

SUBJECT	FORMER YOUTH IN CARE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAMS UPDATE
MEETING DATE	FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR
SUBMISSION**



Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

Report Date	December 23, 2019
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Presented By Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
 Kate Ross, Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services and Registrar
 Jennifer Chin, Associate Registrar, Student Support & Advising
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<p><i>If this item was previously presented to the Board, please provide a brief description of any major changes since that time.</i></p>	<p>Last presented on February 7, 2019 to propose the removal of the age restriction (formerly age 29 from the UBC Post-Care Tuition Waiver In recognition of the barriers faced by people in and transitioning from care to post-secondary education. This change became effective as of May 1, 2019.</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBC Post-Care Tuition Waiver (UBCW) and the BC Provincial Tuition Waiver (PTW) provide the cost of tuition for former youth in care (as defined by the *Child, Family and Community Services Act*) for a student’s first undergraduate degree. Since these programs started, a total of 95 students have had their tuition paid for through one of the tuition waiver programs (45 students have benefited from the UBC Waiver and 43 have benefited from the Provincial waiver. Seven students have benefited from both).

UBC introduced the UBCW five years ago (September 2014) in response to a call to action for post-secondary institutions by the BC Representative for Children and Youth.

The BC government’s PTW began on September 1, 2017 for former youth in care to access free tuition across all 25 public post-secondary institutions in BC. With different criteria for eligibility, the need to retain the UBCW became apparent. If students meet the criteria for both programs, they will receive the BC Provincial Tuition Waiver which is funded through the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training.

The criteria for the UBCW underwent a full review in 2018. As a result, the age limit was removed which became effective May 1, 2019. This change recognizes the barriers some youth face and the additional time that it may take to access post-secondary education.

The number of students receiving a tuition waiver has increased every year (See Appendix A). For the 2019 academic year, there are a total of 52 students being funded by one of the tuition waiver programs, a 326% increase since the program began 5 years ago. A total of 36 students are being funded by the PTW (27 students at the Vancouver Campus and 9 students at the Okanagan Campus). Sixteen students are being funded by the UBCW (14 students at the Vancouver Campus and 2 students at the Okanagan Campus). There are an additional 4 students who are currently in care (3 students at the Vancouver campus and 1 at the Okanagan) funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). These students will transition to a tuition waiver upon turning 19 years old.

Following the introduction of the PTW in 2017, the number of students at UBC nearly doubled (see Appendix B). Subsequently, former youth in care (FYIC) may qualify for free tuition and fees at all 25 public post-secondary institutions in BC. Despite the increase in options for FYIC, UBC continues to see an increase in the number of students with lived experience in care enrolling at UBC.

The number of Indigenous students from care receiving a tuition waiver has increased over the years (see Appendix C). Of note, both campuses saw an increase of 5 students with the introduction of the PTW in 2017 from no Indigenous students in previous years. Since then, we have seen a consistent increase in the number of Indigenous students with lived experience in care enrolling at UBC.

Currently, there are a total of 19 students that are Indigenous receiving one of the tuition waiver programs (12 students at the Vancouver campus and 7 students at the Okanagan campus). At the Vancouver campus there is one additional Indigenous student that is still in care and being funded by MCFD for both UBC tuition and UBC Housing.

All students with lived experience in government care are supported at UBC through cross-unit partnerships. Through the support of the UBC Excellence Fund, an Enrolment Services Advisor (ESA) designated to support this population of students was hired beginning in December of 2018. The position is a hybrid of financial advising, student support and recruitment with the education and experience of a child protection social worker. The role encompasses the expansion of the program through outreach within UBC and the broader community to develop partnerships in order to enhance the recruitment, retention, and experiences of students with lived experience in care at UBC (prior to this position, students received support offered to general students by Enrolment Services).

Since the program began five years ago, 25 students have graduated with an undergraduate degree. Some of our alumni are pursuing further education, with one student enrolled in a graduate program, one student enrolled in a doctorate program, an applicant to UBC Medical School and an applicant to UBC Law.

This report will address the work being undertaken to increase awareness and outreach for this student population and specifically prospective Indigenous students with lived experience in care. It will describe recruitment initiatives, transition supports, and the opportunities to continue to improve UBC's supports for Former Youth in Care.

STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED

✓ **People and Places** **Research Excellence** **Transformative Learning** **Local / Global Engagement**

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE It is important to note that 62.8% (4,279 out of the 6,815) of youth in care in BC are Indigenous. The over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the child welfare system can be attributed to historical factors, such as intergenerational trauma caused by the impacts of colonialism, the residential school system, and the 60's Scoop (MCFD, Strategic Plan, 2019-2021).

Since there is significant overlap of the populations and the needs of Indigenous youth and youth in care, the service model for Indigenous students is also being developed and applied to students with lived experience in care at UBC. The designated ESA and Aboriginal Community Liaison manager are working closely together to address the intersectionality of Indigenous youth in care and to increase the accessibility to UBC for these groups of students.

Recruitment Initiatives

Throughout the 2019 year, recruitment and awareness building has been increased in partnership with Prospective Student Communications, Student Recruitment and Advising (SRA) to relevant external community organizations, and the MCFD. Two Indigenous Alternative School Programs have been hosted at UBC and at the First Nations House of Learning. Over 120 Indigenous high school students have been engaged through recruitment efforts with the Aboriginal Community Liaison Manager. More than 120 School counsellors have been presented to in Vancouver, the Okanagan and Vancouver Island. A total of 18 Youth and Family Counsellors working in Vancouver Alternative School Programs were informed about FYIC programming at UBC. We have visited 8 MCFD offices and 5 relevant community organizations, and 3 conferences across the lower mainland engaging over 60 social workers, 20 youth workers, 25 foster parents and over 30 youth in and from care. There has been an additional two teleconferences where UBC staff spoke to MCFD managers and social workers across the Province to share information about programming support students with lived experience in care receive at UBC.

A summary about the program and designated contacts were included in this year's e-newsletter to school counsellors across the Province (child-welfare jurisdiction and youth in care legal care status is Provincial). A poster and post card has been created to illustrate the supports offered to Former Youth in Care at UBC. These materials were included in the SRA mail out including the Indigenous mail out for SRA. Materials are shared to all sites visited. A new landing page has been developed for prospective students to learn about the various resources and programming specific to youth in and from care at UBC. The landing page can be found here: <https://you.ubc.ca/ubc-life/former-youth-in-care/>

Transition Supports

The Youth in Care Admissions Policy established was established in 2016. This policy recognizes that socioeconomic circumstances and lived experience in care can impact wellbeing, social status, and academic performance. If students satisfy the general admission and degree-specific requirements, but have not met their degree's competitive average, UBC is still able to consider students for admission. The majority of our students have been admitted through the standard competitive process and only a few students have been admitted through this policy. Applicants may also have their applicant fee waived.

Priority Access to campus housing is provided for students for the duration of their undergrad program. This helps provide stability during their studies, so they can prioritize their academics and wellbeing. It's not uncommon for youth in care to have experienced multiple home and community transitions, which can be detrimental to a person's health and education. Putting this policy in place ensures stable housing over the length of a student's degree. Students may have their application fee waived.

There are designated Academic Advisors in certain faculties, such as Arts, Science, and Land and Food Systems that work with students with lived experience in care. These Academic Advisors reach out proactively to provide support and build relationships with these students.

The designated ESA based in Vancouver and Award Administrator based in the Okanagan reach out and build relationships with prospective and current students. This provides wraparound support, helping students navigate the application and admission process, as well as the services and resources available to them at UBC and in the broader community. Students with lived experience in care can access wraparound support regardless if they qualify for a tuition waiver program or not (ie. FYIC from out of Province). Students self-identify on their UBC application or through applying to the tuition waivers.

This year, UBC hosted its first welcome orientation to this group of students. Students met with their peers, alumni, staff and faculty advising. There were 8 students in total and 2 alumni that attended the event. Six of the 8 students were returning students. The students interacted with each other and had the opportunity to ask questions to alumni and learned about specific resources from a Wellness Advisor. Students expressed they were interested in workshops, such as learning how to do taxes and social networking. One student expressed the positive aspect of knowing they're not the only student from care at UBC. In response to the students' feedback we are planning to host workshops with the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers to provide more learning opportunities to enhance their success at UBC and beyond.

Students on the Vancouver campus have access to a designated study lounge where they can study in a quiet space with their peers. Students are also invited to attend social events on a regular basis. For the 2019 year, there has been a total of 5 events from workshop orientations to informal holiday get-togethers. Events are based on the needs identified by the students.

Opportunities

Increasing Accessibility and Retention Supports

UBC is working towards the flexibility to allow students to have low-barrier and priority access to UBC counselling and to the Centre for Accessibility. An equitable admissions policy to Arts Co-op is also being explored as our goal is to enhance opportunities that have not traditionally presented themselves to this demographic of students.

Expand Langara Partnership

As the number of students continues to grow every year, the need for continued program expansion and wraparound supports will be prioritized. There is no shortage of opportunity for UBC to be key agent of positive institutional modeling through increasing access to university for FYIC. Approximately 11 Vancouver students with lived experience in care have transferred from Langara. UBC is exploring the option with Langara to expand the Aboriginal Transfer Partnership to be inclusive of students receiving a tuition waiver. The UBCW mirrors the Langara institutional waiver and has somewhat more flexibility in eligibility for UBC students, particularly with the age limit being removed. This initiative would have a direct positive impact on increasing access for Indigenous students with lived experience in care.

Expand the UBC Waiver Eligibility Criteria

There is potential for the UBC Post-Care tuition waiver to expand access to Indigenous youth in care. MCFD has made it their highest strategic priority to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in government care. Their primary objective is to reduce the number of Indigenous young people in care (MCFD Strategic Plan 2018 -2021).

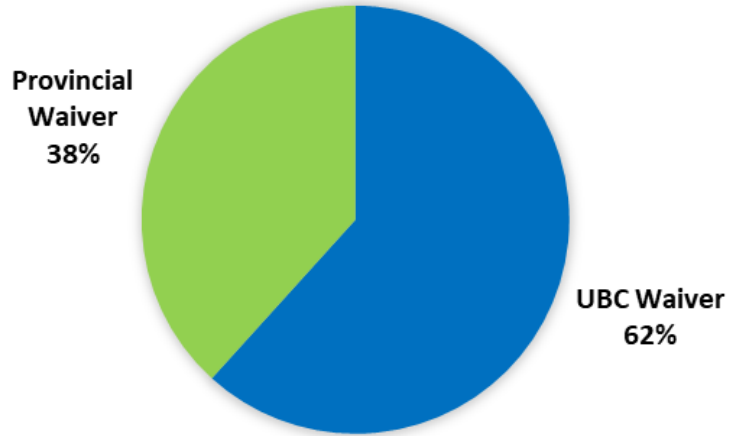
In order to keep youth connected to family, community and culture, MCFD must explore “out of care options,” whereby youth in care can be supported to live with extended relatives, such as uncles, aunts, siblings and grandparents within their community. This practice applies with particular importance for Indigenous youth in care. At this time, the UBCW eligibility includes 3 out of 13 possible care statuses under the BC *Child and Family Community Services Act* (see Appendix D). UBC can support efforts to enhance the cultural and relational permanency for all BC youth in care by expanding the UBCW eligibility criteria to be inclusive of all legal care statuses in BC. Furthermore, the current eligibility criteria for the UBCW requires FYIC to have lived experience in care between the ages of 12 and 19. In contrast, the PTW supports the cumulative time of care experience from the ages of 0-19 (see Appendix D). Removing the age range would acknowledge and address the barriers in accessing education experienced by FYIC regardless of the age they were in care. It may also encourage FYIC to apply to the UBCW if they had experienced foster care prior to turning 12 years old. Since the PTW has been in place, there is more diversity in our population of students from care at UBC, such as students that were adopted and in care during their childhood. Hence, the increase in the number of Indigenous students with lived experience in care at UBC. Expanding the UBCW criteria to be inclusive of all legal care statuses in BC and removing the age-range (12-19) requirement would be another important step to support the access and diversity for this population because the UBCW requires less time in care than the PTW.

<p>BENEFITS Learning, Research, Financial, Sustainability & Reputational</p>	<p>The benefits of the continuity and expansion of the UBCW and program supports are to increase access to university for students with lived experience in care that may not otherwise afford to attend university or qualify for other financial support. Additional benefits are associated with UBC’s reputation to enhance diversity and inclusion as a welcoming university to students from various backgrounds. The investment posits the message that UBC values what these students bring to UBC.</p>
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<p>RISKS Financial, Operational & Reputational</p>	<p>The risks of reducing the program and tuition waiver are inherently reputational and may negatively impact the post-secondary outcomes of FYIC, as well as their access to university which posits quality of life. In addition, the removal of the program supports or tuition waiver would jeopardize the achievement of UBC’s Strategic Plan to increase diversity and inclusion on campus as well as increase access for traditionally marginalized populations.</p>
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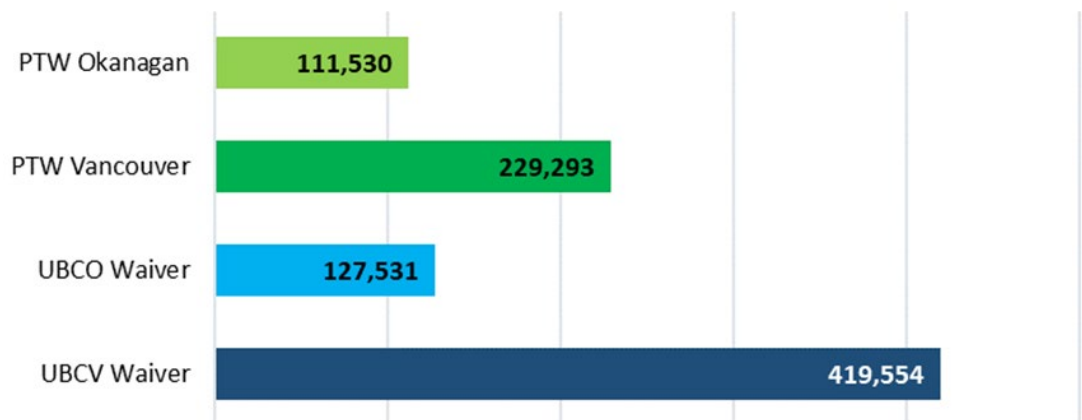
COSTS Tuition Funding
 Capital & Lifecycle
 Operating

TUITION FUNDED BY SOURCE SINCE 2014



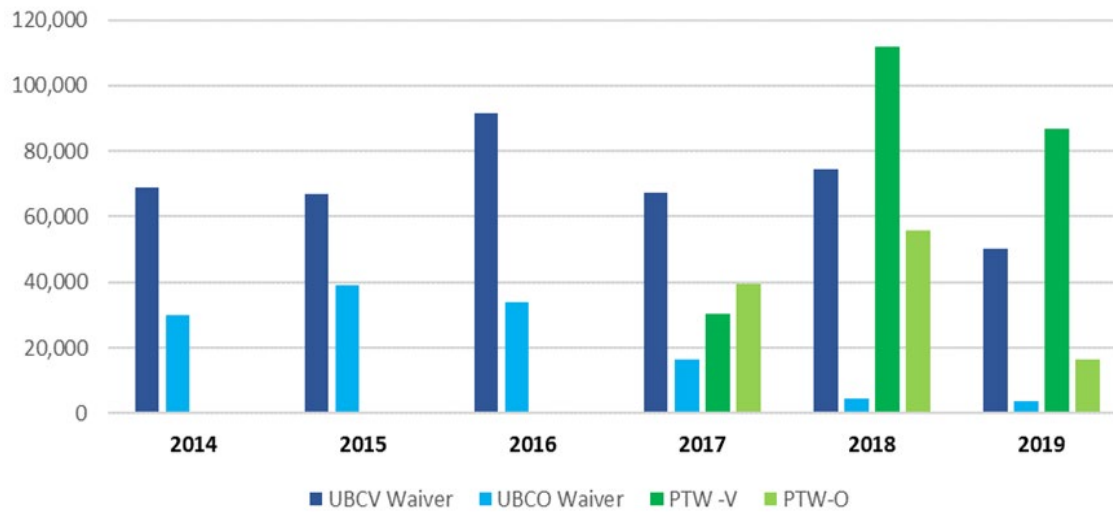
The total amount of tuition funded by the **UBC Post-Care Tuition Waiver** is **\$547,085**. The total amount of tuition funded by the **Provincial Tuition Waiver** is **\$340,823**. Although more students are now accessing the PTW, overall, more students have benefited from the UBCW. This is likely due to the fact that the UBCW has been in place since 2014, whereas, the PTW became effective in 2017. Thus, the majority of alumni are beneficiaries of the UBCW, however, this may change overtime as more students continue to access the PTW. (45 students have benefited from the UBCW and 43 have benefited from the PTW. Seven students have benefited from both).

Tuition Waiver Breakdown by Campus



Figures shown in the above graph reflect the breakdown of the total amount of tuition funded by both tuition waivers by campus.

Annual Tuition Waiver Funding by Campus

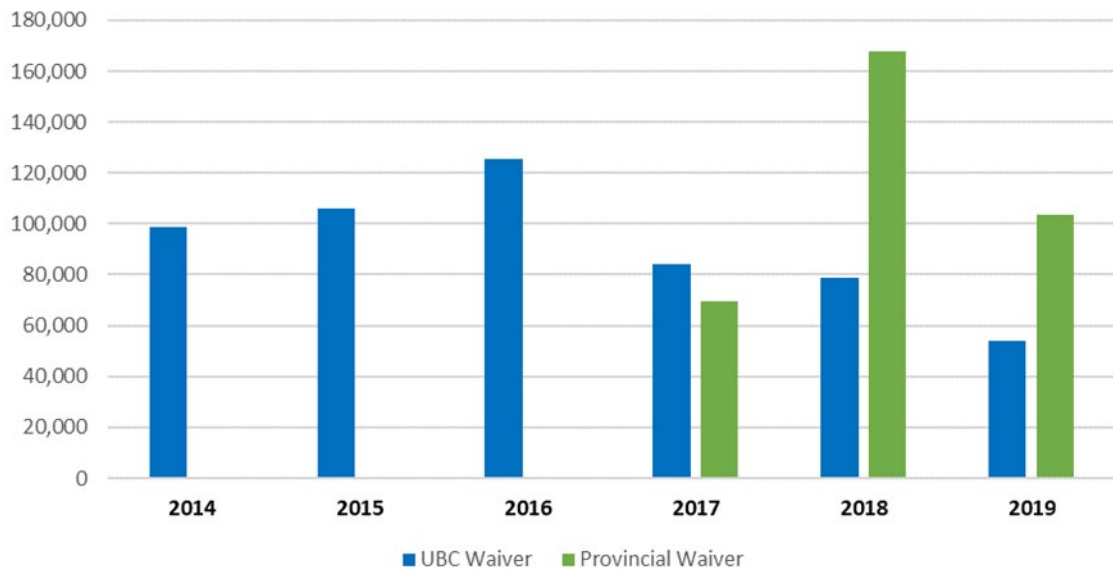


Note: 2019 does not include the term 2 tuition fees at the time of this report.

The above graph illustrates tuition funded annually by each waiver at both campuses. Each year includes the tuition and fees for both the summer and winter terms. For example, the 2014 year includes 2014 summer and winter fees. With the annual increase in students eligible for the PTW, there is an annual decrease of tuition funded by the UBCW at both campuses, particularly at the Okanagan campus since a higher proportion of Okanagan students are funded by the PTW. Okanagan also has a higher proportion of Indigenous students compared to Vancouver. At both campuses, the majority of Indigenous students receiving a tuition waiver are funded by the PTW.

FINANCIAL
Funding Sources,
Impact on Liquidity

Annual Tuition Funded by Tuition Waiver



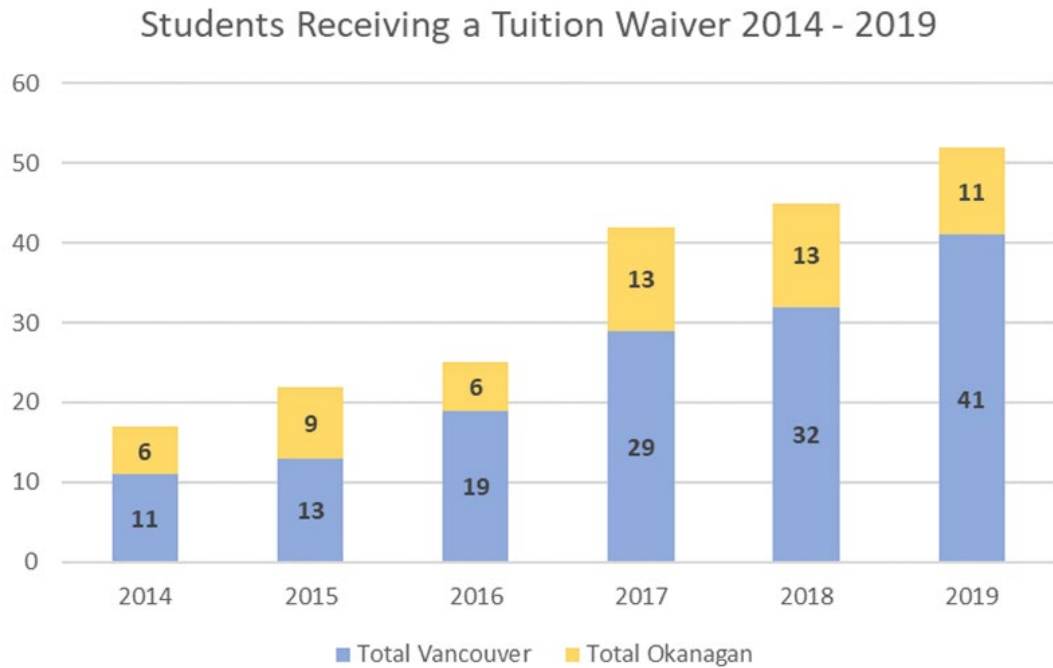
Note: 2019 does not include term 2 tuition fees at the time of this report.

Overall, the annual amount of tuition funded by the UBCW is decreasing as tuition funded by the PTW is increasing. Over the past year, UBC has seen the emergence of a new population of students who are currently in care rather than formerly. These students' tuition fees are funded by MCFD.

CONSULTATION
 Relevant Units,
 Internal & External
 Constituencies

There is an Advisory Committee consisting of the FYIC team based in Enrolment Services, Arts Advising, Science Advising, Housing, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Manager, and Aboriginal Student Engagement Coordinator. Meetings are twice per year and information and updates are shared between stakeholders including identifying any service gaps and actionable items. Consultation for the UBC Post-Care Tuition Waiver was initially with Dr. Richard Sullivan, Michelle Wyrrott from MCFD, along with key Enrolment Services staff from various roles.

Appendix A: Students Receiving a Tuition Waiver between 2014 – 2019

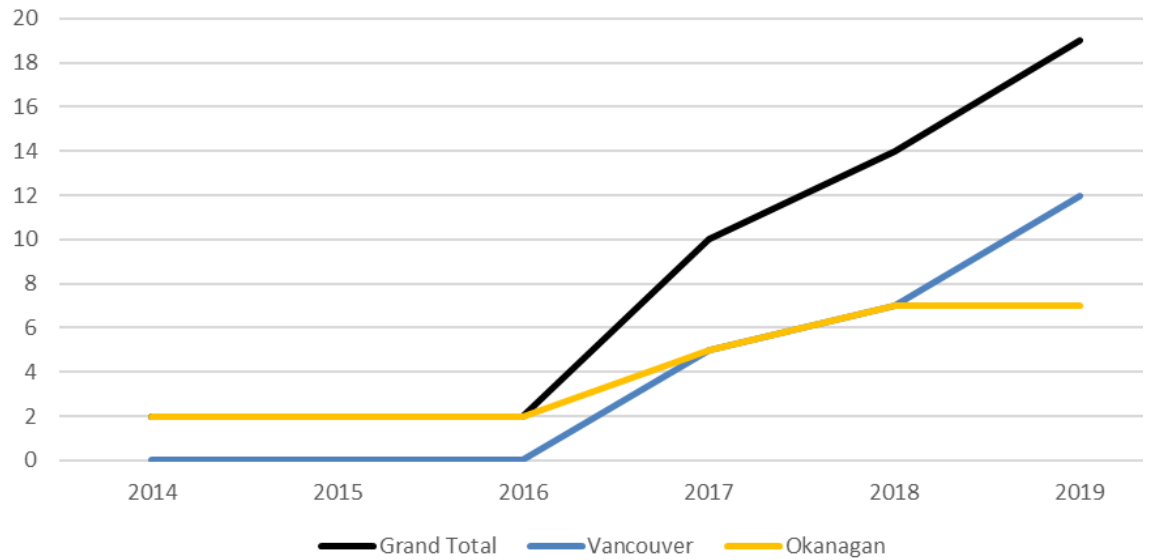


Appendix B: Students Receiving a Tuition Waiver Annually by Waiver and Campus

Year	VANCOUVER		OKANAGAN		Total
	UBC Waiver	Provincial Waiver	UBC Waiver	Provincial Waiver	
2014	11		6		17
2015	13		9		22
2016	19		6		25
2017	15	14	2	11	42
2018	15	17	2	11	45
2019	14	27	2	9	52

Appendix C: Indigenous Students Receiving a Tuition Waiver by Year

Indigenous Students Receiving a Tuition Waiver
2014 - 2019



Appendix D: Difference in Eligibility Criteria between the UBCW and PTW

UBCW	PTW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires 1 year in care between the ages of 12 and 19 years old. • No age limit <p><u>Legal Care Statuses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Custody Order • Continuing Custody Order • Youth Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires 2 years in care between the ages of 0 and 19 years old. • Must apply prior to turning 27 years old. <p><u>Legal Care Statuses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Custody Order • Continuing Custody Order • Youth Agreement • Adoption • Extended Family Plan • Interim Custody Order • Interim Custody Order (to person other than parent) • Permanent Transfer of Custody (to person other than parent) • Temporary Transfer of Custody Order • Under Guardianship of Director (<i>Adoptions Act</i>) • Under Guardianship of Direction (<i>Infants Act</i>) • Voluntary Care Agreement • Special Needs Agreement • Child in Home with a Relative Program (CiHR)