

SFA Website

The NWT Student Financial Assistance Program's website has been up and running since May and so far it's been a huge success with over 60,000 hits per month!



Visitors to the website are able to download the 2000-2001 Student Guide which outlines the current SFA program inside and out. There is information on scholarships and bursaries, internships and exchanges. You can browse "links" to find out about SFA in other provinces across Canada or visit the "directory" to get the contact information for anyone here at NWT Student Financial Assistance. The "news" button will allow you to view SFA items that have been in the newspaper lately or to download a copy of this newsletter!

Of course, there's much more available than what's listed above. We invite you to visit us at www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca and see for yourself!

Canada Millennium Scholarships

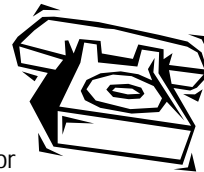
This year's deadline for Canada Millennium Scholarships has come and gone. The applicants' names have been forwarded to the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) in Ottawa for their review. Only those candidates who have been selected to receive the award will be notified. That notification will come in writing directly from the CMSF.

SFA Christmas Hours

The SFA office will be closed over the Christmas holidays from Dec 21st through January 1st inclusive. If you have travel that needs to be authorized for the new year or any other business that needs to be dealt with, please make sure you contact our office with as much advance notice as possible.

Call Routing System

The SFA office will soon be implementing a call routing system. Call routing is voice mail that routes calls to answer common questions or to link you to specific SFA staff. This service will be available on the main SFA numbers and callers will be able to be transferred to specific SFA staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week!



Need Help in Edmonton?

Nona German is a Northern Student Services Advisor who lives in Edmonton and she's there to assist students with the process of organizing and utilizing resources available on campus and around the city. Nona can help you search for and secure housing, provide orientation, personal and financial counseling, etc.

These services are free and available to all NWT students studying in the Edmonton area. If you would like to contact Nona, you can call her at (780) 492-7596.

Deadline Reminder

Please keep in mind that all students must complete and submit an application for SFA each and every academic year they attend school. It is very important that you meet YOUR applicable deadline because a late application will keep you from receiving funding for the semester or even the academic year!



<u>Program Start Date</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January	November 15
May	March 15
Aug 16-Sep 30	July 15
Any Other Month	1 Calendar Month Prior to start date

Employment Opportunities

Periodically, GNWT employment opportunities are made available to the public. As a service to our students we thought it would be a good idea to post these announcements on our website.

If you are nearing the end of your post-secondary studies and are starting to think about life after school, this might be a good place to start. Please check back often as these postings will constantly be updated!

Northwest Territories

*Student Financial Assistance Program
Newsletter Fall 2000*

Whew...what a busy fall semester this has been! All of the changes to the SFA program meant hiring extra summer staff and long days for everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our summer students for their dedication and hard work in preparing our program for the Fall 2000 semester. Your commitment to our program and in particular, the countless late nights you spent here to make sure deadlines were met is greatly appreciated!

At this time, we would also like to wish each and every one of our clients a...

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**



NWT Student Financial Assistance
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 873-7190
1-800-661-0793 Toll Free (Canada)

Fax: (867) 873-0336
1-800-661-0893 Toll Free (Canada)

Winter Payment Guarantee

Every student that wishes to receive funding through our program must submit a Student Enrolment Form (SEF) at the start of each semester. The institution official must sign that document no sooner than one calendar month before the start date of the semester.

That "one-calendar-month" requirement along with the GNWT closure over the Christmas holidays doesn't leave much time to have payments processed in time for those starting in early January. To alleviate this problem, we will ensure that all SEF's received on or before December 8th are processed before the Christmas break (Dec 21). This will ensure that payment is deposited into your bank account by December 29th!

Please Note: If you choose to have payment deposited into your account by December 29th, any grants you receive will be included on your 2000 T4A. Even though the money is intended for the January through April semester, taxation takes place when you receive payment. If you do not want to be taxed on this money in 2000, please clearly indicate this fact on your SEF. In those cases, payment will be made in January 2001!

Online SFA Inquiry & Application

We are currently testing our web interface which will allow students to use the internet to connect to the NWT Student Financial Assistance Program. Students will be able to look up the status of their applications, payments, loan balances and entitlements. Students will also be able to submit applications over the internet and receive feedback on errors and entitlements quickly.

Final testing of the online inquiry and application will take place in December. During that time we will invite several students to participate so that we can receive their feedback before we launch the first version of the application early in the new year!

Website Chat Forum

The "Chat Forum" on the SFA website has been provided to encourage communication between students from across the NWT who are attending post-secondary studies. The NWT Student Financial Assistance Program does not assume any responsibility for items posted here and will not reply to them. If you would like an answer to your question, please email them to us directly. Our email addresses can all be found at the "Directory".



NWT Health Care Benefits for Students

Students studying outside of the NWT do not need to give up their NWT health benefits while they attend school! You are eligible as long as you are planning to return to the NWT once you complete your studies and you do not establish a permanent residence anywhere else.

For additional information about health care coverage you can download the brochure Your Health Care Benefits from the NWT Student Financial Assistance website. You may also obtain information by writing or calling:

Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Social Services
Bag #9
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Phone: 1-800-661-0830, 867-777-7411 or 867-777-7408
Fax 867-777-3197

Scholarships & Bursaries

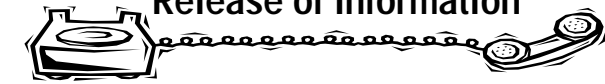
Our office is constantly receiving information on scholarships and bursaries offered all across Canada. Most recently, we have received details on:

- * 2000/2001 Sport North Federation Scholarship
- * Cal Callahan Memorial Bursary
- * Career Development Bursary Program (Department of Justice)
- * The Canadian Press Journalism Scholarship



For more details on these and other scholarship/bursary programs you can visit our website at: www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca

Release of Information



Quite often we receive email or phone calls from parents or other family members, requesting information on students files. Unless we have your written permission, this information cannot be given. You see our office is bound by the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Each of you have signed section 12 of the NWT Student Financial Assistance application. This allows us to exchange information with your school, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, other Government agencies, etc. What it does not allow us to do is speak with your parents, spouse, brother, etc.

If you would like to give someone access to the information in your SFA file, please complete Appendix "B" of the Student Financial Assistance application. This form can be downloaded from our website: www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca

How Long Does a Semester Have To Be?

In order to receive benefits through the NWT Student Financial Assistance Program, your semester must be at least 12 consecutive weeks in length and no more than 26 consecutive weeks in length.