



# FACT SHEET

## MAJOR CHANGES TO THE MICMACS OF GESGAPEGIAG POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

On March 29, 2017, Council approved the updated Micmacs of Gesgapegiag Post-Secondary Education Program Policy and a new Directive with Procedures. These documents can be found at: <http://www.gesgapegiag.ca/en/departement/9/education>. Here are the main changes to the Policy and Procedures:

### Definition

- Without exemption, the applicant will have to reside in Canada for 12 consecutive months prior to applying to the Program.

### Admission to the Program

#### **1. Program Eligibility Criteria**

- If an applicant has collected unjustified PSE funding in the past, to receive financial support, the applicant could have to sign a repayment schedule agreement.
- 7 student priority categories instead of 8 by combining categories 4 and 5.
- Definition of each priority is clearer (e.g. part-time student versus full-time student and e-learning versus distance education programs).

#### **2. Pre-Admission, Deadlines and Definitive Admission**

- Now a pre-admission and definitive admission phases and clear about what documents to provide at each phase of admission.
- A new application form where continuing PSE supported students don't have to give over again general information.
- Deadlines for students to provide transcripts, sign student contract and provide course schedule(s) as well as deadlines to apply for each semester.
- Clearer forms.

### Limits and Duration of Support:

- Mention that UCEPP is now considered an exceptional measure.
- Level 1 includes one year college programs which give an attestation of college studies.

### Level of Financial Support:

- Clear about what part-time students are eligible for versus full-time.
- For part-time students, expenditures for tuition, admission and books and supplies only reimbursed upon successful completion of course(s).
- Part-time students no longer eligible for travel expenditures.
- Process and Criteria for payment of tuition and funding for books and supplies different for full-time and part-time students.

### **Scholarships and Graduation Incentives:**

- Maximum amounts based on availability of funding and vary according to level of program of studies.
- Part-time students are now eligible for graduation incentives.
- Clear that it is the student's responsibility to apply for academic achievement scholarships and graduation incentive/financial support for graduation.
- Nothing can be approved before the Director Education Services approve students and funding level for next school year (so approximately by early July)
- Education Services cannot use funds from INAC for graduation incentives. Funds will come from Micmacs of Gesgapegiag own source revenues.

### **Exceptional Measures:**

- UCEPP now considered an exceptional measure and the applicant will have to meet all the 7 criteria, mainly that the applicant CANNOT take the pre-requisites through adult education, CEGEP and/or any government supported academic upgrading and/or employability measures.
- A new exceptional measure providing the possibility to support financially an applicant who does not meet the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag Post-Secondary Education Support Program Policy. Funds will have to come from own source revenues.

### **While Receiving Financial Support:**

- Clearer about when a student could be in a situation of having to reimburse funding received.
- Accounts Receivable Procedures with what needs to be done by the Education Services and the Department of Finance to keep track of reimbursement etc. These procedures will be reviewed when Council approves the band level Accounts Receivable Policy and Procedures.

### **Appeal of Decision**

- Step by Step procedures.
- Appeal Committee with terms of reference.
- Composition of Committee: 2 from Board of Education (Council's Committee), Director General and one from another First Nation community.
- Final Decision rests with Committee, not Council.
- Council informed by Director General of any decision by the Appeal Committee.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Totally new section in any document to date.
- Describes responsibilities of all: student, student services coordinator, Director, Education Services, Department of Finance, Director General, other Departments, Council including education portfolio councillor and, Board of Education.
- Roles and responsibilities of Student Services Coordinator and Director, Education Services linked to respective job descriptions.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION, PLEASE CONTACT KATERI MARTIN,  
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