



OVER \$1 MILLION RELIEF FOR NUNAVUT INUIT STUDENTS

(June 5, 2020 – Iqaluit, Nunavut) Over one million dollars has been allocated by the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) Board to addressing the critical needs of Inuit students in response to Coronavirus Pandemic.

The funds combine the Mastercard Foundation contribution and the Government of Canada's Inuit Post-Secondary Education contribution. Funds have been allocated to the Regional Inuit Associations and Kakivak Association as follows:

Kitikmeot Inuit Association, combined	\$248,646.95
Kivalliq Inuit Association, combined	\$341,957.08
Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Mastercard Foundation	\$227,257.77
Kakivak Association, Inuit Post-Secondary Education	\$263,055.17
Total	\$1,080,916.90

Student needs will be addressed with regional considerations and will include:

- Connectivity barriers (such as home internet, laptops and online learning tools)
- Emergency funds for students in transition (such as tools to help graduating students qualify for postsecondary programs)
- Expanding online supports (such as tutoring, mental health services)
- Monitoring the evolving impacts of COVID-19 on Inuit communities and students

“The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the need to accelerate training and development for a local, representative workforce. It is my sincere hope that the legacy of the pandemic in Nunavut is a stronger, local, representative Inuit workforce in all sectors,” said Aluki Kotierk, President of NTI. “I want to encourage Nunavut Inuit to continue on with your studies during this time so that you can take your rightful place in our economy. I believe in you.”

“I wish to acknowledge Inuit Tapariit Kanatami for advocating for Inuit post-secondary education and thank the Mastercard Foundation and the Government of Canada for their investments,” said James Eetoolook, Vice-President of NTI.

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Backgrounder

On April 22, 2020, the Mastercard Foundation and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) announced a partnership of \$1 million to address the critical needs of Inuit students across Canada in response to the pandemic. Of this total, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was allocated \$501,000.

Through Budget 2019, the Government of Canada committed to investing \$125.5 million over 10 years and \$21.8 million per year ongoing for an Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy. The ITK Board met in December and approved a funding formula. For the first year, Nunavut was allocated \$579,917 comprised of: indirect student support in the amount of \$434,938; and community engagement in the amount of \$144,979.

NTI's Department of Social and Cultural Development sits on the National Inuit Committee on Education (NICE). Inuit Post Secondary Education (Inuit PSE) is a sub-committee to the NICE. Regional Inuit Associations and the NTI Department of Inuit Training participate in the Inuit PSE teleconference(s) which include the objectives of: increased overall access by Inuit to Post-Secondary programs; and strengthened student funding programs.

Overall funding is split by the Inuit PSE Strategy's four components:

- direct student support (75%)
- community engagement (5%)
- indirect student support (15%) and
- national coordination (5%)