

TOM FINNIE INDIGENOUS TRADES BURSARY

GUIDE

ABOUT MDS

M'akola Development Services (MDS) is a professional development consulting firm committed to supporting vibrant, diverse communities in British Columbia. Our clients span the entire province, and our work involves planning, developing, and operating high-density, multi-family affordable housing projects for public, private, and non-profit clients. MDS is the partner organization of M'akola Housing Society.

ABOUT TOM FINNIE

This bursary is in memory of Tom Finnie, who was a former board member of M'akola. Tom was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His life was one of total service to his country via the Navy. Every community he lived in was enriched by his presence; each life he touched made better because he cared and let them know they were special.

He was a tireless worker in many organizations throughout his life, including being a trades person. He supported all sports and was a senior game swimmer. He taught cultural activities with School District 71. He travelled as far as Manitoba, teaching drum making, hunting, fishing, and survival.

In recognition of Tom's commitment to his community and the communities served by the M'akola, the organization established an annual Tom Finnie Indigenous Trades Bursary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONS

Six bursaries will be awarded over **six regions** to Indigenous students enrolled in a trades program. Each bursary will be in the amount of **\$2,500**.

- REGIONS**
- FRASER VALLEY
 - KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY
 - METRO
 - VANCOUVER ISLAND
 - NORTHERN
 - THOMPSON-OKANAGAN



WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- Students Indigenous to Canada living in British Columbia
- Applicants of any age
- New or continuing students accepted into a trades program

Demonstrated financial need, as well as life experiences, challenges, and triumphs will be taken into consideration.

BURSARY DETAILS

- **What qualifies as a Trade?** A skilled trade is a career path or occupation requiring hands-on work with specialty knowledge. Each skilled trade has a process for getting a certified.
- **Does enrollment in a Trades/Dual Credit Program qualify students for the M'akola Bursary?** Yes, students who are enrolled in a Trades/Dual Credit program do qualify and should apply!
- **If it is a Multi-Year/Term Program can students apply for the future Year/Term? Or if they have already enrolled, could they retroactively apply for the M'akola Bursary?** The program is intended for future use only and can be applied towards a new enrollment or the next year of a multi-year course.
- **If a student is successful in securing a M'akola Bursary from us, and are in a multi-year program, can they reapply for each year?** Winners of M'akola Bursaries may only apply once.
- **If a student was unsuccessful in securing a M'akola Bursary, can they reapply?** Yes, all students who have yet to obtain a M'akola Bursary are encouraged to apply again.

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

Please ensure you include all the following when applying. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- ☐ Completed Application Form
- ☐ Cover Letter, describing the following:
 - Your future plans and how your chosen course/program will support them.
 - Why you feel you are a potential candidate for this award, highlighting examples of your commitment to your community.
 - Your experience as an Indigenous person and how that has helped shape your decision to attend school.
- ☐ Reference Letter
 - From school counselor, administrator, teacher, or community member.
- ☐ Current Transcript
- ☐ Proof of Acceptance in a Trades Program
 - A copy of your class schedule, course contract, or a letter of acceptance. Your name should be clearly shown.
- ☐ Proof of BC Residency, examples:
 - BC Drivers Licence, BC Identity Card, BC Services Card, a recent BC Hydro Bill (in your name and address), or any recent BC Government issued letter (in your name and address).
- ☐ Completed Void Cheque/Direct Deposit Form
 - See the last page of this document.
 - *If a cheque is preferred, please let us know. This option will take longer to receive.*

Note: Bursaries must be claimed within 3 months of date awarded.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Obtain an application form (<http://makola.bc.ca/>, <http://makoladevelopment.com/>, or for a paper copy see the address below.
2. Complete and sign the application, and ensure you include:
 - ☐ Ensure you have attached all documents from the *Requirements to Apply* section.
3. Email (preferred), snail-mail, fax, or deliver your application in person to:

Email: awards@makoladev.com

Attention: Scholarship Committee

M'akola Development Services

107-731 Station Avenue

Victoria, BC V9B 5N6

Telephone: (778) 265-7589

Fax: (250) 590-0248

4. Once all applications have been reviewed, all applicants will be notified via email.

DEADLINE

Please submit your application by **October 23, 2026**. Any applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to reapply the following year, if appropriate.



TOM FINNIE INDIGENOUS TRADES BURSARY

APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Birthdate: _____
(Month / Day / Year)

Email: _____

Region: _____
(See Map Below)

Cell Number: _____

Alternate: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Street Address / City / Postal Code)

Name of Parent/Guardian (if Under 19): _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Number: _____

Self Identity Declaration

☐ Status – Band Affiliation: _____

☐ Non-Status

☐ Metis

☐ Inuit

☐ Not Indigenous

REGIONS

-  **FRASER VALLEY**
-  **KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY**
-  **METRO**
-  **VANCOUVER ISLAND**
-  **NORTHERN**
-  **THOMPSON-OKANAGAN**



INSTITUTION & FINANCES WHILE IN SCHOOL

Program Name: _____

Institution: _____

Length of Program: _____

☐ Full-Time ☐ Part-Time

Monthly Incoming during course: _____

Monthly Rent/Mortgage: _____

Source of Income: _____

Cost of Entire Program: _____

List any additional costs that may be associated with your program:

PREVIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

School Name: _____

City: _____

Current Grade/Year: _____

Graduation Year & Month: _____

List of courses taken this school year (if applicable):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

FINANCIAL

Explain any financial barriers to attending school:

How many children under 19 are in your home, including yourself if applicable? _____

Do you have dependents? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you from a single parent/single income earning household? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you secured any funding for the upcoming enrollment period from other sources? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(i.e., band funding or scholarships?)

If yes, what is the amount of funding you have secured? _____

PERSONAL/FAMILY

What challenges have you faced, or will you face, in your decision to pursue trades school?

Are you the first person in your family to attend post-secondary education? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you identify as a person with a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide details: _____

Are you a current or former M'akola Housing Society tenant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, are you a current or former tenant of another affordable housing provider? ☐ Yes ☐ No

RELOCATING

Do you have to move to a new city/community to attend school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how far is the distance? _____

What are some challenges financial or personal for relocating?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/INFORMATION

List any relevant community involvement you have had in the last three years (e.g., organizations, clubs, teams, or social events). You can include work experience/jobs or volunteer work you have had.

What plans do you have when you finish this trades program?

How do you hope to change your life, your family's life, or your community?

Give an example of an Indigenous person who had a positive influence on your life and explain why.

CLOSURE

It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure their application is complete, and that all required information, documents, and letters are enclosed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A reminder to use the checklist in the *Requirements to Apply* section to confirm.

Please note that recipients receive funds upon formal acceptance at a post-secondary institution.

By signing below, I understand if I am a recipient of this award, my name will be on the M'akola website for one year.

Signature of Applicant

Date



DIRECT DEPOSIT ENROLLMENT FORM

M'akola Development Services has switched from cheques to direct deposit for scholarship and bursary recipients. All direct deposit payments will be accompanied by email confirmation and an electronic cheque stub.

Please complete steps 1-4, below, **and** be sure to include:

- A Void Cheque or Direct Deposit Form, from your bank
- The email address you wish to have payment confirmations sent to.

For any questions regarding the completion of this form, please email awards@makoladev.com.

All information supplied on this form is kept confidential and does not permit M'akola Development Services access to other banking information or accounts for any purpose other than making deposits.

1. Complete table below **(Please Print Clearly)**:

Name:	
Address:	
Email Address for Payment Notification:	
Name of Bank:	
Bank Address:	

2. Attach a void cheque or direct deposit form from your bank.

3. Signature:

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Date

4. Please forward this form to awards@makoladev.com