

Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance



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**Policy
2015-04**

	AUTHORIZED BY	ȳilmix ^w m nał səx ^w k ^w ina?məm/Chief and Council
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	DEPARTMENT	Community Services, Membership Services
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2007-01-22	01	Educational Cultural Exchange Policy approved by Council and signed by the Director of Operations.	
2019-06-07	02	Policy 2015-04 Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance approved by Council resolution #190604-32 on June 4, 2019 and signed by the Director of Operations on June 7, 2019.	
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2024-11-15	04	Policy 2015-04 Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance approved by Council resolution # 241112-04 on November 12, 2024 and signed by the Director of Operations on November 15, 2024.	

1. Policy

stqá?tk^w+niwt sqilx^w/Westbank First Nation (WFN) seeks to empower its people to be the best version of themselves and the generations to come. The educational cultural exchange allowance provides financial assistance to i? sqilx^w t! stqá?tk^w+niwt/Members participating in domestic and international cultural exchanges and study abroad university programs, as a way of assisting them in building cross-cultural skills and inter-cultural fluency that will help develop them as leaders for the benefit of the whole community.

2. Purpose

This Policy outlines the eligibility criteria and limits for the educational cultural exchange allowance (Allowance).

3. Scope

This Policy applies to yí səx^wk^wínma?m/Council, səx^wk^wu!m /Workers responsible for administering this Policy, and Members applying for funding under this Policy (Funding).

Funds referenced in this Policy are in Canadian dollars.

a) Funding Availability and Limits

- i. Funding is available to Members only.
- ii. The total lifetime maximum Allowance per Member is two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500), which includes transportation and food costs.

b) Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Funding, Members must;

- i. Be a post-secondary education student participating in a study abroad program; or
- ii. Be a high school student participating in a cultural exchange program including, but not limited to, extra-curricular programs; or
- iii. Be registered for a cultural exchange through a work placement or secondment of up to mus xiyá+nx^w/four (4) months; or

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- iv. Be registered for an educational cultural experience with another culture or other Indigenous nation; and
- v. Submit an Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Application (Appendix A), including additional documentation specified on the application, to the Membership Services Manager prior to the start of the educational cultural exchange (Exchange).

c) Withdrawal and Repayment

Members who receive an Allowance but withdraw from the Exchange are required to return the Allowance to Membership Services or be subject to the provisions of Policy 2015-49 Accounts Receivable, unless the Membership Services Manager deems the circumstances for the withdrawal to be beyond the Member's control.

4. Responsibilities

- a) Council is responsible for establishing an annual budget as part of the annual budgeting process that ensures commitment to this Policy on a best efforts basis.
- b) The Membership Services Manager or designate is responsible for;
 - i. Receiving, reviewing, and making decisions on, Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Applications (Appendix A), in accordance with the provisions of this Policy and related governance,
 - ii. Notifying applicants at the earliest opportunity;
 - 1) If their submitted application is incomplete; and
 - 2) Of the status of their application; and
 - iii. Forwarding to Financial Services requests for payment of Allowances, in accordance with the provisions of this Policy, to successful applicants.
- c) Financial Services is responsible for processing the payment requested under Section 4.b)iii. of this Policy.
- d) Members applying for, and receiving an Allowance under this Policy are responsible for;

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- i. Submitting the Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Application (Appendix A) under Section 3.b)v. of this Policy; and
- ii. Adhering to all other requirements and provisions under this Policy and related governance.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

The Membership Services Manager monitors compliance with this Policy and reports on budgetary matters relating to the Policy.

6. Definitions

“Educational Cultural Exchange” (Exchange) means an exchange program designed for Members wishing to participate in an international or domestic educational cultural exchange, that has an academic component and offers an opportunity to enrich their personal experience, knowledge, and skills, through learning about the history and culture of another country or Indigenous group, and contributes to their educational goals, objectives, and academic studies and enhances their global perspective.

“Worker” (səx^wk^wu^lm) means any employee, volunteer, contractor, client, or other visitor who performs tasks on behalf of WFN at any WFN workplace through a formal arrangement including, but not limited to, an employment agreement, contract, remote work agreement, approved volunteer application, or WFN terms of reference agreement.

7. Cultural Context

a) Cultural Context of Policy

Learning has always been a central theme in traditional syilx culture. For centuries prior to first contact, the syilx learned to live in harmony with the world around them. Knowledge was handed down in the form of captík^w+/traditional stories containing vital information about history, politics, governance, biology, geography, sociology, psychology, religion, architecture, culture and all other areas of life. These stories contain numerous layers of information, principles and wisdom for living and solving the challenges of life. This practice was significantly disrupted during the era of residential schools when children were separated from their families and community and

prohibited from speaking their language or living their culture. In contrast to this unfortunate chapter of syilx history, WFN places significant importance on proactively encouraging, supporting, and participating in the education of its Members in order to help them attain their personal educational goals and full education potential while embracing who they are as individuals and as syilx people.

b) Cultural Context of Definitions

i? sqilx^w tł stqá?tk^w†niwt (Members) The people (i? sqilx^w) from stqá?tk^w†niwt sqilx^w.

kətc'ac'a†tən (November) Moon of the cold (c'a†t means cold).

səx^wk^wułm (Worker) The person or profession (səx^w) to work, fix, or create (k^wuł). The root of səx^wk^wułm comes from k^w†ncutn, the word for "Creator". WFN's səx^wk^wułm are, in a sense, creators, working to provide important and valuable programs, services, and tools, and to solve issues as they arise, to ensure a productive, excellent, and fruitful government and community. The word also denotes value. Originating from the Creator, səx^wk^wułm have inherent value and are to be treated as such by their supervisors, colleagues, and clients.

səx^wk^wułm kł yƷayƷat (Director of Operations) The səx^wk^wułm who is over (kł) everyone (yƷayƷat). Through their team of Directors, they oversee all WFN's səx^wk^wułm.

stqá?tk^w†niwt sqilx^w (Westbank First Nation) The people (sqilx^w) living where wind blows (niwt) and forms swamps or puddles alongside a large lake (stqá?tk^w†). Being a windy area, the winds would cause the water to wash upon the shore leaving puddles and pools to cleanse the land and which would either seep into the land, creating wet, marshy areas or wash back into the lake. This area has been identified as the portion of syilx territory from Antler's Beach/Hardy Falls area to around the Gellatly/Green Bay area (essentially from the bend in the lake along the whole shoreline) but it includes a few other areas, including x^wa† mnik, the area closer to Tsinstikeptum Indian Reserve #10 and many other areas that have specific place names.

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ȳĩmix^wm na† səx^wk^winaʔməḡm (Chief and Council) The Chief of WFN has been chosen by the people to be the overall manager or leader (ȳĩmix^wm) of WFN. ȳĩmix^wm includes “ȳil” which references the binding or weaving together of different strands to make one strong whole. The Chief is responsible for ensuring that all the workings of the community are connected and bound together. This leadership position is one of servanthood and self-sacrifice. Traditionally, the ȳĩmix^wm represented the will of the people in carrying out the rights of being syilx, as well as representing the guarantee that the syilx will continue on. The ȳĩmix^wm also represented good decisions of the people while protecting the land and the natural laws. The Chief’s willingness to be a good role model and lead by example through lifestyle, experience, and wisdom sets the example for səx^wk^winaʔməḡm, the other members of Council chosen by the people to be responsible for (səx^w) working (k^w) to oversee things (inmaʔḡḡ), and for the youth, and for all the people. In seeking to lead well, Chief and Council are dependent on each other’s willingness to sacrifice for the good of others. Traditionally, səx^wk^winaʔməḡm were those chosen to oversee hunting and fishing or to serve as a sort of enforcer of community laws but the term has now been broadened to incorporate the oversight of government. “na†” is simply the ḡsyilxcḡ term for “and”.

ȳĩ səx^wk^winmaʔḡḡ (All Council Members/Council) Those who have been chosen by the people to be responsible for (səx^w) working (k^w) to oversee things (inmaʔḡḡ). Traditionally, ȳĩ səx^wk^winmaʔḡḡ were chosen to oversee hunting and fishing or to serve as policemen but the term has now been broadened to incorporate the oversight of government.

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8. Approval

This Policy was approved by Council resolution #241112-04 on the 12th day of kətc'ac'ałtən/November 2024 and signed by the Director of Operations on the 15th day of November 2024.

Lisa Pasto, səx^wk^wulm̓ kl̓ ɣɣayɣat/Director of Operations

9. References and Related Authorities

WFN Governance

[stgá?tkʷ+niwt i? Stkʷnkʷinpla?s/Westbank First Nation Constitution](#)

[i? scǵwlǵ skǵwipla?tat i? kǵchla?pusa?x/Comprehensive Community Plan](#)

[WFN Government Strategic Plan](#)

[Policy 2015-01 Governance Instrument Creation, Revision, and Rescindment](#)

[Policy 2015-82 Personal Information and Privacy Protection](#)

[Policy 2015-49 Accounts Receivable](#)

Standard 2024-06 Parental Consent for Minors

10. Attachments

Appendix A – Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Application


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Appendix A - Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Application

 <p style="text-align: center;">Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Application <i>To be completed by Members wishing to access funding under Policy 2015-04 Educational Cultural Exchange Allowance Submit to Membership Services once completed.</i> <i>Protected in accordance with Policy 2015-82 Personal Information and Privacy Protection.</i></p>	
Member Information	
Last Name:	First & Middle Names:
Address:	
Phone Number:	Email:
Status Number:	
Educational Institution enrolled in, if applicable:	
Educational Cultural Exchange (Exchange) Information	
Purpose of the Exchange:	
Personal goals and objectives related to the Exchange:	
Please attach an approved registration from your educational institution or other organization that confirms your participation in the Exchange and the cost for your participation.	
Acknowledgment and Signature(s)	
By submitting this application, along with all required documents, I understand, acknowledge, and declare that by accepting an Educational Cultural Exchange allowance, I agree to;	
<input type="checkbox"/> Use the funds solely for expenses related to the Exchange; and <input type="checkbox"/> In the event I withdraw from the Exchange, return all funds to Membership Services.	
Signature of Applicant:	Date:
Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is under 19 years of age):	Date: