

PracticeNWT

Student & Youth Newsletter

June 2024

Student Feature:

Jada Beck, Medical Student and Bursary Recipient

After completing her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, Jada Beck returned to her hometown of Hay River, NWT during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It wasn't long before Jada recognized the fact that residents were relying heavily on nurse practitioners as visits from physicians were few and far between.

Seeing the need for physicians in her community drove Jada to apply to medical school. Jada is currently enrolled in the Undergraduate Medical Education Program at Queen's University, on her journey to graduate as a Doctor of Medicine.

Medical school is an expensive endeavor. Jada received some funding from the Métis Nation and Student Financial Assistance, however it was not enough to cover all her expenses. The NWT HSS Bursary Program proved to be a valuable support for Jada.

"Once I saw that it [the Bursary Program] was for northern students pursing Health and Social Services, I applied immediately... so far, my experience with the program has been amazing. It's fast and easy to apply."
- Jada

In her free time, Jada advocates for Indigenous students. She joined the Indigenous Health Standing Committee, a group of Indigenous Medical Students that come together to connect with their culture, advocate for Truth and Reconciliation, and fundraise for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. Jada is one of three Indigenous students in her class of 108. Her goal is to make Indigenous students feel welcomed, recognized, and celebrated, giving comfort and encouragement to Indigenous students applying to medical school.

Thank you, Jada! The work you are doing to support Indigenous students while studying is important and the PracticeNWT team applauds you!

Interested in finding out more about the NWT Health and Social Services System Bursary Program? Check out Page 4 of the newsletter for more information, or visit [PracticeNWT.ca](https://www.practicenwt.ca).

This Issue

Student Feature

Jada Beck

Med Student & Bursary Recipient

Career Fairs and Conferences

U of T & U of A

PracticeNWT Initiatives

2024 Occupation Guide

Program Feature

Aurora College's Personal Support Worker Program... From Home

Current Opportunities

Clinical Observership & Job Shadowing

NWT Health & Social Services Bursary Program



Jada Beck on Queen's University Campus

Conferences and Career Fairs

University of Toronto's Annual Speech Language Pathology Job Fair

PracticeNWT was thrilled to attend the University of Toronto's Department of Speech-Language Pathology annual Job Fair earlier this spring. The Graduating class invited employers from across Canada to join them at their campus for a day and to talk to them about opportunities perfect for them! The event was a great opportunity for PracticeNWT to showcase all that we have to offer. We even found out that a couple of the students had participated in practicums with us that they raved about.

Kudos to Katerina and Emma for hosting a fantastic event! Hopefully we will be seeing them or their classmates in the Northwest Territories in the not too distant future putting their skills to work!



Shirley Gau, Speech Language Pathologist with the NTHSSA



Samantha Bhani, Employee Transition Coordinator and PracticeNWT Representative

University of Alberta Nursing Job Fair

The University of Alberta Nursing Job Fair had a significant turnout with over 100 students that visited the PracticeNWT booth! The PracticeNWT team deeply appreciates the positive feedback and enthusiasm that the students shared. A heartfelt thank you to all students, professionals, and organizers who contributed to the success of this event.

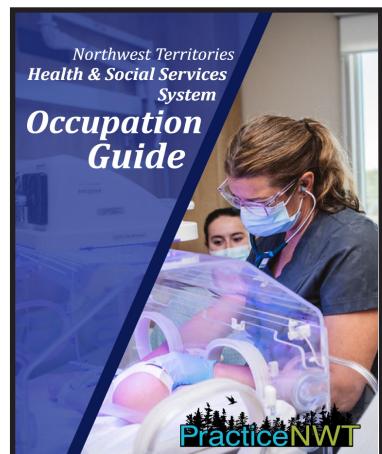
PracticeNWT Initiatives

NWT Health and Social Services System Occupation Guide

Are you considering a career in Health and Social Services but aren't sure what path to take? The Northwest Territories Occupation Guide may be able to help you!

The Occupation Guide details professions throughout the NWT HSS System including position descriptions, salary information, the length of the required education, and a list of colleges and universities with applicable programs.

Find [the guide here!](#)



Aurora College

Personal Support Worker Program... From Home

Personal Support Workers (PSW) are pillars in the healthcare system, working to promote and maintain the personal care, mobility, and psychological well-being of elders so they may remain independent for as long as possible.

Over the last 5 years the Personal Support Worker program at the Aurora College School of Health and Human Services has adapted to increase its accessibility across the NWT.

Wanda Roberts, Program Head of Health Programs at Aurora College, saw a need for distance education in small communities throughout the territory.

"[The PSW Program] is breaking down barriers by providing a distance option... it's the only health program offering the opportunity to learn at home." – Wanda

How are those barriers being broken down?

- Theory classes are now available online.
- The practice hours can often be performed in the student's home community or a nearby regional hub.
- If a student has current experience working as a PSW, Aurora College can recognize prior experience as credit, shortening or even eliminating the 400 practice hours required for graduation.
- Students can take a few classes at a time, so they can continue to work while studying.

Shannon Coleman is a member of the Salt River First Nation and a graduate from the distance education PSW program. "I quite enjoyed the distance option for there is no distractions from others," says Shannon.

Shannon shared that she was proud of herself for being able to study while continuing to work. She also noted how grateful she was for the support she received from her instructors, co-workers, family, and the patients.

Amy Lea, Senior Instructor for the PSW Program, and Wanda were in Fort Simpson when they made a surprise visit to recent distance program graduate, Grecia Sofia Dewar. Wanda and Amy were welcomed with a big smile and a warm hug from Grecia. For Wanda and Amy, this was confirmation their program was making a difference in people's

lives, even from a distance.

Grecia speaks highly of her instructors. "Both Wanda and Amy have been extremely helpful in supporting me throughout the program. When I thought I was not able to do something they would always encourage me to reach out."

Grecia chose the distance education option as she has a family and did not want to have to move them to a new city. She could complete her studies while continuing to live and work in Fort Simpson.

Amy notes "If you are looking for a job with meaning, this [becoming a PSW] is a beautiful way to do that."

Are you considering becoming a PSW? Amy shared that students who are interested in this career have a caring nature, they want to support their community.

To learn more about the Personal Support Worker Program at Aurora College, visit <https://www.auroracollege.nt.ca/program/personal-support-worker/>.



Left to Right: Wanda Roberts, Grecia Sofia Dewar, Amy Lea

Current Opportunities

Clinical Observership & Job Shadowing

The Clinical Observership and Job Shadowing Program (COJS) is available to students and youth throughout the NWT. These programs offer applicants first-hand, short-term opportunities to experience the HSS System alongside professionals in occupations of interest. They provide a practical opportunity to gain exposure to an occupation, while observing Mentors in their day-to-day work.

Are you not sure if a career in health and social services is right for you? Through exposure to a profession and the work involved, participants will gain a better understanding of whether a profession/career is a good fit for them. [Read the guidelines](#) and [download the application form](#) at [PracticeNWT.ca](#).

NWT Health and Social Services Bursary Program Now Accepting Applications for 2024/25 School Year

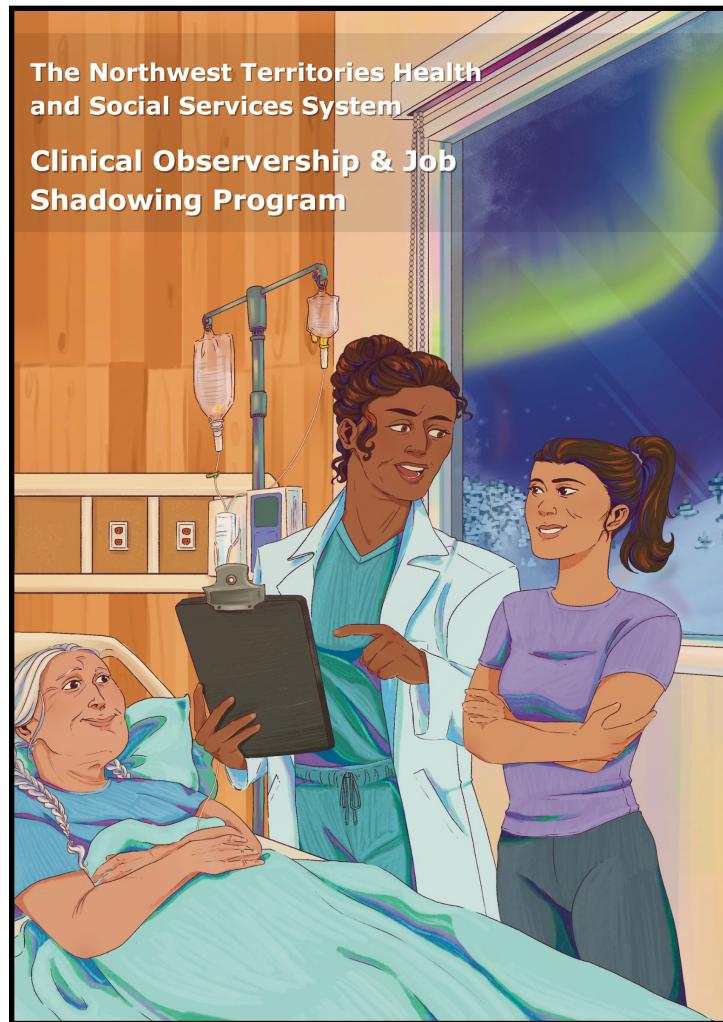
The NWT Health and Social Services System Bursary Program is available for application to NWT students pursuing an education in a health and social services-related field.

To be considered for funding in the 2024/25 academic year, students should submit a completed application package to NWTHSS_Bursary@gov.nt.ca by June 30, 2024.

Applications received after the deadline will be considered once initial bursary funding has been allocated.

Check out the NWT HSS Bursary Program Guidelines for additional information!

Scan Me!



Contact us

@PracticeNWT
PracticeNWT@gov.nt.ca
PracticeNWT.ca

