



Generation for Equality: Applying to Post-Secondary School in British Columbia

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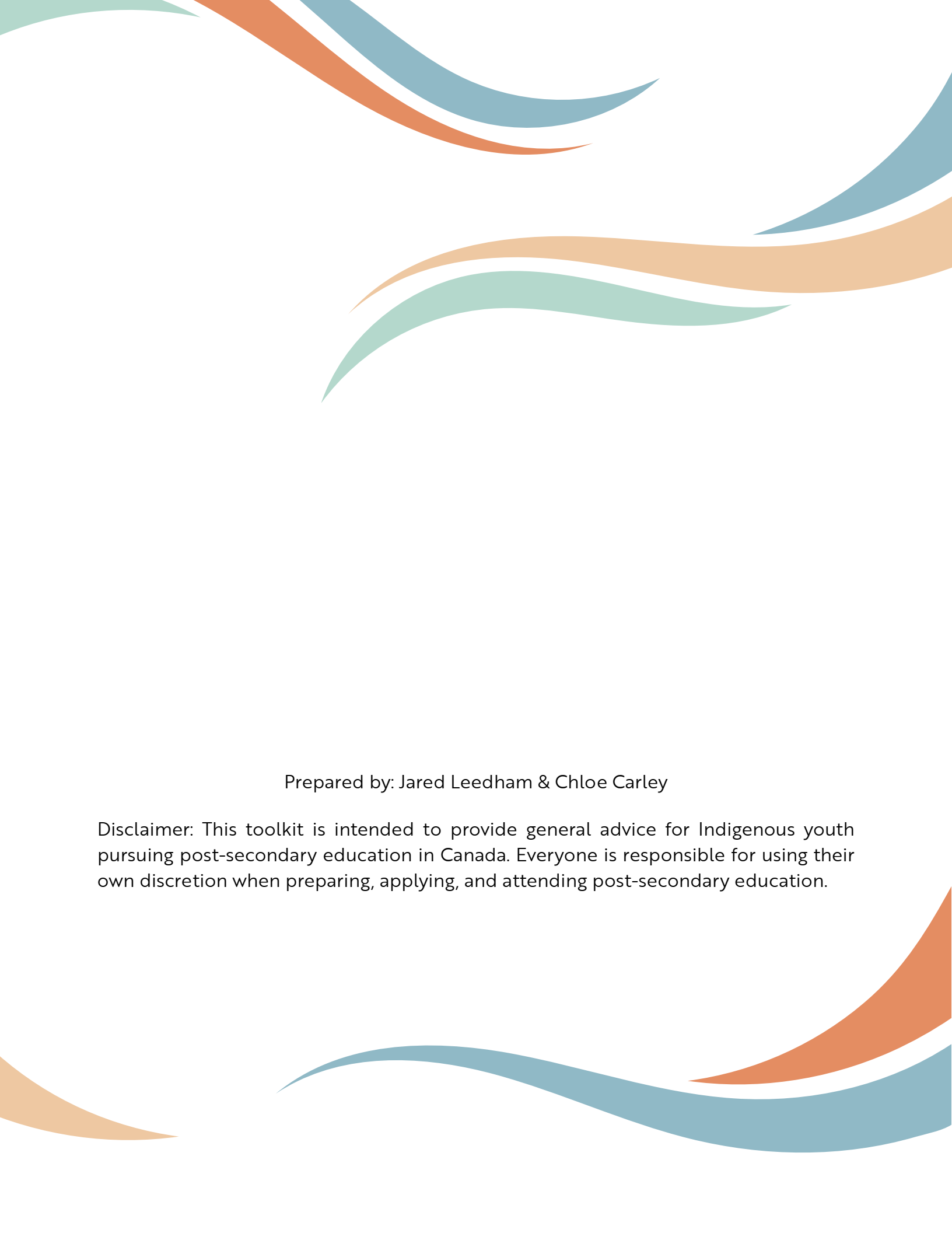
Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada



**Generation
4 Equality**





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Disclaimer: This toolkit is intended to provide general advice for Indigenous youth pursuing post-secondary education in Canada. Everyone is responsible for using their own discretion when preparing, applying, and attending post-secondary education.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization representing the political voices of Indigenous women in all their diversities in Canada. NWAC advocates for and works with First Nations – on- and off-reserve, status and non-status, disenfranchised – Métis, and Inuit peoples across Canada. As an aggregate of Indigenous women's organizations across Canada, NWAC works to enhance, promote and foster the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women, in all their diversities, within their respective communities.

Generation for Equality

NWAC's Generation for Equality (G4E) is a platform for Indigenous youth to gather information, ask questions, and connect with others working towards gender equality and gender diversity. The G4E platform represents an Indigenous youth-led movement which provides a critical space for Indigenous youth to engage on issues impacting them the most. The G4E platform includes, and celebrates, the voices and experiences of Indigenous youth of all genders and gender expressions advocating for gender equality and gender-diversity.

With funding from Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), NWAC was able to explore the barriers to post-secondary education and employment. In response, NWAC developed this supplementary document to go alongside the "Generation for Equality: Applying to Post-Secondary School Toolkit," to provide specific information for Indigenous youth in British Columbia.



EducationPlanner BC

EducationPlannerBC is the province's post-secondary application service and a valuable resource for students and adults alike. On the EducationPlannerBC platform, students can access information on programs, admissions requirements, financial aid, and apply to any of British Columbia's post-secondary institutions (EducationPlannerBC, 2025).

Students interested in applying to post-secondary school in British Columbia are required to create a EducationPlannerBC account. British Columbia residents can create an account using their BC Services Card.

Searching & Applying

On EducationPlannerBC, students can sift through the different programs and institutions available in the province. Using the search function, students can apply an array of filters to narrow their search. Through the search function, students will be able to gather specific information on different, such as:



- Program Overviews
- Admission Requirements
- Additional Costs
- Application Dates
- Program Options
- Career Trajectories

After identifying several programs of interests, students can add each program to their My List. On My List, students can compare and apply to programs of their choice. [1] The My List function of EducationPlannerBC is a valuable tool to help determine which post-secondary institutions to apply.

To apply, students will have to complete their profile, outlining their personal information, contact information, and academic history. Additionally, students may have to pay an application fee before they can submit their final application (EducationPlannerBC, 2025).

StudentAid BC

StudentAid BC is the agency responsible for assisting eligible students with the costs of their post-secondary education. StudentAid BC offers several loans, grants, and scholarships to supplement each student's own financial resources when attending post-secondary school (StudentAid BC, n.d.). StudentAid BC lists several grants, scholarships and other non-refundable financial supports available to students. These include:

- B.C. Access Grant
- B.C. Access Grant for Students with Disabilities
- B.C. Scholarship Society - Indigenous Student Award
- Lieutenant Governor's Medal Program for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation
- Provincial Scholarship Program

The Province of British Columbia also offers Canada-B.C. integrated loans, which are available to full-time students. According to StudentAid BC, students should know the following about full-time student loans:

- B.C. and Canada Student Loans are interest free.
- Students must be enrolled in at least 60% (40% for students with a permanent disability, or a persistent or prolonged disability) of a full-time course load.
- Repayment will begin six months after their studies end.
- Students are responsible for repaying the total amount loaned to them.

Students approved for full-time funding will enter a legal contract with the provincial and federal government. It is important to read the terms and conditions of the contract closely. The loans are expected to cover education costs, including:

- Tuition, fees, books and school supplies
- Moderate standard of living allowance for shelter, food, transportation and miscellaneous costs
- Child/dependent living expenses
- Day-care expenses

Students may also apply for part-time student aid with StudentAid BC; however, part-time student funding is not intended to cover any living expenses.

StudentAid BC Eligibility Requirements

To receive student financial assistance, applications must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:

- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or have protected person status
- Have a valid Canadian social insurance number
- Be a resident of British Columbia
- Be enrolled in an eligible program of study at an eligible post-secondary institution
- Be able to demonstrate financial need
- Make academic progress and achieve satisfactory scholastic standing in each period of post-secondary study.

Assessing Financial Need

Funding received through StudentAid BC will vary according to each student's financial situation, length of study program, dependents and other factors (StudentAidBC, n.d.). In doing so, StudentAid BC calculates each student's financial need, to determine how much funding each student should receive. Simply put, StudentAid BC uses the following formula when determining financial need:

$$\text{Education Costs} - \text{Student Resources} = \text{Financial Need}$$

This calculation is then compared with the maximum weekly funding limit established by Student Aid, of which the lesser amount is what each student is eligible to receive (StudentAid BC, n.d.).



Student Living Allowance

The monthly student living allowance is intended to cover costs of shelter, food, local transportation, and other expenses. The allowances vary based on each student's living situation and where they study (StudentAid BC, n.d.). The amount that may be received in student living allowances is as follows:

2025/26 Living Allowances for Students Residing in B.C.	Monthly	Weekly
Single student away from home	\$2,423	\$563
Single student living at home	\$824	\$192
Single parent (add child allowance x number of dependents)	\$3,117	\$725
Married student/spouse (add child allowance x number of dependents)	\$4,582	\$1,066
Child allowance	\$951	\$221

How to Apply for Student Aid

StudentAid BC has simplified the process of applying to student loans through their online platform. The latest students can apply for full-time student loans is six weeks before the study program ends (StudentAid BC, n.d.). StudentAid BC has outlined five simple steps to apply for funding:

1. Create a StudentAid BC Account by using your BC Service Card account.
2. Choose the post-secondary school you want to attend and determine the study period.
3. Check to make sure your school is designated for StudentAid BC funding.
4. Figure out how much money you need to attend school. This can be done with the [financial need formula](#) and [budget worksheet](#) provided by StudentAid BC.
5. Apply online through the StudentAid BC Dashboard by submitting a complete online StudentAid BC application (StudentAid BC, n.d.)

After applying, students can check their application status on their personal StudentAid BC dashboard. Most applications are processed within 6 weeks of submission.

Contact StudentAid BC

Mailing Address

StudentAid BC
PO Box 9173
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9H7

Courier Address

StudentAid BC
1st fl, 835 Humbolt Street
Victoria, BC V8V 4W8

1-800-561-1818 (Toll-free from within Canada and the US)



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