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TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

## **Tsawwassen First Nation**

## **Tsawwassen Elder Benefit Program Policy**

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**Date Enacted: March 7, 2023**

*Order Number: O.020-2023*

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Kim Baird  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

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<b>Section(s) Amended</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Order number</b>	<b>Come Into Force Date</b>

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## 1. Authority

Under section 7 of the *Financial Administration Act*, Executive Council may establish policies and procedures and give directions respecting any matter relating to the financial administration of Tsawwassen First Nation.

## 2. Definitions

In this policy:

- a) **“Elder”** means a Tsawwassen Member aged 55 or older;
- b) **“Elder’s Treaty Benefit”** means the \$15,000 payment that was distributed to each Tsawwassen Member who was aged 60 or older on the date the Treaty was ratified, who turned aged 60 since that date, or became a Tsawwassen Member after their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to the enactment of this policy.
- c) **“Treaty”** means the *Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement*;

## 3. Purpose

The purpose of the Tsawwassen Elder Benefit Program is to ensure that Elders share in the benefits of the Treaty.

## 4. Principles

The following principles guide the development and implementation of this policy:

- a) We hold our Elders in the highest regard as the knowledge keepers of our Nation and its culture, history, heritage, and language.
- b) The knowledge and wisdom of Elders was fundamental to research, development, and ratification of the Treaty.
- c) Elders should benefit equally from the Lands that the Tsawwassen People have occupied since time immemorial.
- d) We honour, respect, and provide for our Elders and commit ourselves to their wellbeing.

## 5. Replacing the Elder’s Treaty Benefit and Transition

The Elder’s Treaty Benefit is discontinued and replaced by the Tsawwassen Elder Benefit Program Policy. Under this policy, a similar payment to what was provided through the Elder’s Treaty Benefit is now provided as the Age 55 Benefit and additional benefits are provided at age 60 and age 65.

When this policy comes into effect:

- a) All Elders between the ages of 55 and 59 will receive the Age 55 Benefit. Elders aged 60 and older already received a similar payment through the Elder’s Treaty Benefit.

- b) All Elders aged 60 and older will receive the Age 60 Benefit.
- c) All Elders aged 65 and older will begin receiving the Age 65 Benefit. The Age 65 Benefit is not retroactive and no additional payments will be made.

## **6. Age 55 Benefit**

### **6.1. Eligibility**

Any living Elder aged 55 or older who has not previously received the Elder's Treaty Benefit or the Age 55 Benefit is eligible for the Age 55 Benefit.

### **6.2. Benefit Amount**

The amount of the Age 55 Benefit is \$20,000.00 Canadian dollars.

### **6.3. Payment Schedule**

Tsawwassen First Nation will endeavour to pay the Age 55 Benefit to an eligible Elder within 5 business days of the Elder's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **7. Age 60 Benefit**

### **7.1. Eligibility**

Any living Elder aged 60 or older who has not previously received the Age 60 Benefit is eligible for the Age 60 Benefit.

### **7.2. Benefit Amount**

The amount of the Age 60 Benefit is \$10,000.00 Canadian dollars.

### **7.3. Payment Schedule**

Tsawwassen First Nation will endeavour to pay the Age 60 Benefit to an eligible Elder within 5 business days of the Elder's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **8. Age 65 Benefit**

### **8.1. Eligibility**

Any living Elder aged 65 or older is eligible to receive the Age 65 Benefit.

### **8.2. Benefit Amount**

The amount of the Age 65 Benefit is \$500.00 Canadian dollars per month.

### **8.3. Payment Schedule**

The payment of the Age 65 benefit begins in the month that an Elder turns age 65 and ceases upon death. Tsawwassen First Nation will endeavour to pay the Age 65 Benefit to an eligible Elder in the first 5 business days of each month.

### **8.4. Payments are not retroactive**

Tsawwassen Members who are over age 65 when this policy comes into effect are not entitled to retroactive payments.

## **9. Benefits are Non-Transferrable**

All benefits under the Tsawwassen Elder Benefit Program are non-transferrable and cease upon death.

## **10. No Application Form**

No application form is required: Elders will automatically receive the benefits upon reaching the relevant ages.