

October 23, 2013

# GEORGE GORDON FIRST NATION Urban Services Assistance Program

## Policy Document

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## Policy Statement

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The needs of our people would be more efficiently provided for by the development and administering of our own services for our membership regardless of their residency. Focusing on the main challenges for services like health and wellness, education, employment and training, housing and particular attention to youth services we will enable our rapidly growing youth population to access the tools for success. By providing community based programming that are holistic, accessible and reflective of our member's needs and priorities we can eliminate the barriers to participation and provide the advocacy required for the progress of our members.

***The intent of the USAP is to provide new opportunities without duplicating existing programs and services currently offered to both on and off reserve members. Notwithstanding, the program shall not exempt membership from accessing those current services offered to the general band membership regardless of residency. The purpose of the program is to fill the gap whereby no support services are currently offered to non-resident members.***

This Policy Document will focus on Education Support and Training and Employment Services.

## Guidelines for Determining Eligibility

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Persons eligible for assistance must be a George Gordon First Nation Band member who does not reside on the First Nation and must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be unemployed and seeking employment, education or training;
- Post-Secondary students;
- Single Parent Families;
- Low-income families (as per CRA guidelines);
- Members transitioning from the First Nation to an Urban setting.

## Training and Employment Support

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The Training and Employment support component will focus on increasing the number of our members in the trades and overall labor force. This component will not exceed the amount of \$500 per request, per fiscal year. The objective is to focus on preparing and ensuring the success of our members to enter the job market. Written confirmation from the potential employer/skills training provider and complete assessment with the Urban Services Coordinator is required.

Our initial focus is to ensure the job readiness of our members to meet the needs of the labor force, which includes the following (however special circumstances will be considered):

- Enhancement of employability skills;
- Pertinent skills upgrading not provided by the employer;
- Referral services;
- Training support;
- Career goal setting and development of resumes;
- Completing job applications and obtaining job leads.

### **Education Support**

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Education support component will focus on the success of our elementary and secondary level students. By supporting our students to succeed in the main-stream educational system we will be preparing our youth to aspire to leadership/managerial roles in today's economy. This component will not exceed the amount of \$200 per school year and be made payable to the school/institution. Supporting documentation from the school must accompany the written request. Special circumstances will be considered.

Education support will address the needs of members who require assistance in the following areas:

- Elementary/Secondary Students
  - Recognition of academic/sport/recreation accomplishment through scholarships;
  - Bus vouchers to attend school or programming;
  - School fees;
  - Extra-curricular activities;
  - Tutoring.

### **Updates/Amendments**

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<b>Section</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Update</b>
Policy Document	October 1, 2013	Guideline – Ratification Forthcoming
Policy Document	October 23, 2013	Chief and Council Ratification