

Fort William FN

Social Services

Ontario Works/Employment & Training



***Fort William
First Nation***

Ontario Works

Vision

Fort William FN Social Services department envisions a future where our people achieve meaningful and sustainable employment by reconnecting with our ancestral lands, cultural practices, and traditional knowledge. This holistic approach aims to enhance individual well-being and self-sufficiency, fostering a stronger, more resilient community rooted in our Indigenous identity.



Social Services Department

- Ontario Works Benefits
- Employment and Training Benefits (Ontario Works)
- Employment and Training Benefits (Local Delivery Model)
- Homemaking Services
- Transitional Support Fund
- Summer Student Program
- Foodbank Program



Ontario Works Application Requirements

- Income Verification
- Social Insurance Number
- Health Card
- Proof of Identity and Date of Birth
- Employment Status – Record of Employment, EIB application, Pay Stubs or Letter of termination.
- Income Tax assessment
- CRA
- Income – Monthly Banking Statements (3 months)
- Shelter Cost – Letter from Landlord, Lease or rental agreement, statements of hydro and heating costs
- Further Information may be requested
- Equifax



Ontario Works Benefits

- Mandatory Health Benefits
- Extended Health Benefits
- Discretionary Benefits (Health and Non-Health Related)
- Employment and Participation Benefits
 - Full-Time Employment Benefit
 - Other Employment and Employment Assistance
- Housing-related benefits
- Transition Child Benefit
- Assistive Devices



Mandatory Health Benefits

- Drug Coverage
- Dental Coverage for children residing in First Nations communities
- Vision Care for children.
- Eye Examinations
- Diabetic Supplies and Surgical Supplies/Dressings
- Travel and Transportation for Medical purposes
- The Assistive Devices Program
- Batteries and Repairs for mobility devices



Discretionary Benefits

The following discretionary benefit may be provided to eligible recipients:

Health-related Discretionary Benefits:

- Dental care for adults
- Vision care for adults
- Prosthetic appliances
- Funerals and burials
- Heating payments and payments for low-cost heating energy conservation measures.



Discretionary Benefits Cont'd

Non-Health-Related:

- Vocational training and retraining
- Travel and transportation that is not for health-purposes
- Moving expenses for employment and or emergency
- Any other special service, item or payment authorized by the Administrator



Employment and Participation Benefits 7.4

Full-Time Employment Benefit:

Recipients are eligible for this benefit if they meet the following Criteria:

- Have been on Social Assistance for three consecutive months.
- Are beginning full-time employment and require assistance with the costs of going to work.

Beginning full-time employment means 30 or more hours per week in one or more jobs.

The maximum amount that may be provided through FTEB is up to \$500 in a 12-month period for each eligible recipient.

Other Employment and Employment Assistance:

Recipients are eligible for this benefit if they are:

- Beginning or changing participation in employment assistance activities
- Beginning a new training program with different duties and responsibilities or shifting from job training to work experience.
- Beginning or changing employment with a current or new employer where duties and responsibilities are substantially different than previous job



Employment and Training (LDM)

- Community Development Program
- Career Experience/Job Shadowing
- Employment Supports
- Purchase of Training
- Training/Travel Allowance
- Mobility Assistance
- Target Wage Subsidy



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Employment and Training (LDM)

Eligibility Requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- Unemployed or underemployed,
- On employment Insurance (EI) or Ontario Works (W) and,
- FWFN Registered Band Member OR
- Registered member from another First Nation or affiliate *
(spouse or dependent: non-band member) who is unemployed or underemployed.



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Social Programs – Transitional Support Fund

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The applicant is a person resident on the Fort William First Nation's territory.
2. The applicant is either:
 - An Ontario Works Participant, or
 - An Ontario Disability Support Program Participant, or
 - A Student receiving education funding assistance from the First Nation and NOT in receipt of OSAP, or
 - An Old Age Security Recipient.
 - All Low-Income
3. The applicant is in an emergency with no other financial means to address the following:
 - Hydro arrears and facing disconnect and/or
 - Gas arrears and facing disconnect and/or
 - Health and safety needs that require immediate assistance that, if not rectified, would be detrimental to the safety and wellness of the applicant or
 - Because a move is necessary to advance education, undertake training, or to secure and maintain employment.
 - The applicant is in a Domestic or Family Violence situation and needs assistance to relocate to a safe location.



Social Programs – Transitional Support Fund

Eligibility Criteria continued:

1. The applicant has provided adequate and verified documentation that the service or financial assistance applied for is required.
2. Education Funding or Old Age Security recipients must prove they cannot afford the costs and have sought other assistance.
3. Request the least-cost option, with a minimum of three estimates from licensed suppliers.
4. The amount of assistance requested, where appropriate, is the least-cost of a minimum of three written cost estimates/prices obtained from licensed suppliers, where appropriate.
5. For home repairs, acquisition, or replacement, the applicant must:
 - Own the house, have a certificate of possession or occupancy, or the community considers the house theirs.
 - Ensure the issue is not the landlord's responsibility



Homemaking Eligibility:

- Receives Old Age Security, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or other social Income programs.
- Have been referred to the program from a qualified health professional,
- Have had a recent surgery and need assistance with basic housekeeping.
- Have a physical or mental health disability and need assistance with housekeeping duties.

Application Process:

- Intake Meeting with Social Programs Coordinator
- Completing all mandatory documentation

Some of the Services that can be provided:

- Housekeeping (laundry, sweeping, mopping, dishes etc.)
- Preparing meals
- Bathing
- Assistance with walking
- Climbing or descending stairs, or in and out of bed
- Assistance with other matters of personal hygiene



Summer Student Program

Eligibility:

- Fort William First Nation Member
- Ages 14-18 years of Age
- Currently a high school student
- Legally eligible to work in Canada
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN)

How to Apply:

- Email the Program Coordinator
- Call the Program Coordinator
- Visit the office in person
- Complete and submit the application



Foodbank Program

Family applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The applicant is a resident of the Fort William First Nation's territory.
2. The applicant is either:
 - An Ontario Works Participant with dependent children, or
 - An Ontario Disability Support Program Participant with dependent children, or
 - A Student receiving education funding assistance from the First Nation with dependent children, or
 - An Old Age Security Recipient with dependent children, or
 - A low-income family not in receipt of financial assistance if the family is deemed by the delivery agent as lacking the financial means and access to other resources.

Single applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The applicant is a resident of the Fort William First Nation's territory.
2. If the applicant is not on Ontario Works or ODSP, they must provide:
 - Proof of Income- must be considered low income to qualify (ex. EI, CPP, WSIB)
 - Address Verification

The applicant is in an emergency with no other means to provide food for themselves.



Annual Community Events

- Job Fair
- Fall Festival
- Hide Camp
- Police Week Event in collaboration with Anishinabek Police Service
- Community Garden – Open for 6 months, depending on the weather.
- We also host many other small events: Resume Building, First Aid/CPR, Sewing/Beading Socials, Community EATS Program.



Social Services Department – Ontario Works/Employment Support Contact Information:

Phone Number: (807)622-6791

Fax Number: (807)622-4765

Mailing address:

90 Anemki Drive, Suite 100,
Fort William First Nation, ON, P7J 1L3

Director of Community Wellbeing – Sheri Boucher Ext. 809

Manager of Social Services – Shannon Crews Ext. 201

Ontario Works:

Case worker – Danielle Pelletier Ext. 03

Employment & Caseworker – Hailey MacLaurin Ext. 305

Caseworker – Mathew Pelletier-Bannon Ext. 202

Employment Worker – Crystal Dickson Ext. 204

Employment & Training (LDM):

Employment Coordinator – Lauren Waller Ext. 310

Employment Assistant – Vacant Ext. 314

Homemaking/Transitional Support Fund:

Social Programs Coordinator – Margaret Simpson Ext. 317

Homemakers – Anita Bannon, Dakota Szyja, Serena Waller, Kamryn MacLaurin & Ryan Morriseau

Summer Student Program:

Student Placement Coordinator – Travis McKay Ext. 315

Program Support:

Program Support Clerk – Vanessa Collins Ext. 200



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