



RECEIVED JAN 15 2026

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: 780 - 843 - 5431

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

Please note that this form is required for formal reviews of the project by the Trustees and Chief & Council and from time-to-time, Bigstone Cree Nation Members. It is also necessary if the Accountable Body is requested to make decisions that materially affect the project, including changes or modifications to the original plan. It is the responsibility of the Project Director to complete the form, assisted by the Project Team or Society/Committee.

Executive Summary

Title of your proposal: Bigstone Education Authority – Post Secondary Student SupportProject Start Date: July 2026 Expected end date: July 2027



BIGSTONE CREE NATION

2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Executive Summary

Bigstone Education Authority is seeking funding under the Bigstone Trust Fund in the amount of \$500,000. These funds will be used to offset the Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP). The PSSSP is projected to have another deficit of approximately \$4.4 Million due to the number of students who are currently being sponsored. With limited resources from Indigenous Services Canada, Bigstone Education Authority is using funding that is specific for Elementary/Secondary programs, to cover shortfalls to the PSSSP.

The Bigstone Education Authority has 185 students that are fully funded and with the recent increases to Post Secondary tuition and the rise in the cost of living, the amount needed to run a successful PSSSP needs additional funding supports. While the \$500,000 is only a partial investment to the PSSSP, any reduction in the forecasted deficit is essential.

Description

The goal of this proposed project is:

- Provide eligible Bigstone Cree Nation Members with the ability to attend Post Secondary
 - Post Secondary tuition
 - Living Allowance
- Provide continuing Post Secondary Students with ongoing PSSSP supports
- Provide sponsorship applications 3 times a year to eligible Bigstone Cree Nation Members

Overview Of Bigstone Education Authority Post Secondary Program

Level	Number of Students
UCEP	46
Diploma	45
Degree	118
Masters	15
PhD	7

Approximately 80% of our students were classified as “continuing” and were eligible for funding in **2025-2026** fiscal year and will be “continuing” in the upcoming **2026-2027**. As demonstrated in the charts above we have 57% of our students in Degree level of studies and 7% of our students enrolled in a Mater level and higher, which increases the tuition payments to the respective post-secondary institution.

The number of students being funded under the PSSSP is remarkable, and the levels of education being sought is applaudable.



BIGSTONE CREE NATION 2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

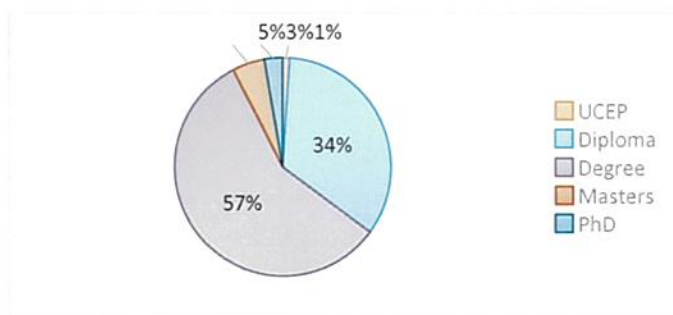
The PSSSP has historical funding amounts that have been the same for over 30 years. The amount of \$1.9 Million annually is not representative of the amount Bigstone Education Authority needs to fund our 230 students. Our forecasted expense for PSSSP is \$2,722,200 which will result in a deficit of **(\$4,428,308.62)**.

Term	Training Allowance	Tuition	Books	Other	Total
Spring 2025	\$ 407,600.00	\$52,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$ 26,000.00	
Fall 2025	\$ 1,349,600.00	\$382,600.00	\$ 166,400.00	\$ 32,200.00	
Winter 2026	\$ 1,020,600.00	\$379,750.00	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 32,200.00	
TOTAL:	\$ 2,777,800.00	\$814,850.00	\$ 351,900.00	\$ 90,400.00	\$ 4,034,950.00

Goals of Your Proposal

The primary goal is to provide our members who meet the PSSSP eligible student guidelines the opportunity to attend Post Secondary in the program of their choice that will lead to gainful employment upon completion of their respective studies.

Bigstone Cree Nation is the largest First Nation in Treaty 8 territory and we have limited PSSSP funding from Indigenous Services Canada as detailed in cash flow statement in previous section. Future planning for our community members will include our High School students. Our application will increase yearly going forward and will include our Grade 12 students ready to move into the next phase in their educational journey to Post Secondary education. The current representation of funded students provides a forecast to the need for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The amount of projected continuing students will be around 90% of our current student funded based.



All our member Nations – Calling Lake, Sandy Lake, Chipewyan Lakes and Wabasca area will have equal access and equal ability to attend a Post Secondary institution of their choice.

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



BIGSTONE CREE NATION

2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

July-September

Student application review for the Fall 2026 intake. This process will include our continuing students with additional eligible student applications.

Living allowance is issued in August in preparation for the Fall semester to begin.

October-December

Post Secondary institutions bill to Bigstone Education Authority for payment.

Living allowance is issued twice a month.

Winter applications are reviewed and approved (based on eligibility).

January-March

Living allowance is issued twice a month

Post Secondary Tuition is billed for the winter semester.

Spring application are reviewed and approved (based on eligibility)

April living allowance is issued.

April-June

Spring semester begins

Living allowance is issued twice a month

Post Secondary tuition is billed.

Evaluation Plan:

The Bigstone Education Authority team strives to achieve our goals set out for each project 100%. As each school year approaches, we look to see how we can help members of Bigstone Cree Nation achieve their post-secondary educational goals. As we are given this opportunity to provide funds to help with their educational journey, we hope that funds provided for each student provide enough support so that our members continue to strive for success within their program of choice. To measure the overall success of this proposal, we would have to look at the success rate that each student presents each semester. The overall end goal of this program is to provide financial support to as many students we can, to ensure that Bigstone Cree Nation members are supported in their education journey.

List the resources needed for the project:

Bigstone Education Authority has two Post Secondary officers that assist our students with their applications, counselling support and student transition. Every year our staff meets with the Post Secondary students and provides orientation for the upcoming semesters.



BIGSTONE CREE NATION 2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

The graduation rates have steadily increased with the allowance of funding more students. The more students that finish Post Secondary increases Bigstone Cree Nation's workforce. Reporting on graduation is provided to the Board of Directors and the Trust Program.

Project End Evaluation by the Administrator:

Indicate below which category your proposal request fall under:

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

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

- Improve health and well-being (emotional, physical, mental, spiritual) ☒
- Benefits from improving awareness of culture, traditions, identity ☒
- Networking-building relationships with the community and outside the community ☒
- Creating temporary jobs ☐
- Occupational training and development of infrastructure ☐
- Opportunity for creating greater economic independence ☒

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



BIGSTONE CREE NATION 2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

How much money are you/your team requesting with this proposal? \$500,000.00

Have you included a Cash Flow budget?

Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Funding Breakdown per student for a full Year

Tuition	\$7000.00
Books and supplies	\$2000.00
Training Allowance	\$20,000.00.
Seasonal travel	\$1400.00 (\$700.00 X 2 round trip)
TOTAL	\$30,000

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.



BIGSTONE CREE NATION

2026 TRUST PROPOSAL APPLICATION

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.

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 and Doreen Carlson


Signature

Jan 15, 26

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.