

Métis Nation of Ontario
**POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

DIRECT BENEFITS &
STUDENT SUPPORT

2019-2026

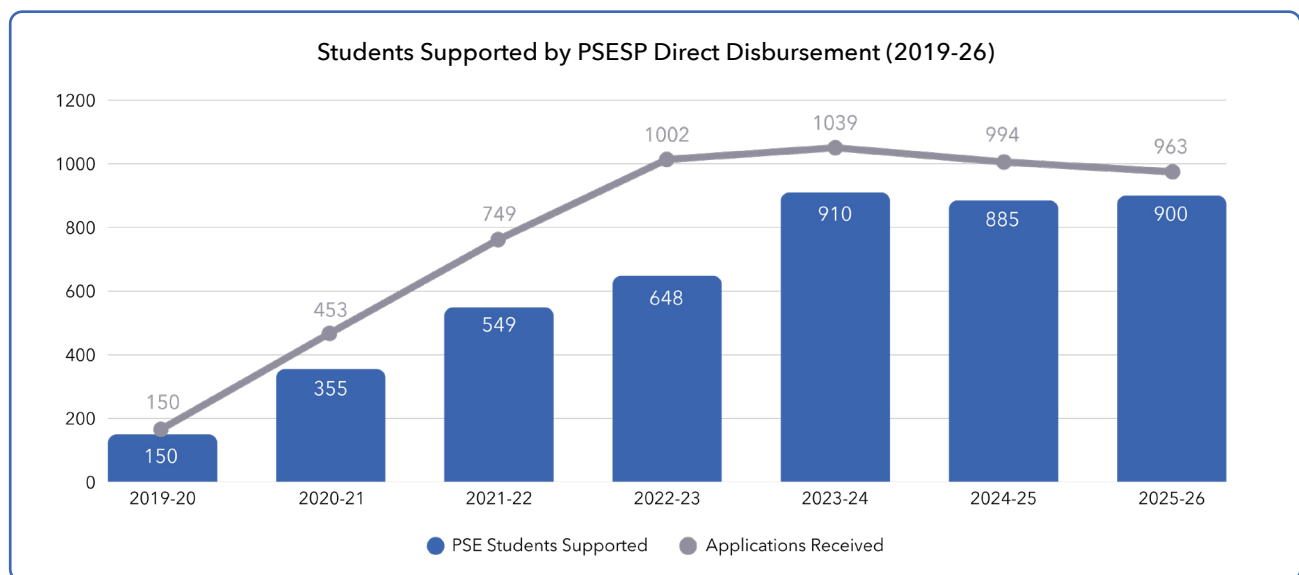
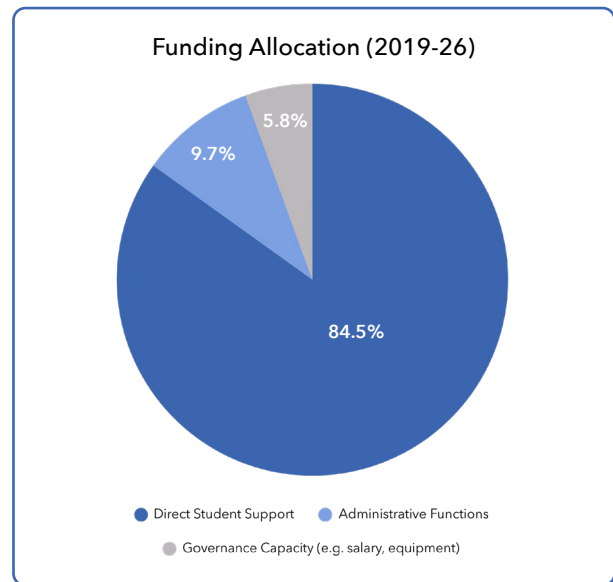
Métis Nation
of Ontario 

BACKGROUND

There is a significant gap in educational attainment between Métis students and non-Indigenous students in Canada. Beginning in 2017, the Federal Government established a series of funding commitments and agreements to address this gap and various socioeconomic challenges faced by Métis communities. In 2019, it launched the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy to deliver distinctions-based and regionally delivered strategic support and financial assistance to Métis post-secondary students across Canada.

SUPPORTING MÉTIS STUDENTS IN ONTARIO

Due to these historic commitments and existing supports from the Government of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)'s Post-Secondary Education (PSE) team developed a suite of programs and services to support and empower Métis post-secondary learners across the province. The team prioritizes direct financial aid, student transitions, cultural well-being, relationship-building with post-secondary institutions, community engagement, and research and curriculum development to drive institutional change that meets the unique needs of Métis learners. Through the Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP), the PSE team allocates **more than the required 80% of received funding** each year to direct support for Métis students, with the rest dedicated to administrative and governance functions. Since 2019, over **4300 students** have been supported. This significant allocation of funds aligns with the program's core vision of promoting Métis self-governance and facilitating continuous learning. Since 2021-22, more than **1500 applicants** have been referred to the Indigenous Skills Employment and Training Program (ISETP), which has supported Indigenous peoples in post-secondary education and seeking employment since 1996.

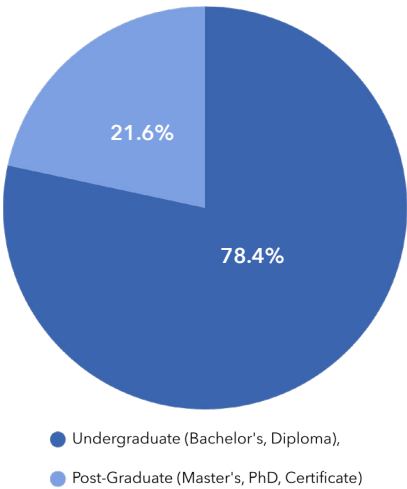


Many Métis students are compelled to travel far distances to their post-secondary institutions due to their semi-rural living environments. As such, the PSESP also provides financial support for travel costs. Since 2021-22, more than **600,000 km** have been subsidized for over **600 students**.

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

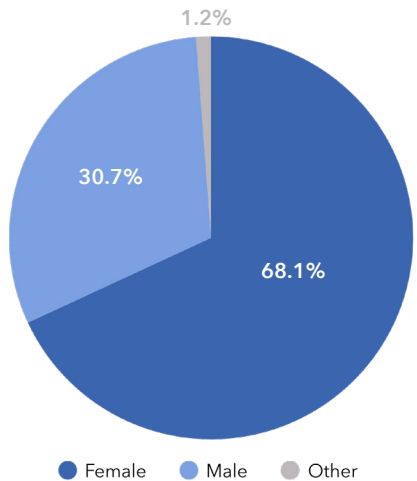
The PSESP’s success is evident in its ability to engage Métis students in a wide variety of educational pursuits. Students supported vary across different levels of education, including academic upgrading, apprenticeships, vocational and industry-recognized programs, certificates, diplomas, and advanced degrees (i.e., Bachelor’s, Master’s, Ph.D.). This diversity demonstrates that MNO PSE programs meet the needs of Métis students at various stages of their educational journey. The number of Métis students pursuing higher education, including Master’s and Ph.D. programs, is increasing, underscoring the program’s capacity to empower Métis individuals to excel in advanced academic pursuits. This progress contributes to the broader goal of enhancing Métis’ representation in higher education and promoting their contributions to knowledge and research.

Degree Attainment Breakdown (2019-26)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Student Gender Breakdown (2019-26)



Demographic data reveals several successes, indicating the MNO’s reach. Notably, many students supported through the program – an average of **69%** in 2025-26 – are the first in their families to attend post-secondary. In terms of gender, the number of female participants has increased steadily over the years, from **86** in 2019-20 to **519** in 2025-26, indicating a positive trend toward gender equity and inclusivity. The program reflects a diverse geographic representation, with students from various MNO regions and outside Ontario. Importantly, the program accommodates students with disabilities, featuring an increase in the number of students declaring disabilities in their applications. There are also many students with dependents in the program, further demonstrating the MNO’s ability to adapt available programming to meet unique needs.

Students Supported with Disabilities and Dependents (2019-26)

	2019-20:	2020-21:	2021-22:	2022-23:	2023-24:	2024-25:	2025-26:	Total:
Number of Students Who Declared Disability:	9	33	57	69	106	115	102	491
Number of Students with Dependents:	N/A	N/A	53	56	87	82	62	340

TESTIMONIALS

Included below are testimonials that students have shared with us regarding their experiences with the PSESP since its inception. In 2025-26, students gave the program an **average satisfaction rating of 9.4/10** based on ease of applying and staff support. These testimonials and positive reviews speak to the importance of financial aid and the PSE team's efforts to eliminate financial barriers and provide equal access to post-secondary education for Métis learners.

"I would like to thank the MNO and PSE leadership team for securing the funding necessary to support my academic hopes and dreams. Without this funding support, my family would have had to incur significant debt, which likely would have made this endeavour unaffordable."

"I wish to thank you sincerely for the Post-Secondary Education Support Program Funding. I'm currently attending the University of Ottawa to complete an Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Biopharmaceutical Science afterward completing a Pharmacy (Pharm D) degree. Financial assistance is required for me to complete eight years of university and become a pharmacist. I want to return to work in my hometown of Cochrane, Ontario and help my northern community remain healthy. Your generosity will help me to continue my education. Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated."

"This program is truly life changing for students. Thank you!"

"I appreciate the support from the MNO with returning to school, it is not easy to do when you are older and this support helped me continue on my career journey."

"Completing my Master's degree marks a significant milestone in my academic and personal journey, and it would not have been possible without your support. Your investment in my education has empowered me to contribute meaningfully to Indigenous communities through my work."

"I am honoured to be one of the recipients of post-secondary education support from the MNO. There were times when my dream of pursuing a higher education seemed challenging, but the financial assistance provided by the MNO has helped me tremendously. I can follow my dream and hope to graduate with my undergraduate degree next year now. Thank you again for your very important financial assistance."

"I really appreciate this program; I have been a part of it since funding first began. I have now completed a degree and am nearly halfway through my Master's program. I get to do work with the community and research that I love largely because of the projects and networking that this funding supports. I cannot really express how thankful I am, so I guess I better beat you guys something, eh? Truly, I am really grateful for PSE funding and the connections I've made along the way. Marsii."

"I just wanted to email with my gratitude and thanks for the support. It helps me a lot and I am incredibly thankful."

"This program is such a source of comfort for me, the entire process is great."

"I am incredibly grateful for the support of this program, without it I would not have been able to attend graduate school at all."

CONTACT

Have questions? Reach out to the MNO Post-Secondary Education team at psupport@metisnation.org