



## Northern Student Teacher Bursary

### **Q: What is the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary*?**

A: The Northern Student Teacher Bursary is designed to attract and retain graduating teachers to northern Alberta communities by providing bursaries of \$16,000 (\$8,000 annually) to teacher preparation program students in the last two years of their studies. It will also offer financial support to help students with the cost of practicum placements in northern school jurisdictions.

### **Q: Why is the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary* necessary?**

A: Teacher attraction and retention in northern, rural and remote Alberta locations is a significant workforce challenge. Without sufficient numbers of qualified teachers who are embedded in the community, schools struggle to provide high quality programming for students. The Northern Student Teacher Bursary is expected to help attract and retain teachers to northern and rural communities.

### **Q: Who is eligible to apply for the bursary?**

A: Eligible program participants are Canadian citizens enrolled in the final two years of a teacher preparation program in an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution. Students who are in their final year of study may also be considered. While all students who meet the minimum criteria are strongly encouraged to apply, preference will be given to students who:

- have completed or are willing to complete a teacher practicum placement with a participating northern school division;
- express an interest in living and teaching in a northern community;
- have a major or minor in any of the following courses
  - Second Languages, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Math, CTS (Woods, Metals, Cosmetology, etc.), Special Education, or Music;
- have lived in northern Alberta;
- have graduated from a high school located in a northern Alberta jurisdiction;
- are of First Nations, Métis or Inuit origin; or
- demonstrate strong academic achievement.

### **Q: Are there certain academic requirements for students to be considered for this bursary?**

A: To be considered, students must be in good academic standing after the first two years of post-secondary study.

**Q: When will selection and bursary disbursement take place?**

A: Applications must be submitted to the Northern Alberta Development Council by September 30, 2009. Screening and selection will take place in October, and students will be notified of their application status by November. Bursaries will be disbursed to successful applicants by December 15, 2009.

**Q: What is the teacher practicum funding?**

A: Students who are awarded bursaries must commit to carrying out their teacher practicum within a participating northern school division. The practicum funding is designed to help students with the cost of travel and basic living expenses they incur while fulfilling this commitment. Funding is available up to established maximum amounts based on the practicum duration and the type of expenses incurred.

**Q: How much money is Alberta Education providing for this program?**

A: Alberta Education has allotted \$800,000 over a two-year period beginning in 2009. This funding is part of Budget 2009.

**Q: Is this a pilot project?**

A: Yes, this is a two-year pilot project. The program will be monitored, during the two years, and evaluated before a decision is made about continuance.

**Q: What are participants expected to contribute?**

A: Upon graduation, students will be required to provide a return service commitment for an agreed length of service in one of Alberta's northern school jurisdictions.

**Q: Which communities are participating in the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary* program?**

A: There are 21 School jurisdictions eligible to participate in the program. A map of the participating communities can be found on the Northern Alberta Development Council's website at [www.nadc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.nadc.gov.ab.ca) by following the link to the NADC's boundaries.

**Q: How will students be informed of the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary*?**

A: The Northern Alberta Development Council is leading the promotion of the program and is working on a variety of activities, including

- a web page on the Northern Alberta Development Council website;
- collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including teacher preparation programs to promote the program;
- posters to be displayed at teacher preparation institutions;
- an information session to be held in the fall; and
- use of social networking sites, including Facebook.

**Q: Who is involved in the development and administration of the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary*?**

A: Alberta Education, in collaboration with the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Alberta Scholarships Program, is responsible for the development and implementation of the *Northern Student Teacher Bursary*. Superintendents of northern jurisdictions helped determine the eligibility criteria and selection processes for prospective bursary program students.

**Q: Where can I find more information on the program?**

A: Additional information and application forms for the bursary program can be found on the Northern Alberta Development Council bursaries website at [www.benorth.ca](http://www.benorth.ca). Applications will be made available to students in early September 2009. If you would like to speak to somebody about the program, contact:

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