



MEDIA RELEASE

NSCC becomes first college in Atlantic Canada to waive tuition for former youth-in-care

January 05, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – Child Welfare PAC Canada is pleased to announce that Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) is joining the growing list of post-secondary institutions reducing barriers to education for learners who've spent time in foster care or been supported by other provincially-supported programming.*

Through the Post-Care Free Tuition Program, eligible learners can apply to have up to 100% of their NSCC tuition and fees covered.

Eligible learners can apply now at nsc.ca/postcare

"At NSCC, we're committed to building accessibility and inclusion into everything we do," says NSCC President Don Bureaux. "By eliminating barriers to education in this way, we're opening up a world of possibilities and ensuring that all Nova Scotians have the opportunity to move successfully into training and the workforce."

To be eligible, learners must have been in the care of the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services — including Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia — or have accessed Youth Services (as defined by Section 19 of the Children and Family Services Act) for a minimum of one year (can be cumulative)*. Applicants must also be working towards their first post-secondary credential and not currently be in receipt of the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services' Educational Bursary, whether in- or post-care and custody.*

"The cost of post-secondary tuition can be a barrier for former youth in care," says the Honourable Kelly Regan, Minister of Community Services. "I'm grateful to NSCC for providing this significant opportunity to help these young people reach their educational goals."

The Post-Care Free Tuition Program is inspired by the work of Jane Kovarikova, PhD Candidate and founder of the Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada.

"I know firsthand how transformative post-secondary education can be for someone raised in care," says Kovarikova, who entered foster care at the age of 6. "It was a community college that made it possible for me to start my academic journey. I commend NSCC on its work to broaden these opportunities for Nova Scotians."

The Post-Care Free Tuition Program is partially funded by the generosity of donors to the NSCC Foundation. Those interested in helping to make a difference in the lives of former youth in care can learn more and donate at <https://support.nsc.ca/>

* All Post-Care Free Tuition Program applications will undergo verification of eligibility by Nova Scotia's Department of Community Services or Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services.

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 10 institutions in 3 provinces to create 120+ places that address financial barriers to post-secondary education
 - Laurentian University (20), Georgian College (15), Loyalist College (20), Western University (20), Brescia (5), King's (5) and Huron (5), MSVU (10), Memorial (20) have announced financial supports for students with in care experiences
 - Nova Scotia Community College is the first college in Atlantic Canada to participate
 - **The end goal is similar opportunities at all post-secondary schools coast-to-coast**
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[About NSCC](#)

NSCC is committed to building Nova Scotia's economy and quality of life through education and innovation, transforming Nova Scotia one learner at a time. NSCC offers more than 130 career-oriented programs throughout the province at our 14 campuses, including our online eCampus. Programs are offered through five academic schools – Access, Education and Language; Business and Creative Industries; Health and Human Services, Technology and Environment; Trades and Transportation – and reflect the labour market needs and opportunities in Nova Scotia. NSCC's primary goal: student success. An annual survey of College graduates shows that 91% are employed one year after graduation, most in their field of study, with 90% of those employed living and working in Nova Scotia.

[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.



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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