

## Supporting Post-Secondary Students – Emergency Funding ONECA Survey May 2022

### Feedback from the Members

- Most post-secondary institutions financial aid departments have emergency funds set aside for all students. I recommend that students try there first, this is just for immediate needs, they can usually provide gift cards for grocery stores etc.
- I am aware Indigenous Services Canada provided Covid \$\$ - it is up to the First Nations how to distribute it. Perhaps students can send letters of food hamper requests to the First Nations.
- Check out the Jordan's Principle program.
- Most cases students are eligible for any of the Canada Student Loans Program, for example OSAP in Ontario; all Provinces have similar programs. Students can be eligible for a Loan or they can take the Grant portion only.
- Another place is Friendship Centres, they do not promote this but they have provided assistance in many cases for post secondary.
- For emergencies, like serious individual or family illness, accident or bereavement, we use our PS budget to help our eligible students. Depending on the situation, airfare will be provided to get them to their loved one quickly. For other situation, like attending funerals, we provide assistance to travel home or to the city/FN for a funeral of a loved one covered under our immediate family definition. We provide travel assistance for most time efficient and cost economical means of transportation or airfare (bereavement rates or economy airfare), meals, accommodations (weekly rate of \$225 used as most stay with family) with a written request.
- Each post-secondary institute has its own funding and criteria over funding for emergencies. Students will have to contact their financial aid office for specifics.
- Some First Nations have trust funds, Casino Rama funds and then employment and training or social services/Ontario Works. These programs may be able to assist but it is First Nation, program and client specific.
- OSAP, bursaries and scholarships would also be a source for funding.
- Dream catcher foundation is also another possible source.
- All of the programs require the student to do homework and are application based.