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BIGSTONE CREE NATION 2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

PART A – Information About You

Date: January 11, 2026

The following information is essential for approval and for BCN Trust Administration to contact you.

Project Director: Chester Auger

Treaty No. [REDACTED]

Address: Box 870

City/Town: Wabasca

Province: Alberta

Postal Code: T0G2K0

Telephone Number: 780-891-3825

Cellular Phone: 7 8 0 - 8 4 3 - 5 4 3 1

Fax Number: 780-891-2178

Email address: chester.auger@bigstoneeducation.ca

Which Trust classification are you applying to access funding?

(Check off only one Trust Fund category, with amount requested for that category)

Please note that all application submissions need to be in by

January 15, 2025 at 11:59 pm, no exceptions.

(It is recommended to submit all proposals 5 business days prior to deadline)

Bigstone Cree Nation Department ☐

Members at Large/Committee ☐

BCN Trust ☒ Off-Reserve Members ☒ Calling Lake ☐ Chipewyan Lake ☐ Wabasca/Desmarais ☒

Team Member	Position on Team	Roles and Responsibilities	Signing Authority
Chester Auger	Chief Executive Officer	Sign, Review and Approve	X
Doreen Calliou	Chief of Operations	Sign, Review and Approve	X
Lena Auger	Chief Financial Officer	Sign, Review and Approve	X
			☐

Part B – Information About Your Project

IMPORTANT

Executive Summary

Title of your proposal: Bigstone Education Authority – Post Secondary Graduation Celebrations

Project Start Date: July 2026

Expected end date: July 2026



BIGSTONE CREE NATION

2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Executive Summary

The Bigstone Education Authority (BEA) is formally requesting support from the Bigstone Trust Fund to host the 2026 Post-Secondary Graduation Celebration. This annual event serves as a vital platform to honor the academic excellence of Bigstone Cree Nation members and to reinforce a culture of lifelong learning within our community.

By celebrating our projected **35 graduates** with a formal banquet, we aim to instill a profound sense of pride and achievement in our alumni. Furthermore, this public recognition acts as a powerful catalyst, inspiring other community members to pursue their own post-secondary journeys. A highlight of the evening will include the presentation of traditional beaded graduation caps by community dignitaries and BCNEA, symbolizing the intersection of academic success and cultural identity.

Description

This event is more than a ceremony; it is a moment for the Bigstone Cree Nation to come together in pride. For our expected graduates, receiving a beaded graduation cap from our dignitaries represents the culmination of years of effort. By celebrating these successes publicly, we hope to spark a flame of ambition in future generations, proving that post-secondary success is within reach for every member of our community.

Goals of Your Proposal

The overall goal of our BCN Post-secondary graduation celebration is to empower Bigstone Cree Nation graduates by celebrating their transition from students to professionals, strengthening their bond to the community through traditional recognition, and reinforcing the Authority's commitment to education as a pillar of sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

Graduation date has been booked for July 11, 2026 in Edmonton, Alberta where is a central to all our students for travel.

Target Timelines and outcomes for each Quarter (provide a summary):

July-September

Contacting potential graduates for confirmation of completion of program.

October-December

Purchasing graduation caps for beading.

January-March

Finalizing graduation list

April-June

Payments to venue, menu submissions and finalization of bookings and invitations.



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July

Event to be taking place at River Cree Resort.

Evaluation Plan:

The graduation ceremony is a profoundly significant milestone for BCN students, serving as a formal recognition of their perseverance over systemic barriers. Given the painful history of residential schools and the ongoing colonial challenges within the Canadian educational landscape, achieving post-secondary success is a monumental feat. The Bigstone Education Authority (BCNEA) takes immense pride in our students who have successfully navigated these hurdles to earn credentials at every level—from diplomas and degrees to masters and doctorates. We seek to host this celebration to honor their academic excellence and acknowledge the extraordinary resilience required to reach their goals.

List the resources needed for the project:

Bigstone Education Authority has two Post Secondary officers that will fully plan the event, menu selections and guest list finalization.

Project End Evaluation by the Administrator:

Indicate below which category your proposal request fall under:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Community Development ** | X |
| • Health Care | ☐ |
| • Education and Training | X |
| • Elder Care | ☐ |
| • Infrastructure improvement | ☐ |
| • Preserving culture and language | X |
| • Community activities | ☐ |
| • Economic development | X |
| • Cultural enrichment | X |
| • Protection of aboriginal identity and Treaty Right | X |

**If you have chosen *Community Development*, which additional categories does your proposal request fall under?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Improve health and well-being (emotional, physical, mental, spiritual) | X |
| • Benefits from improving awareness of culture, traditions, identity | X |
| • Networking-building relationships with the community and outside the community | X |
| • Creating temporary jobs | ☐ |
| • Occupational training and development of infrastructure | ☐ |



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- Opportunity for creating greater economic independence

X

What research and/or studies have you/your team completed to determine the requirements of membership or the community, that this proposal will provide?

As stated above, there has been a large influx of applications for post-secondary funding which increases every year with the addition of newly graduated grade 12 students. With the Indigenous Services Canada post-secondary guidelines as our tool, Bigstone Education Authority strive to fund those applicants with complete applications do fit within the ISC guidelines. Due to underfunding by the federal government, the post-secondary budget is in deficit. This is due to

Projected Budget

How much money are you/your team requesting with this proposal? \$60,000.00

Have you included a Cash Flow budget?

Yes X No ☐

If you checked off "no" please explain why you didn't submit a Cash Flow budget?

BCNEA Graduation Celebration

Category	Estimated
Travel	\$ 17,500.00
Gifts	\$ 10,500.00
Banquet	\$ 26,000.00
Keynote Speaker	\$ 2,000.00
Graduation Plaque	\$ 2,000.00
Administration	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$ 60,000.00



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Have you/your team approached any other funding agencies prior to approaching BCN Trusts?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If you checked off "yes", please provide the details of the request, what amount was negotiated and what amount was approved. If the request was denied, please explain why it was denied.

Bigstone Education Authority has met with ISC on numerous occasions seeking additional PSSSP funding. Transition in the ISC Education program has eliminated the ability to request funding outside the set allocations. The Bigstone Education Authority has also approached nation partners (oil field companies) for financial requests to assist without Post Secondary shortfall however, other priorities have had impacts on funding requests and approvals to specific programs.

Is the funding request from BCN Trusts to be used with any other funding source(s) or partner(s)?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you checked off "yes", identify the funding source or partner: **Indigenous Services Canada**

What is the % breakdown of funding from other source(s) or partner(s)?

ISC 80%

Bigstone Trust Fund 20%

Quarterly Report

If you/your team do not submit the first (1st) quarterly report within the first three (3) months of starting the project and subsequent quarterly reports thereafter until the conclusion of the project, your funds may be suspended indefinitely at the phase, the delinquency had been committed.

Definition

Quarterly means every three (3) months.

Summary/Evaluation Report:

It is equally important to submit the final Summary/Evaluation report at the end of the project.

IMPORTANT to KNOW

BCN Trusts will no longer tolerate negligence, procrastination and non-compliance.



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1. The consequence for irresponsible acts of postponement, may be a "rejected proposal" by the Trustees and Chief & Council because of non-performance.
2. It is equally important to RETURN assets (property/equipment etc.) back to Bigstone Cree Nation when such items are purchased with BCN Trust funding, at the end, of the project.
3. Trust Administrator will conduct an Project End Evaluation Report.

When the Project Director undertakes to coordinate a project, it is his/her responsibility to comply with the requirements of the program and to ensure that his/her Team conforms.

BCN Trusts is responsible to Membership, the Trustees and to Chief & Council.

Kim Dillon for Chester Auger
Print Name Doreen Callion

[Signature] Jan 15, 24
Signature

Incomplete applications will not be accepted