

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 5:05 PM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selííwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 External and Community Affairs Committee Composition

VP External and Community Affairs (Chair).....	Eshana Baran
VP Equity and Sustainability	Rea Chaterjee
English Councillor (Vice-Chair).....	Gabe Liosis
History Councillor	Matthew Reed
Indigenous Studies Student Union Councillor	Anita Shen
At Large Members	Minahill
At Large Members	Aleksandra Partyka

3.2 Society Staff

Board Organizer	Emmanuela Droko
Operations Organizer	Ayesha Khan
Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator	Beatrice Omboga
Administrative Assistant.....	Simar Thukral

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-MOTION ECA 2022-06-27:01

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- ECAC 2022-06-14

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION ECA 2022-06-27:02

Mathew / Anita

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

6.1 REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

- VP External and VP Equity attended the labour notes conference in Chicago and got to meet a bunch of labour union organizers and student organizers.
- They also hosted a town hall with Migrant Student Union and a bunch of other signatories for day of action to eliminate the international student health fees. The fee charges \$75 per month to international students and there is no plan where they can add on their dependents to the plan which in the end costs up more for them to include.
- VP Equity expressed that there are planning for a rally in September.
- VP External mentioned that they met with some city councillors and have discussed about municipal elections. They are also planning to invite politicians to SUB or committee meetings that can help committee members gain experience communicating with politicians.
- VP External expressed that they have met with politicians and city council and are planning to report back to council on what are the next steps.
- VP External expressed that they are planning for water drives and are researching on how to get packages for water to give back to the community.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Approving Funds for the Alliance of BC Students Visit to SUB –MOTION ECA 2022-06-27-03

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

ATTACHMENT:

Eshana / Matthew

Be it resolved to approve up to \$150 from the ECAC budget for food and beverages for the visit from the Alliance of BC Students at the SUB on June 18, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Alliance of BC Students lobby the government for many institutions. Building relationship with them is something that they are looking into.
- When they visit the SUB to build up student power or to build relationship we would require food and beverages.
- In response to Indigenous Studies Councillor regarding the number of people estimated to visit, VP External mentioned that there will be four members from the executive side and two from Alliance for the BC Students.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Upcoming Projects in VP External Annual Plan

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

- Municipal Elections, The Anti-TMX day of action, and water plus donation drive.

8.2 Municipal Elections GOTV Campaign

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

- VP External mentioned that they are looking into the logistics of the municipal election and are working with the university to see if they can get a polling station on campus.
- Another thing that they are looking into is to have a collaborative platform in university to have debate so they would work with other student unions for this.
- In addition to these, they are planning to create a package for the members to make the information about the election simple and accessible for everyone.
- They would plan to have tabling during the election at the SUB or at the convocation mall.
- VP External mentioned that they are actually planning to start the campaign in July, so the planning will begin for August and in August they will plan to launch social media posters in the SUB, in September they would plan to get the tabling done, and in October they would plan having on campus debates.

8.3 Anti-TMX Day of Action

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

- VP External mentioned that they are planning around what this day would look like, who will be there, and how will they build this up.
- A lot of students did not know about the effects of what can happen because of this so they would like to do tabling to give more information on this.
- VP Equity expressed that it was announced that the TMX Project was triple in cost as estimated and it is no longer profitable.
- VP External mentioned that they would plan to make little cards that anyone can see on Instagram saying essentially what some bigger key issues are.

8.4 Water Drive + Donation Drive

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

- VP External mentioned that we are currently experiencing a heat wave and have already seen the impacts of last year heat wave as well. So, in terms of initiative for when the waves are expected to come, they are planning to have drinking water drive reaching out to other organizations to donate water to people by the city central area and the downtown eastside.

8.5 Other Projects & Delegation for the Year

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

- Action Items – Reach out for the Water Drive.
Minahill : Knight Owls Outreach.
Rea: Connections to groups in Surrey.
Aleksandra: Connections to groups in Vancouver.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1 TransLink Roundtable in Maple Ridge: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/367685375857>

9.2 Next External & Community Affairs Committee Meeting: Monday, July 11, 2022, 5pm-8pm, hybrid (via zoom and in-person).

9.3 Community Town hall: We Will Stop TMX together.

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 MOTION ECA 2022-06-27:04

Mover / Eshana

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BRIEFING NOTE

BACKGROUND

Youth in care make up a small portion of BC's population, whereby British Columbia (BC) saw an estimate of 5,259 youths in care, which included 3,548 Indigenous youths making up the majority of this population. However, these youth are at disproportionate risk for adverse outcomes, and are significantly less likely to attend post-secondary than their peers. As of now, there are four financial aids provided by the BC government, such as the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, Youth Futures Education Fund, Youth Education Assistance Fund, and the Agreements with Youth Adults; however, these financial support can have rigid restrictions that create further difficulties acquiring funding. Furthermore, there are quite a few post-secondary institutions in British Columbia (BC) and in other provinces in Canada that offer bursaries and tuition waivers for former/current youth in care, but Simon Fraser University (SFU) does not offer either one. Moreover, only a handful of post-secondary institutions in BC have designated staff members that assist current students identified as former/ current youth in care with navigating financial aid and student services. Also, only a couple of post-secondary institutions have mentorship programs. Unfortunately, SFU does not have either one to help students from youth in care. Lastly, there seems to be no trauma-informed training at SFU and other post-secondary institutions in BC.

CURRENT STATUS

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID PROVIDED BY THE BC GOVERNMENT FOR FORMER YOUTH IN CARE

In BC, there are four types of financial aid eligible for former Youth in Care. For instance, the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP) is designed to support former youth in care attending post-secondary institutions, Native Education College, or either one of 10 eligible union institutions. SFU is one of the eligible schools; however, this program is not applicable for graduate, post-graduate, or any Adult Basic Education programs and fees in BC. Moreover, this program requires applicants that have been in care for a minimum of 24 months and are currently between the ages of 19 to 26 years old. Given this information, the restrictions are quite rigid and lack necessary advancement for former youth in care.

[Here is a list of eligible post-secondary institutions for the PTWP:](#)

Eligible post-secondary institutions:	
British Columbia Institute of Technology	Thompson Rivers University
Camosun College	University of British Columbia
Capilano University	University of Northern British Columbia
College of New Caledonia	University of the Fraser Valley
College of the Rockies	University of Victoria
Douglas College	Vancouver Community College
Emily Carr University of Art and Design	Vancouver Island University
Justice Institute of British Columbia	Native Education College
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Boilermaker Training Centre
Langara College	Construction and Specialized Workers
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	D.C. 38 Joint Trade Society
North Island College	Electrical Joint Training Committee
Northern Lights College	Floorlayers Union
Coast Mountain College	IUOE Local 115 Training Association
Okanagan College	Pile Drivers Local 2404
Royal Roads University	Piping Industry Apprenticeship Board
Selkirk College	Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre Society
Simon Fraser University	Trowel Trades Training Association

There is also the Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF), which is additional financial support on top of the PTWP that helps to fund basic living expenses, such as school supplies, Healthcare, rent, etc. As long as applicants are enrolled into the PTWP, they will automatically be considered for the YFEF. This fund is helpful because the living expenses in British Columbia are quite high, but applicants who are not eligible for the PTWP will not be accepted into the YFEF; this creates another barrier for applicants who do not meet the rigid requirements.

Another type of financial aid is the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAFF). This program provides grants of \$5,500 per program year to former BC youth in care students between the ages of 19 to 24 years old. They can receive a maximum of four grants. Again, there are rigid requirements, and in this case this provides only short-term financial support.

Lastly, the Agreements with Youth Adults (AYA funding) provides up to a maximum of \$1,250 per month to cover living expenses for former youth in care who are currently attending school, job training, rehabilitation programs, or life skills programs. This program requires applicants to be between the ages of 19 to 26 years old and only provides support up until 48 months/ 4 years in this program. It is important to note that the AYA funding cannot support applicants above the age of 27 years and onwards.

WHAT ARE OTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS DOING?

Besides the financial support primarily funded by the BC government, there are a few post-secondary institutions in BC who have established financial support for former youth in care, such as:

1. British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT): the BCIT Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Program (YCTW) provides up to \$5,000 to five students from the BC care system who are enrolled into full-time BCIT programs, besides the Apprenticeship programs. This is only applicable for students completing their first certificate or diploma at BCIT.
2. Langara College: Youth in Care Bursary (YICBUR) is a great alternative for those unqualified for the PTWP. If accepted to both, the applicant can only choose either one and not both. The college will cover the tuition, material cost, and additional student fees that are approved that semester for up to four years.
3. Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC): the Youth In Care Tuition Bursary provides \$2,000 annually to students from care in BC. This can be applied to all JIBC degrees, diplomas and certificate programs.
4. University of British Columbia (UBC): UBC Post Care Tuition Waiver is dedicated for former youth in care who are enrolled full-time and will cover the entire cost of tuition of a first undergraduate degree.
5. University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC): Youth In Care Tuition Waiver dedicated for former and current youth in care in BC for at least a year. This will cover the tuition cost only.
6. University of Victoria (UVic): Youth In Care Tuition Award covers tuition up to 8 terms or until completion of first degree.
7. Vancouver Island University (VIU): Tuition Waiver Program covers cost of tuition and additional fees for first certificate, diploma or degree program

HOW ABOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER PROVINCES IN CANADA?

Apart from BC, there are a few other post-secondary institutions in Canada that offer financial assistance for Crown Wards and youth in/from care. Crown Wards are defined as “a foster child who has

been made the legal responsibility of the government when the child cannot be reunited with his or her natural family.”

Specifically, the Canadian government and Ontario have partnered together to provide funding for current and former youth in care enrolled in an OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) eligible post-secondary education program in Ontario. This funding will cover 100% of tuition fees up to a maximum of \$6000 per year. Youth leaving care and are between the ages of 21 to 24 will be granted \$500 per month to cover living expenses, so long as they are enrolled in an OSAP approved post-secondary program.

In Alberta, their provincial government has established the ‘Advancing Futures Bursary’ to support former and current youth in care with their academic journey. This funding covers tuition fees, material fees and technology fees for eligible students interested in academic upgrading, certificate, trade, and diploma or a degree.

In Saskatchewan, the University of Regina has two types of financial aid but applicants are only eligible to receive either one and not both. First, the ‘Former Child and Youth From Care Access Entrance Bursary’ awards \$1,500 for newly admitted students. Secondly, the ‘Former Youth From Care Access Tuition Entrance Bursary’ has the same requirements as the previous funding mentioned above, but this bursary offers to cover the value of tuition and fees for up to two semesters. From the University of Saskatchewan, the ‘Saskatchewan Youth from Care Bursary’ offers up to \$20,000 that includes the cost of tuition fees, material fees, residence and meal plan, technology, and a cash stipend of \$125 per month for up to 8 months.

In Manitoba, the University of Manitoba offers the ‘Youth in Care Grant’ for eligible undergraduate students from/ in youth in care that will support up to \$5,000 per year for 4 years. The University of Winnipeg offers the ‘Youth-in-Care Tuition Waivers’ that covers the tuition fees for former/current youth in care.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Memorial University offers the ‘Richard and Lorraine Hynes Memorial Award’ that provides \$3,000 for former youth in care who have not received financial support from Child, Youth, and Family Services apart from secondary education.

WHAT ABOUT SFU?

It seems like SFU previously had their own financial support program for youth in care, known as the “Simon Fraser University Youth In Care Tuition Assistance Program.” However, this program no longer exists and reasons are unknown. As of now, SFU does not have any type of financial support for youth in care, so students who have to rely on provincial financial support and external bursaries.

EXTERNAL CANADIAN FUNDING FOR YOUTH/FORMER YOUTH IN CARE

There are a few bursaries and scholarships available in BC for current/ former youth in care, such as:

1. BC Orca Bursary Program: provides financial aid and additional support for those pursuing higher education. In 2022, they will provide seventeen \$3,000 bursaries for eligible applicants.
2. Joy MacPhail Youth Bursary: provides financial aid for those pursuing higher education. Only one person will be awarded \$3,000 each year.
3. Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks (FBCYICN) - Dream Fund: this funding consists of two bursaries. First, the 'Education Achievement Bursary' provides up to \$1,500 for the cost of tuition. Second, the 'Reach for Success Bursary' provides up to \$500 to help eligible applicants achieve their goals. This particular bursary could be used on anything so long as the FBCYICN approves of it.
4. Federation of Community Social Services of BC (FCSSBC) - Youth Education Bursary: provides financial support for former/current youth in care interested in a career related to Human and Social Services. This bursary provides up to \$2,000 per academic year and will cover tuition fees, material fees, and other supplies costs.

For further information, refer to the [Adoptive Families Association of BC](#).

DESIGNATED SUPPORT STAFF IN ENROLMENT/ADVISING, STUDENT ADVOCACY AND FINANCIAL AID

In addition to financial support from the provincial government, there are designated support staff from five local post-secondary institutions in BC, such as:

1. University of British Columbia (UBC)
 - a. A dedicated Enrolment Services Advisor at the Vancouver campus that helps to guide former/ current youth in care students enrolled at UBC to apply for financial support, host orientation events, study sessions, and peer events, and share information with students about other financial support and academic opportunities.
 - b. at UBCO there is already an Admissions & Awards Administrator assigned to do the same duties
2. University of Victoria (UVIC)
 - a. In 2022 UVic introduced a support team that helped former/current youth in care students access financial support, registration, academic advising, and mental health services based on what is already offered at the University.

- b. Launched a student leadership committee consisting of six students who were formerly in care. This is aimed at providing greater representation and to facilitate peer-to-peer mentorship connections.
3. Langara College
 - a. Staff in the Financial Aid Office provide general assistance, such as how to apply for financial aid.
4. Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
 - a. Staff from the Student Awards & Financial Aid Office provide financial and budgeting advice, and guidance on applying for provincial financial aid. There is also non-financial student support staff from the Office of Student Affairs.
5. Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)
 - a. Designated financial aid advisor that guides students about additional financial resources available
 - b. Designated academic advisor that guides students about course planning, selection, and course registration

FORMAL OR INFORMAL UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

In 2019, KPU launched a pilot program for former youth in care (FYIC) by connecting students with one another and with KPU student service representatives. They discussed varying support and services offered at KPU including 5 workshops.

Capilano University is in the process of creating a pilot program dedicated for students with lived experience in care. They would like to recruit peer leaders and there are minimal restrictions, so it would be more accessible for FYIC.

CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH FROM CARE, TO ASSIST UNIVERSITY POLICYMAKERS AND STAFF

To date, there are no training programs implemented by institutions to inform and train current university policymakers and staff members.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The financial support funded by post-secondary institutions and the government, as well as designated staff members to help former/current youth in care navigate through the system helps to

break down barriers. However, it is important to include more mentorship programs and start implementing trauma-informed training to foster a better understanding about the challenges faced by youth from care.

NEXT STEPS

1. To present this briefing note to the ECAC Committee about current support for Youth in Care in Canada

APPENDIX A:

REFERENCES

1. [2020/21 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN & REPORT - KPU](#)
2. [5 SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES, AND AWARDS ADMINISTERED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS FOR WHICH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ALREADY IN ATTENDANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY MAY QUALIFY - MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY](#)
3. [A GUIDE TO: SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES, TUITION WAIVERS & AWARDS AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN IN AND FROM GOVERNMENT CARE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND](#)
4. [ADVANCING FUTURES](#)
5. [AGREEMENTS WITH YOUNG ADULTS](#)
6. [ALL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA](#)
7. [BURSARIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA](#)
8. [CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE \(CYIC\)](#)
9. [FUNDING FOR YOUTH AGED OUT OF CARE - CAPU](#)
10. [JOINT EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE](#)
11. [OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES FROM ADOPTIVE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF BC](#)
12. [POST-SECONDARY SUPPORTS: BRITISH COLUMBIA](#)
13. [PROVINCIAL TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM](#)
14. [SUPPORTING BC POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN CARE](#)

15. [THE OPPORTUNITY FUND - UWINNIPEG](#)
16. [TRANSCRIPTS OF SOME OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON CYC-NET](#)
17. [TUITION FOR CROWN WARDS AND YOUTH LEAVING CARE](#)
18. [UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN](#)
19. [YOUTH RESOURCES](#)
20. [YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR FORMER YOUTH IN CARE](#)