



Date: September 12, 2006

To: Community Social Services
Supervisors - EIA.
EIA Rural Program Managers

From: Wes Henderson, Acting Executive Director,
Adult and Children's Programs, and
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Employment and Income Assistance Programs

Telephone:

Subject: **EXEMPTION OF CANADA ACCESS GRANTS FOR STUDENTS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES ENROLLED ON THE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (EIA) PROGRAM**

EIA participants who are participating in an educational plan may receive awards, bursaries and grants for a variety of reasons. Directive 2001-39 allows for funds of \$100.00 or less to be exempt and funds in excess of \$100.00 may be exempt if used to offset education costs. If funds in excess of \$100.00 are used for personal needs, that amount should be treated as unearned income

The EIA Regulation has been amended, for persons with disabilities only, to exempt the new Manitoba Student Aid (MSA) Program Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities (CAG-PD) in its entirety. The CAG-PD is an up-front grant covering the lesser of \$2.0 or the student's assessed need. For additional details see the web site for [Manitoba Student Aid](#). For all other awards, bursaries and grants, Directive 2001-39 would apply.

The CAG-PD is considered non-repayable assistance and is available to cover the exceptional education-related costs associated with permanent disabilities. Types of disabilities may include: deafness or hearing impairment, blindness, visual impairment, physical disability, learning disability, etc.

Students must first apply for a Canada Student Loan/Manitoba Student Loan in order to establish their eligibility. First time applicants must also submit an application to Manitoba Student Aid for the grant including verification of their disability (such as a medical certificate, learning disability assessment, or a document proving that they receive federal and/or provincial disability assistance). When a participant wishes to receive only the CAG-PD grant, they must submit a letter stating this to MSA. MSA keeps a record on the verification of the disability therefore re-application for this grant is not required in subsequent years. In most cases the person with a disability in receipt of EIA benefits will continue to receive basic assistance for their living costs.

The EIA Administrative Manual policy sections 6.11.16 Vocational Rehabilitation; 6.11.18 Post-Secondary Institutions Eligible for Student Aid and 7.1.7 Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) will be updated in the near future.