

October  
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# SFNS Post Secondary Newsletter

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## WELCOME ABOARD.....GAYLENE STONEFISH!!

Hi my name is Gaylene Stonefish and I am from the Delaware Nation. I accepted a position here at the SFNS as the Administrative Support Clerk in the Post Secondary department. I look forward to assisting the staff and students. I wish everyone the best of luck in their educational studies. Here is the October 2011 Post Secondary newsletter where you will find some valuable information.

### Student Assistance Policy

Please refer to our website to view the recently updated Student Assistance Policy. There are some changes that you will need to note, so please read over the policy carefully. Available at [www.sfns.on.ca](http://www.sfns.on.ca).

### Keeping In Touch

It is recommended that all students make an effort

to contact their SFNS counsellor at least once per term to provide an update of their academic progress and to discuss any concerns.

### When You Graduate

We would like to remind all students in receipt of financial assistance from this organization that upon the completion of your program and graduating ceremonies to forward a copy of your certifications, diplomas and degrees to the Post Secondary program. Accurate record keeping is a major part of the Post Secondary Student Support Program. Your cooperation is always appreciated.

### Withdrawal Procedures

Students who wish to withdraw from a course/school must notify their SFNS counsellor prior to withdrawing.

## Original Book Receipts

This is a reminder that all original receipts received by you for the purchase of textbooks and supplies for Fall 2011 & Winter 2012 must be forwarded to this office. Please be aware that only original receipts will be accepted.

### Books and Supplies Reimbursement

If the purchase of your text books and supplies have exceeded your book allowance and you are requiring reimbursement for that amount, please forward all original receipts and other supporting documentation to this office. \*Please note: Status cards should be used when purchasing your books, ONLY GST will be reimbursed.

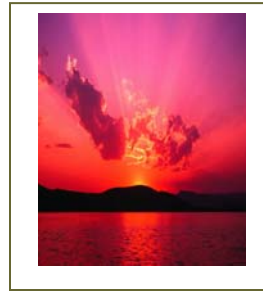
## Online Applications

Students applying to Colleges in Ontario are required to apply online at [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca).

The fee for *college applications* is \$95.00 which gives you a choice of 5 programs and up to 3 of those choices can be at the same institution. Deadline for application is February 1, 2012 for Fall 2012 term.

Students applying to Universities in Ontario are required to apply online at [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca).

*"There are no accomplishments or goals you cannot reach....follow your dreams."*



*Post Secondary Department*

### Change of Address

To best serve our students we require your correct addresses, telephone/cell phone numbers and email addresses. We do have several mail outs during the school year that contain important information that every student needs to know.

The fee for *university applications* is \$120.00 which gives you an option of 3 program choices. A maximum of 3 program choices can be at one institution and each additional program choice costs \$40.00. Each university sets its own fees for application to their institution. Deadline for applications is January 13, 2012 for Fall 2012 term. Students may still apply after these dates but should be aware their program preference may be filled.



*Make sure you eat a Healthy lunch! :)*

## Funding Applications

Deadline Dates are as follows:

**Intersession Intake – April 1**

**Fall Intake – May 15**

**Winter Intake – October 1**

### HOW TO APPLY ONLINE by Tanya Antone

You can apply online at [www.sfnsapplyonline.com](http://www.sfnsapplyonline.com). Please read instructions thoroughly before completing the online funding application. Complete all required fields when applying online. Your status number must be entered correctly before it can be downloaded into our dbase. To print the Dependent Claim form and the Release of Information form be sure to click on Application Signature Form. These



*Good Luck to all students!!*

forms must be completed and faxed to 1-519-692-3062. If you require further assistance please contact the office.

### Tuition Fee Payments

This office has an arrangement with your school to pay for the cost of tuition fees. If you have been in school for several months and payment is still outstanding, please contact your assigned counsellor.

### Student Progress Reports

Progress reports/marks transcripts are due in our office at the end of every semester. Grade reports can be faxed, e-mailed or mailed to the office. Failure to provide your progress report **will result in stopped payment of your monthly living allowances.**

## Summer Intersession 2012

For those students who are required to take courses during the May - August period will need to have their intent made known to your SFNS counsellor prior to April 1, 2012.

### GETTING A JOB by Jesse Nahmabin, Counsellor

One great benefit of being First Nations is having access to post-secondary education assistance. We have the opportunity to graduate from college and university completely debt-free! The ugly truth is that when you graduate, you are probably still under qualified for most jobs, as most positions not only require education but also experience. Networking and volunteering, working part-time, extra-curricular activities, sports, social

networking (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) and simply by conversing with colleagues from school, clubs, interest groups, etc. Students should spend as much free time as possible being proactive and making connections. Networking adds a face to go with your resume and gives you an opportunity to showcase your personality and what you can contribute to an organization. Doing this will help you to get a foot in the door and greatly increase your chances of having a formal interview.

## So Long Jesse! ☹️

Jesse Nahmabin will be leaving the post secondary program this fall; his last day is October 28, 2011. Jesse has decided to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. We wish him the best in his future endeavours!

## Scholarships and Bursaries by Natalie Fletcher

With the costs of education and living constantly rising you should consider applying for scholarships and bursaries. Most college and universities have entrance scholarships and bursaries; some of these are based on academic grades and financial needs. Our website has a list of scholarships and bursaries that you can apply for. Do not be afraid of the paperwork involved as these can greatly assist you with your educational costs.

*Visit our Website:*

[www.sfns.on.ca](http://www.sfns.on.ca)

You will find topics on our website such as:

*Who is my Counsellor?*

*Online Application*

*Student Assistance Policy*

*Required documentation for Funding*

*SFNS Post Secondary Newsletter*

*Direct deposit dates*

*Academic Awards for Aboriginal students*

## First Nations Centres by Natalie Fletcher

Most college and universities have Aboriginal centres where students can access support. Each centre is staffed by qualified personnel who can assist you with everything from course selection to cultural awareness. Many students consider the centre a home away from home. Stop by the centre at your school and see for yourself.

## *Final Comments by Shirley Miller*

We would like to thank all of our students for your continued cooperation, support and patience! During the past year the post-secondary program experienced some major changes in staffing and re-organization. All staff have now settled and acclimated to their new roles and responsibilities.

In August 2011, we welcomed Gaylene Stonefish as our Administrative Support Clerk; Gaylene comes with a wealth of office administration experience and is fitting in quite nicely with the program. Unfortunately, we will be saying so long to Jesse Nahmabin. Jesse has decided to pursue another career goal in the arts. We wish him all the best with his new career choice.

Again, we would like to remind all students accessing the post-secondary program to become familiar with the Student Assistance Policy. Things you need to know: duration of funding, withdrawal procedures, 2<sup>nd</sup> tickets, extenuating circumstances, private and foreign institutions, deadline dates, etc. Upon the completion of each term or school year, each student file undergoes a review to determine if further assistance will be granted. The counseling staff relies heavily on the SAP in their decision making and recommendations. For your personal copy of the Student Assistance Policy, please visit our website at [www.sfns.on.ca](http://www.sfns.on.ca).

Success doesn't come  
to you.....you go to it!!

*Marva Collins*