

2026

COLLABORATION

TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



**BURSARY &
SCHOLARSHIP**
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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2026 COLLABORATION

In September 2026, the *Rainy River First Nations Trust* (the Trust) and the *Manitou Community Holdings Trust* (MCHT) entered into a new collaboration to strengthen educational support for Rainy River First Nations post-secondary students. Both organizations share a commitment to empowering Members and advancing educational opportunities, and this partnership reflects that shared vision.

For the 2026 academic year, the MCHT will match the Trust's funding for the six general scholarship and bursary program areas. This matching contribution will allow for two successful applicants in each program area, increasing opportunities for Members pursuing their educational goals.

The Trust will continue to independently support one successful applicant for each of the Trustee recognition awards: Chi-Anikwat Scholarship and Neil Fry Bursary. These awards remain an important part of the Trust's commitment to honouring the dedicated service and community commitment of these two long-standing Trustees.

Both the Trust and MCHT are excited to move forward with the collaboration for 2026, and remain focused on creating opportunities that support our post-secondary students. This collaboration demonstrates what is possible when organizations come together in support of shared goals. By aligning resources and focusing on student success, both the Trust and MCHT are able to expand opportunities for Members in meaningful and lasting ways.



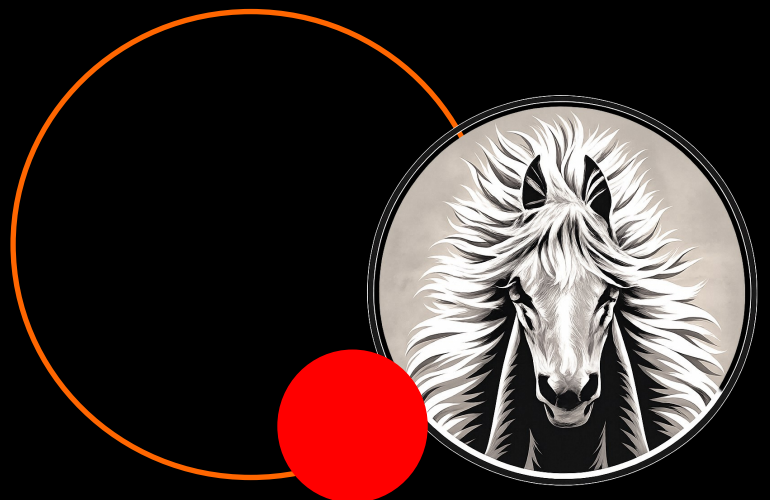
Section 8.2b(ii) of the Trust Agreement details that Trust funds for Community Purposes can be used to enhance and promote educational opportunities, including the provision of *scholarships and bursary funds* and *recognizing the achievement of Members* in educational endeavors.

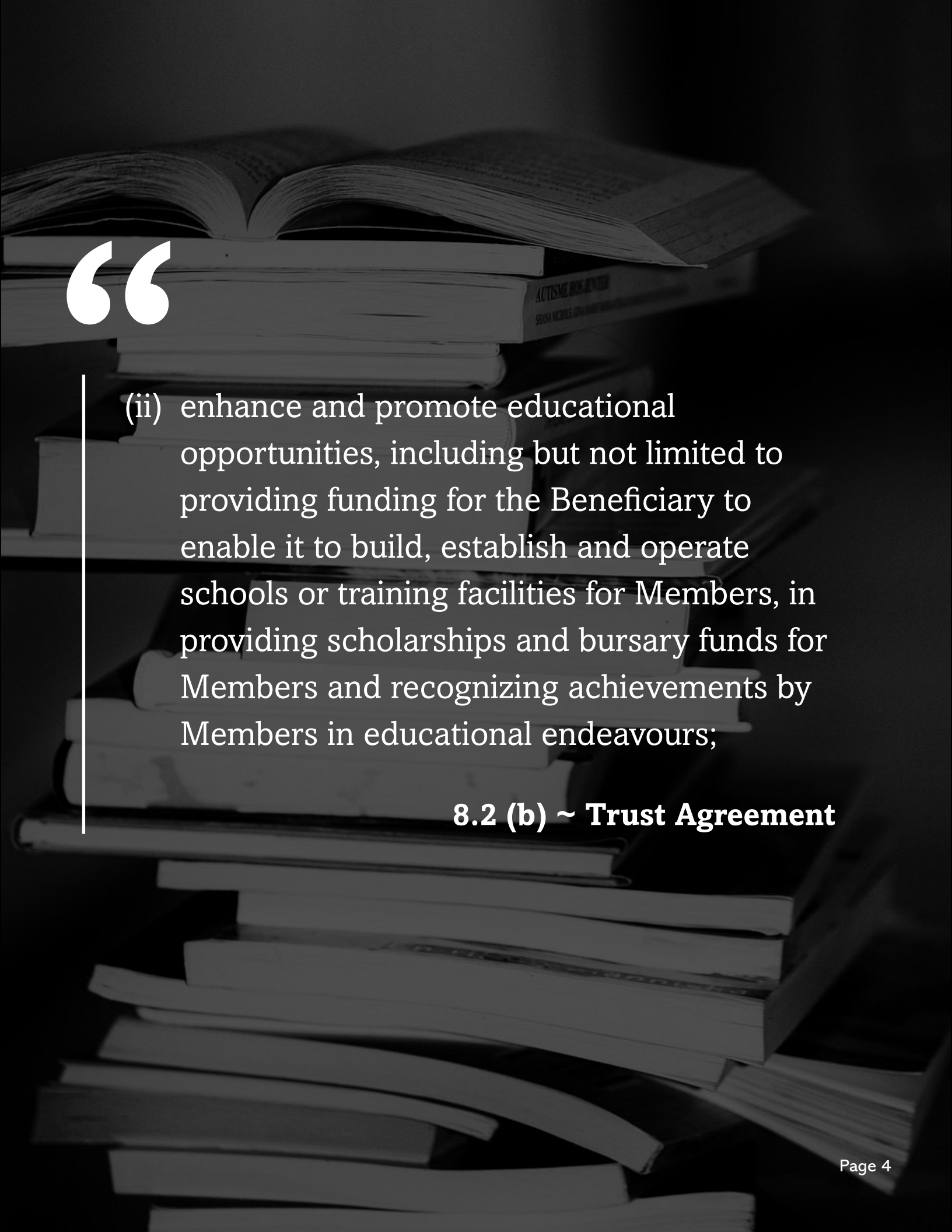
Consistent with Section 8.2b (ii), the Trust Vision and Mission Statements and the core values that guide Trustees, the Trust has developed two policies that support the establishment of both scholarships and bursaries. The policies were approved in September 2019 and work began in 2020 to determine the process and details for delivery.

Included in the Trust's educational support for Members are distinct funding opportunities that have been developed to honour and remember the dedicated service of two longstanding Financial Trustees, Chi-Ankawat—Delbert Horton and Neil Fry.

In addition, Trustees have developed Trust bursaries and scholarships that can be updated annually. For 2026, Trustees have maintained the Scholarship program areas of Medical, Education, Indigenous Language, Community Development, the Arts and Technical/Professional related programs.

Eligible applicants are required to have completed at least one year of post-secondary studies and are returning to a recognized institution for the 2026/2027 academic year, or have graduated in the summer of 2026.





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(ii) enhance and promote educational opportunities, including but not limited to providing funding for the Beneficiary to enable it to build, establish and operate schools or training facilities for Members, in providing scholarships and bursary funds for Members and recognizing achievements by Members in educational endeavours;

8.2 (b) ~ Trust Agreement



Manitou Community Holdings Trust (MCHT) was initially created alongside Ziibi Investments in 2020 by leadership.

Both were established based on feedback from the Membership on economic strategy sessions held for the Nation.

MCHT operates separately from Ziibi Investments, however, it is part of the larger structure to distribute funds to the Membership by a developed legal framework.

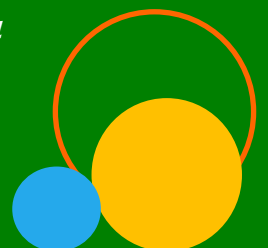
MCHT is a formal entity dedicated to the prosperity and longevity of our people. Our work involves strategic oversight and active guardianship of our shared interests, ensuring that our collective assets serve as a foundation for a resilient and self-sufficient future.

The MCHT's role is to return profits to the Nation, once they are no longer required for new or re-investment business opportunities.

MCHT Trustee Roles & Responsibilities:

- ⇒ Managing the income from the Trust fund in a way that supports the community and membership.
- ⇒ Holding, investing and maintaining the Trust fund.

For more information on the MCHT, including application details, visit the organization's website at www.mantioucommunityholdingstrust.ca or email MCHT Trustee Chair, Bruce Wilson, at bruce.wilson@manitoucommunityholdingstrust.ca.





Investing in Our Future and Spirit MCHT Funding Criteria:

- Social Programs
- Housing Programs
- Justice Initiatives
- Education, including: scholarships, bursaries for post-secondary students, education facilities
- Development and Operation of Recreational Facilities
- Elder and Youth Programs
- Initiatives supporting Women in the community and addressing violence against women
- Cultural, Spiritual and Language Development and Retention
- Development and Maintenance of Community Infrastructure
- Health Initiatives
- Other Charitable Purposes

~ www.manitoucommunityholdignstrust.ca

CHI-ANIKWAT Bursary

This bursary is developed in remembrance of Chi-Anikwat, Delbert Horton, who served as a Financial Trustees since the inception of the Trust in 2005.



Chi-Anikwat's focus during his tenure as a Trustee was ensuring the Trust enhanced and supported activities and programs that were founded in Aboriginal and Treaty rights and ensuring provincial and/or federal funders were held to their obligations under Aboriginal and Treaty rights. He was a firm believer in the importance of governments being made aware of their funding shortfalls and the impacts these had on the community. He was a strong advocate for adequate funding, especially in the area of Education. Chi-Anikwat was vocal about the importance of the Trust in supporting and empowering both the community and individual Members to succeed. He placed great value on ensuring the Trust considered future generations in all planning.

Chi-Anikwat held an honorary Ph.D. from the World Indigenous Nations University and a Masters of Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy from Seven Generations Education Institute. His heart was deeply rooted in his strong cultural teachings and ceremonies and working with his gifts to strengthen his community and Indigenous people around the globe. He believed in recognizing one's gifts and abilities and using these to build not only your own personal bundle but that of the community, having a strong cultural identity and living a good life.

FINANCIAL TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

December 19, 2005

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December 23, 2018

**The Chi-Anikwat Bursary will support Members in a
Masters or Ph.D. level program
in Indigenous Studies and/or Indigenous Leadership.**

The bursary, in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to a student who has completed at least one year of programming and is continuing their studies in the Fall, or who has graduated in the summer of 2026.

HOW TO APPLY:

The following items must be included in your application to the Trust:

- 2026 Collaboration Bursary/ Scholarship Application Form.
- Letter of confirmation of admission for your program or graduation documentation.
- Essay (500 words) detailing your educational plans, the benefits that would result from the bursary and why you would be an excellent candidate.
- Minimum of one signed letter of recommendation.



**2026 DEADLINE:
December 1, 2026**

NEIL FRY Scholarship

This scholarship is developed in remembrance of Neil Fry, who provided many years of dedicated service to both the Rainy River First Nations community as an auditor and to the Trust as a Financial Trustee.



During his service within Rainy River First Nations, Neil developed a close connection to the community and gained a valuable understanding of both the challenges and opportunities that existed.

Neil understood the financial limitations that come with federal and provincial funding programs for First Nations and the ways in which this limited funding could be enhanced and supplemented by the Trust. He was diligent in utilizing his skill and expertise in financial matters and ensured processes and procedures were developed within the Trust that were both fiscally responsible and transparent.

Neil's academic and professional background as a Certified Professional Accountant is the foundation upon which this scholarship is based. Neil chose to volunteer his time beyond his accountant and Trustee duties, to support Rainy River First Nations and its Members. He shared encouragement and recommendation for pursuing a post-secondary education as he believed in the benefits and valuable role education played in building a strong community that could thrive and achieve.

FINANCIAL TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

September 12, 2005

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December 15, 2018

The Neil Fry Scholarship will support Members in a Finance, Accounting and/or Business/Commerce post-secondary program.

Special attention will be given to Members who volunteer their time and energy to various Boards and community organizations, as this was one of Neil's passions.

The scholarship, in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to a student who has completed at least one year of programming and is continuing their studies in the Fall, or who has graduated in the summer of 2026.

HOW TO APPLY:

The following items must be included in your application to the Trust:

- 2026 Collaboration Bursary/ Scholarship Application Form.
- Letter of confirmation of admission for your program or graduation documentation.
- Essay (500 words) detailing your educational plans, the benefits that would result from the scholarship and why you would be an excellent candidate.
- Details on volunteer work and/or Boards/Committee participation.
- Minimum of one signed letter of recommendation.

**2026 DEADLINE:
December 1, 2026**





2026 COLLABORATION Scholarships & Bursary



2026 collaborative funding will support TWO eligible students in each area!

2026 Scholarship Program Areas (Value \$2,500):

- **Medical/ Health**
(example: Doctor, Nursing, Personal Support Worker, Pharmacy Technician, Mental Health provider, etc.)
- **Education**
(example: Early Childhood Education, Teaching, Special Education, Adult Education, Educational psychology, etc.)
- **Indigenous Language**
(example: Immersion programs, second language programs, language instructor, etc.)
- **Community Development**
(example: Engineering, Construction, Technology, Policing, Community Planning, Infrastructure, etc.)
- **Arts**
(example: General Arts, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Music, Theatre, etc.)
- **Technical / Professional**
(example: Technology, Computer Programming, Hair Stylist, Aviation, Tourism, Culinary Arts/Chef, etc.)

2026 Bursary Program Area (Value INCREASE to \$2,500):

- **Apprenticeship/ Skilled Trade**
(example: electrical, plumbing, carpentry, welding, etc.)

HOW TO APPLY:

The following items must be included in your application to the Trust:

- 2026 Collaboration Bursary/ Scholarship Application Form.
- Letter of confirmation of admission for your program or graduation documentation.
- Essay (500 words) detailing your educational plans, the benefits that would result from the bursary and why you would be an excellent candidate.
- Minimum of one signed letter of recommendation.



2026 DEADLINE:
December 1, 2026



Rainy River First Nations Trust
P.O. Box 484 Emo, Ontario P0W 1E0 Tel: 807.482.2158 Fax: 807.482.2168
E-mail: administrator@rainyriverfirstnationstrust.ca Website: www.rainyriverfirstnationstrust.ca

Scholarship/Bursary Applications
are accepted by email, fax, hand delivery,
or by mail (*must arrive by the deadline*):

EMAIL THE TRUST OFFICE:
info@RRFNTrust.ca

FAX:
(807) 482-2168

HAND DELIVER TO:
26C School Road,
Rainy River First Nations

MAIL:
P.O. Box 484
Emo, Ontario P0W 1E0



www.rainyriverfirstnationstrust.ca
www.rrfntrust.ca