

LONG TERM CARE

Extension of Support for Former Wards



DID YOU KNOW?.....



The department may, with the approval of the Regional Director or designate, enter into an agreement to extend child in care services to a permanent or long term ward who:

- a) is between the age of 18 and 21 years of age;
- b) is continuing their education;
- c) require assistance or training to enable them to continue their education or obtain employment; or
- d) because of a mental or physical disability or impairment, require care or participation in a program to assist them in their mental or physical development or in the acquisition of life skills; and
- e) is willing to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

SOME PROCEDURES ARE:

- An agreement to provide assistance is available to persons who were permanent/long term care wards, upon discharge from care on their 18th birthday or any time before their 21st birthday.
- An extended care agreement must be signed by the former ward and the children's services worker, and approved by the Regional Director or designate. Where a person lacks capacity to enter into an agreement, the director may provide services to the person without entering into a written agreement.
- Support may include all benefits available to a child in the care of the Minister. Where available, services, supports, education or training should be provided through publicly funded agencies in the youth's home community.
- To the extent they are able, former wards are expected to contribute financially toward their program and to support themselves from their earnings during extended holiday periods.
- The department does not require permanent or long term wards to apply for student loans.
- If a plan is interrupted (e.g. due to illness, employment for a semester, abandoning the plan), the agreement may be renewed after discussion and consideration of the youth's new plan. A new agreement outlining the conditions must be signed by the youth, caseworker and approved by the Regional Director or designate.
- All wards that approach their 18th birthday should be informed, in writing, of the extended care provisions.

For Further information see: Chapter 3, Section 3.8, 3.9 of the Children's Services Policies and Procedures Manual