do not have a phone will have the option of receiving a smartphone from TELUS. Note: There will be charges for overage data used greater than 3GB. Eligibility is only for young people who are, or would have been eligible for Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY) at any Ontario Children’s Aid Society, AND who are:

- Aged 18 to 26 at the time of application... able to pay any applicable overage costs (data or additional features)
- Willing to fill out surveys and share information with Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada and TELUS to help evaluate the program and measure its impact... able to sign up for a new cell phone plan within 4 months of applying to the Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada

Search “TELUS Mobility for Good – Children’s Aid Foundation” for more information and application.

- The K-RR ECT Team wishes you all the best in your post-secondary education, training and employment -