

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] in the City of Castlegar, in the Province of British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I have personal knowledge of the matters included in this affidavit except where statements are made based on information and belief, in which case I verily believe them to be true.
2. I am 28 years old. I have a three year old daughter who resides with me and my husband in Castlegar, British Columbia. I am her primary caregiver. We do not have any family in Castlegar.
3. I am a part time student in the Social Service Worker program at Selkirk College. I am currently taking two classes and my practicum, which works out to about 13 hours of in-person class and practicum time per week, plus another 10 hours or more per week of online work and study time. I am also employed one night per week, on Fridays, at a youth prevention program.
4. My daughter attends a licensed childcare facility two and a half days per week at a cost of between \$400 and \$490 per month. I called the childcare facility six or seven months before I wanted to start school and got placed on their waitlist. My daughter was on the waitlist for the facility for about six months before she obtained a childcare space, which allowed me to start school as planned.
5. My school schedule changes from semester to semester and, as a result, the days that my daughter requires childcare also change. Our childcare provider does not mind as long as we provide two weeks' notice of our schedule changes.

6. Before I had my daughter, I worked as a waitress in the evenings. After my maternity leave ended, I decided to go back to school because I did not want to work evenings anymore and I did not want to be a waitress forever. I wanted more secure, higher paying employment.
7. I chose to take part time studies because it would allow me to care for my daughter part of the week, which would reduce childcare costs. Because I am a part time student, though, I am not eligible for most scholarships.
8. My husband is self-employed and owns a heating, air conditioning, and ventilation (HVAC)/sheet metal fabrication company. He is the primary financial supporter of our household. Our net annual household income was approximately \$35,000 in 2015.
9. Because my husband is self-employed in the construction industry, our income is not steady throughout the year. When his business is busy, he works more to take advantage of the income while he can. Last summer he worked approximately 50 days in a row without a day off because there was demand for his business, but there are consequences for my husband's mental health when he works so intensely. During the winter, his work slows down significantly. We balance our income using a line of credit throughout the year, which allows us to ensure that we can always pay for basic necessities like shelter, food and heat. We are incredibly appreciative of this resource and understand that many families do not have this option available to them.
10. Because my husband works longer days and sometimes through the weekend when his business is busy, I cannot commit to work in the evenings or on the weekends because I need to be available to care for our daughter. My husband earns more than me per hour, so it does not make sense for us to prioritize my work over his.

11. In the summer of 2015 and the first semester of school in September-December 2015, I tried working as a youth worker three evenings per week in addition to my Friday evening employment. We kept my daughter in her childcare facility part time. On the days when she was not in childcare, I cared for her during the day and my husband cared for her in the evenings. It was incredibly stressful trying to balance school work, childcare, household duties, and job demands. I was severely overwhelmed and I had to quit my position as a youth worker.
12. It often feels like our family is in a deadlock because, as the primary financial provider for the family, my husband is under an immense amount of stress. He often experiences anxiety and insomnia in relation to his business. I would like to help financially to take some of the strain off of him, but I cannot work because I need to care for our daughter and focus on school, which I am taking in the hopes of securing future jobs that pay above minimum wage so that I can financially contribute to our family in the future.
13. The jobs that I could realistically get without additional education will not allow me to earn enough to meaningfully contribute to our family income because they pay low wages. Taking those jobs would require that we increase my daughter's time in childcare each week and, as a result, my extra income would be offset by increased childcare costs.
14. I feel trapped and I have a profound sense of powerlessness a lot of the time because I am financially dependent on my husband. I am constantly hyper aware of how much I am spending on necessities like groceries because I am not contributing to our family income. I know that anything I spend means stress for my husband.
15. I also feel like I have to adhere to and prioritize everyone else's schedule. I chose to be in school, but I struggle to find time to do homework and we cannot afford more childcare to allow me additional time to focus more on my

