



February 19, 2013

BACKGROUND

B.C. TRAINING AND EDUCATION SAVINGS GRANT

With nearly a million job openings expected over the next decade, B.C. children face a future of exciting career possibilities. Whether it's in skilled trades or professional services, the vast majority of new job openings will require some form of post-secondary education or training.

Government first started investing in the Children's Education Fund in 2007. The first payments from that fund would have started in 2024. Today government is partnering with families to help realize the power of savings with the \$1,200 B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant.

When a B.C. resident child turns six years old, they will be eligible for a one-time grant of \$1,200 to be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). No matching or additional contributions are required in order to receive the grant. All a family needs to do is to open an RESP account and apply for the grant before the child turns seven years old.

By opening an RESP account, not only is the child entitled to the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant, they may also benefit from the Canada Learning Bond and Canada Education Savings Grants offered by the Government of Canada.

Starting this year, families with eligible children who open or already have an RESP will receive a confirmation letter stating the B.C. government will deposit \$1,200 into their RESP as soon as the administrative process for this new program is in place.

The B.C. government is partnering with the federal government to put the necessary banking and information system changes in place to make deposits into eligible RESPs and ensure government contributions can only be used for post-secondary education. Full implementation is expected to take 18 months.

The basic criteria to apply for the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant will be:

- The child must be born on or after January 1, 2007.
- The child must have an RESP in place.
- The child must be a resident of B.C. when the grant application is made.
- The child must be enrolled in an education program.
- Parents/contributors will have a full year, between the child's 6th and 7th birthdays, to apply for the grant (families of B.C. resident children born in 2007 will have until February 28, 2014, to establish an RESP). Parents are encouraged to set up an RESP as soon as possible—they don't need to wait until the child is six.

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For the Finance Minister's speech and more details on *Budget 2013*, visit www.bcbudget.ca.

Visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.

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