

## **ONECA Post-Secondary Zoom Meeting, May 19, 2020**

Eleven individuals participated in the ONECA post-secondary meeting held via Zoom on May 19, 2020 to respond to the following question: What are the greatest challenges facing post-secondary students during the COVID-19 pandemic? The challenges identified:

Technology – Students without laptops/computers, printers, internet and good connectivity; older students need support with online learning platforms

Mental Health – School is a safe place; heightened stress & anxiety due to COVID and changes at school

Funding – students cannot receive OSAP while not at school; unable to apply for the federal supplement; PSSSP guidelines need to be flexible i.e. support full-time online programming; will funding be available for student residence/alternative accommodation.

Post-Secondary Program delivery – students needed to switch to online programming quickly; how are students with Individual Education Programs supported; placements replaced with major project; change in program delivery due to an emergency is one thing, what will change in for the future?

Student Support – postponed deadlines for scholarships for students not in classrooms; challenge to keep connected to students and post-secondary staff; not able to access support services; Indigenous learners need face to face classroom settings, sense of connection, community connection and social supports

Learning at home – children and other dependents distract from online learning; difficult to encourage students to continue their learning

Student Residence – will student have the option to live in residence or is other accommodation required

Health Concerns – heightened anxiety for self and others

Planning for Uncertainty – many unknown factors i.e. residence, online and remote programming, funding support, policy support needs to be flexible

First Year Students – difficult to advise them with so much uncertainty; role for secondary schools?

Students Withdrawing or Not Registering – too much uncertainty for the fall; motivation for success is a challenge with online learning

## **Questions Raised**

- What are the First Nations policy (policy changes) regarding continuing students – if they stop and not continue in September due to COVID-19 will they still be eligible for funding?
- Internet and technology purchases/expenses are these eligible expenses under FN policy/OSAP?
- Is residence available for online learning?
- How are the institutions dealing with non-essential and essential fees?

- Have we heard from the Road Warrior group - recruitment efforts?
- Is technology an eligible expense?

## **Next Steps**

- 1.** Continue the dialogue using the Chatroom in the Post-Secondary section of the ONECA website.
- 2.** Next ONECA Post-Secondary ZOOM Meeting, June 16, 2020, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.