Alberta Student Aid

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages Teacher Bursary Value - Up to $4,200

Protected A (when completed)

Year 2026-27

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages Teacher Bursary was created as part of the Language Teacher Bursary program by an endowment to the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund as part of the Government of Alberta's Economic Development Strategy. It was established so Alberta Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers, instructors or Elders may improve their language proficiency, pedagogical skills and knowledge through an educational immersion experience, and to help Alberta school authorities enhance their current language teaching capacity.

The program will assist Alberta Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers, instructors, or Elders who have experience in the instruction of a First Nations, Métis and Inuit language and are intending to take a post-secondary program. Kindergarten to Grade 12 students will benefit from the enhanced teaching and language skills of their teachers, encouraging them to experience learning a First Nations, Métis and Inuit language and culture and to assist with the language revitalization and/or renewal.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant must:

- be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Protected Person (visa students are not eligible),
- be an Alberta resident and to be considered an Alberta resident one of the following conditions must apply:
  - Alberta is the last place the applicant has lived for twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to commencing post-secondary studies, or
  - the applicant’s spouse or partner has maintained permanent residence in Alberta for twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the person attending post-secondary.
- have experience teaching a First Nations, Métis or Inuit language in Alberta for a minimum of one year,
- demonstrate a background in First Nations, Métis or Inuit language learning and culture, or have recently initiated the study of such language, and
- plan to take an accredited post-secondary course in a First Nations, Métis or Inuit language or language teaching methodology.

Program Eligibility Criteria

The language development program must be:

- an accredited university course for language/culture/pedagogical development,
- a minimum of three weeks in duration, and
- with scheduled classroom instruction, with an expectation of additional scheduled structured activities (e.g. language conversation, tutorials, months immediately prior to commencing post-secondary cultural activities).
- **Courses eligible for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages Teacher Bursary include:**
  - **completed eligible courses starting as early as Mid-May of the current school year,**
  - **courses planning on being studied ending no later than Mid-March of the following school year.**

Note: Priority is given to first-time applicants, however, recipients of five or more years previously may re-apply.

Selection Process

Recipients will be chosen on the applicant’s statement of intent, course rigor, school authority endorsement, and the potential benefit for the teacher, the school authority, and students. The reference from the school authority is an essential part of the application process and should reflect the applicant’s experience and suitability. The decision will be made on information submitted with the application and any changes may jeopardize the receipt of payment of the bursary.

Preference will be given to applicants working in a language program in the upcoming school year. Successful recipients will receive their bursary after submitting proof of course completion.

Funds for tuition, travel and accommodations will be reimbursed up to a total of $4,200, after submitting receipts.

Additional Information

Up to three (3) bursaries of up to $4,200 each are available.

Please note that receipt of a bursary does not imply recognition of the course by Teacher Qualifications Service.

The bursaries all carry a value of up to $4,200 to be awarded to recipients after submitting proof of course completion and accompanying receipts.

As the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages is more than $500, recipients will receive a T4A from Alberta Education and Childcare. The amount is printed in Box 105 of the T4A and must be declared on tax returns.

Application Process

Submit the completed application package (application form and supporting documents) to your school jurisdiction (superintendent or designate), school administrator, or First Nations Education Authority for endorsement. The supporting documents that must be included are:

1. **Statement of Intent:** Attach a statement (one page maximum) explaining your reasons for taking the program.
   - How will this particular program:
     - benefit your current/future employment as a Kindergarten to Grade 12 First Nations, Métis and Inuit language teacher in Alberta?
     - fit into your professional development/growth plan?
   - How will this bursary impact your role in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages program?
   - How do you plan to share this knowledge with colleagues?
2. **Program Brochure or Syllabus:** Attach a brochure or syllabus describing the focus of the course, its duration and intensity.

Once the endorsement page in the application package has been completed by a school administrator, the school jurisdiction or the First Nations Education Authority, you may submit your application directly to Alberta Education and Childcare for consideration.

Deadline and How to Apply

- **Application Deadline:** May 14, 2027
- **Submit application to:** ecc.languagebursary@gov.ab.ca or by mail to: Humanities, Languages and Curriculum Strategy Sector, Curriculum, Career Education and Assessment Division, 8th floor, 10044-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6
- **Payment:** Upon proof of course completion and upon submission of receipts for any travel or accommodation costs.

For any questions related to the application requirements or for any assistance in completing the application package, please contact the Language Teacher Bursary Program directly at: ecc.languagebursary@gov.ab.ca

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages Teacher Bursary

Protected A (when completed)

Year 2026-27

The personal information collected by Advanced Education and Education and Child Care through this form is for determining eligibility for a scholarship or program; to administer scholarships and awards programs (including research, statistical analysis, and evaluations); and to apply and enforce requirements of scholarships and awards programs, in accordance with the *Alberta Heritage Scholarship Act* and regulations thereunder. This collection is authorized by section 4 c) of the *Protection of Privacy Act*.

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Personal, Citizenship and Residency Information

Last Name (current legal name) | First Name (current legal name) | Middle Initial | Social Insurance Number

Previous Last Name (if applicable) | Date of Birth: Year | Month | Day

Gender

◯ Male ◯ Female ◯ X

Choose X if you do not identify as male or female, or choose to self-identify as X.

Apartment or Box Number | Street Address (add direction, e.g. S, NW, SE, if applicable)

City/Town | Province/State | Country | Postal/Zip Code

Mobile Number | Telephone Number | Email Address (mandatory)

Citizenship Status: ◯ Canadian ◯ Permanent Resident ◯ Protected Person*

***If you are a Protected Person, including Convention Refugee,** you must submit:

- A copy of your Social Insurance Number card **AND**
- A copy of **one** of the following:
  - Notice of Decision, or
  - Verification of Status Document (VOS)

The documentation must be valid on your Program of Study Start Date.

Status: ◯ Status Indian/First Nations ◯ Non-Status Indian/First Nations ◯ Métis ◯ Inuit ◯ Not applicable

Providing personal information on First Nations, Métis and Inuit applicants will help measure the effectiveness of student financial assistance programs in relation to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and to research programs and services to improve student success rates. If you wish to declare your First Nations, Métis and Inuit heritage, please check the box that applies to you.

NOTE: This is mandatory for awards which require First Nations, Métis and Inuit status as part of the eligibility, voluntary otherwise.

Alberta Residency:

Have you lived in Alberta for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to commencing post-secondary studies? (Do not include time attending post-secondary studies or vacations.) ◯ Yes ◯ No

If no, has your spouse/partner maintained permanent residence in Alberta for 12 consecutive months prior to you attending post-secondary? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Additional Information

Alberta Professional Teaching Certificate Number (if applicable)

Number of Years Teaching:

In Alberta: Full-time

Part-time:

Have you completed a teacher preparation program?

◯ Yes ◯ No If yes, indicate the name of the university: _____

Proposed Studies

Program Name

Language of Study

Commencement Date: Year Month

Completion Date: Year Month

Province: AB

Name of Institution Offering Program

Number of Days per Week

Number of Weeks

Address of Institution Offering Program

Number of Hours of Instruction per Class

Focus of Studies

Improving Language Proficiency: ◯ Oral ◯ Written

◯ Gaining cultural knowledge

◯ Enhancing pedagogy

◯ Working towards completion of teacher certificate

Estimated Expenses:

All dollar amounts should be in Canadian funds.

The bursary will be used to cover firstly tuition, secondly travel, and thirdly accommodations.

- Include a separate sheet to explain any exceptional or unusual expenses or other financial conditions that you would like to bring to Alberta Education's attention.

Have you applied or will you be applying for funding from another source, (e.g. School authority, First Nations Education Authority (FNEA), Freehorse Family Wellness Society, Rupertsland Institute) to participate in this program?

◯ Yes ◯ No If yes, indicate the source of funding: _____ and

amount of support: _____

Do you anticipate receiving funding from another source to participate in this program?

◯ Yes ◯ No If yes, indicate the source of funding: _____ and

amount of support: _____

Additional Information *continued*

Language Teaching/Instructional Experience: Please provide a summary of First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages and grade level you have taught, or of your current role in First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages instruction at your school:

Language Learning: Please list your background in First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages:

Check all boxes that apply to you:

- ☐ A language and culture expert
- ☐ A fluent speaker
- ☐ New to Language Teaching
- ☐ Returning to teach a language after some time
  Indicate your assignment in the next school year: _____
- ☐ Elder
- ☐ Currently teaching this language
- ☐ New to learning this language

Language Background: What is the First Nations, Métis and Inuit language you are most proficient in? _____

Indicate proficiency in the First Nations, Métis and Inuit language as either: Excellent, Good, Fair, Needs improvement:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Reading	◯	◯	◯	◯
Writing	◯	◯	◯	◯
Speaking	◯	◯	◯	◯
Cultural Knowledge	◯	◯	◯	◯

Declaration of Applicant

I have read and understand the instructions, and declare that:

- All information provided in this application, including any supplemental information required to establish my eligibility (the "Application"), is true and complete and I understand that the information is subject to review and audit.
- I have read and understood the eligibility requirements and obligations of the scholarship and/or award as stated in the scholarship and/or award application and requirements documents.
- I will immediately notify Alberta Education and Childcare - International Languages, in writing if I withdraw from studies or of any changes to my name, address, academic status or study period, or to any other information contained in the Application in accordance with the instructions relating to changes of information found on the Alberta Student Aid website, studentaid.alberta.ca.

Disclosure of Information

I understand that Alberta Education and Childcare and Advanced Education may disclose and exchange my personal information pertaining to my high school and post-secondary academic records, academic progress, and enrolment status with:

- Any of the following: provincial and federal government departments; the educational institution(s) named in the Application; boards; and any third party or third party organizations involved in the selection of the recipient.

I understand and agree:

- to provide all information requested by Alberta Education and Childcare and Alberta Student Aid which, in Alberta Student Aid's sole discretion, is required to verify any statements made in this Application.
- If I receive a scholarship, my name, award, and city/town/First Nations, Métis and Inuit community may be released publicly to promote the program. My name, the name of the scholarship and the scholarship amount may also be published on the Government of Alberta Grant Disclosure Portal. However, my consent to the publication of this personal information is not a criterion for eligibility, and if I do not want to be identified, I will contact Alberta Student Aid and request that it not be disclosed.

Date yyyy-mm-dd	Signature of Applicant

Please review your application to make sure you have completed all the required fields and that the information is accurate. Incorrect or incomplete information will delay processing. Your application and all supporting documentation must be received by the application deadline.

Alberta Student Aid

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages Teacher Bursary School/School Authority Endorsement

Protected A (when completed)

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Note: The selection members need clear and concise information on the First Nations, Métis and Inuit language program needs at your school or school authority and how it is expected the applicant's summer program will benefit the school/school authority and meet the school's/school authority's First Nations, Métis and Inuit language requirements.

To be Completed by Applicant's Current or Former School Principal or School Authority Contact

Name of Applicant

What is the anticipated assignment of this applicant in the current and/or upcoming academic school year? (e.g. courses, grade, etc.)

The applicant will be:

- ◯ returning to the same school
- ◯ at another school _____
- ◯ taking a new assignment
- ◯ returning to the same assignment
- ◯ unsure at this time
- ◯ Other

How long as this applicant been a member of your organization? _____

What language programs/projects/initiatives has this applicant led or assisted with while a member of your organization? (Point form is acceptable)

This school/school authority needs: (select the most appropriate)

- ◯ a lead/master teacher in First Nations, Métis and Inuit language & culture
- ◯ this teacher to refresh/enhance skills
- ◯ this instructor to obtain teaching credentials

This applicant is:

- ◯ a lead/master teacher in the chosen language
- ◯ a teacher returning to teaching languages
- ◯ new to teaching this language
- ◯ an Elder or community member a teacher preparation program
- ◯ new to language learning
- ◯ taking part in a teacher preparation program

How will students in your organization benefit from the applicant's experience?

How will this language program fit into this applicant's professional development?

How will this applicant's participation fit into your organization's First Nations, Métis and Inuit language plan?

Will your school or school authority be providing funding for the applicant to participate in this program?

◯ Yes ◯ No If yes, indicate amount of support: _____

Name

Position

Name of School/School Authority

School Location

Telephone Number

Email Address

Date yyyy-mm-dd

Signature