

Manitoba Student Aid

**Annual Report
2015-2016**

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**MINISTER
OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Room 168
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

Her Honour the Honourable Janice Filmon, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Room 235 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting for the information of Your Honour the Annual Report of Manitoba Student Aid for the program year ending July 31, 2016. This report contains program information from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Honourable Ian Wishart





**BUREAU DU MINISTRE
ÉDUCATION ET FORMATION**

Bureau 168
Palais législatif
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 0V8
CANADA

Son Honneur l'honorable Janice Filmon, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant-gouverneure du Manitoba
Palais législatif, bureau 235
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 0V8

Votre Honneur,

J'ai le privilège de présenter à Votre Honneur, à titre d'information, le rapport annuel de l'Aide aux étudiants du Manitoba pour l'exercice qui s'est terminé le 31 juillet 2016. Ce rapport contient des renseignements sur les programmes de cette direction pour la période du 1^{er} août 2015 au 31 juillet 2016.

Veillez agréer, Votre Honneur, l'expression de mes meilleurs sentiments.

Le ministre,

Original signé par

Ian Wishart



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Introduction

Manitoba Student Aid is committed to ensuring that students in our province have the opportunity to develop their educational potential and prepare themselves for emerging opportunities in Manitoba and around the world. In order to achieve this, Manitoba Student Aid's mandate is to improve accessibility of post-secondary education by providing student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships and other awards to eligible Manitobans experiencing financial barriers. Assistance is based on an assessment of financial need which compares students' allowable education and living costs with their available resources.

Manitoba Student Aid is also responsible for the administration of the Canada Student Loans Program within Manitoba, as well as the designation of educational institutions and programs for student aid purposes.

Background

Manitoba Student Aid was created in the 1960s with funding provided largely in the form of grants. In 1993/1994, changes to the Canada Student Loans Program cost-sharing arrangements necessitated a shift to primarily loan assistance. Loans were administered by banks and credit unions under risk-shared or guaranteed loan arrangements.

Nationally, student loan financing changed as a result of the federal government's August 2000 move to direct financing of Canada Student Loans. Effective August 1, 2001, Manitoba began to direct-finance Manitoba Student Loans, thereby offering students one point of contact for all of their Manitoba Student Loan needs – from application through to repayment.

The authority of Manitoba Student Aid is provided through *The Manitoba Student Aid Act* (enacted July 2001) and its attendant Regulations. This Act demonstrates the Province's investment in education by facilitating better accessibility to post-secondary education for Manitoba students.

This report presents details of the 2015/2016 program year (August 1 to July 31).

Organization and Administration

Program Year Activities

During this past program year, August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016, Manitoba Student Aid (MSA) managed an existing loan portfolio of approximately \$123.0 million, involving approximately 30,920 students. 15,325 full-time applications were received for student loans, grants, and bursaries, whereas 822 applications were received for Canada Student Loans for part-time students.

Of the total financial assistance provided by MSA in the 2015/2016 program year, approximately \$33.4 million were new loans distributed to approximately 9,400 Manitoba Student Loan recipients. Additionally, MSA managed the loan administration for new and existing loans, including annual expenditures of approximately \$6.0 million for grant portion of interest free loans, Provision for Loss, interest subsidies and previous Risk Premiums with the national banks.

The Branch also administered medical grants on behalf of Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living. In the 2015/2016 program year, 217 applicants were approved for a total of \$4.0 million in conditional grants for the Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program (MSRFAP). MSA's Medical Grants unit monitored approximately 1,709 previously issued grants worth approximately \$32.45 million to ensure continued program compliance.

The Branch also provides an important role by monitoring designated Manitoba institutions for student repayment rates and compliance to MSA's Memorandum of Understanding criteria. Furthermore, the Branch designates private and public institutions for student financial assistance according to the Pan-Canadian Designation Framework at the local, national and international level. As of July 31, 2016, 55 institutions and training providers located in Manitoba received or maintained their designation status. Of the 55, 8 were public institutions, 26 were private vocational institutions, 16 were trainers not registered under *The Private Vocational Institutions Act*, and 5 were institutions affiliated with a religious organization.

In a continued effort to relieve student debt levels for those experiencing difficulty paying back their Manitoba Student Loans, MSA maintained its' management of the annual \$0.4 million Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) in the 2015/2016 program year. Through the administration of the RAP, the Branch monitored approximately 19,653 students in repayment of their direct-financed Manitoba Student Loans to ensure compliance with repayment obligations outlined in the Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement.

In order to provide the best possible customer service to Manitoba students, support is provided in person in both Winnipeg and Brandon. MSA support staff responded to approximately 37,894 requests for information and assistance over the telephone during the 2015/2016 program year, as well as responded to approximately 3,177 emails (out-of-province students and Manitoba Government Inquiry). Additionally, MSA's Student Advisors counsel post-secondary students who may have student aid concerns resulting from financial, academic or personal issues throughout the year. The MSA Inquiry unit provides program information to students, support administrators of post-secondary institutions, and work with other stakeholders and service providers to assist post-secondary clients.

Manitoba Student Aid Programs

Summary of Loans, Awards, and Benefits 2015/2016

Full-time Students	Number of Students	Total Awards (\$)	Average (\$)
Loans			
Canada Student Loans Authorized	10,270	47,298,377	4,605
Manitoba Student Loans Authorized	10,332	34,743,656	3,363
Provincial Bursary Awards			
Prince of Wales/Princess Anne Awards	1,306	326,500	250
Rural Northern Bursary	1,270	713,700	562
Student Success Grant	403	767,523	1,905
Access Bursary	222	1,889,071	8,509
Canada Student Grants for Full-time Students			
Low Income	5,456	10,762,375	1,973
Middle Income	1,935	1,521,175	786
Low Income with Permanent Disabilities	462	901,000	1,950
Low Income with Dependants	1,201	3,196,375	2,661
Disabilities Equipment and Supplies	167	479,055	2,869
Debt Reduction Benefits			
Manitoba Bursary	3,509	9,801,813	2,793
Other Awards			
Medical Student/Residential Financial Assistance Program	217	4,039,000	18,613
Aboriginal Medical Student Financial Assistance Program	23	161,000	7,000
Nurse Practitioner Education Grant	17	170,000	10,000
Part-time Students			
Loans			
Canada Student Loans Authorized	454	1,586,854	3,495
Canada Student Grants for Part-time Students			
Students with Dependants	38	51,280	1,349
Students with Permanent Disabilities	28	52,200	1,864
Part-time Students	394	451,911	1,147
Disability Equipment and Supplies	9	20,154	2,239

While the listed medical grants are managed within Manitoba Student Aid, the other listed grants or awards are externally managed. Manitoba Student Aid maintains partnership agreements with distributors of each of these programs and contributes a set amount.

Program	Total Contribution (\$)
Large Animal Veterinary Program	50,000
Fly Higher Aboriginal Education Awards	150,000
Helen Betty Osborne Foundation Awards	15,000
Graduate Scholarships	2,300,000
Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative (MSBI)	4,800,000
Career Trek	160,000

Repayable Assistance: Full-time Students

Canada Student Loans provides 60 percent of a student's assessed need, up to a maximum of \$210 per week of study (\$7,140 for a 34-week university program). The loan is interest free while the student is in full-time studies and becomes repayable six months after the program ends. Interest on Canada Student Loans begins when the student has completed or has withdrawn from their studies.

Manitoba Student Loans provides 40 percent of a student's assessed need, up to a maximum of \$140 per week of study (\$4,760 for a 34-week university program). These loans are also interest free while the student is in full-time studies. Repayment is not required until six months after the program ends. Effective August 1, 2015 Manitoba Student Loans became interest free during this six-month period and for the remainder of the amortization period.

Non-Repayable Assistance: Full-time Students

Access Bursary: a provincial bursary for full-time students who are funded through the Access Program. Eligible students receive 60 percent of their assessed need in the Canada Student Loan, up to a maximum of \$210 per week of study. They receive the balance of their assessed financial need in Access Bursary. Access Bursaries are targeted to high-need and under-represented students.

Prince of Wales/Princess Anne Awards: a \$250 annual provincial grant for Canadian Indigenous students studying full-time in Canada.

Rural/Northern Bursary: provides non-repayable grants of \$600 per loan year to rural and northern students who must relocate or commute more than 50km in one direction within Manitoba to study.

Student Success Grant: eligible students attending public post-secondary institutions in Manitoba may receive a provincial grant of up to \$5,000 to address unmet financial need.

Canada Student Grant for Persons from Low-income Families: Students from low-income families who meet specific grant eligibility requirements receive a \$250 federal grant per month of study, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per academic year.

Canada Student Grant for Persons from Middle-income Families: Students from middle-income families who meet specific grant eligibility requirements receive a \$100 federal grant per month of study, up to a maximum of \$1,200 per academic year.

Canada Student Grant for Persons with Dependants: Under this program, eligible low-income students with dependants receive a federal grant of \$200 per month of study for each child under the age of twelve.

Canada Student Grant for Persons with Permanent Disabilities: Under this program, eligible students with permanent disabilities receive \$2,000 per academic year to help cover the costs of accommodation, tuition, and books.

Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities: Under this program, eligible students with permanent disabilities may receive up to \$8,000 per academic year to cover exceptional education-related costs.

Assistance for Part-time Students

Canada Student Loans for Part-time Students: Up to \$10,000 in loan is available to students taking between 20 percent and 59 percent of a full course load (20 percent to 39 percent of a full course load for students with a permanent disability) in a program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree. Though interest accumulates on this loan, no payments are required while the student is in studies.

Canada Student Grant for Part-time Studies: Under this program, eligible part-time students from low-income families may receive \$1,200 per year in federal grant.

Canada Student Grant for Part-time Students with Dependants: Under this program, eligible part-time students with up to two children under the age of twelve receive \$40 per week of study; students with three or more children under the age of twelve receive \$60 per week of study, to a maximum of \$1,920 per academic year in federal grant.

Canada Student Grant for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (Part-time): Under this program, eligible students with permanent disabilities receive \$2,000 per academic year to help cover the costs of accommodation, tuition, and books.

Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (Part-time): Under this program, eligible students with permanent disabilities may receive up to \$8,000 per academic year to cover exceptional education-related costs.

Measures to Reduce Student Loan Debt

Manitoba Bursary: This provincial loan remission program aims to increase the affordability of post-secondary education for Manitoba students by reducing debt levels.

Measures to Assist Borrowers in Repayment

Repayment Assistance Plan

The Repayment Assistance Plan provides relief to borrowers who are having difficulty paying back their student loan debt by allowing them to pay back what they can reasonably afford instead of the normal required payment amount.

Repayment Assistance Plan Stage 1: During this phase, a borrower's affordable payment is applied toward the loan principal first, and any interest not covered by the monthly affordable payment is paid for by Manitoba. In RAP Stage 1, a borrower's monthly affordable payment can be as low as \$0 per month.

Repayment Assistance Plan Stage 2: If repayment difficulties persist for more than five years, Manitoba begins to forgive the principal and interest not covered by the borrower's affordable payment, ensuring that no debt remains after a fifteen year repayment period.

Repayment Assistance Plan-Permanent Disability: RAP for Persons with a Disability (RAP-PD) is similar to RAP Stage 2 in that the principal and interest not covered by the borrower's affordable payment is forgiven by Manitoba. Unlike RAP Stage 2, RAP-PD also considers additional disability-related expenses in the calculation of the borrower's affordable payment.

Grants and Other Assistance

Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program: Provides return-of-service grants to students studying medicine in Manitoba and to Manitoba students taking medical studies in French at the University of Ottawa. In 2015/2016, \$4.0 million was distributed to 217 eligible students through MSRFAP.

Aboriginal Medical Student Financial Assistance Program: Provides return-of-service grants of \$7,000 per program year to eligible Indigenous medical students. In 2015/2016, \$161,000 was distributed to 23 students through AMSFAP.

Nurse Practitioner Education Grant: Provides a \$10,000 grant to nurse practitioner students who provide a year of service in a rural community. In 2015/2016, \$170,000 was distributed to 17 students through NPEG.

Fly Higher Aboriginal Education Awards: Manitoba Student Aid, along with the Business Council of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, have partnered to support these awards. Manitoba Student Aid contributes \$150,000 annually for these awards. In 2015/2016, a total of 97 students received an award.

Graduate Scholarships: These scholarships are awarded to Masters and Doctoral students at the University of Manitoba, The University of Winnipeg, and Brandon University. Funding for this program totaled \$2.25 million in 2015/2016.

Career Trek: This program educates students and their parents about the importance and the accessibility of post-secondary education in Manitoba. The province provided \$160,000 for the program in 2015/2016.

Large Animal Veterinary Program: This program provides \$5,000 return-of-service grants each year for third and fourth-year large animal veterinary students (10 grants available per year). Manitoba Agriculture administers the grant. The province provided \$15,000 for the program in 2015/2016.

Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative: The program matches funds for private donations made to Manitoba's seven public universities and colleges, the University of Manitoba Students' Union and the Business Council of Manitoba. The \$4.8 million allocated in 2015/2016 was distributed according to a formula based on enrollment.

Helen Betty Osborne Foundation Awards: These awards are administered by the Helen Betty Osborne Foundation, and provide access and assistance to Indigenous students to help them pursue and complete post-secondary studies. In 2015/2016, MSA provided \$15,000 to the Foundation.

Financial Information

Budget 2015/2016 Fiscal Year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016)

Salaries.....	3,507.0
Other Expenditures.....	1,193.0
Loan Portfolio Administration	5,990.0
Access Bursary	2,195.0
Prince of Wales/Princess Anne Awards	211.0
Canada Study Grants.....	1,350.0
Manitoba Bursary (includes Rural/Northern Bursary, and Student Success Grants)	10,540.0
Repayment Assistance Plan	389.0
Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program.....	4,957.0
Aboriginal Medical Student Financial Assistance Program	210.0
Nurse Practitioner Education Grant.....	178.0
Graduate Scholarships.....	2,250.0
Career Trek.....	160.0
Large Animal Veterinary Program	50.0
Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative (includes Fly Higher Aboriginal Education Awards)	4,875.0
Helen Betty Osborne Foundation Awards	15.0
Tuition Fee Income Tax Rebate	5,273.0
TOTAL.....	43,343.0
Less Recoverable from Manitoba Health.....	(5,037.0)
TOTAL.....	38,306.0