National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) CanLearn.ca

## Repayment Presentation

Newfoundland Labrador

## Repaying your loan: Six things you need to know:

1. What are the benefits of Government Sponsored Student Loans?
2. What is Non-Repayment Period?
3. What is a Consolidation Letter?
4. How can you save money?
5. How can you avoid repayment difficulties?
6. How can you maintain your student loan?

## Must-know \# 1: Government Sponsored Student Loans?

- With one application to the Provincial Government, you are assessed for both Provincial and Federal loans and grants.
- You are not charged interest while you are in school.
- You do not have to repay the grants*.
- You do not have to make payments for six months after you leave school.
- You can make payments at any time without penalty.
- There are programs designed to assist you if you have difficulty repaying your loan.
- Interest on your government sponsored student loan is taxdeductible


## End of Study Dates

| End of Study | Month Non-Repayment <br> Period | Repayment Start |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| January 31 | February 1 - July 30 | August 1 |
| February 28 | March 1 - August 31 | September 1 |
| March 31 | April 1 - September 30 | October 1 |
| April 30 | May 1 - October 31 | November 1 |
| May 31 | June 1 - November 30 | December 1 |
| June 30 | July 1 - December 31 | January 1 |
| July 31 | August 1 - January 30 | February 1 |
| August 31 | September 1 - February 28 | March 1 |
| September 30 | October 1 - March 31 | April 1 |
| October 31 | November 1 - April 30 | May 1 |
| November 30 | December 1 - May 31 | June 1 |
| December 31 | January 1 - June 30 | July 1 |

## Must-know \# 2: What is Non-Repayment Period?

- Non-Repayment Period is the six month period after you leave full time studies (This six month period of time is also referred to as "Grace Period").
- Interest may accumulate during this period.
- During this period you can make payments.
- No interest is charged if you return to full-time studies before your Non-Repayment Period ends.


## Must-know \#3: What is a Consolidation Letter

## Consolidation means:

That the loans that you have taken out each year are gathered together into one amount for you to pay back.

A month before your loan consolidates you will receive a Consolidation Letter which outlines the details of your student loan.


## Must-know \#3 : What is a Consolidation Letter?

Your Consolidation Letter summarizes your repayment terms and presents you with a number of options. You can choose:

- to pay off the interest that accumulated during your non-repayment period, or add it to your loan balance
- a floating or fixed interest rate
- how long you will take to repay your loan and
- how you wish to submit monthly payments

If you have any questions or would like to discuss options please contact the NSLSC.

## Must-know \#3 : What is a Consolidation Letter?

## First Decision: Non-repayment period interest

## Option 1: Capitalize the interest (add it to your loan)

- Advantage: You will not have to immediately pay off the interest if you do not have the money available.
- Disadvantage: This will increase the total amount of your loan, so you will pay more interest over time.


## Option 2: Pay it off

- Advantage: non-repayment period interest won' t be added to the amount of your loan so your payments will be lower.
- Advantage: You will be able to claim the interest you pay on your income tax return.
- Disadvantage: You will have to make a lump sum payment at the time of consolidation.


## Must know \#3 : What is a Consolidation Letter?

## Second Decision: Type of Interest Rate

On the Ontario portion of your student loan your interest rate will be set at a floating rate of the prime interest rate plus $1 \%$.

On the Canada portion of your student loan you can choose to have a floating or a fixed interest rate

Choosing a Floating interest rate means:

- Your interest rate will be set at the prime rate plus $2.5 \%$.

Choosing a Fixed interest rate means:

- Your interest rate will be set at the prime rate plus $5 \%$.
+ The rate will not change during your repayment period.


## Interest Rates for Student Loans

## Floating Rate

| Canada | Prime $+\mathbf{2 . 5 \%}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| B.C. | Prime $+0 \%$ |
| Alberta | Prime $+0 \%$ |
| Saskatchewan | Prime $+0 \%$ |
| Manitoba | No Interest |
| Ontario | Prime $+1 \%$ |
| New <br> Brunswick | Prime $+2.5 \%$ |
| P.E.I | No Interest |
| Nova Scotia | Prime $+0.5 \%$ |
| NL | No Interest |

## Fixed Rate

| Canada | Prime $+5 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| B.C. | Prime $+5 \%$ |
| Alberta | Prime $+2 \%$ |
| Saskatchewan | Prime $+2.5 \%$ |
| Manitoba | Not Available |
| Ontario | Not Available |
| New <br> Brunswick | Prime +5 |
| P.E.I | Not Available |
| Nova Scotia | Prime $+3 \%$ |
| NL | Not Available |

## Must-know \#3 : What is a Consolidation Letter?

## Third Decision: Setting the length of your repayment

You can choose any length of time to repay your student loan, up to a maximum of 14.5 years. (Most borrowers take 9.5 years.)

## Shorter Repayment Term

- Choosing a shorter repayment term means:
+ You will pay less interest overall.
- Your monthly payments will be larger.

Longer Repayment Term

- Choosing a longer repayment term means:
+ Your monthly payments will be smaller.
- You will pay more interest overall.

You can adjust your terms any time during your repayment.

## Must-know \#3 : What is a Consolidation Letter?

## Fourth Decision: Payment Options

Your first payment is due on the last day of the month of Consolidation.
(The last day of the $7^{\text {th }}$ month after the end of full-time study)

Your Consolidation Agreement allows you to set-up, confirm or change pre-authorized payments.

If you do not wish to have pre-authorized payments deducted from your account, you can make your payments by:

- Telephone banking
- Online banking
- Cheque or Money Order


## Mustaknow \# 4: How can you save money?

To save money in interest charges, borrowers can repay their loan before the end of their repayment term without penalty by:

- Making payments while in school.
- Making payments during non-repayment period.
- Paying an amount larger than the minimum monthly payment calculated for their term.
- Making weekly or bi-weekly payments.
- Making lump sum payments.


## Must-know \# 4: How can you save money?

Based on a \$25,000 loan, a prime rate of 3\% and a floating interest rate, the chart below demonstrates potential savings using common repayment strategies. *Provided interest remains stable throughout repayment.

|  | Do Nothing | Increasing <br> Minimum <br> Payments by <br> $\$ 20 /$ month | Making \$250 <br> lump sum <br> payments once <br> a year | Making <br> payments <br> every two <br> weeks |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Payment Amount | $\$ 289.80$ <br> monthly | $\$ 309.80$ <br> monthly | $\$ 289.80$ <br> monthly, plus <br> one $\$ 250$ <br> payment/year | $\$ 144.90$ <br> every two <br> weeks |
| Number of months you will need <br> to repay your loan | 114 | 106 | 105 | 102 |
| Total interest payable over the <br> life of your loan | $\$ 8,037.20$ | $\$ 7,194.20$ | $\$ 7,097.07$ | $\$ 7022.90$ |
| Total interest savings | $\$ 0.00$ | $\$ 843.39$ | $\$ 940.13$ | $\$ 1014.30$ |

## Mustaknow \# 5: How can you avoid repayment difficulties?

Missing a loan repayment has serious consequences.

- Your credit rating could be affected, making it more difficult to obtain a loan, a mortgage or purchase a car.
- You could have difficulty getting more loans or grants for future studies.
- Your loan could be transferred to the Canada Revenue Agency for collection. Your tax return refunds could be used to put towards your student debt.
- Before you miss a payment, the best thing you can do is contact the NSLSC, who can provide you with advice and options.


## Must-know \# 5: How can you avoid repayment difficulties?

## Option: The Repayment Assistance Plan

- If you qualify for the Repayment Assistance Plan, you will not be required to make a student loan payment above an affordable level.
- An Affordable Payment is calculated based on your income and family size. As a result, the payment could be lowered or put on hold until you can afford it.
- You must apply for the Repayment Assistance Plan through the NSLSC every six months-enrolment is not automatic.


## Mustaknow \# 5: How can you avoid repayment difficulties?

Using the Repayment Assistance Estimator on the CanLearn.ca website you can approximate your Affordable Payment based on your loan, income and family size.

| Repayment Assistance Results |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Federal Affordable Payment | $\$ 60.00$ |
| Provincial Affordable Payment | $\$ 40.00$ |
| Total Affordable Payment | $\$ 100.00$ |
| Expected Monthly Payment | $\$ 289.80$ |

Example: A single borrower with no dependents who has a $\$ 25,000$ student loan and a gross income of $\$ 2500 /$ month ( $\$ 30,000$ per year).

Please note: Estimates provided are approximate. Final repayment amounts will be determined upon approval of the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP).

## Mustrknow \# 5: How can you avoid repayment difficulties?

## Option: Revision of Terms

Allows borrowers to adjust their monthly payment temporarily or for the remaining term of the loan.

- You can lower payments by:
- Making interest-only payments (limited to two 6-month terms).
- Adjusting the term up to the maximum 174 months (14.5 years).
- Differs from the Repayment Assistance Plan
- All borrowers are eligible for Revision of Terms regardless of debt and income level.
- Payments are required each month.


## NSLSC - Online

## Accessing the National Student Loans Service Centre online

- The National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) Web site provides round-the-clock access to information on your Canada Student Loans.
- For access, go to CanLearn.ca and click on the National Student Loans Service Centre link.

NSLSC's On-Line Services: access your student loan account(s) 24/7 with the NSLSC On-Line Services

## NSLSC - Online

## Finding your account number

- Your account number is located on all correspondence from the National Student Loans Service Centre.
- You can also find out your account number by calling the NSLSC call centre at 1-888-815-4514 and answering some security questions.


## National Student Loans Service Centre

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## On-line RAP Application

- The borrower applies online Whanment $\begin{aligned} & \text { Government } \\ & \text { of Canada }\end{aligned}$ through their NSLSC account, by selecting "Repayment Assistance"


First, we need some information about you and your family. Please answer the following questions:
Are you currently residing in Canada? (required)
No $v$
What is your marital status? (required)
Marred/Common Law v
What is the number of people residing with you permanently, including yourself, spouse/common law partner and degendants? (required)

Are you permanently disabled? (required)
$\square$
Next
1 Repayment Assistance - Residency and Family Information - Definition of Terms

Confirm Your
Personal Message Centre
Your Contact Information Change Your Password

## What Are My

Customize Your Repayment Terms

Repayment
Assistance

Sign Out
Return to
Canlearn.ca .

Your Loan Account Your Disbursement History
government student loans.

- Applicant is guided step-by-step through the questions
- Questions are dynamic; based on system- known data and the applicant's answers
- e.g., The applicant selects 'married/common-law', which prompts the system to ask about their partner's


## To keep your loans in good status make sure that you:

1. Review your Consolidation Letter.
2. Keep your contact information current with the Service Provider.
3. Let the NSLSC know if you are having difficulty making your loan payments.
4. Check your loan balances regularly using the NSLSC online service, which can be found at www.CanLearn.ca.
5. Keep all the documents that you receive by mail, in one place.
6. If you return to school, notify the NSLSC. This ensures your loan returns to interest-free status while in school full-time.

## Thank you for your time and attention.

## Take Control of Your Student Loans!

National Student Loans Service Centre<br>P.O. Box 4030<br>Mississauga, ON<br>L5A 4M4<br>www.canlearn.ca<br>Toll Free: 1-888-815-4514<br>TTY: 1-888-815-4556<br>Facsimile: 1-888-815-4657

