

# Generation for Equality: Applying to Post-Secondary School in Manitoba

October 2025

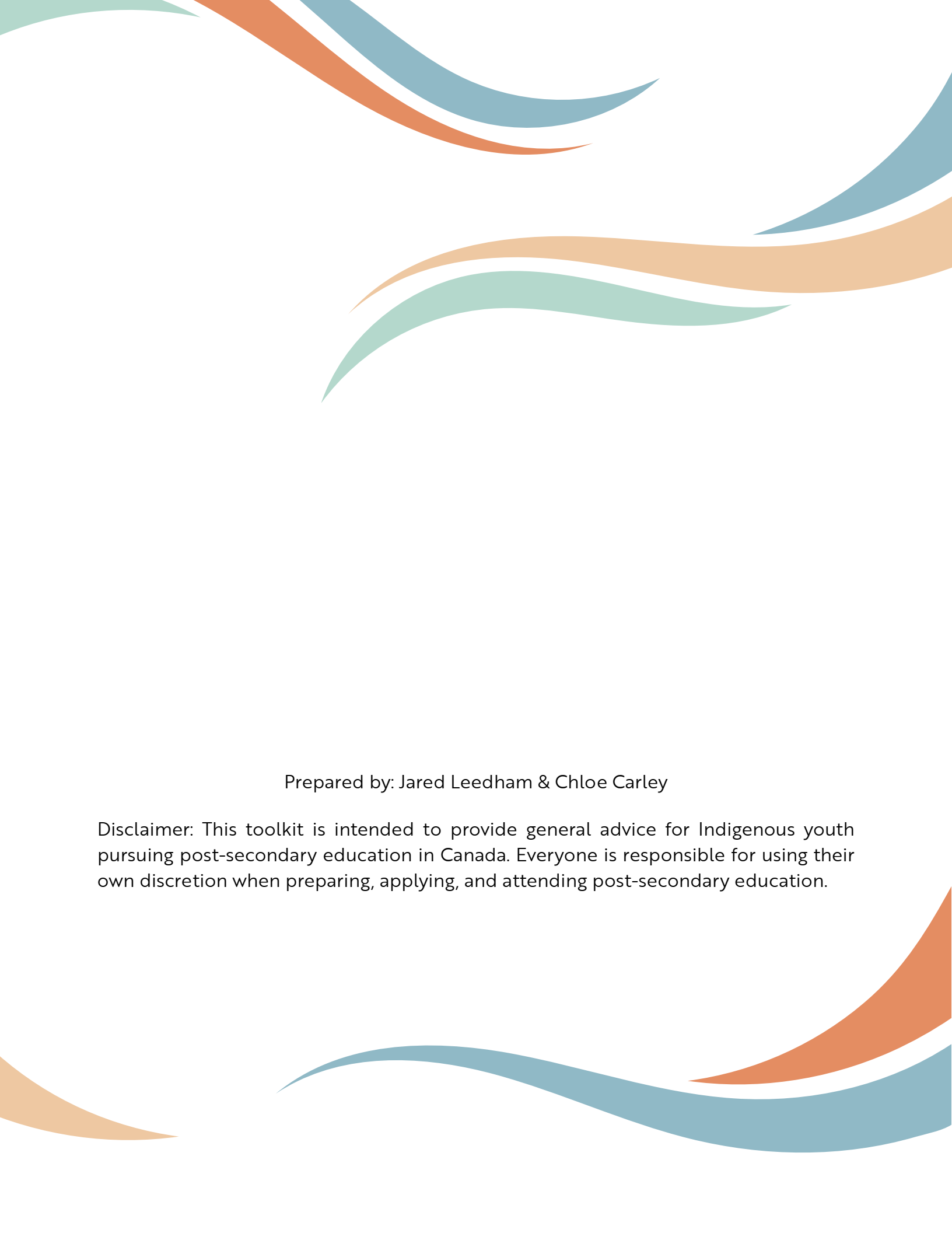


Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada



Generation  
4 Equality



Prepared by: Jared Leedham & Chloe Carley

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 Manitoba.



# Post-Secondary Education in Manitoba

In Manitoba, there are eight publicly funded post-secondary institutions. These institutions offer a range of certificates, diplomas, and degrees in a variety of programs. These institutions include:

- Assiniboine College
- Brandon University
- Red River College Polytechnic
- Université de Saint-Boniface
- University College of the North
- University of Manitoba
- University of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology

Unlike some other provinces, Manitoba does not have a centralized application system. This means that students are responsible for directly applying, typically through an institution's website, to their program of interest. Moreover, students are responsible for providing official transcripts and other documents when applying to a program. It will be very important to understand the admission requirements, pre-requisite course requirements, and deadlines when researching and applying to programs.

## Manitoba Student Aid

Manitoba Student Aid (MSA) is the provincial program responsible for providing financial assistance to post-secondary students in/from Manitoba. MSA provides several different loans, bursaries and grants to eligible applicants who do not have the resources to pay for their education on their own (Manitoba Student Aid, n.d.). It is important to remember that student aid is meant to supplement your own financial resources. Similar to other provinces, MSA is a federal-provincial program that provides financial assistance to full- and part-time students (Manitoba Student Aid, 2024).

According to MSA, there are four eligibility criteria students must meet to qualify for funding, these include:

- Canadian Citizen, permanent resident, or protected person status
- Manitoba resident
- Attending a designated post-secondary institution and program that leads to a certificate, diploma or degree
- Minimum 12 week program length

When students submit applications to MSA, they are automatically considered for grants, bursaries, and loans. Meaning that through one application students may receive multiple sources of funding. Students receiving repayable student loans are eligible for up to a maximum of \$500 per week of study. This funding is expected to cover both school and living costs (tuition, books, supplies, fees, and living allowance).

## How to Apply

Full-time students can submit their [MSA application](#) online, while part-time students and those applying for a second time in the same year are required to submit a paper application. Online applications and all required information must be submitted no later than 45 business days before the study period ends, whereas paper applications must be submitted no later than 60 days before the study period ends (Manitoba Student Aid, n.d.). After your application is assessed, students can use the student aid online portal to access their funding.

## What information do I need when I apply?

During the application process, students will have to provide various pieces of information to MSA. This information includes:

---

### Contact Information

- Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number(s)

---

### Academic Information

- Program Name
- Program Start and End Date
- Program Course Load
- Educational Institution or Campus Name
- Registrar's email address and cost of your program if attending out-of-province school
- All post-secondary studies you have taken

---

### Income and Funding Information

- Total Income From Last Year
- Scholarships, Bursaries and Funding

**Information Dependent  
Students will Also Require**

- Parent's Social Insurance Number
- Parent's Earnings and Deductions

---

**Information Married or  
Common-Law Students  
will Also Require**

- Spouse's Social Insurance Number
- Spouse's Total Income From Last Year

## How much will I receive?

Manitoba Student Aid calculates how much each student's financial need to determine how much financial aid they will receive. To calculate financial need, MSA uses the following formula:

$$\text{Allowable Expenses} - \text{Resources} = \text{Financial Need}$$

By calculating student financial need in this manner, MSA can determine how much funding is necessary to supplement, not replace, your own financial resources (Manitoba Student Aid, n.d.). This also means the amount each student will receive in funding will vary depending on their own specific factors.

## Indigenous Students

In Manitoba, students of Indigenous ancestry are eligible for the same loans and grants as other full- and part-time students. However, Indigenous students may be eligible for grants or awards that take their ancestry into account. For example, the Business Council of Manitoba offers Indigenous Education Awards, which provide up to \$3,000 annually to help alleviate financial barriers for Indigenous students.



## Work Cited

Manitoba Student Aid. (n.d.). "Manitoba Student Aid Frequently Asked Questions." Government of Manitoba: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/applying-for-student-aid/frequently-asked-questions.html>

Manitoba Student Aid. (2024). "Manitoba Student Aid – Program Year 2024-2025." Government of Manitoba: [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/pdfs/msa\\_presentation\\_general\\_public.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/pdfs/msa_presentation_general_public.pdf)

Manitoba Student Aid. (n.d.). "Where do I start?" Government of Manitoba: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/applying-for-student-aid/where-do-i-start.html>

Manitoba Student Aid. (n.d.). "What about my funds?" Manitoba Student Aid: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/applying-for-student-aid/what-about-my-funds.html>

