



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AWARDS

*Supporting Indigenous students in post-secondary
and work integrated learning opportunities*



**BUSINESS
COUNCIL of
MANITOBA**

Manitoba 

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AWARDS

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Business Council of Manitoba (BCM) established the Indigenous Education Awards (IEA) program in 2001 in partnership with and funded by BCM members, the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, and The Winnipeg Foundation. The award provides Indigenous students attending university or college in Manitoba with **\$3,000** to finance their tuition, academic costs, or alleviate other financial burdens throughout the academic year.

The BCM members founded the IEA and have been funding the program ever since. The BCM and its members believe that education is a fundamental right and crucial for personal growth. Education empowers individuals to achieve success and become leaders in their fields and communities.

WHO QUALIFIES

Students who are of Indigenous ancestry are eligible to apply for the Indigenous Education Award if they meet the following criteria:

- ✦ You are a citizen of Canada and permanent resident of Manitoba, having resided in Manitoba for the last 12 months.
- ✦ You are already or plan to attend one of the recognized post-secondary educational institutions in Manitoba in any field of study. Please visit our website to see the list of universities and colleges.
- ✦ You plan to maintain a full-time minimum course load of 60%.
- ✦ You are in need of financial assistance.

If you have funding from other sources, like band funding, you can still apply for the Award to cover additional costs. We encourage students planning to enroll in a post-secondary program or register for classes next year, including grade twelve students, to apply. You're eligible even if you haven't enrolled yet.



APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31

Scan to apply for the IEA or visit our website at
businesscouncil.mb.ca/online-application/



WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING

Over the past two decades, we have identified a critical gap in the IEA program, particularly regarding our commitment to economic reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 92.ii, whibusiness and reconciliation. While we have provided educational opportunities through the IEA, we recognized that we lacked the component of creating equal employment opportunities.

A 2021 review of the IEA conducted by the University of Winnipeg found that Indigenous students who received the IEA were 3.6 times more likely to graduate from post-secondary education. However, the review also identified a need for better support in transitioning to employment after graduation.



In 2023, the BCM launched the Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) program to connect IEA and other Indigenous students with work placement and employment opportunities in the province.

Representing over 100 leading businesses across various industries, the BCM created the WIL program to leverage our member network to bridge the gap between post-secondary education and career opportunities. This initiative provides students with pathways to explore diverse career options that align with their academic interests. The WIL program offers a chance to secure paid summer employment while broadening students' understanding of career options and expanding their professional networks.

The BCM is committed to being allies in reconciliation. Through the IEA and WIL programs, we will continue supporting Indigenous students with financial aid for education and securing employment as they define and pursue their future careers.



PARTNERSHIPS

SOUTHERN CHIEFS ORGANIZATION

Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), Business Council of Manitoba (BCM), and Province of Manitoba are partnering through the IEA beginning in 2025 for students pursuing careers in the health care field. Each year, up to 30 awards of \$3,000 each will be awarded to recipients from SCO member Nations across a range of careers related to health care. Click [here](#) for more information on the collaboration.



WORK IN MANITOBA JOB PORTAL

BCM has partnered with Economic Development Winnipeg to utilize their Work In Manitoba job portal to support Indigenous students and graduates in finding their dream job in Manitoba.

The job portal has 1,700 Manitoba employers looking for employees in various industries and levels of preparedness. The portal is free and easy to use! Click [here](#) or visit workinmanitoba.ca to learn more and create your profile.



PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

The Government of Manitoba has been a partner of the IEA since its inception. During the 2023 IEA Celebration and Job Fair, Premier Wab Kinew committed to matching IEA donations dollar for dollar. In the March 2024 budget, this pledge was fulfilled with increased funding, allowing us to double contributions from our BCM members and increase the number of IEA recipients.



WHERE TO FIND US

WEBSITE

Learn more about the IEA and WIL programs, BCM membership, and application process at businesscouncil.mb.ca.



EMAIL

If you have any questions regarding IEA or WIL please email at bcmawards@businesscouncil.mb.ca.

TEXT OR CALL

Text or call us at 204-942-3637.

INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram @bcmawards to stay up to date on upcoming events, job postings, and giveaways.

FACEBOOK GROUP

Join our Facebook group to stay up to date on upcoming events, job postings, and giveaways.

facebook.com/Indigenouseducationawards

