



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday July 5, 2022

Paving The Way: IBT College is the first career college to offer tuition waivers to current and former youth in care

TORONTO, ON: To ensure that finances are not a barrier to post-secondary education for people raised in care, IBT College is proud to announce a tuition waiver for current and former crown wards.

In partnership with the Child Welfare Political Action Committee (PAC), the Tuition Waiver for Learners In-Care will enable up to 10 students who meet the [eligibility criteria](#) to pursue post-secondary studies with no tuition fees.

"The tuition waiver is a wonderful step forward to create opportunities for a positive life trajectory," said **James Rice, Vice-President of IBT College**. "Education improves lives and offers a brighter future. We can't change the past but we can change the future."

IBT is a Private Career College located in Toronto, Ontario offering six months to one year diploma programs and certificates in the areas of Business, Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Flight Attendant, Health Care and Information Technology.

"Our mission as a college is to continue to find ways to transition people into good, solid careers," added **Joe Shokour, President of IBT College**. "I am extremely proud that IBT College is the first Career College in Ontario to bring awareness and support to this issue alongside the Child Welfare PAC."

"The Child Welfare PAC is proud and thankful to IBT College for its generous support of the educational pursuits and aspirations of youth from care," says **Ingrid Palmer, Board Chair of the Child Welfare PAC**. "IBT has increased the choices former foster kids can make towards a better future, thanks for leading the way!"

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Ontario Foster Care Quick Facts:

- There are 12,000 children in state care in Ontario.

- Each year, about 1,000 exit the system or rather “age-out” at 18 years old.
- About 60% of foster youth drop-out of high school.
- If studies bear out, only 80 of 400 qualified foster youth pursue higher education each year.
- From age 18 to 21, youth receive an allowance of approximately \$875/month.
- At age 21, foster youth are expected to be fully independent, credentialed, and career-ready for life as contributing members of society - unrealistic expectations.
- Restrictive tuition waivers are unlikely to be effective.
- An estimated 100,000+ former Crown Wards are in Ontario.

About Child Welfare PAC:

The Child Welfare PAC is a federal charity 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. The complete advocacy agenda may be reviewed here: www.childwelfarepac.com

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