



## MEDIA RELEASE

### NBCC to cover tuition for former youth in care

**April 06, 2021 (Fredericton, NB)** – New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) has become the first post-secondary institution in New Brunswick to eliminate tuition barriers for those who have spent a year or more in foster or group home care.

The Former Youth In Care Tuition Bursary covers all tuition and program fees for [eligible applicants](#), regardless of age, beginning in September, 2021.

“Quality education and skills training are crucial to obtaining sustainable employment, yet the cost of education can be a barrier to those who most need it,” said Ann Drennan, Vice President Academic and Research at NBCC. “Removing that barrier for former youth in care levels the playing field so those learners are not left behind.”

NBCC has partnered on this initiative with the Child Welfare Political Action Committee, a federally-incorporated, not-for-profit organization that advocates for a progressive child welfare system. To-date, the Child Welfare Political Action Committee has helped create more than 150 tuition-free opportunities at 13 schools in five provinces.

“As a former youth in-care, I am grateful that the opportunity to study at NBCC will be there when students are ready,” said Jane Kovarikova, founder of the Child Welfare Political Action Committee and current doctoral candidate at Western University. “One day in Canada, it won’t matter where you were raised in care, thanks to the leadership of organizations like NBCC that care about your future.”

**For more information about NBCC’s Former Youth In Care Tuition Bursary, email [firstgen@nbcc.ca](mailto:firstgen@nbcc.ca) or phone 1-888-796-NBCC (6222).**

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#### Quick Facts:

- Child Welfare PAC Canada is working with any post-secondary partners in Canada who wish to increase social mobility for people raised in foster care
  - This work was inspired by the [Vancouver Island University tuition waiver program](#) (no age limits) for people who were raised in care in B.C.
  - Finances are a significant, but not only, barrier to post-secondary studies faced by people raised in care
  - Post-secondary studies level the playing field for this group
  - So far, Child Welfare PAC has worked with 13 institutions in 5 provinces to create 150+ places that address financial barriers to post-secondary education
  - [Click here for participating schools](#)
  - New Brunswick Community College is the first in New Brunswick to participate - now there are similar opportunities in all of Atlantic Canada
  - **The end goal is similar opportunities at all post-secondary schools coast-to-coast**
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### [About NBCC](#)

With six campuses across New Brunswick, NBCC contributes to New Brunswick's social and economic prosperity by supporting the aspirations of individual learners, seizing the opportunities of the labour market, and collaboratively solving the challenges of communities and industry. In addition to more than 90 certificate and diploma programs, NBCC also provides specialized and customized training to meet the needs of specific sectors and communities. Find out more information on NBCC programs by visiting: [www.nbcc.ca](http://www.nbcc.ca).

### [About Child Welfare PAC Canada](#)

The Child Welfare PAC is a federal not-for-profit that represents the interests of children raised by the government. The advisory committee consists of professionals from academia, law, business, advocacy & public service who have lived experience in child protection systems. See complete advocacy agenda here: [childwelfarepac.com](http://childwelfarepac.com).



Child rights advocate, Jane Kovarikova, grew up in foster care since the age of six and began living on her own at age 16. She graduated with a BA (Hon) in Psychology at Laurentian University and a MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics. As a political staffer at the Ontario Legislative Assembly, she was instrumental in developing legislation that is reducing youth homelessness today. Influenced by these earlier experiences, Kovarikova founded the Child Welfare PAC Canada in 2017. This not-for-profit focuses on systemic changes that support youth success after being raised in state care. Currently, Kovarikova serves as the Board Chair of Simcoe-Muskoka Family Connexions, a regional child protection agency, and on the Ontario Premier's Council for Equality of Opportunity. She is also a PhD Candidate and Lecturer at Western University in the Department of Political Science.

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