

# Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant

Indigenous Education Branch

Student Financial Assistance Branch

# Why we are here...

- Indigenous students, partners and postsecondary institutions have communicated that there are various challenges Indigenous students face throughout their educational journey. One of these challenges is the travel costs to attend a postsecondary institution.
- Ontario has an important role in ensuring that Indigenous learners have access to the financial supports they need to be successful in their postsecondary journey.
- Through the Ministry of College and Universities' Indigenous Education Branch and the Student Financial Assistance Branch, there are various programs and services in place intended to help Indigenous students access and succeed in postsecondary education.
- Today we would like to discuss one of those programs, the Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant (OITG), and how it can better support Indigenous learners.

# Program Eligibility

The OITG was introduced in 2018.

The OITG helps full-time postsecondary students with the cost of travelling between their remote First Nations community to the postsecondary school they are attending.

If a student's spouse and/or dependent children will be living with them during their studies, their travel costs can also be considered through OITG.

To be eligible, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

Identify as being an Indigenous person on their OSAP profile.

Live in an eligible remote First Nations community in Canada when they are not in full-time postsecondary studies.

Be enrolled in either a public or private postsecondary school located in Ontario or a public postsecondary school located within Canada that is approved for OSAP purposes.

Apply for **OSAP for Full-Time Students**, meet all of the eligibility requirements and have a calculated provincial financial need of at least \$1.

# Program Funding

Travel costs are considered as follows:



## Air travel for learners travelling solo

Up to **\$5,200 per year for air travel** for learners travelling solo (\$1,300/trip for up to four one-way trips )

Up to **\$800 per academic year for hotel accommodation** (\$200/trip for a maximum of one night's stay for four one-way trips) for cost-effective flights with itineraries including overnight layovers



## Air travel for learners travelling with families

Up to **\$2,600 per year for air travel** (\$1,300/trip) for up to two one-way trips) and up to \$2,600 (\$1,300 trip for up to two one-way trips) for each spouse and/or dependent

Up to **\$800 per academic year for hotel accommodation** (\$200/trip for a maximum of one night's stay for four one-way trips) for cost-effective flights with itineraries including overnight layovers



## Other transportation (e.g., train, bus, taxi/ride-hailing)

Up to **\$300 per year (\$75 each way per trip)** for other transportation (e.g., train, bus, taxi/ride-hailing). For travel by **private vehicle, \$0.41 per kilometer** travelled.

# What qualifies as a remote First Nations community?

- For purposes of this grant, communities defined as being Zone 3 or Zone 4 by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) may be considered as a remote First Nations community.
  - Zone 3 communities are located over 350 km from the nearest service centre.**
  - Zone 4 communities do not have year-round road access to a service centre.**
- For further information about First Nations geographic zones, students can go to [First Nation Profiles \(aadnc-aandc.gc.ca\)](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca).
- Other remote and/or fly-in First Nations communities not designated as either Zone 3 or Zone 4 may also qualify. Students would have to contact their financial aid office to confirm whether their community's location meets the eligibility criteria for this grant.

## How to Apply:

After a student submits their OSAP Application for Full-Time Students, the student can apply for the OITG by submitting an [OITG application form](#).

The OITG application outlines the supporting documents required based on the method of travel. It also has information on whom the student should contact if they have any questions.

The deadline to apply for the OITG is 60 days before the end of the student's study period.

# Discussion Questions

1. Do the current eligibility criteria properly target the intended beneficiaries?
2. Are you aware of any barriers/challenges with the OITG application process?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the OITG?