



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES SENIOR CITIZEN/ELDER BURIAL BENEFIT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Family Services, under the authority of the Financial Administration Act, may provide financial support to bereaved families in covering the burial costs of Senior Citizens/Elders who receive the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit across Nunavut.

PRINCIPLES

This policy is based on the following principles:

1. All roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and the process is open and transparent to Nunavummiut.
2. Programs and services offered by the department will represent the values, knowledge, beliefs, and cultural distinctiveness of Nunavummiut.
3. The department is committed to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit concepts of Pijitsirniq (serving and providing for family and/or community), Aajiiqatigiinning (decision making through discussion and consensus), and Piliriqatigiinni (working together for a common cause).
4. Programs and services will support Inuuqatigiitsiarniq (respecting others, relationships, and caring for people) by helping individuals, families, and communities to have responsibility in achieving health, well-being and self-reliance.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to Nunavummiut who are 60 years of age or older and are eligible for the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Spouse's Allowance from the federal government.

DEFINITIONS

Burial

The act of placing a deceased person in a grave in the ground.

Inuktut

Refers to Inuinnaqtun in or near Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktuug, and Inuktitut in or near all other communities

Recipient

A family member of the deceased that receives funding under this policy.

Senior/Elder

Nunavummiut who are 60 years of age or older.



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AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Executive Council

The Executive Council shall approve program provisions and any exceptions to the policy.

Legislative Assembly

The Legislative Assembly approves the grants and contributions budget of the Department of Family Services.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Minister

The Minister of Family Services is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this policy. The Minister may delegate authority to approve provisions of this policy to the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Family Services is accountable to the Minister for the administration of this policy.

Assistant Deputy Minister

The Assistant Deputy Minister of Family Services is accountable to the Deputy Minister for the administration of this policy.

PROVISIONS

Eligibility

- a) Eligibility for this policy is restricted to residents of Nunavut, being buried in Nunavut, who are 60 years of age or older and are eligible for the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Spouse's Allowance from the federal government.
- b) An amount of \$6000 is the recommended maximum for burial costs. A tombstone is not included in these costs. Costs covered include:
 - a. preparation of the body
 - b. transportation of the body to the Nunavut community burial site
 - c. the most economical casket
 - d. grave marker
 - e. administrative Fees
- c) The Department will have a procedure in place to review eligibility of all applications.



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General Conditions

- a) All recipients must sign authorizing documentation before payment is issued. Agreements may only be signed by Department Officials who have been delegated the appropriate level of signing authority.
- b) All recipients must provide death certificate and burial invoice for payment processing.
- c) This policy applies to all anticipated payments under the program and any payments that deviate from the program requirements must be approved by the FMB.
- d) The Department will ensure procedures are in place that payments cease when eligibility ceases and that any funds paid in error are recovered promptly.

Financial Conditions

- a) All provisions contained in the Government of Nunavut's *Financial Administration Act* and the Government of Nunavut's Financial Administration Manual shall apply to the financial administration of these payments issued by the Department.
- b) The annual maximum budget for this benefit is \$200,000.
- c) Funding in one fiscal year does not guarantee funding in subsequent years. Funding for subsequent years is provided if sufficient funding is available.
- c) Under the terms of this policy, the Government of Nunavut's liability is limited to the amount of funding authorized. As a result, the Government of Nunavut will not be responsible for any shortfalls or deficits incurred by the funding recipient.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial resources required under this Policy are conditional on approval by the Legislative Assembly and on the availability of funds in the appropriate budget.

PREROGATIVE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting the programs of the Department of Family Services outside the provisions of this policy.

SUNSET

This policy shall be in effect from the date of approval until March 31, 2025.

Premier

Date of Expiry: March 31, 2025