



Community. Leadership. Pride.

**Policy  
2019-03**

# Education Program

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Revision History			
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2009-01-28 2011-09-26	01	Policy and Procedure Addendums to the Financial Transfer Agreement Policy approved by the Director of Operations on 2009-01-28. Elementary and Secondary Private School Tuition policy approved by Council Resolution #110926-06 on 2011-09-26.	
2020-02-13	02	Policy and Procedure Addendums to the Financial Transfer Agreement Policy approved by the Director of Operations on 2009-01-28 and Elementary and Secondary Private School Tuition policy approved by Council Resolution #110926-06 on 2011-09-26 incorporated into Policy 2019-03 Education Program, approved by Council resolution #200210-11 on 2020-02-10 and signed by the Director of Operations on 2020-02-13.	
2020-09-20	03	Policy 2019-03 Education Program approved by Council resolution #230918-08 on 2023-09-18 and signed by the Director of Operations on 2023-09-25.	



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### 1. Policy

Through prioritizing nč̣wiltən/education for its i? sqilx<sup>w</sup> t̄l stqá?tk<sup>w</sup>†niw̄t/Members, stqá?tk<sup>w</sup>†niw̄t sqilx<sup>w</sup>/Westbank First Nation (WFN) honours its responsibility to its people, promotes self-determination as a community, and helps promote a healthy and prosperous future to ensure the continued existence of WFN as a strong political, social, cultural, and sustainable community. WFN has implemented an education program that provides education assistance and services to Members and eligible individuals normally residing on WFN lands (Education Program).

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to formally recognize the programs and services offered to eligible residents of Westbank Lands through the Education Program.

### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to the yí səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ínma?m̄/Council, Members, Eligible Students, individuals listed on WFN's Nominal Roll, and səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ūlm/Workers responsible for administering this Policy.

- a) With the assistance of funding through the i? sck<sup>w</sup>l̄t skč̣ipla?tət i? sc̣̣ənwiw<sup>w</sup>tət/Self-Government Agreement Fiscal Transfer Agreement (FTA) between WFN and Canada, WFN provides education tuition, assistance, and services to;
  - i. Eligible Students, in accordance with the provisions of the FTA and subsequent amendments; and
  - ii. Eligible Students listed on WFN's Nominal Roll, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Education Agreement (LEA) between WFN and School District No. 23 (SD23).
- b) Eligible Students enrolled in a school other than Sensisystem House of Learning or an SD23 school are eligible for a tuition allowance to a maximum value of the amount that WFN would normally pay for the student to attend an SD23 school, made payable directly to the school in which the student is enrolled.

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- c) The Director, Community Services or designate is authorized to establish additional governance instruments to support the provision and implementation of further programs and services delivered through the Education Program.

### 4. Responsibilities

- a) Council is responsible for;
  - i. Negotiating with Canada regarding the amount of education-related funds to be included in the FTA and subsequent amendments; and
  - ii. Establishing an annual Education Program budget to ensure commitment to this Policy on a best efforts basis and in accordance with the provisions under the FTA and subsequent amendments.
- b) The Director, Community Services is responsible for;
  - i. In consultation with the xatus kí i? sqlaw/Director of Finance or designate, preparing a provisional Education program budget,
  - ii. Ensuring that Education funds received through the FTA for educational purposes are expended in accordance with the provisions under the FTA and subsequent amendments; and
  - iii. Overseeing the development and implementation of governance instruments to support the programs and services delivered through the Education Program.
- c) The Director of Finance or designate is responsible for;
  - i. Working with the Director, Community Services to prepare the budget under Section 4.b)i. of this Policy; and
  - ii. Reporting to Council and the Director, Community Services, on any FTA amendments relating to programs and services delivered through the Education Program.
- d) The Education Resource Coordinator is responsible for;
  - i. Administering the Education Programs, related services, and any associated governance instruments, under the direction of the Director,



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Community Services and in accordance with relevant governance instruments; and

- ii. Student data collection in accordance with Sections 5.1 and 6.1 of the LEA.

## 5. Monitoring and Reporting

- a) The Director of Finance or designate reports to Council and the Director, Community Services, in accordance with Section 4.c) of this Policy.
- b) The Education Resource Coordinator reports to the Director, Community Services, in accordance with Section 4.d) of this Policy.

## 6. Definitions

**“Eligible Student”** means;

- a) A registered Indian aged 4-19, normally residing on Westbank Lands, who is enrolled in and attending a federal, provincial, or private/independent school recognized by the province as an elementary/secondary institution, a band - operated school, or a school operated by WFN,
- b) An individual aged 4 -19, normally residing on Westbank Lands, who is eligible to be registered as an Indian, and who is enrolled in and attending a school operated by WFN,
- c) An individual who is neither a registered Indian nor eligible to be registered as an Indian aged 4 -19, normally residing on Westbank Lands, who is enrolled in and attending a school operated by WFN and is not eligible to receive or benefit from provincial funding for attendance at that school above; and
- d) A registered Indian over the age of ᑭᐅᑦᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ/19 as of ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ/July 1 of the school year, normally residing on Westbank Lands, who is enrolled in and attending a provincial school.

**“Nominal Roll”** means a list of First Nation students enrolled in a School within SD23 as of September 30 of a school fiscal year, and approved by WFN. The Nominal Roll does not change during a school fiscal year, even if one or more First Nation Students withdraws from, or is excluded from, a school program after September 30.

**“Worker” (səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>uim)** means any employee, volunteer, contractor, client, or other visitor who performs tasks on behalf of WFN at any WFN workplace through a

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formal arrangement including, but not limited to, an employment agreement, contract, remote work agreement, or approved volunteer application.

## 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 *captíkʷt*, traditional stories that taught about syilx laws, customs, values, governance structures, principles, and how to relate to and live on the land. These stories contain numerous layers of information 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 practicing their culture. In contrast to this unfortunate chapter of syilx history, WFN places extreme 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? sqilxʷ tǐ stqáʔtkʷtǎniwǎt (WFN Members)** The people (i? sqilxʷ) from stqáʔtkʷtǎniwǎt sqilxʷ/Westbank First Nation.

**səxʷkʷuǐm (Worker)** The literal translation of *səxʷkʷuǐm* is “the person or profession” (*səxʷ*) “to work, fix, or create” (*kʷuǐ*). The root of *səxʷkʷuǐm* comes from *kʷǐncutn*, the word for “Creator”. WFN’s *səxʷkʷuǐm* 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, *səxʷkʷuǐm* have inherent value and are to be treated as such by their supervisors, colleagues, and clients.

**səxʷkʷuǐm kǐ yʕayʕat (Director of Operations)** The Director of Operations is the *səxʷkʷuǐm* who is over (*kǐ*) everyone (*yʕayʕat*). Through their team of Directors, they oversee all WFN’s *səxʷkʷuǐm*.



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**sk'əlwístən (September)** Moon of the spawning fish.

**stqá?tk<sup>w</sup>†niwt sqilx<sup>w</sup> (Westbank First Nation)** The people (sqilx<sup>w</sup>) living where wind blows (niwt) and forms swamps or puddles alongside a large lake (stqá?tk<sup>w</sup>†). 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<sup>w</sup>a† mnik, the area closer to Tsinstikeptum Indian Reserve #10 and many other areas that have specific place names.

**xatus kǐ i? sqław (Director of Finance)** Leader (xatus) of the (kǐ i?) financial well-being (sqław). Traditionally, xatus were the heads of extended family clans, and could be either male or female. xatus took care of keeping good relations between their family members and other family clans. If a family member did wrong to a person from another family and the household head could not straighten it out, then it went to all the family heads.

**yí səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ínma?m (All Council Members/Council)** Those who have been chosen by the people to be responsible for (səx<sup>w</sup>) working (k<sup>w</sup>) to oversee things (ínma?m). Traditionally, yí səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ínma?m 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.

**ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m na† səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ína?məm (Chief and Council)** The Chief of WFN has been chosen by the people to be the overall manager or leader (ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m) of WFN. This leadership position is one of servanthood and self-sacrifice. Traditionally, the ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m 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 ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m also represented good decisions of the people while protecting the land and the natural laws. ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m's willingness to be a good role model and lead by example through lifestyle, experience, and wisdom sets the example for səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ína?məm, the other members of Council chosen by the people to be responsible for (səx<sup>w</sup>) working (k<sup>w</sup>) to oversee things (ínma?m), and for the youth, and for all the people. In seeking to lead well, ýílmix<sup>w</sup>m na† səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ína?məm are dependent on each other's willingness to sacrifice for the



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good of others. Traditionally, səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>inaʔməŋ 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. “naʔ” is simply the ńsyilxcń term for “and”.



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### 8. Approval

This Policy was approved by Council resolution #230918-08 on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of sk'əlwístən/September 2023 and signed by the Director of Operations on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

Dolores Ellingboe, səx<sup>w</sup>k<sup>w</sup>ulm̓ k̓l̓ ɣɬayɬat/Director of Operations

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### 9. References and Related Authorities

[i? sckwłt skčwipla?tat i? scčənwxw?tat/Westbank First Nation Self-Government Agreement](#)

#### WFN Governance

[stqá?tkwłniwt i? Stkwinkw?inpla?s/Westbank First Nation Constitution](#)

[i? sckwłt skčwipla?tat i? kəčhla?pusa?x/Comprehensive Community Plan](#)

[Policy 2015-01 Governance Instrument Creation, Review, and Approval](#)

[Policy 2015-14 Education Allowances](#)

[Policy 2015-17 Post-Secondary Education Sponsorship](#)

[Policy 2015-19 Tutoring Services Funding](#)

[Policy 2015-20 Scholarships and Bursaries](#)

#### Other Documents

[Local Education Agreement \(Complete\)](#)

[Local Education Agreement \(Condensed\)](#)

### 10. Attachments

N/A