



2006/07 – Key Changes

British Columbia Student Assistance Program

Withdrawal and Unsuccessful Completion Policy

Withdrawals and unsuccessful terms will be counted separately. Students will be allowed two withdrawals, or unsuccessful terms of up to 68 weeks, before being declared ineligible for further funding from the B.C. Student Assistance Program. See Chapter 7, page 133 of the policies and procedures manual.

Lifetime B.C. Student Loan Limit Increase

The lifetime limit for B.C. student loans will increase to \$50,000 from \$35,000. This is to recognize the elimination of the B.C. grant program. Limits under the old policy included only B.C. student loans and did not include grants. Current tracking includes all B.C. student loans, even if the debt is reduced through the B.C. Loan Reduction Program. Students who have reached the limit under the old policy will have a restriction in place that will carry forward. Students have the option to appeal.

Increase to Weekly Loan Limit for Students with Dependants

The weekly B.C. loan limit for students with dependants will increase by \$30. Total funding available to students with dependants will be \$510 per week. This weekly amount includes Canada Student Loan, British Columbia Student Loan and Canada Study Grant.

Paper Confirmation of Enrolment Changes

Paper confirmation of enrolment forms will be sent to the school rather than the student, except for international students.

Master Student Loan Agreement

The B.C. Student Assistance Program is moving to a once-only student loan agreement from the current once-per-application agreement now in place. This means students will only have to process the agreement through the post office once. When the student's enrolment has been confirmed by the school, the B.C.

Student Loan Service Bureau will electronically deposit the student's B.C. student loan funding into his or her account.

Millennium Access Bursary Distribution Changes

Millennium Access Bursary cheques will be issued by the Student Services Branch, rather than coming directly from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Revised Canada Student Loan document

The Canada Student Loan Program has revised its loan certificate and loan agreement forms. Schools will be able to redirect Canada Access Grant funding to cover students' tuition costs.

Allowable Breaks

The policy that states no breaks can exceed two weeks will be amended to allow a three- week break at the end of the calendar year. Parents' social insurance numbers will be verified at the time of application.

New Scholarship - Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Program

The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Program was established for students who, after completing two years at a B.C. public college, university college or institute, must transfer to another public post-secondary institution to complete their degree. Up to 150 scholarships worth \$5,000 each will be awarded annually.

Premier's Excellence Awards Program – Increase to Scholarships

The scholarships for the Premier's Excellence Award program have been increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000. This is the first increase since the program was created in 1986.

Nurse Practitioners Now Eligible for B.C. Loan Forgiveness Program

Legislation has recently been passed to allow nurse practitioners to practise in B.C. The provincial government has expanded its Loan Forgiveness Program to include nurse practitioners. This will encourage nurse practitioners to work in publicly funded health-care facilities in underserved communities in the province and have their B.C. student loans paid off over three years.

Queen Elizabeth II British Columbia Centennial Scholarship Program – Increase to Scholarships

British Columbia's highest scholarship for post-secondary students has been increased to \$60,000 from \$20,000.

Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework

Chapter 2 of the policies and procedures manual has been re-written to reflect the Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework. The framework lays out common elements to be applied in all jurisdictions for the designation of post-

British Columbia Student Assistance Program Policy and Procedure

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secondary educational institutions for students to be eligible for government student financial assistance. This is intended to ensure provinces work with educational institutions with the common goal of enhanced student success. The framework describes key indicators that will be monitored by provincial jurisdictions. These indicators include student performance (e.g., completion/graduation data, withdrawal data, employment data), institution performance (e.g., administrative compliance) and portfolio performance (e.g., repayment data and default data). One objective of the framework is to improve accountability to students and taxpayers through the stewardship of the government student loan portfolio. Providing schools with student loan performance information is an obligation of the framework. Schools will be sent a letter in fall 2006 with information on the performance of the B.C. Student Loan portfolio, and the repayment and default rate for students who last borrowed while attending their school. Refer to Chapter 2 for further information.