



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Advanced Education

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

March 18, 2026

George Prudat, Chair
Board of Governors
North West College
10702 Diefenbaker Drive
NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 4A8

Dear George Prudat:

Saskatchewan's 2026-27 Budget will protect the stability of our post-secondary sector with ongoing predictable investments. Funding from the Ministries of Advanced Education and Immigration and Career Training will support students as they pursue higher education and will invest in training opportunities that align with labour market needs and our growing economy.

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to invest \$11,560,900 in North West College for the fiscal year April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. Appendix 1 provides a high-level summary of the funding allocation, while Appendix 2 outlines comprehensive details, including the breakdown and intended application of these funds.

A strong post-secondary education sector is essential to building Saskatchewan's labour force and economy. That's why our government is proud to support the new *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding 2026-27 to 2029-30*. This agreement delivers funding certainty for post-secondary institutions, requires annual tuition increases to be within the range of 0 to 3.0 per cent for students and includes annual accountability reporting which demonstrates progress in priority areas that support the goals of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*.

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As a signatory to the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding 2026-27 to 2029-30*, North West College will receive an annual 3.0 per cent increase to its base operating grant beginning in 2026-27. As shown in Appendix 1, the 1.0 per cent increase provided in 2025-26 has been made permanent.

The Ministry of Advanced Education has increased North West College's base operating grant by \$408,000 to transition to a unified funding approach. This change eliminates separate allocations for collective bargaining costs and requires institutions to manage all operating expenses within their operating grant. The unified model promotes consistency and sustainability across Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector.

Program investments in 2026-27 are intended to address the training and labour market needs of priority sectors outlined in the *Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy*. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring Saskatchewan people are prepared for the high-quality jobs being created in our province and that training is aligned with employer demand.

Achievements under the four pillars of the *Health Human Resources Action Plan*—Recruit, Retain, Train, and Incentivize—demonstrate the value of investments that expand opportunities for students in essential health-related programs. These investments reflect the province's strong commitment to working closely with post-secondary institutions and health partners to grow health training programs and strengthen Saskatchewan's future workforce.

Capital funding in the 2026-27 Budget is focused on addressing urgent labour market needs, particularly within the trades and health care sectors. Investments are prioritized to ensure post-secondary institutions are equipped to prepare students for the province's evolving workforce needs. The Budget also continues to prioritize investment in preventative maintenance to address safety, functionality, and the provision of healthy learning environments.

The Government of Saskatchewan provides targeted operating, programming and capital funding for approved initiatives and projects. These funds must be used exclusively for eligible expenses related to the approved purpose and in compliance with all reporting and accountability requirements. Any use of targeted funds outside the approved scope requires prior written authorization.

Ministry officials will be in contact with representatives at your institution to discuss the following accountability criteria within the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding 2026-27 to 2029-30*:

- **Confirmation to comply with the manner and form of the accountability requirements** – due April 15, 2026; and
- **Multi-Year Funding Accountability Report** – due September 15, 2026.

Saskatchewan's future prosperity and success depend on an educated population and a skilled, innovative workforce. We appreciate North West College's role in helping us meet the goals in *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan* and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Advanced Education



Eric Schmalz
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Attachments

cc: Dr. Eli Ahlquist, President and CEO, North West College
Tanis Studney, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, North West College
Louise Michaud, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
Drew Wilby, Deputy Minister of Immigration and Career Training

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
North West College

Funding Schedule April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027

	2026-27 Funding	2025-26 Funding
<u>Operating</u>		
Prior Year Base Operating Grant	\$ 5,160,500	
MYF MOU* Base Adjustment	408,000	
1% Increase (2025-26)	51,600	
Subtotal	\$ 5,620,100	
MYF MOU* 3% Increase	168,900	
Base Operating Grant	\$ 5,789,000	\$ 5,160,500
1% Increase (2025-26)	—	51,600
Total Operating	\$ 5,789,000	\$ 5,212,100
<u>Training Programs and Services</u>		
Skills Training	2,557,000	2,657,000
Essential Skills	2,575,000	2,575,000
Newcomer and Settlement	100,000	100,000
Total Training Programs and Services	\$ 5,232,000	\$ 5,332,000
<u>Capital Transfers</u>		
Preventative Maintenance and Renewal	22,000	332,000
North Battleford Campus Project	470,000	470,000
Total Capital Transfers	\$ 492,000	\$ 802,000
<u>Student Supports</u>		
Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship	47,900	47,900
Total Student Supports	\$ 47,900	\$ 47,900
Total Funding	\$ 11,560,900	\$ 11,394,000

Funding Source:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education	\$ 6,328,900
Saskatchewan Ministry of Immigration and Career Training	5,232,000
Total Funding	\$ 11,560,900

*MYF MOU = Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding 2026-27 to 2029-30

APPENDIX 2
Funding Details
North West College

Operating

The 2026-27 total operating grant of **\$5,789,000** for North West College includes:

Base Adjustment

Under the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding for 2026-27 to 2029-30*, the Ministry of Advanced Education has increased the base operating grant by **\$408,000** to remove separate annual allocations for collective bargaining costs. This updated funding method creates a consistent approach across the publicly funded post-secondary sector. As of April 1, 2026, North West College is responsible for managing all operating expenses within its overall operating grant.

Disability Supports Grant

The 2026-27 Budget includes **\$89,500** to assist students with disabilities in non-post-secondary education studies, including Adult Basic Education, Canadian Adult Education Credential, skills training and apprenticeship programs. This includes adding the 2025-26 increase of \$900 (1%) to the base grant and a \$2,600 (3%) increase in 2026-27. Funding is for exceptional education-related services and equipment that support the student's disability and individual circumstances. North West College is responsible for providing guidance and arranging the necessary accommodations to meet the student's needs and successfully participate in their studies.

Post-secondary institutions are required to report on the number of students supported and the types of supports provided through this funding **in your annual report**.

Outside the 2026–27 Operating Grant

Some items funded directly by the Ministry of Advanced Education are not part of the 2026–27 operating grant and include:

- \$35,000 for CommunityNet (CNet) network circuit costs for high-speed broadband services (SaskTel); and
- \$10,000 for your institution's yearly Saskatchewan Research Network (SRNET) membership that provides the benefits of cybersecurity and shared procurement services while connecting Saskatchewan's education, research and innovation sectors.

Training Programs and Services

Skills Training

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training is committed to delivering accredited programs that meet labour market needs, support employers across sectors, and strengthen Saskatchewan's economy. Funding for North West College's 2026-27 Skills Training programming is as follows:

Programs	2026-27	2025-26
Skills Training Allocation (STA)	\$ 1,896,000	\$ 1,896,000
Health Human Resources Action Plan		
• Psychiatric Nursing (year two) (8-additional seats) ¹	451,000	—
• Psychiatric Nursing (year one) (8-additional seats)	—	451,000
• Continuing Care Assistant (13-additional seats)	110,000	110,000
Skilled Trades Expansion	100,000	200,000
Total Skills Training Funding	\$ 2,557,000	\$ 2,657,000

¹Targeted funding for 2026-27; not an ongoing increase to the STA base allocation.

North West College's 2026-27 Skilled Trades Expansion funding has been adjusted to align with demand in the region based on historical enrolment data. Should demand increase, additional funding may be considered if available.

Essential Skills

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training is committed to helping adult learners build essential employment skills, advance their education and certification, and acquire prerequisites for further training that supports entry into the labour market. Funding for North West College's 2026-27 Essential Skills programming is as follows:

Programs	2026-27	2025-26
Adult Basic Education	\$ 1,395,000	\$ 1,395,000
Adult Basic Education-Essential Skills for the Workplace	200,000	200,000
On-Reserve Adult Basic Education	980,000	980,000
Total Essential Skills Funding	\$ 2,575,000	\$ 2,575,000

Newcomer and Settlement

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training provides funding to integrate English as a Subsequent Language (ESL) training with other skills training to support learners to connect to the labour market. The 2026-27 ESL training allocation for North West College is **\$100,000**.

Capital Funding

The 2026-27 Budget includes **\$22,000** in Preventative Maintenance and Renewal funding for North West College.

The 2026-27 Budget also includes **\$470,000** (excluding PST) to support planning for a potential new North Battleford Campus. A funding plan will be required that includes an update on federal funding opportunities, fundraising contributions, and options to self-fund portions of the project. The Ministry of Advanced Education will coordinate with North West College throughout the year to support additional information needed for the 2027-28 Budget cycle.

Institutions are required to complete quarterly capital project reports. The Ministry of Advanced Education has provided revised templates, guidelines, and deadlines to enhance the reporting process. Any proposed changes to the use of capital funds must be approved by the ministry to ensure consistency with the original project objectives and government priorities.

Student Supports

The Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship (SIOS) allocation for 2026-27 noted below is subject to institution ability to match funds in the previous year. The Ministry of Advanced Education will review reporting and fundraising progress with institutions prior to the 2027-28 Budget.

SIOS Component	2026-27	2025-26
Opportunity	\$ 47,900	\$ 47,900
Total	\$ 47,900	\$ 47,900

Payment to be issued October 2026.

By **June 30, 2026**, post-secondary institutions are to submit a letter to the ministry regarding scholarship priority areas (i.e., student categories and programs) for the upcoming year, as well as a plan that outlines how any unspent funding will be utilized. Institutions are also required to report actual (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) scholarship activity by **July 31, 2026**.