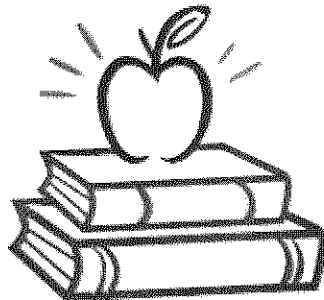


*Please feel free to include the following in your next newsletter or on your website. If you would like to receive an electronic version or logo please email us at [info@childrenfirstgrants.ca](mailto:info@childrenfirstgrants.ca).*



**Children First**  
School Choice Trust

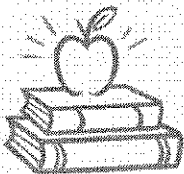
## **APPLY FOR A CHILDREN FIRST GRANT!**

Children First will be accepting applications for tuition assistance grants for the 2008 – 09 school year from **January 1 to March 31, 2008**. Children First awards grants to Calgary elementary students from lower-income families to attend the independent school of their choice. The Children First tuition assistance grants will pay 50% of the tuition, to an annual maximum of **\$2,500**.

Apply online at [www.childrenfirstgrants.ca](http://www.childrenfirstgrants.ca)  
before March 31, 2008.

Visit the website for more information about eligibility criteria.

*Please note that parents should **ONLY** apply for school-aged children who do not already receive a grant.*



**Children First**  
School Choice Trust

# FACT SHEET

Alberta

Current Children First Policies can be viewed at: [www.childrenfirstgrants.ca](http://www.childrenfirstgrants.ca)

Sept. 2007

**MISSION** To help families afford their choice of school.

Children First: School Choice Trust is Canada's first privately funded program to help families improve their educational choices. Children First offers tuition assistance grants, so that parents who could not otherwise afford it can choose an independent elementary school for their children.

**WHO WE ARE** Children First is a program of The Fraser Institute, an independent Canadian policy research organization. In the 2008–09 school year, it will be serving approximately 1200 children in Ontario and 50 in the city of Calgary.

Children First has been operating since 2003.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS** Children First grants are worth 50% of tuition, up to an annual maximum of \$2,500.

The grants are available to the students until they complete Grade 6, as long as they remain financially eligible and in good standing with their schools, pending funding availability.

Grant payments are made in three installments in the school year – October, February and May. The cheques will be paid directly to the school.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** Applicants and grant recipients must:

- Be entering Kindergarten to Grade 6
- Reside in Calgary OR attend an independent school in Calgary in the upcoming school year
- Live in a household with low net assets and an income that does not exceed twice the poverty line as defined by the Basic Needs Index (see chart below)

*Income Eligibility for Calgary Families in 2008–09*

Household Size	Qualifying Income (household qualifies if below this amount)
2	\$31,996
3	\$38,889
4	\$45,172
5	\$51,018
6 or higher	\$56,524

Source: Basic Needs Index, updated using Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index



APPLICATION  
PROCESS

Applications for the 2008–09 grants will be available the first week of January 2008, and should be submitted to the Children First office by March 31, 2008. Applications are accepted by mail or online at [www.childrenfirstgrants.ca](http://www.childrenfirstgrants.ca).

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of grants available, a lottery will be conducted in April 2008 to select grant winners at random.

Lottery winners will be notified immediately following the draw and given 3 weeks to accept the grant, verify eligibility (i.e., provide proof of income and assets) and enroll students in an independent school.

APPLICATION  
DISTRIBUTION

Families can apply using our online application on our web site:  
[www.childrenfirstgrants.ca](http://www.childrenfirstgrants.ca)

Applications will also be distributed through:

- Independent schools
- Certain libraries, community centres, YMCAs and places of worship

PUBLIC/  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL RATIO

94% of grants for the 2008–09 school year will be awarded to children currently attending public schools. 6% of grants will be reserved for children currently attending independent schools.

SIBLING POLICY

If a family is selected in the lottery process, all eligible siblings for whom applications are submitted will be awarded grants.

ELIGIBLE  
SCHOOLS

Grants may be used at any independent school registered within the city of Calgary, subject to our school participation policy which can be viewed on our website [www.childrenfirstgrants.ca](http://www.childrenfirstgrants.ca).

All grants are given at the absolute discretion of Children First.

AREA SERVED

Calgary

AWARDS

Children First has received international recognition for its innovative work. The program was awarded a Templeton Freedom Award for Social Entrepreneurship, given by The Atlas Economic Research Foundation in 2004. Children First was selected from more than 140 programs from over 50 countries for its creative and groundbreaking work meeting the needs of families through private initiative. It is the only Canadian program ever to have received this award.

CONTACT US

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