



Ornge expands award criteria to attract students from the North to Aviation and Paramedicine programs at Confederation College

December 12, 2024, Thunder Bay, ON – Today, Ornge and Confederation College announce an expansion of eligibility criteria for the Ornge Northern Air Ambulance Award to support students looking to study and work in Northern Ontario. The annual award includes up to 15 entrance grants of at least \$1,000 each and up to 15 in-program awards of \$1,500 each.

Supported programs include Primary Care Paramedic, Advanced Care Paramedic, Aviation Flight Management, Aviation Technician – Aircraft Maintenance and Nursing programs. Bursary candidates must be Northern Ontario residents and/or identify as First Nation, Métis or Inuit.

"As Ornge expands our services to better support Northern Ontario, we recognize the importance of supporting Northern students in their careers," says Wade Durham, Chief Operating Officer at Ornge. "Ornge wants to invest in local students who can live, study, train and work in our region. This bursary will help support the next generation of highly-skilled workers entering into Ontario's air ambulance system."

Since 2019, more than 65 students have benefitted from the Ornge Northern Air Ambulance Award.

"We are thankful to Ornge for their generous partnership and the expansion of this award," says Aaron Skillen, VP Academic at Confederation College. "Their financial support will have a transformative impact on our students' lives. By investing in our local talent, Ornge is not only helping to alleviate financial burdens but also nurturing the next generation of skilled professionals."

Applications are now open and students are encouraged to apply for any of the eligible programs before the equal consideration date on February 1, 2025. Applications can be submitted at www.ontariocolleges.ca.

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About Confederation College

Confederation College has been serving the citizens of northwestern Ontario since 1967, providing transformative education across a vast 550,000 square kilometre region. Our main campus in Thunder Bay, together with seven regional sites in Dryden, Longlac, Kenora, Marathon, Fort Frances, Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout, and an expanding Distance Education division, open pathways to personal advancement and professional achievement for over 7,000 full- and part-time students each year. With 600+ staff, we drive personal and community growth, contributing significantly to the local economy with a \$707.3 million annual impact. At Confederation College, we champion the spirit of

courage, advocating for actions and decisions that empower our community; we uphold the principle of equity, ensuring fair access and opportunity for all to realize their potential; and we value and cultivate relationships that foster collaboration and understanding among students, staff, and the communities we serve.

About Ornge

Ornge, a not-for-profit organization, co-ordinates all aspects of Ontario's air ambulance system, the critical care land transport program and the authorisation of air and land ambulance transfers between hospitals.

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