

BRFN OFF RESERVE BURIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Background Information

The cost of burying a family member can cause great stress on families who may not have Life Insurance. For some time now the BRFN Chief and Council have been working on a way to help alleviate the stress that finances can create during this already difficult time. Therefore, we have developed the Off Reserve Burial Fund Assistance Program. While Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada provides funding for On Reserve Band Member's only, we are able to use Own Source Revenue such as profits from the Gas Bar to offer programs such as this one.

General Information on the Program:

The BRFN off Reserve Burial Assistance Program is designed to help cover the cost of burials when no other source of funding is available to access.

- The deceased must be a registered Bear River First Nation Band Member living off reserve;
- Payment will be made to the Funeral Home directly, up to a maximum amount of \$4,500.00
- Payment will be made to a florist up to a maximum amount of \$500.00 for flowers
- All other sources of funding must be exhausted such as insurance, municipal contributions etc.
- If CPP contributions are available, BRFN can assist with this paperwork so reimbursement can be made to the appropriate person, or if no expenses are incurred to the family can go the Band and back into the fund for other Off Reserve Band Members to access.
- To apply for this program a simple phone call to the Chief and Council will get the process started. A letter or email with specific details is required after the process has started.

Please see the list below of information required:

- Information of Family Contact – name, address, phone number
- Information on the deceased – name, band member, date of birth, date of death, list of other funding sources if applicable
- Information of funeral home – name, address, phone number, contact person
- Information of florist – name, address, phone number, contact person

Other Information

This fund was developed to help alleviate the financial burden for the families that with burying a family member without other sources of funding. In no way does accessing this fund mean the BRFN will interfere with decisions of the family in regards to details of the death of a family member. The Bands role is only to assist with financial help associated with the burial costs directly to the Funeral Home and to assist (if requested) with applying for CPP contributions. The only requirements of the fund is to provide the above information and a death certificate upon completion.