Big Lakes County Policy

Return of Service Bursary

Policy Number:	Admin 58
Legal Authority:	
Approved by Council:	September 11, 2024
Effective Date:	September 11, 2024
Revised Date:	November 6, 2025

Policy Statement

Big Lakes County will provide financial assistance to post-secondary students from Big Lakes County through a combined bursary program with the Province of Alberta, encouraging local employment post-graduation. This policy is for residents within Big Lakes County boundaries who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in this policy and plan to pursue a career within Big Lakes County boundaries following graduation.

Definitions

- **Applicant** shall refer to any individual who has submitted an application for the Big Lakes County Bursary Program.
- **County** shall refer to Big Lakes County. This includes any Towns located within Big Lakes County boundaries.
- **Post-Secondary** shall refer to a post-secondary program designated for provincial funding by the Ministry of Advanced Education.
- **Recipient** shall refer to anyone who has successfully completed the Big Lakes County Bursary Program application and has received bursary funding.
- **Return of Service Agreement** shall refer to the agreements signed between Big Lakes County and Bursary recipients to ensure their return to Bursary Partnership Program eligible area (https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/jet-northern-alberta-map.pdf) following graduation.
- **Northern Alberta Development Bursary (NADB) and Northern Alberta Development Specialty Bursary** shall be matching non-repayable bursaries offered to students through a program delivered by the Province of Alberta.

Delivery of Program

- Following the April 30 deadline, the Big Lakes County Economic Development Committee shall evaluate and select applicants.

- The Big Lakes County Grants Officer or designate will submit selected applicants to NADB for review for confirmation of eligibility.
- NADB will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicants of the County and matching NADB bursary.
- Big Lakes County Grants Officer or designate will monitor the recipients enrolment and return of service status to ensure compliance with the program.

Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant must
    - complete an application between January 2 to April 30 of each year.
    - reside within the Big Lakes County boundaries as defined during time of application.
    - be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident or Protected Person.
    - be 18 years of age or older.
    - be a resident of Alberta for 12 consecutive months before the start of your program.
    - have applied or be enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program designated for provincial funding by the Ministry of Advanced Education.
    - if successful, must be willing to commit to a multi-year return of service within Big Lakes County or the NADB program area.
    - not be in default of a provincial student loan.
    - re-apply each year funding is required.
- If approved in a multi-year stream, priority will be given to applicants already successful with the bursary program.
- Applicants can only receive one bursary per academic year.
- The return of service is one year of full-time employment in your field of study for each year of bursary support received.

Bursary Streams

- **Post-Secondary Bursary Stream** - This bursary encourages students to train for jobs that are in demand in Big Lakes County or Northern Alberta.
    - Two (2) students may be selected for a matching bursary of $3,500 from Big Lakes County and $3,500 from NADB per year for a maximum of two years.
    - It is offered to students entering their last 2 years of post-secondary studies or entering a program that is 1 or 2 years in length.
- **Medical and Dentistry Bursary Stream** - This bursary supports future doctors and dentists committed to living and working in Big Lakes County or Northern Alberta.
    - One (1) Medical or Dentistry student may be selected for a matching bursary of $14,000 from Big Lakes County and $14,000 from NADB per year for a maximum of four years.
    - It is offered to students who have applied for or are enrolled in a full-time Medical or Dentistry school.
- **Nurse Practitioner Bursary Stream** - This bursary aids upcoming nurse practitioners to build a future in Big Lakes County or Northern Alberta.
    - One (1) Nurse Practitioner student may be selected for a matching bursary of $10,500 from Big Lakes County and $10,500 from NADB for a maximum of 3 years.
    - It is offered to students who have applied for or are enrolled in a full-time Nurse Practitioner program.

- **Pharmacy and Large Animal Veterinarian Bursary** - This bursary helps future pharmacists and veterinarians bring their skills to and build their careers in Big Lakes County or Northern Alberta.
    - One (1) Pharmacy or Large Animal Veterinarian student may be selected for a matching bursary of $7,000 from Big Lakes County and $7,000 from NADB for a maximum of 4 years.
    - It is offered to students who have applied for or are enrolled in a full-time 4-year Doctor of Pharmacy program or a full-time 4-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.
- **Trades Stream** – This bursary helps future tradespeople develop their skills and establish a career in Big Lakes County.
    - Two (2) students may be selected for a non-matching bursary of $750 for a maximum of one year.
    - It is offered to students who have applied for or are enrolled in a trades program 6 weeks in length or more.
    - If successful, applicants must be willing to commit to a one-year return of service within Big Lakes County.

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Date of Final Signature