

NORTHERN AUTHORITY *Messenger*



February 2017

• Otayámihismákéw • Owiitamaake • Yatih ghe ahli •

Vol. 1 Issue 2

Message from the Acting Chief Executive Officer

Building on Volume 1 Issue 1 which provided basic information on RESP opportunities, this edition of the Messenger provides important information on a number of additional opportunities to support youth in care in order to help them maximize their potential to succeed in life. Lets continue to work together to make sure that we make the most of every opportunity!

Bryan Hart
A/Chief Executive Officer

Statement **MISSION**

Supporting and empowering First Nation child and family services agencies in northern Manitoba to enhance and enrich family life

On the lighter side..

On Valentine's Day a woman wakes up with a start. She shakes her partner and says, "Honey. I just had the most wonderful dream."

"Tell me" her partner replies.

"I dreamt that you gave me a diamond necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think that dream means?" she asked.

"Tonight you will know the answer" was the reply.

That evening when her partner came home she was given a small package that was wrapped in very pretty paper and a bow. She was so excited and happy that she could hardly contain herself. She tore off the paper and bow and saw her gift, a book, "The Meaning of Dreams".

Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Program—Update!

The third annual Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Information Session is fast approaching! This year the information session is being held on March 8th, 2017 and is hosted by Red River College, located at 2055 Notre Dame Avenue in the South Gym. Doors open at 6:00pm!

Presentations, which will start at 6:30 pm, will include information on the application and selection process for tuition waivers and bursaries. Representatives from most universities and colleges will be available to answer questions about programs offered at their institution. Manitoba Education and Training will also be in attendance to answer questions related to funding for young adults over the age of 21 who are interested in attending a post-secondary institution.

If you are not able to attend this session, we are planning two other information nights for The Pas/Flin Flon area (on March 15th, 2017) and the Brandon region (date TBD). Please invite youth who are currently (or formerly) in care who are interested in pursuing a post-secondary education.

Please help us spread the word by posting and sharing our "YIC Tuition Waiver Information Night" poster which is available in the "News and Events" section of the Northern Authority website at <http://www.northernauthority.ca/>.

The program has continued to grow and University College of the North has now joined.
Who are the participating colleges and universities?

- Assiniboine Community College
- MB Institute of Trades and Technology
- Université de Saint-Boniface
- Booth University College
- Red River College
- University of Manitoba
- Brandon University
- University College of the North
- University of Winnipeg

Charity Leonard from Youth Employment Services has been hired as the Tuition Waiver Coordinator (TWC) to assist in responding to inquiries related to tuition waivers and other scholarships/awards that are available to current and former youth in care in Manitoba as well as provide on-going support including referrals to support services (i.e., Building Futures) and emotional support as needed. Please note that applications are to be sent to the TWC – **they are no longer to be submitted to the Northern Authority.** If you, or someone you know, has any questions related to the tuition waiver program contact Charity Leonard at (204) 987-8661 (ext. 671) or cleonard@yesmb.ca.

Dream Seekers Program

Dream Seekers is intended to provide a small amount of seed funding for youth who are currently in care or young adults who are on an extension of care, the opportunity to access funds to help them pay for costs associated for school, work or activities that will directly support their future goals.



The funds can be used to support high school completion, accessing post-secondary education, training, and developing special talents and skills. If you have a student in mind that may benefit from this opportunity, please contact Candace Donaldson at candaced@northernauthority.ca or Darlene Courchene at darlenec@northernauthority.ca. Agencies will be required to submit a one-page letter of request along with a detailed budget to the Northern Authority on or before February 28th, 2017.

Requests will be considered on a first come first serve basis and a decision will be made prior to March 31st, 2017.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The **Advancing Futures Bursary** is being offered to former youth in care and/or youth in extensions of care (age 18-30) who are attending post secondary education on a full or part time basis. The bursary, which is coordinated through the Building Futures program, is intended to assist individuals with education costs to support their training and employment pathway.

Bursaries will be awarded on demonstrated financial need up to a maximum of \$10,000 based on course load. The application and FAQ is available in the "News and Events" section of the Northern Authority website at <http://www.northernauthority.ca/>. Please help share this information with your colleagues, collaterals, community members and anyone who can help reach as many of our current and former youth in care who may benefit from this opportunity. For more information about the Advancing Futures Bursary or for assistance in completing the application please call: John Finkbiner from Building Futures at 204.982.6126 or Charity Leonard from Youth Employment Services at 204.987.8661 Ext. 671.

The deadline for completed applications is February 24th, 2017 by no later than 4:30pm!

Process to Create a New Agency Funding Model

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) has re-established the Funding Model Working Group (FMWG). The purpose of the FMWG is to document gaps and deficiencies in the current funding models, conduct a needs assessment to identify funding needs and explore alternative models and recommend a new funding model. The 13-member FMWG has representatives from INAC, Manitoba Families, Northern Authority, Southern Authority, First Nation CFS agencies as well as AMC, MKO and SCO.

The FMWG contracted University of Manitoba Professor John Loxley to assist in this work. Professor Loxley has significant experience in completing research into the funding of First Nations child and family services and is an expert witness on behalf of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada in its case before the Canadian Human Rights Commission on the underfunding of services to First Nations.

An update is expected to be provided at the March 14-16, 2017 North South Gathering with the final report expected by August 31st, 2017.

Calendar

February 20	Louis Riel Day
February 24	Aboriginal Justice Awareness Day
Feb 28-Mar 3	OCNCFS Family Find Boot Camp Training, Kikiwak
March 13	Agency Relations
March 14-16	6 th Annual North South Gathering—South Beach, Brokenhead
April 30	Deadline to submit annual Strategic Service Plan (SSP)
May 30-31	Child Abuse Coordinator's Conference –Viscount Gort, Winnipeg
July 5-6	Northern Authority Family Enhancement Conference entitled "Restoring Relations"- Thompson, MB

*You don't have to be perfect
to be amazing!*