

**Investing in our future**



**NEW**  
RELATIONSHIP  
**TRUST**  
FOUNDATION



**2019–2020**  
**SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY**  
**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS AND CEO



**Mike Bonshor**

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

On behalf of the New Relationship Trust Foundation and our partner organizations, we are pleased to present the 2019–20 Scholarship and Bursary Award Recipient Brochure. This yearly highlight allows us to honour and celebrate the educational success of each award recipients.

The NRTF awards support Indigenous students across the province as they pursue their post-secondary goals and dream careers. Representing nearly every trade and academic discipline—from welding to culinary arts; nursing to business; education to law—these outstanding students will be the workforce of the future and champions for our Nations. We are extremely proud and grateful to be part of their journey.

In 2019–20, we provided funding support for a record 410 students. This is up from 346 awards in 2018–19. This is the fourth year in which we have supported Métis students along with First Nations



**Kory Wilson**

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

students who are from communities outside of BC and now live in the province. While most students are studying in BC, some students are completing their studies at institutions as far away as New York University and The European Graduate School in Switzerland.

Based on feedback the recipients express an overwhelming amount of appreciation for the award as many are struggling juggling multiple priorities and responsibilities on top of trying to make ends meet. Many recipients indicate that they simply would not be able to pursue their academic goals without the award. We are grateful to be able to support these students but we know there are many more that we cannot support.

With the increasing Indigenous population the demand for scholarships and bursaries increases each year. Though we have been able to expand our support due to the generous support of our



**Clifford White**

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

donors, we continue to seek more partnerships. This year, we welcomed new partners with the Business Council of British Columbia & the BC Federation of Labour as our Partners. This partnership supported the Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders award as two new bursaries and a new scholarship for well deserving students. We are grateful for our returning partners: The Province of B.C. – Early Years and Indigenous Early Years Policy and Programs, First Nations Health Authority, Canfor, Drillwell Enterprises Ltd., and Peace Hills Trust. Together, we are closing the gap and investing in the future.

We trust that you will enjoy this brochure and recognise the strength of the students and the hope for our collective future. If you would like to support the New Relationship Trust Foundation to continue to fund students please reach out to become part of this critical initiative.

Respectfully,

**“we are making a difference and that difference, in turn, will positively influence the future for us all.”**

**Kory Wilson**

New Relationship Trust Foundation

**Clifford White**

New Relationship Trust Foundation

**Michael Bonshor**

New Relationship Trust Foundation



# NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST FOUNDATION

## Our Mission:

To assist Indigenous peoples in BC separately and collectively to meet their education goals.

## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

# ABOUT NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST FOUNDATION

The New Relationship Trust Foundation (NRT Foundation) is the largest Indigenous-run education charity in British Columbia (BC). Since 2008, the New Relationship Trust and NRT Foundation have awarded 2,787 scholarships and bursaries totaling \$13 million in post-secondary financial aid.

By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, the NRT Foundation is building the capacity of our communities, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and creating the skilled work force that will enable BC to meet its future economic and social development needs.

The two primary objectives of the NRT Foundation are to endow \$30 million for a perpetual education fund, while at the same time continuing the scholarship and bursary commitment to student education.

# SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY AWARDS

The NRT Foundation and BC First Nations communities realize the importance of education. The NRT Foundation Post-Secondary Education Scholarship program was launched in 2007, with almost 100 awards granted at the Undergraduate, Masters and Doctorate levels in the first year.

Funding for Bursaries was added in 2008, as a response to feedback we received that there was a high demand for education in the area of Trades, Diplomas, Associate Degrees and Certificates.

In 2011, the NRT Foundation was created and in early 2012 management of the Scholarship and Bursary Award initiative was transferred to the NRT Foundation.

**2,787 Scholarships and Bursaries have been awarded to students at all levels of post-secondary education.**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Post-Secondary Scholarships are available to all Indigenous students from BC who will attend an accredited post-secondary institution on a full-time basis. There are also scholarships available to Indigenous students from a Nation outside of BC but attending a BC institution.

Together, with the support of Partners and Donors, the NRT Foundation has awarded a total of 1,434 Scholarships since inception.

## BURSARIES

Bursaries are available to all eligible Indigenous students who are enrolled in Certificate, Diploma, Associates Degrees, and/or Trades programs. Students who are enrolled in a post-secondary institution and remain in good academic standing are encouraged to apply for an NRT Foundation Bursary.

Together, with the support of Partners and Donors, the NRT Foundation has awarded a total of 1,353 Bursaries since inception.

# RECIPIENT DATABASE

The NRT Foundation maintains a database of past scholarship and bursary award recipients. The individuals in the database are contacted by the NRT Foundation to inform them about employment and internship opportunities. This service is available to NRT Foundation Donors and Partners who are looking to fill positions with qualified employees.

To learn more about this opportunity and how to get involved, please contact Matt Cook-Contois, Partnerships and Marketing Manager at (604) 925-3338 or [mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca](mailto:mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca)

# SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES AWARDED TO DATE

	BURSARIES	UNDERGRAD	MASTERS	DOCTORATE	CHIEF JOE MATHIAS	TOTAL
2007/08	-	65	23	8	-	96
2008/09	58	51	16	13	27	165
2009/10	60	42	21	10	27	160
2010/11	59	42	23	11	17	152
2011/12	66	44	22	9	18	159
2012/13	113	40	15	9	17	194
2013/14	92	41	16	9	18	176
2014/15	93	51	14	8	-	166
2015/16	103	69	18	12	-	202
2016/17	129	85	17	14	-	245
2017/18	171	93	29	15	-	308
2018/19	200	104	30	20	-	354
2019/20	209	137	44	20	-	410
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1353</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,787</b>



## EDUCATION GRANTS DISBURSED

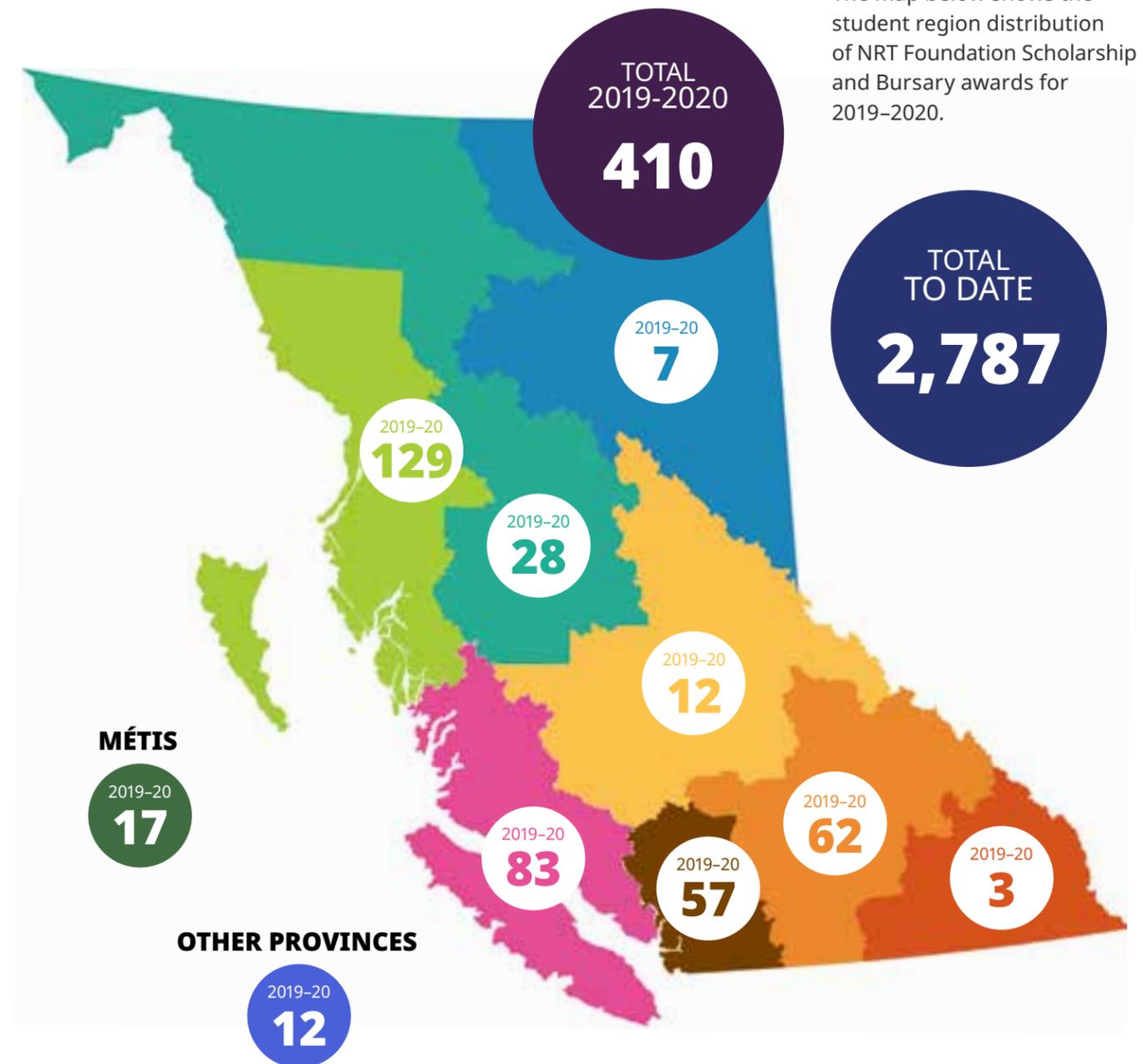
Since 2007, the NRT, NRT Foundation and Partners have distributed more than \$13 million to support the post-secondary education of Indigenous people in BC.

## EDUCATION LEVERAGED

	TOTAL
2007/08	\$717,500
2008/09	\$763,000
2009/10	\$747,500
2010/11	\$743,000
2011/12	\$751,000
2012/13	\$731,500
2013/14	\$729,000
2014/15	\$713,500
2015/16	\$935,500
2016/17	\$1,122,500
2017/18	\$1,393,500
2018/19	\$1,625,000
2019/20	\$2,030,250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,002,750</b>

2019-2020

## WHERE THE FUNDING GOES



# PARTNERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The contributions from our generous Partners allowed the NRT Foundation to support over 400 Indigenous students with Scholarships and Bursaries in 2019-20. Almost all Indigenous students face financial barriers while attending post-secondary school and the NRT Foundation's Scholarship and Bursary program eases financial struggles so students can focus on their studies and excel.

By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, the NRT Foundation and Partners are building the capacity of Indigenous students, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and creating the skilled work force that will enable BC to meet its future economic needs and social development needs.

Together, we are building a brighter future for all British Columbians.

If you would like to support the growing number of exceptional Indigenous candidates from across BC through the NRT Foundation Scholarship & Bursary program, please contact

**Matt Cook-Contois**  
Partnerships & Marketing Manager  
NRT Foundation  
(604) 925-3338 ext. 107  
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

**The First Nations Health Authority** (FNHA) is a health service delivery organization, created and mandated to support and elevate BC First Nations health outcomes through the creation of an effective health care system. One of FNHA's directives is to develop human and economic capacity; our vision is for healthy, self-determining and vibrant children, families and communities. FNHA has partnered with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage First Nations people to explore exciting career opportunities in the health and wellness field.

*FNHA recipient bios begin on page 14.*

## KEEGAN COMBES MEMORIAL AWARD

**The Keegan Combes Memorial Award** was established to honour the memory of Keegan Coombes, a 29-year-old First Nations man and a member of Skwah First Nation. He was a high school graduate, a grade 10 pianist, and a chess champion enrolled in a trades college at the time of his passing. Keegan also lived with disabilities, and was non-verbal by choice. He is remembered, missed, and loved.

*Keegan recipient bios begin on page 44.*

Funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

Canada



**The Ministry of Children and Family Development, through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement** is pleased to announce the second year of the \$1 million Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary program. The Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary Program will ensure that more Indigenous students living in BC will be able to access post-secondary funding. The NRT Foundation is offering scholarships to Indigenous students who currently reside in British Columbia and are enrolled in Early Years related programs. Professions supported in this stream include Early Childhood Educators (ECE), Infant Toddler and Special Needs ECE, Early Intervention Therapies (Speech Language Pathologists and Audiology, Occupational and Physio Therapists, Applied Behavioural Analysts), Child and Youth Care, Human Service Development, Educational Psychology, and Community, Child and Family Support.

*IEY recipient bios begin on page 46.*

## Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders Scholarship & Bursary Program

Presented in partnership by:



The 2019–20 Scholarship and Bursary Program is in honour of Chief Dr Robert Joseph O.B.C, O.C., the founder of Reconciliation Canada and Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation.

As a collaborative, non-partisan organization, the Business Council strives to be a venue where members, policy experts, elected officials and government decision-makers can address problems and form solutions together.

The BC Federation of Labour represents over 500,000 members from affiliated unions across the province, working in every aspect of the BC economy.

*More information and Recipient bios begin on page 85.*





Canfor recognizes that building respectful, transparent relationships that reflect the interests of First Nations are critical to its vision of sustainable forest practices. Canfor is happy to partner with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage First Nations people to explore career paths in the forest industry.

*Canfor recipient bios begin on page 88.*



Drillwell Enterprises is one of Western Canada's largest and most experienced water well drilling contractors. Drillwell maintains a fleet of equipment of varying size and capability, specializing in Water Well Drilling, Hydro-fracturing, and Exploration ventures. Drillwell Enterprises has provided an annual bursary to the New Relationship Trust Foundation since 2016.

*Drillwell recipient bios begin on page 90.*



Peace Hills Trust (PHT) is Canada's largest and oldest First Nations owned federally regulated financial institution and is also Canada's only independent Trust Company.

*PHT recipient bios begin on page 92.*



The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building. NRT invests in BC First Nations by supporting them in five key capacity development areas: Governance Capacity, Education, Language, Youth & Elders, and Economic Development.

*NRT recipient bios begin on page 95.*





**First Nations Health Authority**  
Health through wellness

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is a health service delivery organization, created and mandated to support and elevate BC First Nations health outcomes through the creation of an effective health care system. One of FNHA's directives is to develop human and economic capacity; our vision is for healthy, self-determining and vibrant children, families and communities. FNHA has partnered with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage First Nations people to explore exciting career opportunities in the health and wellness field.

There are a multitude of career opportunities in health and wellness, and many programs can be completed in under a year. Working in health care can bring a sense of satisfaction in helping others on their path to wellness. It is a dynamic, ever-changing environment, and there is a growing

demand for jobs. By investing in First Nation students, FNHA aims to train those with a passion for working in First Nations communities in BC, who have an interest in supporting community health and wellness by providing culturally safe services.

FNHA raises our hands to all the students who have received scholarships and bursaries and look forward to supporting those yet to come. FNHA recognizes your hard work and dedication to your own dream and also acknowledge your families who support you. You are an inspiration to other First Nations people who may choose to pursue a career in health and wellness.

[fnha.ca/about/work-with-us](https://fnha.ca/about/work-with-us)



**Alyssa Schneider**  
**Bonaparte First Nation**

Rhodes Wellness College  
Professional Counselling

I am so incredibly grateful for this bursary and the opportunity it provides for me to follow my passion of counselling. I've already learned so much within the first 7 months of my program - about myself, about helping others, and the industry. Once I'm finished at Rhodes I intend to work for an organization then pursue a private practice which will be largely focused on youth and grief counselling. This work is extremely close to my heart as I have lived experience in needing (and being without) both. I am so honoured to do this work.

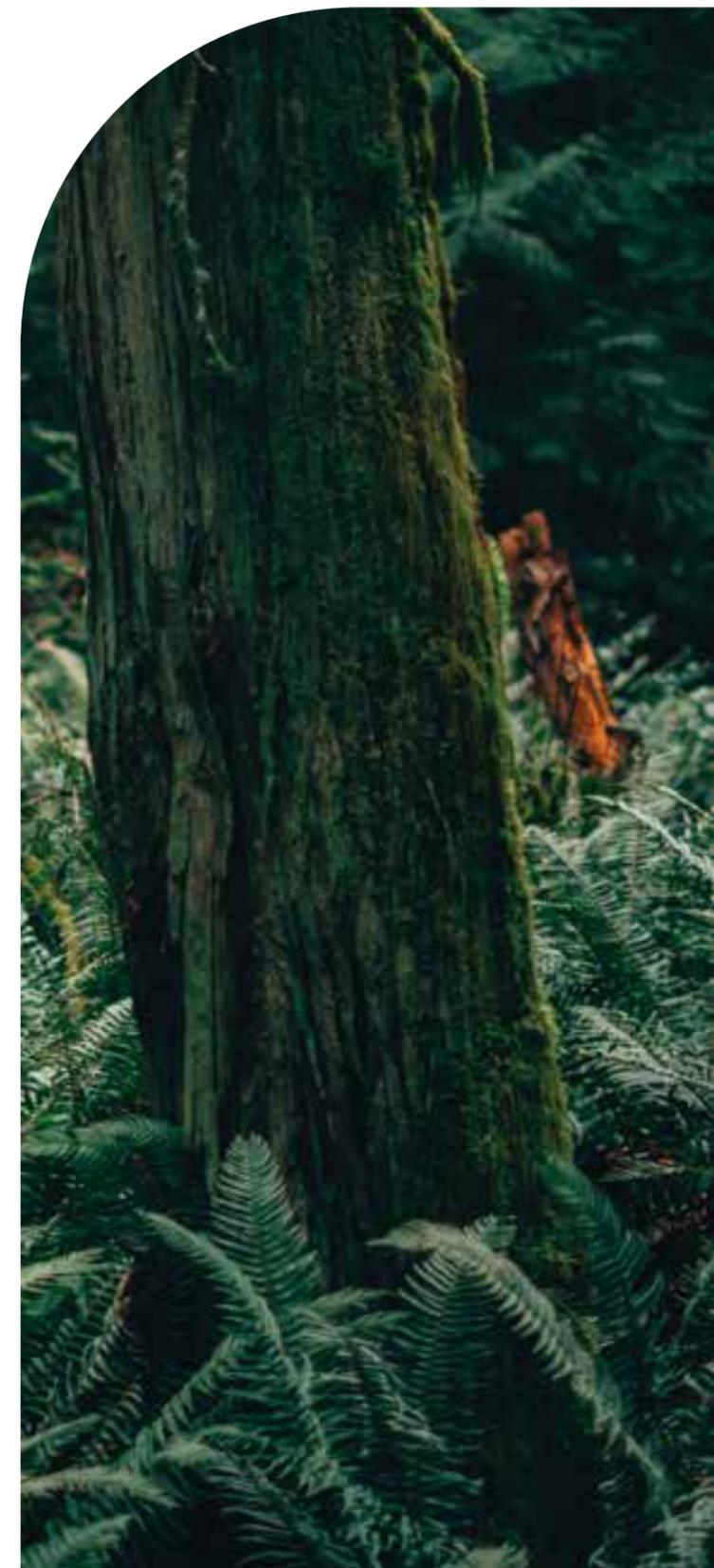


**Amanda Dixon**  
**Shíshálh Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Aboriginal Health and  
Community Administration

I am currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Health and Community Administration Program at the University of British Columbia. I have a health care background, with previous employment with VCH, now currently working for the shíshálh Nation. I have recently accepted the role of Executive Assistant and I aim to grow within this role with future potential to move into a Health management position within Community Services.

?ul-nu-msh-chalap, thank-you to the New Relationship Trust Foundation and First Nations Health Authority for this bursary opportunity.





**Anaysa Stevens**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

Coast Mountain College  
 Social Service Worker

My name is Anaysa Stevens, I am currently in the social service work program, and my plans are to enroll in the University of Victoria, where I will apply to their Bachelor of Psychology programme once I have all of the course requirements to get into the Psychology degree program. I have chosen to go into this field to help people and to understand people better than I do right now. Helping people and working with people has always been a passion of mine which is why I have chosen this field.



**Angela Hance**  
**Tl'etingox Government**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Human Service Diploma

I am a proud Tsilhqot'in woman who is a single mother to two children. My goal is to attain an education so that I can return to my First Nation community to assist with the communities unfortunate situations. I believe that I can make a difference within my community. My goal is to ensure my children and other children within my community are educated on their own language and culture because it is an important part of their identity.



**Angelique Edgar**  
**Ditidaht First Nation**

Native Education College  
 Health Care Assistant

I now live in Vancouver, attending Native Education College, taking the Health Care Assistant Program Course. I grew up in Nitinat Lake, in the Ditidaht First Nations. As a little girl I was a vibrant happy child that loved to take care of everyone. I lived with my grandparents while my Mother was attending school. I had a pleasant childhood. As I got older, I became a mother, got married, had 2 beautiful boys, then divorced. They are now men living in Duncan on Vancouver Island. I was a volunteer at Haro Park Senior Centre where I met my fiancé Jeff Kay. As I volunteered my time there, I thoroughly enjoyed spending my time with the seniors. That is when I made the decision to go back to school and become a Health Care Assistant. I love this course.



**Anita Azak**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Coast Mountain College  
 Social Service Worker

I am from the village of Gitwinksihlkw in the Nisga'a Nation located in Northern British Columbia. I have chosen a career in social work because I want to make a positive difference in my community. Many First Nations have been involved with intergenerational trauma through the negative impacts of colonialism, residential schools, and the 60's scoop. By pursuing my goals I will be better equip to serve individuals, families and communities to enhance health and overall wellbeing. I want to be a part of the healing process and help others with their journey.



**Ashley Bitz**  
**Little Shuswap Lake**  
**Indian Band**

Vancouver Community College  
 Access to Practical Nursing

My Name is Ashley Bitz and I am from the Secwepemc nation. I am currently living in Vancouver to further my education to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. My goal is to become a nurse and to give back to my community once I have gained some experience. I am looking forward to having a career that I am passionate about and can help others. Also excited to have a stable career to support my family.



**Cheyenne Russ**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Camosun College  
 Associate of Arts

My personal goals are to achieve more than I had done the previous day, I liberally apply this to every aspect of my life and my future goals. My career goals are to accomplish a Bachelor's Degree, and hopefully a masters, in Neuropsychology to take on the negative stigma of mental health awareness and practices within my own community and wherever I may travel. I believe that everyone is deserving of a safe and easy path to prospering mental health and I hope to help facilitate that through my studies.



**Cynthia Gonu**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

Rhodes Wellness College  
 Life Skills Coach

My Nisga'a Name is Wilxo'oskwhl Gibuu. My spiritual name is Wolf Woman of Thunder. As of March 31, 2019 I am a Certified Coach and soon to be Certified Counsellor, also, I am a trainee in Ancient Traditional Wisdom. My purpose in life "I am a strong, caring, confident and loving mother/woman and helper sharing my unconditional love and knowledge with those who wish to shift their energy to self empowerment." I walk with love, honor, respect and belief in all people and the world.



**Dallas Sam**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Indigenous Human Service

I live in Fort St. James, BC in Nak'azdli Whut'en. I am part of the Lusilyoo (Frog) Clan. I am currently taking my Human Indigenous Services Diploma, working towards my degree in Social Work. I am the mother to a 5 year old daughter. My career goals are to help create more programs on creating stronger, healthier families and communities. Growing up in a small town, I have seen how building a sense of belonging through culture creates a sense of wellbeing. I feel that people's happiness is based on social and emotional connection to friends, family, and to their community. Because I have witnessed first hand the effects of parenting due to intergenerational trauma, I want to give back by creating ways to bring families together.



**Davena Isaac**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Vancouver Community College  
Associate of Science

Hi my name is Davena and I am studying an Associates of Science at Vancouver Community College.



**Georgia Jules**  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**

Centre for Response-Based Practice  
Family Therapy

Wekt, My name is Georgia Jules and I grew up in Neskonlith Indian Band but I am from Skeetchestn Indian Band. My mother is Donna Jules and my Father is John Jules. I am currently taken Family Therapy to help me with my current work in Education with Neskonlith Indian Band. I was recently released from the Canadian Forces, I had 13 years of service as an infantry soldier. My goal is to go back to school and I have currently found my career in Education helping students achieve their education goals. Kukstemc.



**Haley Prince**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service

Hi my name is Haley and I am studying an Indigenous Human Services Diploma at NVIT.



**Jacobi Wilson-Brown**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Langara College  
Kinesiology

My name is Jacobi Wilson-Brown and I am Nisga'a and Haisla living in Vancouver, BC. Currently I am getting ready to go back to school to study Kinesiology. My goal is to obtain my personal training certification through kin and work in Vancouver. I also want to figure out a way to make a healthy and active lifestyle fun so that youth on reservations can be more active. I feel that technology is taking over in today's society and more and more people are not being as active as they used to. I also want to open my own gym.



**Jaden Stefanyk**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Thompson Rivers University  
Human Service Diploma

My name is Jaden Stefanyk, I am a mother to Isabella who is 10 years old and am a proud Tk'emlups te Secwepemc member. I believe in advocating for and empowering individuals by encouraging them to reach their true potential and by facilitating hope.

I want to make my family, my ancestors and my community proud. I want to set an example for my daughter and all the children of the community that anything is possible, the future is full of endless possibilities and that they are worthy.



**Janet Harry**  
**Haisla Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Chemical Addictions Worker

My name is Janet Harry, I am married to James Harry Sr and we have three beautiful children and two beautiful grandchildren. I am enrolled in the Chemical Addictions Certificate Program and I plan on finishing the four years and get my masters. My passion is working in the field of Addiction and Wellness. We have been clean and sober for five years and take great pride in our lives today and work hard to maintain it.



**Jenny Seward**  
**Squamish Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Chemical Addictions Worker

My name is Jenny Seward I am from Squamish nation, I have been clean just over 11 years now I attended NVIT to do the Chad program year two & three, I do have a certificate for the program I went for a diploma this time, I am very interested in helping people.



**Jeremy Weiss**  
**Da'naxda'xw First Nation**

Vancouver Island University  
Social Services Diploma

My name is Jeremy Weiss, and I am from Da'naxda'xw First Nation. I've always had an interest with learning and discovering my potential to excel at living better in life. I have spent a great deal of time living with addictive behaviors. I no longer live with with these addictive behaviors, and by overcoming them I can see my potential more clearly now. I'm going to utilize my potential towards my career goal to work as an addictions counselor. I feel that my experience and battle with addiction will help others who suffer as I have. I'm First Nations and that will be an asset to helping the First Nations community.

My journey to becoming a healer is directly related to my own personal journey of healing from the trauma and addiction I've experienced. I am grateful to have the educational opportunity to achieve my personal and career goals.



“I would like to thank the NRT Foundation for helping and supporting me to achieve my career goals. The financial relief that the bursary provides, will help me focus better on my studies. I feel that the added focus will help me to excel scholastically.  
— Jeremy Weiss



**Katie Habsburg**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service

My name is Katie Habsburg, I am a 23-year-old Carrier-Chilcotin First Nation from Stellat'en First Nation I am currently employed with Stellat'en First Nation as the Social Development Program Manager since 2016 but will be going on maternity leave soon as I am expecting my first child in August of 2019.

I am currently enrolled in the Indigenous Human Service Diploma program through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Vanderhoof, BC. I had chosen to take the program to do better with my work ethics and have more knowledgeable tools to serve the members in my community better.



**Kayla Davis**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Langara College  
Kinesiology

My name is Kayla, and I am from Haida Gwaii. I am currently enrolled in the Kinesiology diploma program at Langara College in my second semester. Next Fall 2020 I plan on transferring to UBC to finish my Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology so I can meet the prerequisites for doing the Master's in Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy at UBC. My career goal is becoming a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist and returning to Haida Gwaii so the island has more variety in health care professionals.



**Keisha Fletcher**  
**High Bar First Nation**

Thompson Rivers University  
Human Service Diploma

I am Keisha Fletcher from Clinton, BC. Growing up in a small town that had no services available to the community always made me want to be able to bring services to the community. I decided to take my human services diploma and then further schooling to be able to bring mental health services and addictions services to my small town. .



**Latishia Blackwater-Russell**  
**Gitsegukla First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Human Services Diploma

My name is Latishia Blackwater-Russell, I am 28 years old, and from the community of Gitsegukla. I have two beautiful daughters who are looking up to me and I am doing my best to be the greatest role model possible to them. I am currently working at Gitxsan Child & Family Services Society as a Social Work Assistant, and my goal is to become a Social Worker for this agency. It has always been a passion of mine to work with children/youth and to help build strong families, and it's a bonus to be able to assist doing this with my own people. I recently enrolled in the Indigenous Human Services Diploma Program with NVIT and this is the first step into achieving my Bachelors of Social Work.



**Louis Gagnon**  
**Witset First Nation**

College of New Caledonia  
Kinesiology

I hail from Wit'set village as a member of the small frog clan. I am an aspiring kinesiology student that hopes to finish the Occupational Therapy program at UBC. I hope to be able to help the communities of the north through gaining skills and knowledge that will help in addressing the health problems caused by our modern lifestyle and ensure that people are able to maintain a living doing the jobs that they've specialized in and enjoy what otherwise occupies their lives.



**Marcia Vickers**  
**Laxgalts'ap Village Government**

Native Education College  
Family & Community Counselling

Hi my name is Marci and I am studying a Family & Community Counseling Diploma at Native Education College.



**Maria Kruger**  
**Penticton Indian Band**

Vancouver Community College  
Dental Reception Coordinator

I am of Okanagan/Shuswap descent. One of my personal goals is to give back to my community, what better way than to serve in the health and wellness industry? With the establishment of the Snxastwilxtn Centre a place for our people to heal and commit to lifetime sustainability of healthy living. Funded equally from FNHA and the Penticton Indian Band, I will focus on my educational foundation to assist within my own community. Lim' limpt.



**Maureen Morven**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government**

Rhodes Wellness College  
Life Coach

My Nisga'a name is Liibaygum An'un (flying hands). I come from the Nisga'a Village of New Aiyansh. Along with a background training in Ancient Traditional Psychology, I am currently a certified Life Skills Coach, soon to certified Life Skills Counsellor. With these teachings, my intention is to help all Creator & Mother Earth's children. My intention is to bridge the traditional psychology teachings with the western psychology understanding so that our people can have the confidence to show who they are in a world that has taught them to be anything but that.



**Michelle Morgan**  
**Gitwangak Band**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service

Hello my name is Michelle Morgan I am a strong Gitxsan woman that is in the house of Skii'yan. I have 4 beautiful children and have worked very hard on making them succeed in life. It is now my time to show them that it is never to late to go back to school to succeed and have a career. I look forward to the day that I have my masters in BSW, I am always encouraging my children's friends to never give up. I love to be an advocate for children in care as I have 3 in my care. This is what pushes me to get my BSW to be there for them, and many other children in care.



**Naomi Williams**  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation**

Vancouver Community College  
Health Unit Coordinator

I'm so grateful to continue to be a learner as I progress in my journey. Though I've changed avenues a few times, my goal is always to learn and work in settings where I feel I can give back to my communities. Through education and sharing I learn more and more about the field of health care, and how to be a better helper. My goal eventually is to strengthen my practice post education and to utilize my skills to practice not only in urban settings but to move back to my home community as well.



**Nicole Baker**  
**Lheidli T'enneh Band**

MacEwan University  
Hearing Aid Practitioner

I am a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. I will be taking the Hearing Instrument Practitioner diploma program through MacEwan University distant education. Obtaining my education via distant education will allow me to remain in my home community. I am fortunate to have the support of a local hearing centre and its staff who will provide tutoring and labs at their storefront location.

I look forward to providing hearing services to members of my community and region upon graduation.



**Nicole Hislop**  
**Boothroyd Band**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Medical Radiography

My name is Nicole Hislop, I am 27-year-old member of the Boothroyd Indian Band. Through the support of my band, I was able to attend British Columbia Institute of Technology, in pursuit of a career in Medical Radiography. I will be finishing my 24-month program at the end of August 2019. I am excited and look forward to entering the workforce to start helping people in the healthcare system while expanding my knowledge. I went into the Medical Radiography program because I have always had an interest in how the body works and I enjoy working with people.



**Rae-Ann Lawrence**  
**Okanagan Indian Band**

Okanagan College  
Practical Nursing

My name is Rae-Ann Lawrence, I am from the Okanagan Indian Band in Vernon BC, I am currently an LPN student. My career goal is to graduate from Okanagan College and become a hospice paediatric nurse supporting and comforting children and their family's with their last moments. I would also love to specialize in mental health and substance abuse to come back to my reserve to help better our community.



**Roselita Louis**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service

My name is Roselita Louis. I am from Stellat'en First Nation and frog clan. I'm 32 years old and taking Indigenous human service program with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). I really enjoy taking this program. All the different courses helps me to keep on learning to help others in social work aspect. Critical thinking and reflection, life experiences have been a asset to my school work. I want to continue social work and so I can help indigenous communities the way they need help, each community is unique and require special care for each family.



**Savanna Sandy**  
**Williams Lake Indian Band**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Associate of Arts

My name is Savanna Sandy, I am a Secwepemc member of the William's Lake Band. I have been attending NVIT since the beginning of 2019 and my goal is to complete my degree and then enroll into the Bachelor of Social Work next fall. It has been a dream of mine to help others while setting an example for my son and other youth. My long term goal is to become an Aboriginal womens support worker helping women and thier families through hardships. For I would not be where I am today without the many strong women in my life.

“Thank you much to the New Relationship Trust Foundation. This bursary will help to alleviate some to the burdens of financial hardship.  
— Ryan Elliott



**Ryan Elliott**  
**Nuxalk Nation**

Native Education College  
Family & Community Counselling

Yaws, my name is Ryan Elliott. I'm part of the Nuxalk Nation from Bella Coola, BC. I'm currently in my first year of Family and Community Counselling program at Native Education College in Vancouver, BC. I plan to go on to become a social worker, specializing in youth care. It's a hard life we lead. I want to do what I can to help the people in my community.



**Jacqueline Ricketts**  
Squamish Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Aboriginal Governance & Leadership

Education is a life-long journey. Healing inter-generational trauma is an essential part of our Indigenous people. To heal and learn education to share the knowledge to prepare leaders in various Indigenous communities. I have completed my Chemical Addictions Certificate and will move on the Aboriginal Governance and Leadership Program to help me become a robust and educated leader. In the next 5 years I hope to have my Masters of Education and Curriculum Instruction with intents to obtain a Ph.D. I plan to utilize my education and social set skills to help all the Indigenous scholars Indigenize curricula, as education is the key to opening doors for Indigenous People. My goal is to work within a First Nations community, helping people grow and flourish through healing, wellness, health, and education.



**Rachel Stephens**  
Laxgalts'ap Village Government

Douglas College  
Associate of Science

I will be pursuing an Associate of Science Degree at Douglas College. This will be my first step towards my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. My hope is to be accepted to the nursing program at BCIT once I complete my degree. Science has always been a passion of mine. For me what science truly represents is hope and optimism, allowing a person to truly make a difference and positively impact others.

Nursing will allow me to help others, while challenging me every day. Most importantly, it will allow me to contribute to, and work with my community. I also have an interest in possibly entering medical research or becoming a doctor—I will see where my studies lead.

Thank you so much to NRT Foundation — I am so thankful for organizations like you who support students, it really does make a difference to our success!



**Selina Child**  
Kwakiutl Band Council

Camosun College  
Associate of Arts - Social Work

My name is Selina Child and I am a proud Kwakiutl woman, and a mother of three in which I was a teen mom at the age of 16. I have always had my children as the fuel to complete my dreams and goals, they motivate me to be successful in all I do, so that we will have a brighter future. Since I was a young girl I knew I wanted to help others, help our people, and in completing my Degree in Indigenous Social Work, I will be able to do that as a counsellor, and maybe one day get my Master's degree in counselling. I am ever so grateful for my roots and teachings from my family and being able to grow up surrounded by culture, love and support. I can't wait to be able to give back by helping and supporting our people.



**Shaelan Wilson**  
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Health Care Assistant

Greetings, my name is Shae and I am a recent high school graduate from Merritt Secondary School. I am a member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band. I have been accepted into the Health Care Assistant Program at NVIT for this upcoming September. My education and career dreams are to continue on in my studies to become a registered nurse. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, camping, fishing and hunting. Being outside is one of my favourite past times.



**Shianna Davis**  
Skeetchestn Indian Band

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Medical Radiography

Throughout my years of pre and post secondary education I have always aspired to become apart of our health care and medical system in British Columbia. As I enter into my third term as a student Medical Radiographer at BCIT, I am excited by the many opportunities that this program has given me. I hope that I can inspire others around me to pursue a career in medical imaging as it has been such a rewarding experience so far.



**Stephinee Martell**  
Tl'esqox

Sprott Shaw College  
Practical Nursing Access

My name is Stephinee Martell I'm 31 years old and was born in Williams Lake BC. I currently have been living in Kamloops, BC for the past 13 years. I moved here to raise my daughter who is now 13 years old. I've been a Care Aide for the past 12 years and have been working for a Home Support company, High Country Health. Ever since I was very young I've always wanted to become a nurse and I figure now there is no better time than now to further my career and reach my end goal of becoming a Practical Nurse. I've been through many obstacles in my life and proud of myself for making it this far.



**Taya Rankin**  
**Squamish Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Chemical Addictions Worker

My name is Taya Rankin, from Squamish Nation. I am a mother to a beautiful 10 year old girl. I am studying Chemical Addictions to help my community. Little did I know this course and school would save me and help me reconnect with my culture and identity, which so many of us struggle with these days. One of my personal goals is to live a healthier life and lead by example for my daughter and community. Thank you, for being a part of my journey.



**Theresa Harris**  
**Squiala First Nation**

Vancouver Career College  
Practical Nursing

My name is Theresa, I am 29 years old, and I recently completed all of my adult Dogwood programs online so I could become a nurse. The reason I chose to be a nurse is because my grandpa needed care in his home and it sparked my interest, it took a lot of work in a short-time, but I did it. I had 3 months to complete my Dogwood before the LPN course started. So far I absolutely love the work.



**Tracey Frank**  
**Squiala First Nation**

Vancouver Career College  
Practical Nursing

My name is Tracey Frank and I am a member of the Ahousaht First Nations. I was born in Victoria, BC. I was born as the third out of four siblings to the parents Isaac Campbell and Kathleen Sawyer. I spent my childhood in Tofino, BC. I spent most of my working life working as a Housekeeper. Although I enjoyed this job, I always aspired for more. In 2005 my grandmother became ill. At the end of her life I became her primary caregiver. This experience lead me to explore a career in health care. When the opportunity came up in 2019 to enter the Health Care Assistant Program I jumped at the opportunity. I started the program on August 14th, 2019. I am greatly enjoying the program so far and keeping up with my studies. I am excited to start my career as a Health Care Assistant.



**Valerie Lindley**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

Discovery Community College  
Health Care Assistant

I am a member of Syilx Nation - Upper Nicola. I have two children and four grandchildren. Recently completed certificate, diploma and advanced diploma at NVIT in Chemical Addictions, I am now enrolled at University of the Fraser Valley in Bachelor of Integrated Studies, once that is complete I will enter into a Master's Degree program. My future plans include being a wonderful grandmother by being healthy and living a satisfying and fulfilling lifestyle while teaching in the Chemical Addictions Program with NVIT.



**Victoria Robinson**  
**Gitlax'taamiks**  
**Village Government**

Vancouver Community College  
University Transfer

My name is Victoria Robinson. I come from the Nisga'a Village of Gitlax'taamiks. My journey to where I am now was inspired in many aspects, from summer workforce programs to aboriginal tourism that have lead me to my current occupation as a care aide. I take pride in the resources that are accessible and encourage others to seek out all the opportunities that are available. Currently, I am enrolled at Vancouver Community College, completing my first year university transfer courses and from there I plan to apply to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. My career goal has been a gradual process of seeking experience in learning how to accept the failures along with success. After 6 years of working as a Health Care Assistant, I am motivated to improve my performance and strive for quality care in the nursing field.



**Whitney Blackwater**  
**Kispiox Band Council**

Northwest Community College  
Access to Practical Nursing

I am currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Health and Community Administration Program at the University of British Columbia. I have a health care background, with previous employment with VCH, now currently working for the shísháhl Nation. I have recently accepted the role of Executive Assistant and I aim to grow within this role with future potential to move into a Health management position within Community Services.

“I am grateful for this bursary, thank you to FNHA for providing support to First Nation people that endeavor to help our people in pursuit of healthier children and grandchildren, families and communities.  
— Valerie Lindley

“Hami yaa nee loosim (I thank you all) for this amazing gift. I appreciate the help. It puts my mind at ease knowing someone out there believes in me enough to grant me a bursary.

— Whitney Blackwater



**Aimee Tresierra**  
**Whispering Pines/  
 Clinton Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I am originally from Golden, BC, and moved to Kelowna to pursue my dream of becoming a registered nurse. I am a mother of two beautiful daughters, one is just over 2 years old and the other is 2 months old. I have a very supportive family who is helping me care for my daughters while I pursue my career goals. I have always dreamed of helping others in the best way that I could, and when I finally decided to pursue nursing I knew it was for me right away. I am very thankful for the support I have received from my band as well as the New Relationship Trust Foundation.



**Andrea Wilkerson**  
**Laxgalts'ap Village  
 Government**

Brigham Young University-Idaho  
 Bachelor of Science-Biochemistry

I am from the Nisga'a First Nation from the community of Laxgalts'ap (Greenville), Canada, the clan of the Ravens. I am so grateful to receive this scholarship. I love the field of medicine, and I truly am excited to get started on my career when I finish my education. I would like to work and serve with other First Nations in a health-related profession. In the field of biochemistry, I have learned to understand plants, and grown appreciation for the Earth. I think my traditional culture is amazing, because we see the interconnectedness of all living things and their healing touch in our lives.



**Bret Watts**  
**Tseshah First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Kinesiology

I was born in Port Alberni, BC. I was given the name "Kuna" at a young age, which means "gold" or "golden" in the Nuu-chah-nulth language. I have always valued education thanks to the strong educators I have had in my life since I started schooling. I want to help indigenous people achieve better health outcomes during the lifespan, and thought a great start to this would be a kinesiology degree. I would like further training in physiotherapy or public health, and to use western knowledge and traditional teachings together to improve indigenous health. I would like to thank my parents and the late Eileen Haggard (Auntie "Missbun") for always pushing me to be dedicated to schooling and to try my hardest.



**Caterina Marra**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Science-  
 Global Resource Systems

I developed a deep interest in health from a young age. Upon starting my studies at UBC, I was very excited to explore my interest in health, nutrition, disease prevention and health promotion. Since increasing my understanding of the health disparity Indigenous people have faced since colonization, I have had the desire to focus my career on serving Indigenous communities as a health care professional. I am deeply thankful for the opportunities I have been able to access so far and I am looking forward to what I will learn and experience next.



**Courtney Taylor**  
**Gitwangak Band**

University of Northern British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Courtney, I am a member of a the Gitwangak community. I grew up in this community for fourteen years before myself and my family moved to Terrace. My goals as a future nurse is to give back to my community and provide culturally safe care to First Nations individuals living on and off reserve. I would like to say thank you to New Relationship Trust for this scholarship which will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming a registered nurse.



**Daniel Finney**  
**Xaxli'p**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Daniel Finney. I am from the XAXLI'P community outside of Lillooet BC. My goal now is to work primarily with groups, families, and community to improve the lives of the most vulnerable whose lives can be enhanced with, for example, a better sense of social status within the community. After completing my BSW I would like to continue into the Master of Counsellings Psychology after which work with youth struggling with addictions to keep them out of the criminal justice system.



**Danielle Harkey**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

Simon Fraser University  
 Bachelor of Arts - Health Sciences

My name is Danielle Harkey and I am from the Musqueam Nation in Vancouver. I am currently finishing up my undergraduate in Health Sciences from Simon Fraser University. My passion has always been in Indigenous health- prior to returning to school I spent my early career as a Licensed Practical Nurse, this is what laid the foundation in my urgency to return to school. I knew I wanted to remain in health but I wanted to move away from direct patient care into policy, and affecting people's health from this angle. After completing my degree I hope to pursue my Masters in Public Health. Thank you NRT for your continuous support.



**Elaine Andrew**  
**Lílwat Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Dental Hygiene Degree Program

My name is Anaysa Stevens, I am currently in the social service work program, and my plans are to enroll in the University of Victoria, where I will apply to their Bachelor of Psychology programme once I have all of the course requirements to get into the Psychology degree program. I have chosen to go into this field to help people and to understand people better than I do right now. Helping people and working with people has always been a passion of mine which is why I have chosen this field.



**Emily Matthew**  
**Simpw First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science

My name is Emily Matthew. I am incredibly proud to say that I have completed my first month at the University of British Columbia. It has been a whirlwind of emotions moving from Kamloops to a bigger city and starting a new chapter in my life. Although I miss home, I am finding Kelowna to be very comforting. Meeting new friends and school I find myself always busy. My personal goals are to get through this first year as I start getting used to the change in learning, study habits, and the freedom. My career goals are to first complete my degree in Science with a major in psychology as I had sparked an interest in biopsychology since I was in grade 10. With that I plan on either focusing in research studies or becoming a physician. Thank you for this opportunity and to my friends and family.



**Emily Olson**  
**Bonaparte First Nation**

University of Minnesota, Morris  
Bachelor of Science - Biology

My name is Emily Olson and I am a non-traditional student returning to school after taking a 10 year break. It was always my goal to go back to school and earn my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. My goal after is to attend medical school, earn a Doctor of Medicine and be a part of the solution to Native Health Care. I also have a passion in personal finances. I am currently the Financial Specialist with the Native American Student Support program on campus. It took a lot of trials and tribulations to overcome personal financial difficulties. I enjoy telling my story and guiding those in need of financial support. I would like to give thanks my family for their love and support. Thank you to NRFT!



**Erica Joe**  
**Lower Nicola Indian Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Erica Joe and I am a member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB) in Merritt, BC. I am currently in my 4th year of the Bachelor of Nursing Program and will be graduating from Thompson Rivers University in the Spring of 2020. I will be doing my practicum this fall semester at LNIB and am very enthusiastic about working with local band members. My career goals are to work with the geriatric population and be able to provide patients with proficient, caring and compassionate care.



**Geraldine Russ**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Athabasca University  
Bachelor of Arts

I am St'álaa táa jaad - Hawk Woman, English name Geraldine of the St'langng Laanas Raven Clan of G'aw tlagee - Old Massett on Haida Gwaii. I am the granddaughter of Lena Edgars and daughter of Alice Edgars. 'Awa (mom) to 7 children (3 adopted) and stepmom of 6 children and naanii (grandmother) of 6 grandchildren. I chose an Arts Degree to make my dream a reality of a treatment center on Haida Gwaii; which will encompass both new & old teachings and ceremony to build on the strength and connections to one another. Mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health will be the primary focus of treatment. My hope is to become a resource for healing. Education has been a driving force in my life and it's importance has been instilled on me by my stepmother, Sandra. The desire to learn has been intricately woven into my spirit.



**Isabella Van Somer Landry**  
**Kwadacha Nation**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Science

My name is Isabella Van Somer Landry. I am a proud member of the Kwadacha First Nation. I was fortunate to be born into a family that taught me the value of culture, hard work and gratitude. My future aspirations include gaining the knowledge necessary to make a difference in the medical research field by bringing together traditional and western medicines and practices.



**Helena Nemanishen**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I have always had a strong desire to work in the nursing profession. I am currently working on my fourth year of my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. My ultimate goal is to travel and work with rural First Nation's communities and assist with community health needs eventually returning to my traditional territory. Returning to school as a mature student and full time mother has proved challenging. I am have so much gratitude for the New Relationships trust foundation for choosing me as a recipient of a generous award, easing the financial burden aspect of completing my education.



**Jordan Hunt**  
**Kwakiutl Band Council**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Jordan Hunt, and I'm attending Vancouver Island University at the age of 36 and father of three beautiful children with my partner of 15 years. We are both of Kwakwakawakw decent and I have decided to enter into the world of Social Work to help those that are in need near my home territory in which Port Hardy is located. My personal lived experience growing up in a First Nations community, combined with proper training and education, I feel I would be an asset to any organizations that work within or near First Nations communities. I would like to offer services in an attempt to help others in need, as the help I required probably saved my life in the areas of mental health and addiction services.



**Kathryn Xyemetkwe Ignace**  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I grew up on the Skeetchestn Indian Reserve learning the Secwepemc language and culture. I was lucky enough to be raised around my native language, Secwépemctsin, from the time I was a born. I was recently accepted into the four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program at TRU and I am very excited to start my nursing education. Since I was the age of 5, I have known that I want a career which will allow me to help people. I have decided to work in the healthcare profession because I have always had a passion for sciences and the human body. Once I have graduated with my degree in BScN I would eventually like to further my education, go back to school, and either become a Nurse Practitioner or a General Practitioner.



**Katie Creyke**  
**Tahltan Central Government**

College of New Caledonia  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Katie Creyke and my family comes from the Tahltan First Nation, as well as the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. It has always been on my heart to give back to First Nations communities with a focus on health and wellness, so nursing seemed like a great fit. Health and wellness are a priority for me, because it has allowed me to reach my toughest goals, mentally and physically. I hope that by pursuing a career in nursing, I can inspire young Indigenous people to pursue their goals, no matter how big they seem.



**Kayla Thorell**  
**We Wai Kai First Nation**

University of Northern British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Hi! I am Kayla Thorell and I am from Prince George, BC. I am about to start my fourth and final year of the Nursing program at the University of Northern British Columbia. I am very passionate about nursing and I am looking forward to enjoying this next year of study before becoming a Registered Nurse. I am also passionate about yoga, skiing, travelling, and learning about different cultures around the world. After graduation, I plan to work as a nurse in Northern BC for a few years before continuing to further my education with a Master's degree.



**Kristen Clair**  
**Quatsino First Nation**

Camosun College  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Ixtsamil and my english name is Kristen Clair. I am from Quatsino First Nations located in Port Hardy on the North end of Vancouver Island. My personal goal is to graduate with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Camsoun/ University of Victoria. This leads into my career goal to become a registered nurse, to bring back my knowledge to my community and make a healthy impact on Aboriginal health.



**Kristina Bray**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

University of Saskatchewan  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Hi, my name is Kristina Bray and I'm a member of Stellat'en First Nation. I'm currently a third year nursing student at the University of Saskatchewan. I hope to one day work as a pediatrics nurse in northern communities across Canada's prairie provinces. I grew up in Manitoba so the prairies are very close to my heart and I know that a lot of positive change can come from great nursing care in northern communities. I plan to make a lot of positive change throughout Indigenous communities when I'm a registered nurse. .



**Logan Grant**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Arts

My name is Logan Grant and I am a proud member of the x̣ẉməθḳẉáỵəm First Nation. Currently, I am in my first year of the Arts Program at the University of British Columbia. My interest is in the speech sciences, focusing on Psychology and Linguistics. I hope to become a speech therapist so I can provide assistance to the children in my community and other First Nation communities. Thank you to the NRT Foundation for their support.



**Lyric Atchison**  
**Squamish Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Kinesiology

My name is Lyric Atchison. I will be starting my 3rd year in the bachelor of kinesiology program this fall. While pursuing my undergraduate degree I have been a varsity athlete on the UBC Women's Rugby team. My achievements in rugby at UBC earned me a spot on the women's U20 Rugby Canada Team this summer where I travelled to the United Kingdom to play in the Tri-Nations Cup. It was an extreme honour to represent my country at the international level. I am looking forward to bringing my passion and enthusiasm to UBC as a 3rd year student. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree I hope to apply to medical school.



**Mari Davis**  
**Saulteau First Nations**

Grande Prairie Regional College  
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Mari Davis, I am from Saulteau First Nations. I am going into my 3rd year of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Helping people has always been a huge passion of mine. My goal is to go on and further my education and become a Nurse Practitioner. I hope to eventually go back to my community to work and to be a role model for the youth.



**Mary Angus**  
Laxgalts'ap Village  
Government

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Mary Angus and my tribe is Laxsgiik. I am 17 years old and come from the First Nations community of Gitwinksihlkw. I am a first year Nursing student at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. My goal is to get my Bachelor's degree and become a Registered Nurse and later go back to school to get a Master's Degree.



**Mary Mearns**  
Musqueam Indian Band

Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Science

My name is Mary Grace Mearns and I am a third year student attending Simon Fraser University. I am studying hard to complete a Bachelor of Science, with a major in Biological Physics. I am a member of the Musqueam Indian Band located in Vancouver. Through the Indigenous Student Centre at SFU, I have had the privilege to make many connections with people from various Indigenous communities, across Canada. These friendships have played an immense part in the expansion of my cultural awareness concerning challenges facing our peoples. I plan to use my knowledge, and my degree, to help as many communities as I can.



**Mayenda Jones**  
Gitsegukla First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science -  
Food, Nutrition, and Health

My name is Mayenda Jones. I am from the Gitxsan Nation and I grew up on a small reservation called Gitsegukla. I am currently in my first year in my Undergraduate program at the University of British Columbia, in Food, Nutrition, and Health. My long term goal would be to work within food, nutrition, and health to bring my knowledge into my community once I finish my degree. Ha'miiyaa to New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting myself and other Indigenous students in our educational journey. justice system.



**Michael Wesley**  
Gitanmaax Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science -  
Food, Nutrition, and Health

My name is Michael Wesley, I was born and raised in the Gitxsan territory. I am a husband and parent of two amazing boys. I aspire to raise a healthy family while completing my degree program. I have overcome many challenges to get to my final years of my program, I am grateful to be where I am today. After I complete my degree program I would like to work with First Nations communities such as my hometown to make positive changes for community member's overall health.



**Nicole Jules**  
Adams Lake Indian Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Human Kinetics

My name is Nicole Jules and I am from the Adams Lake Band in the Secwepemc territory. I am currently doing my third year of university in the Human Kinetics program. My goal is to complete my Bachelor's degree and then attend medical school to become a pediatrician. I want to work in Indigenous communities throughout North America to provide them with better health care. I have always loved helping people and I have known I wanted to become a doctor since I was six years old. I will help people as much as I can for the rest of my life by using the knowledge I have gained at UBC.



**Quinn Van de Mosselaer**  
Whispering Pines/Clinton  
Indian Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Biology

My name is Quinn Van de Mosselaer and I am from Kelowna, BC. This is my second year in a Bachelor of Sciences program, and I chose to major in Biology to learn more about human anatomy and botany. My personal goals are to help people and to receive a higher education. My main academic goals are to complete my undergrad in sciences to then pursue a career in medicine. I want to be a positive role model for my band and younger generations to engage themselves in education.



**Ragina Charlie**  
Penelakut Tribe

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Social Work

Uy Skweyul, My name is Ragina Charlie and I come from Penelakut Tribe. I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at Vancouver Island University. Growing up, there were notable people that I remember helping me overcome the struggles that I've faced in my life. I choose a career in the helping profession because I want to become one of those people. I want to instill a sense of resiliency and strength for First Nations people and their communities. My goal is to get into the Masters of Indigenous Social Work program at the University of Victoria.



**Samantha Davis**  
Saulteau First Nations

University of Alberta  
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Samantha Davis I am from Saulteau First Nations. I am going into my 3rd year taking a Bachelor's of Kinesiology. I am majoring in physical activity and health. My goal is to eventually work towards getting a graduate degree once I am finished my undergrad. I want to work as a youth recreation coordinator. I want to be able to provide youth more voice and leadership opportunities through programming in communities.



**Selena Blake**  
Skidegate Band Council

Camosun College  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Selena Blake and I am from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. I am a member of the Kaadass Gaah K'iiguwaay Clan of Tanu. I have wanted to become a registered nurse since I was 15. I have always enjoyed and take pride in being a helpful, caring person. My goal is to complete nursing school and spend some time working in my hometown. I look forward to having the opportunity to share my knowledge and give back to the community I was raised in.

I would like to thank the First Nations Health Authority and the NRT Foundation! I am extremely grateful for the support on my journey to becoming a registered nurse.



**Sydney Parnell**  
Old Massett Village Council

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science

My name is Sydney Parnell and I am a member of the Haida Nation. I am currently a first year student at UBC Okanagan where I am studying sciences. In a few years I plan to do the Entry-to-Practice PharmD program at UBC's Vancouver campus with an end goal of pursuing a career as a pharmacist. Becoming a pharmacist has been a goal of mine for a while now and I'm excited to finally be starting my journey to achieving my goal.



**Shyanna Sawyer**  
Skidegate Band Council

Camosun College  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Shyanna Sawyer. I am from the Naa 'Yuuwans X aaydaga eagle clan of Skidegate Haida Gwaii. I am entering my third year in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program and am eager to broaden my spectrum of learning. My goals are fairly simple. I hope to become a registered nurse and move back to my hometown to work with and for the people of my community. One day I would also love to become a nurse practitioner and once again move back to serve my community.



**Vanessa Miller**  
Saik'uz First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Hadih, my name is Vanessa Vandelaar (Miller). I am a proud member of Saik'uz First Nation located in central British Columbia. I am also a proud mother of my beautiful daughter Chloe, whom is the light of my life.

Since I was a young girl, I have always felt the need to help and care for people. I believe that my calling is to be a Registered Nurse to share my caring spirit with the people around me. I am currently in my third year of the Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. In my past work experience for my community I have gained insight of the importance of health care for our people. It is my hope that I can work within Indigenous communities and my education can positively impact the communities I work within.



**Morgan Richards**  
Nak'azdli Whut'en

Vancouver Community College  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Morgan Richards and I am currently in my fourth year in the Bachelor of Science program. I expect to graduate in June 2020 and begin my career as a registered nurse.

I was born and raised Vancouver, BC and have a close relationship with family/ community members in Fort St. James. I continue to visit yearly and update them on my progress in this program.

My goal is to begin work at an RN in Vancouver, and help create an adequate living experience for my daughter. My girlfriend is also in the Nursing program and is expected to graduate in late 2021. Our personal goals at that time is to move closer to home, possibly Prince George or Kelowna, to be closer to my siblings who have children similar age as my daughter. I'm excited as to my progress in this program and look forward to graduation.

“At this point of my program, I have become so entrenched in debt that daily living has been stressful. I am so grateful for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship and even more grateful to be chosen. Thank you so much and know that this scholarship is greatly appreciated.

— Morgan Richards



**Tatyana Daniels**  
Gitanmaax Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Food, Nutrition, and Health

My name is Tatyana and I am from the Gitksan and Wetsuweten First Nations. I am a member of Wilps Miluulak, Lax Seel pdeek (Frog Clan). I was born and raised in Gitanmaax in northwestern BC. I studied microbiology for three years before realizing that my passion was to help improve Indigenous health through Indigenous-focused, culturally-safe nutrition care, and I am now a third year student in the Dietetics program at UBC. I hope to continue to advocate for Indigenous Food Sovereignty, while connecting my practice with cultural teachings and traditional food staples.

I am incredibly grateful to receive this award and it always helps me to relieve some financial stress at the beginning of each semester. Thank you so much for your support. I cannot express my gratitude enough!



**Shannon Vickers-King**  
Laxgalts'ap Village  
Government

Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts - Cognitive Science

My cultural identity stems from the Nisga'a, Tsimshian, Heiltsuk and Haida Nations of coastal British Columbia. I grew up in Metro Vancouver and thanks to my mother I maintained close connections with our home community of Laxgalts'ap, of the Nisga'a Nation. I received my Nisga'a name in 2016 which is Wilxo'osgum nit'its hl xsgaak, which means I am An Eagle With Wisdom That Comes From The Grandmothers. I am a doting mother of two children, Cedar (2) and Shantae (8), and as a family we love keeping them connected with both their Nisga'a and Anishinabe cultural roots from Hoobiyee to powwows in both BC and Ontario. I have always been incredibly fascinated with the mind. I hope to take the wonder and intrigue I've found with the Cognitive Science Program, and translate that into creative learning applications that will spark the same fascination in our children for our language(s).



**Brittany Mullin**  
Upper Similkameen  
Indian Band

University of Victoria  
Master of Public Health

Through my work as a dental hygienist, my undergraduate program, and discussions with my First Nations community and leaders, I became increasingly aware of the health inequalities of our Indigenous populations and began to actively investigate ways to make change. Through a UBC & FNHA scholarship, I was granted an opportunity to work with mentors from the FNHA and an interdisciplinary team of allied-health students at a health symposium which increased my passion to learn more about community health. I am excited to begin me Masters of Public Health with UVic to learn more about this and how I can make an impact within my communities.



**Chantal Bouchard**  
Stz'uminus First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Master of Occupational Therapy

Hello, my name is Chantal Bouchard, and I am from the Stz'uminus First Nation on Vancouver Island. I have always been determined to obtain a career where I would be making a substantial difference in the lives of other people. In June 2018, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Psychology. I am very excited to further my education and have the opportunity to attend UBC for the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. Once I am an Occupational Therapist, I hope to work in the mental health field and serve rural First Nations communities.



**Chrystal Sparrow**  
Musqueam Indian Band

The European Graduate School  
Master of Arts - Expressive Arts Therapy

My name is Chrystal Sparrow and I come the Musqueam Indian Band. As a third generation Coast Salish artist and carver, I hold an important position to create and teach the arts in many forms. I have chosen to work with expressive arts in a unique way to teach Indigenous healing throughout my practice. My goal is to become an Indigenous Therapist who works with expressive arts and land-based teachings. I hope to see Indigenous people heal through the arts.



**Erin Wiltse**  
Cook's Ferry Band

McGill University  
Master of Management - International  
Masters for Health Leadership

Erin is a proud member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation and community of Cook's Ferry. Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009 and has worked at the First Nations Health Authority since 2013. As the Manager of Nursing Operations, Erin oversees the direct health care service delivery to BC's most rural and remote First Nations communities. Erin is looking forward to her masters at McGill University where she will enhance her leadership skills and advance her career in Indigenous Health. Erin is excited to bring Indigenous culture and experience to her program.



**Brittany Morgan**  
Toquaht Nation

University of Victoria  
Master of Public Health

My name is Brittany Morgan and I am Nuu-chah-nulth and Secwepemc. I'm the 'baby' amongst my five older sisters. I am currently in my last year of my Masters of Public Health program with an Indigenous Peoples Health focus area at the University of Victoria (UVIC). UVIC is also where I completed my BSc with a major in Microbiology and minor in Biology. As much as I loved the 'sciences' and it would segue me into the health field, I felt as though I was missing the broader picture of health and more importantly, Indigenous Peoples Health. My practicum research will be focused on identifying gaps within patient oriented research. It will open discussions on the impacts on Indigenous data and research that is hospital based. My goal is apply to medical school and continue my passion of moving forward in improving Indigenous Health and research.



**Kathryn Robinson**  
Tzeachten First Nation

Simon Fraser University  
Master of Science

My name is Kathryn Robinson, and I am Tzeachten member of the Stó:lō First Nation. I am in my second year of MSc studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University (SFU). I hold a BSc degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from SFU. Following graduation, I pursued an interest in oral health research at the Integrative Oncology Research Program at BC Cancer. I am currently working under the supervision of Dr. Scott Venners on an Indigenous Population Health project. My research is focused on the relationship between community-focused dental health services and improved oral health outcomes among First Nations children in BC. It is important to me that my work engages community members in research partnerships and that my research outputs represent Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. My future aspirations include further education in clinical Dentistry and a career that serves my Stó:lō community.



**Jessica Key**  
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Master of Science - Nursing

Gilakasla. Nu gwa um Kwaxwalaogwa. I am Jessica (Kwanxwalaogwa) Key and I am a citizen of the Musgamaug Dzawada'enuxw from the central coast. I live and work in Vancouver as a Registered Nurse. Since completing nursing school, I have worked with youth with concurrent disorders. Working in the mental health system inspired me to consider holistic, intentional mental health interventions that come from connecting with the land. I am a founding board member of Akala Outdoor Education Society and we are creating leadership opportunities for our youth to gain the skills and confidence to engage with our traditional territories. I am working to create intentional opportunities for youth to develop mental health and wellness knowledge and skills during these programs. I am very excited to have the support of the NRTF and First Nations Health Authority to dive into this work. Waxa.



**Nicole Nohr Dawydiuk**  
Spuzzum First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Master of Science - Population and Public Health

My name is Nicole and I am a member of Spuzzum Nation. I am starting the Master of Science program at UBC in the School of Population and Public Health. My background is research regarding the social determinants of health, specifically in regards to Indigenous health. I plan to write my thesis on how stigmas and discriminatory attitudes towards Indigenous populations create barriers to care and contribute to health inequities. I am excited to start my degree and hope to be involved at the UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous health. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to New Relationship Trust and First Nations Health Authority for supporting students like myself throughout our studies.



**Alex Thomas**  
**Snuneymuxw First Nation**

McMaster University  
 Doctor of Medicine

My name is Alexander Thomas and I am a proud member of Snuneymuxw First Nation in Nanaimo, British Columbia. I am currently enrolled in my third and final year of medical school at McMaster University. I am most interested in Indigenous health, sports medicine, and mental wellness. While pursuing a career in medicine, I would like to help address the critical shortage of Indigenous physicians in Canada, serve as a role model in my community, and improve the overall health of Indigenous peoples.



**Amy Beevor-Potts**  
**Sts'ailes**

University of British Columbia  
 Doctor of Medicine

My name is Amy Beevor-Potts and I am from the Sts'ailes first Nation in Agassiz, BC. I was born and raised in Salmon Arm, BC, where I graduated from Salmon Arm Secondary School in 2016. I completed three years of study in biomedical sciences at the University of Calgary before being admitted to the medical doctorate program at the University of British Columbia, where I am currently a first year medical student. After graduating I hope to one day work in underserved communities and advocate for better health care.



**Dylan Whitney**  
**Xaxli'p**

University of Alberta  
 Doctor of Medicine

Dylan Whitney is a 2019 engineering physics graduate from the University of British Columbia, research observer at Stanford University, and he will be pursuing studies at the University of Alberta in the Medical Doctor program. He is a proud member of the Xaxli'p First Nation located in the Central Interior-Fraser Canyon region of BC. Dylan has developed software for employers including Kodak, BC Hydro, and the Vancouver General Hospital. He aspires to work hard towards furthering research in medical fields including Ophthalmology and Radiology.



**Gezina Baehr**  
**Songhees Nation**

University of Alberta  
 Doctor of Pharmacy

My name is Gezina Baehr, I'm Songhees First Nations, and in my last year of my pharmacy degree. I'm in the doctorate of pharmacy program, and currently I'm spending my last year on clinical rotations. My personal goals is to work in community pharmacy with a strong focus on Indigenous Health. Eventually, I'd like to come back and practise on my reserve and open a pharmacy in our community center. Pharmacy is my passion and lets me help a variety of people. My areas of strength is mental health, addictions, diabetes and respiratory/smoking cessation. I'm proud to be graduating with my doctorate in pharmacy this year and want to continue to pursue opportunities that let me help others to my fullest potential.



**Joseph Ledo**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

McMaster University  
 Doctor of Medicine

Before starting medical school at McMaster University in 2017, Joseph completed his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of the Fraser Valley in BC. Prior to his degree, he worked as a long-haul truck driver in British Columbia. Joseph wants to complete special training at UBC to practice Indigenous family medicine. He is passionate about social determinants of health and aspires to focus his practice in preventative medicine for the First Nations community. Joseph is from the Musqueam Indian Band in Vancouver, BC.



**Joshua Nash**  
**Tahltan Central Government**

University of Calgary  
 Doctor of Medicine

Hello, my name is Joshua Nash and I am a member of the Ch'ioyone (Wolf) clan and the Eth'eni family of the Tahltan Nation, and the second oldest of eleven siblings. I am at the University of Calgary currently in my final year of medical school. One day I hope to work with communities in the North to strengthen health outcomes for our people so that they can pursue their own dreams with as few as possible barriers. I did not know I was going to grow up to become a physician - I thought I was going to have a career in athletics as I feel that was my greatest motivation for attending post-secondary schooling. I believe I was called to medicine because of my nature to want to take care of others, and my relentless curiosity. Please reach out to me if you ever have questions!



**Ryan Danroth**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

University of British Columbia  
 Doctor of Medicine

My name is Ryan Danroth, I'm a 27-year-old Tsimshian male. I grew up on the K'omoks Nation reserve until I left home to attend university, but my blood is Lax Kw'alaams from Northern BC. My goal is to work as a family doctor in BC. It's incredibly important to me to give back, as I have been helped and put back on the right path by the most unlikely of people. I want to be a positive influence on others and help them access medical care in a low-barrier, culturally relevant and sensitive manner.

“Thank you to New Relationship Trust for your tremendous support! As the first person in my family to attend medical school, your support sends a strong message to my eleven siblings and many Indigenous youth that we can strive for our goals and know we are supported in doing so.

— Joshua Nash



# Keegan Combes

## Memorial Award



The **Keegan Combes Memorial Award** was established to honour the memory of Keegan Coombes, a 29-year-old First Nations man and a member of Skwah First Nation. He was a high school graduate, a grade 10 pianist, and a chess champion enrolled in a trades college at the time of his passing. Keegan also lived with disabilities, and was non-verbal by choice. He is remembered, missed, and loved.

Keegan passed following delayed diagnosis and treatment in hospital after an accidental poisoning in September of 2015. By sharing his story, Keegan's legacy is helping to shape the Cultural Safety and Humility transformation currently underway in BC's health system.

Keegan was at the start of a new chapter of his life when he passed. He had attended his first day of classes to become a construction craft worker, but was never able to go to his second. To honour Keegan's story and the path he was on, the First Nations Health Authority has worked in partnership with Keegan's caregiver and family advocate, Rhianna Millman, to name one Scholarship and two Bursaries dedicated to supporting other First Nations students as they embark on their learning journey



**Janice Thompson**  
**Boothroyd Band**

Native Education College  
Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts

I am Sto:lo/Nlaka'pamux. Growing up in Vancouver, BC. I have always used my Art as a positive creative outlet. After a couple failed attempts, I decided to go back to school and get upgrading at the The Native Education College where I received my Adult Dogwood Diploma. I am currently attending the Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts program at Native Education College, I plan to further my education by getting my Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at Emily Carr University. My late Grandma was a residential school survivor, She always encouraged me to further my education. I know she would be proud of me. I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to express myself freely which my Ancestors were denied. I look forward to the next part of my life's learning journey.



**Jarrod Thompson**  
**Seabird Island Band**

University of the Fraser Valley  
Heavy Mechanical Trades Foundation

My name is Jarrod Thompson. I'm from Seabird Island Band. I finished my Dogwood in three months so that I could get into the Heavy Duty Mechanic program at the University of the Fraser Valley. I chose the career of being a Heavy Duty Mechanic to be able to help people when their equipment or trucks are broken down, either on side of the highway or on the job site. I love being able to fix problems with the proper tools and knowledge, as I love problem solving and working with my hands. This is a great opportunity in my life for a change and to have a career.



**Keisha Charnley**  
**Katzie First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Midwifery

I am from the Katzie First Nation and Blackburn, Lancashire, England. I am a 3rd year Student Midwife in the UBC Bachelor of Midwifery program. I am grateful to be able to weave together the ways of my ancestors with my clinical skills. My hope is to be able to offer dignified and empowering care to the pregnant people in my communities. Being with plants, our lands and waters is important to me, I see this as inherently interconnected to birth work and I learn new teachings about bodies, creation and birth through my time on the land. Birth work has always been a sacred role in my family. As Indigenous birth workers we continue to lift up mothers, pregnant people and families as we support the ceremony of bringing new life into this world.

“I'm very thankful for the bursary. It will help out will I'm going to school. Every thing helps especially For me and my family.  
— Jarrod Thompson

Funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement



## The Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development, through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement is pleased to announce the second year of the \$1 million Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary program. The Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary Program will ensure that more Indigenous students living in BC will be able to access post-secondary funding. The NRT Foundation is offering scholarships to Indigenous students who currently reside in British Columbia and are enrolled in Early Years related programs. Professions supported in this stream include Early Childhood Educators (ECE), Infant Toddler and Special Needs ECE, Early Intervention Therapies (Speech Language Pathologists and Audiology, Occupational and Physio Therapists, Applied Behavioural Analysts), Child and Youth Care, Human Service Development, Educational Psychology, and Community, Child and Family Support.



### Alicia Dominick Splatsin

Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

I am a Splatsin First Nation community member. I have lived in this area on and off all my life. I have 3 children of my own: my youngest is 6 ½ months old, a 6 year old, and a 9 year old. I have a very supportive family. I plan to work in my own community and bring my knowledge that I have learned to the daycare I will be working at.



### Alysha Antoine Saik'uz First Nation

Native Education College  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Alysha Antoine, I am 24 years old, and I'm a single mother of three. The reserve I am from is called Stoney Creek, which is a part of Saik'uz First Nation. I am taking Early Childhood Education so I can work in the daycare center in my community. In the future I'd like to do Infant and Toddler schooling.



### Allison Peters Seabird Island Band

Seabird College  
Education Assistant &  
Aboriginal Liaison Worker

I recently just graduated and received my aboriginal focusing-oriented therapy & complex trauma certificate and i am currently in the education assistant program. My goal is to go back to social work by September 2020 and finish that program. my future goal is to work in my community with children and youth who struggle with trauma and inter-generational trauma. I want to be able to make a difference in children and youths lives in their healing journey. our people has faced many challenges from residential school and i do not want our children to carry that burden. I am very connected to mother earth, harvesting traditional medicines, use traditional practices, and involved in my culture. my goal is to work in the school district and use our culture and traditional practices a way of healing.

*"i just want to thank you and let you know how grateful i am with this bursary to help me move forward while going to school and raising my five children on my own."  
— Allison Peters*



### Angel Smith Gitga'at First Nation

Native Education College  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Angel Smith, I am from the Gitga'at Nation in Northern BC. I recently married my partner in June of 2019 and we have 5 beautiful children. I am currently in the process of getting my ECE certificate at Native Education College in Vancouver. Once I complete this program I am hoping to take the post basic diploma program. I want to take the post basic because it has a special needs course that will help me better understand how to help my son develop to his full potential. My dream is to eventually open my own indigenous based daycare in the near future.



**Ashley Watts**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

Sprott Shaw College  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Ashley and I was born into Tseshaht first nation. I married into Ahousaht first nation after having my oldest son who is now 16. I also have a 15 year old and 12 year old son, and 9 year old daughter. I have long term goals of becoming an elementary teacher. I am currently completing my first year of early childhood and am loving learning. I am confident in my career at this point and am excited to continue. Thank you New Relationship Trust!



**Barbara Smith**  
**Cowichan Tribes**

Vancouver Island University  
Early Childhood Education and Care

I was born and raised in the Cowichan Valley. I have had many foster siblings throughout my life, and still do today. My experience working within Early Childhood Education was working at Lelum'uy'lh Caycare Centre for 7 years before attending school. I have 2 children of my own and also have full guardianship of 2 nephews. "It takes a community to raise a child" are strong and powerful words that I live by.



**Auzia Gonu**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government**

Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute Inc.

Early Childhood Education

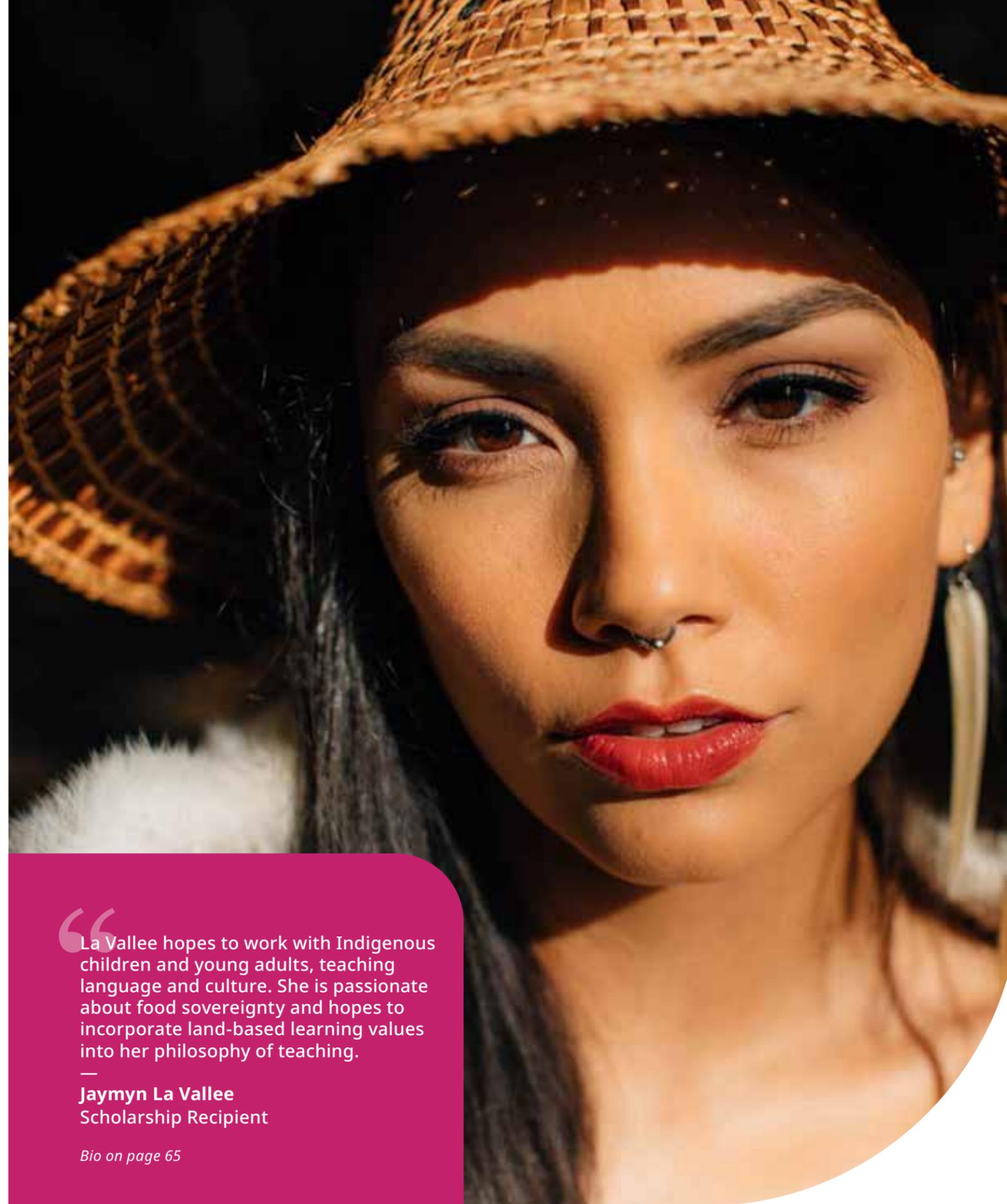
My name is Auzia Gonu, my Nisga'a name is Hlgu Gwix Min Lukw. I am Nisga'a from the village of Gitlaxt'aamiks and come from the house of Gwix Maaw. I have been working in the Early Childhood Education field for about 9 years in many different positions in the field from an assistant to a room leader. I am a qualified Early Childhood Education Assistant working towards completing my full Early Childhood Education Licence to Practice. I am 4 courses away from obtaining my licence and am working part time through schooling one course at a time, while working full time with help from my workplace.



**Cara Courtoreille**  
**Cook's Ferry Band**

Vancouver Island University  
Early Childhood Education - Infant/Toddler

I am a Christian First Nations women and I belong to the Cook's Ferry Indian Band. All my life I was shown how valuable life is and how important children are. I believe that each individual spirit will help shape our world, if we help shape theirs along the way. I value my career for so many reason. I believe that Early Childhood Educators and caregivers have one of the biggest impacts on little souls. We are their role models, and their safe place. Thank you so much to the NRT Foundation, as well as my Indian Band.



“La Vallee hopes to work with Indigenous children and young adults, teaching language and culture. She is passionate about food sovereignty and hopes to incorporate land-based learning values into her philosophy of teaching.

—  
**Jaymyn La Vallee**  
Scholarship Recipient

*Bio on page 65*



**Chanel George West**  
**Takla Lake First Nation**

College of New Caledonia  
Early Childhood Education

I'm Chanel George West from Takla Lake First Nations. I love to spend time outdoors and learning more about our traditional ways so I can teach my son the culture. I want to help parents with their children so they can go back to work or school. When I finish the Early Childhood Education Program I plan on working with the reserve to run the head start program within the community. This program will help to prepare the toddlers for pre-school and kindergarten, and also help with each individuals learning pace and what works for them and their learning techniques.



**Charly Defouw**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

Selkirk College  
Associate of Arts -  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Charly Defouw and I am 19 years old. My Dad is Frank, my Mom is Christine and I have a younger brother, Corey. I live in Nelson, BC. in the West Kootenays. I am in my second year of College with the goal of working with children. I have a summer job with Regional District as a camp coordinator, working with kids everyday. During school, I volunteer my time between two local elementary schools. This helps me gain experience and helps me give back to the local community. I love the outdoors and my family and myself live a healthy lifestyle.



**Christine Derrick**  
**Witset First Nation**

Northern Lights College  
Early Childhood Education and Care

My name is Christine Derrick, I belong to the Wet'suwet'en First Nation on the reserve of Moricetown, BC. After being employed by my current place of work and after having my daughter, I have decided it was time to get my education back on track to make my current job, which I love so much, into my career. With my education, I plan to obtain my Diploma so I can apply my skills on reserve to help our young children grow to develop to their ultimate potential in their later years.



**Cindy Huppie**  
**Sucker Creek First Nation**

Sprott Shaw College  
Early Childhood Education

I look forward to working in a daycare so I can help with the growth and education of children. As a mother of two full-grown daughters I enjoyed being there to watch over, protect, and teach them. I look forward to going back to school to work with children again because children are the light of my life. I am very thankful now to have this opportunity to pursue my dreams in Early Childhood Education.

I would like to thank NRT Foundation for giving me this opportunity to go to school. This bursary will help to fulfill the financial needs I will have through out the school year. Thank You again, my heart is full with so much love.



**Colby Eagle Plume**  
**Kainai Nation**

Sprott Shaw College  
Early Childhood Education

Hello, my name is Colby, I am single mom and have a 2 year old son. After being blessed with him I knew I had to go back to school so that I can support him. It is thanks to my son I finally chose a career that I love and know it's something I am passionate about. I love children and enjoy the course very much. I hope to one day open my own daycare.



**Danielle Gagne**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of the Fraser Valley  
Early Childhood Education

I live in Chilliwack and am enrolled in the first semester of the ECE program at UFV. I am very excited to have received this opportunity to start the ECE program. I have been interested in the child care from the time I left daycare in grade 7. I have such good memories of being a very young child in a group daycare centre and also being in before/after school daycare as an older child. My experience of being a daycare child was nothing but positive. I looked up to my daycare leaders and now realize what an important role they play. I would like to be the same for other children, creating positive daycare memories for them.



**Darrian Pollard**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Northern Lights College  
Early Childhood Education and Care

I want to finish my Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma and then move back to Skidegate and build a daycare of my own. Going through this program has made me more aware of the need for workers in this field.



**Doris Johnny**  
**Adams Lake Indian Band**

Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

I am a member of the Adams Lake Indian Band. I have been married for 37 years, have two grown children, and two grandchildren. I have also been a foster parent for the past 36 years for approximately 15+ children and recently adopted 4 foster siblings. I currently do respite care during the weekend and volunteer at the nearby Elementary school. I plan to further my education by enrolling in the Infant/Toddler program at Okanagan College. I hope to work in a local First Nations daycare centre and implement cultural teachings to help carry on our traditions. My future plans are to work in a childcare centre and learn to use natural resources for cultural teachings. I enjoy working with others and learning new techniques and new skills that help me to develop my abilities.



**Dorothy Jones**  
**Pacheedaht First Nation**

Vancouver Career College  
Early Childhood Education

Working close with our people has brought me tremendous joy. Culture teachings have turned my life around. I have been offered an amazing job working for my hometown and that makes me over the moon excited for my teaching career. To be surrounded by loved ones and given the opportunity to provide quality teaching to the age group I've been trained for 3-5 yrs is a dream come true. This is just the beginning of my life in the ECE world. I want to say HISKWE to everyone involved in this amazing opportunity.



**Elvira Benson**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

College of New Caledonia  
Early Childhood Education

I am both a mom of five and a grandma to a little girl. I come from the Wolf Clan (Laxgibuu). I am in my first year of Early Childhood Care and Learning and then I plan on moving onto the Infant and Toddler course to pursue my teaching in Special Needs Education. I would like to thank New Relationship Trust foundation for awarding me with this bursary, as it lets me focus on my studies and not my financial stressors. This is also a great opportunity to show my children that if we keep working hard on our goals anything is possible.



**Emily Quiring**  
**Spuzzum First Nation**

Camosun College  
Indigenous Early Learning and Care

I grew up in Prince George and moved to Vancouver once I graduated high school. I spent eight years in Vancouver until I decided to go to school at Pacific Rim to study Herbal Medicine. I fell in love with the island and have now been a guest here for almost 3 years. My Indigenous background is from Spuzzum, BC. My father was adopted into a non-Indigenous family when he was 9 months old. I am excited to be in school again for Indigenous ELC as I am able to use my passion for nature's healing with the children I will be working with. I am gaining so much knowledge from my program and my WSÁNEĆ classmates whose land I gratefully go to school on. I hope to pursue a job somewhere like the VNFC once I have completed my schooling.



**Erica Seymour**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

I am a Qelmúcw from the Secwepemc area from my father and mother's side. I really enjoy sharing my cultural heritage with everyone I meet and love bringing resources to share. I believe learning comes from hands-on experiences. My personal goal is to continue with my education so I can receive my degree. My career goal is to work in communities to help create curriculum that is focused on local Indigenous people to build bridges of understanding.



**Francis Pierre**  
**Katzie First Nation**

Ridge Meadows College  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Francis Pierre. I was born and raised in Katzie First Nation in Pitt Meadows, BC. We currently have our own Early Years Center on our reserve. I am a male trying to make a difference in young children's lives and help mold them into something great. I finished 12 courses and 3 practicums within 12 months, while trying my best to work full time. I have a huge passion working for children and will do my best in this field to shape the minds of the future generations. All my Relations!



**Francis Racy**  
**Gitwangak Band**

Vancouver Island University  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Fran. I am currently in my second semester of school to earn my Diploma in Early Childhood Education. I was born raised primarily in Prince Rupert. Moving was a constant thing while growing up and I spent time in many different communities. Being a survivor of trauma I never really had the chance to go after my dreams until now. I am so excited everyday to be on this journey. The example I am making for my children is priceless and I could ask for anything more than to show them that no matter what you can chase your dreams. My dream is to finish my diploma and work with children and be part of their community that helps build them into the makers of tomorrow. I am so grateful for this bursary as it will help my family in so many ways. Thank you.



**Hailey Meerdink**  
**Witset First Nation**

Northern Lights College  
Early Childhood Education and Care

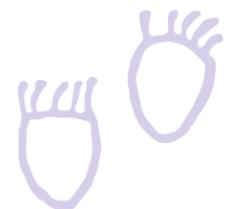
My name is Hailey Meerdink, I am Wet'su-wet'en from Witset, BC. I am currently going to school to complete my ECE Diploma. I have been working in a daycare in my community for about three years now and when I receive my diploma I will continue to work in my community. I have always enjoyed working with children and am now blessed that I have the chance to complete my schooling and make my goals a reality.



**Jacquelyn Gladstone**  
**Heiltsuk Nation**

Capilano University  
Early Childhood Care & Education

I am currently in my final semester at Capilano University, upon completion I plan on attending UBC taking the special education diploma program and then apply to the 12 month professional development program to become an elementary teacher. I have always enjoyed working with children and it is within the school system that I hope to one day work in. In the last few years I have done some volunteer work in an elementary classroom and thoroughly enjoyed it and have learned a lot within the setting.





### Jade Brass The Key First Nation

Native Education College  
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

Born and raised in Treaty Four, grew up with two of my brothers and mother. I started my work career in business working for Ocean Construction and then YVR Airport Authority. During my seven years at YVR Airport Authority I was given the opportunity to facilitate Indigenous Awareness workshops for fellow employees and volunteers at YVR. Here is where I found my passion to educate others and be in front of a classroom. I know how important any humans first eight years are, so I want to be a positive Indigenous role model to our children and to our community. I have found love in teaching so my long term plan is to continue my education at UBC for the Indigenous Teacher Education Program.



### Jade-lynn Jensen Tseshaht First Nation

North Island College  
Early Childhood Care & Education

My mother is Christine Patrick, but I was raised by my step-mother Cecilia Jensen, who married my father Jamie Jensen when I was three years old. I am from the Tseshaht First Nations on my father's side, and my mother's side is from Ucluelet. I am currently a full-time student in the Early Childhood Education program that will end June 2020, and I have an on-call job working as a Tseshaht recreation assistant. My career goal in life is working in the field as a Social Care Worker, so I can assist and help improve the lives of others. I am interested in landscaping design and art which keeps me balanced, grounded and focused.

“Thank you for this opportunity in helping me achieve my goals in completing this certificate program. This bursary has been a great help financially towards my schooling.  
— Janean Hunt



### Janean Hunt Kwakiutl Band Council

North Island College  
Early Childhood Care & Education

I am about to start my third year of the Early Childhood Care Educator Certificate program with a 4.00 GPA. I am mother of two daughters and working full time at a daycare centre for the last two and half years, as an ECE assistant. Once I graduate I am planning to continue with my schooling and move forward in obtaining my Diploma in ECCE.



### Jennifer Reandy Heiltsuk Nation

Pacific Rim Early  
Childhood Institute Inc.  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Jennifer Reandy, I'm a mother of 3 amazing children and step-mother of 3 children. My goal is to finish up my Early Childhood Education and become a full time worker in my center. I enjoy working with the kids, they are so happy, and I enjoy watching them blossom into amazing children. I was born and raised in Bella Bella and finished school in my community. Now I am raising my children in Bella Bella, showing them the way we would have fun fishing hunting and camping.



### Jennifer Sharp Métis Nation British Columbia

Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

My name is Jennifer Sharp, I am 24 years old from Salmon Arm, BC. My personal goals are to be a mindful, active individual, making a positive impact in peoples lives, especially children's. My career goals are to become a Early Childhood Educator and own my own childcare centre, while being an elementary school teacher. Public education and children are my two biggest passions. I am grateful to study in a field which I am so passionate about.



### Jerry-Lyn Sampson Tsartlip First Nation

Camosun College  
Early Childhood Education

Being a mother myself, made joining the Early Learning Care field an easy choice for me, as I believe quality care and education for children from an early age is very important.

Upon completion of my program I plan to find work within my own home communities. I believe that having cultural teachings and land based learning would be very beneficial for not only my own children, but also the children within our communities.

My goals are to bring back everything that I will be learning from my program to my home communities, and help our children, and families thrive in a positive environment and to get a good headstart on their learning, and educational journey.



### Jessica Prichard Lax Kw'alaams Band

Douglas College  
Associate of Arts

I enrolled at VCC to study ASL and Deaf studies earning a certificate. I then transferred to Douglas College to continue in my ASL studies and learn the roll of an interpreter. Through my journey I discovered many areas the Deaf community needs communication access in the society we share. I have learned a lot from the Deaf community and am currently focusing my career in the school system.

I volunteer at my church and on two PAC committees for my children's schools. After a day of volunteering and six college classes, I go home to my loving and supportive husband, and my three boys for bedtime stories and cuddles.



### Jodie Smith Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government

Coast Mountain College  
Social Service Worker

My name is Jodie Smith, I am a member of the Nisga'a Nation and a proud mom to two beautiful kids age ten and eight. I grew up in Prince Rupert BC, and currently reside in Terrace BC, where I am a full-time student attending the Coast Mountain College. I've known since I was a teenager that I wanted to work in the Social Service field, I have always been passionate about helping people. My goal is to complete the Social Service Worker Certificate Program and carry on to complete the Diploma program.



**Juniper Pierre**  
**Lílwat Nation**

Native Education College  
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

I am currently in my first year of Aboriginal Early Childhood Educator program at Native Education College. I am really enjoying this program and doing well. I hope to continue next year and get my Diploma. Once I am finished school I would like to work at the Aboriginal Head Start program in Vancouver for a little bit to gain some experience. After that I would like to go back to school and get my ECE degree. I am a single mother living with my son in the city. Things have been hard, but I never gave up on wanting to go to school. I am happy to finally find something that I enjoy. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals.



**Karissa Brown**  
**Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation**

College of New Caledonia  
Early Childhood Care and Learning

I am of Carrier-Gitxsan decent, and a proud member of the Luksilyoo (Caribou) Clan in Burns Lake. I am enrolled in Métis Studies as well as conversational Carrier to help become better acquainted with our Language and Metis practices this Fall. I am also enrolled in the Advanced Development Course for Early Childhood Care & Learning for 2nd year ECCL Certificate Program. I hope to share my new expertise in Early Childhood Education with an Aboriginal Head Start Program or become employed at a Daycare in the Prince George area. I am so eager to learn about all the ways in which I can best assist children in daycare to learn in a supportive, culturally sensitive and inclusive environment.



**Kirsten Adrian**  
**Seton Lake Band (Tsal'alh)**

Native Education College  
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

My name is Kirsten Adrian and I am from the St'at'imc Nation. I recently completed and graduated from the Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Certificate program. Currently, I am enrolled in the Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Diploma Program at the Native Education College in Vancouver. Upon completion, I look forward to securing a full-time position within a daycare setting where my skills and knowledge will be challenged.



**Leo Linklater**  
**Mathias Colomb Cree Nation**

Vancouver Career College  
Early Childhood Education

Tansi, my name is Leo Linklater, I come from the Treaty Six territory of Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, also known as Pukatawagan. I am a Cree speaker and have a lot of knowledge through culture with dancing, singing, and teaching of the Red Road. During my time in the Early Childhood Educator program, I learned many activities that will help me to teach and build a relationship with parents, co-workers, children, and others that are in that work field. I am looking forward to learning and working with families after I finish the course and achieve the certificate that will take me a long way to become an educator. I am also looking forward to work after I am done the course, and want to wish good luck to those attending school. Ekosi



**Lisa Becker**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

Vancouver Community College  
Early Childhood Care & Education

I am currently enrolled in the Early Childhood Care and Education Certificate Program at Vancouver Community College. I would love to further my education with an Infant and Toddler Certificate once I graduate. It is a long term goal to work with the children of our future on community preparing them for whatever lies ahead. I come from a very large family which has helped shape a foundation of knowledge when it comes to working with children. I look forward to being able to harness the skills and tools from school, and combine it with my passion for child care to create a life time career.



**Lynai Quatell**  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**

Camosun College  
Early Childhood Education

Gilakasla. My given name is Lynai Quatell, my traditional name is Kas'alas. I come from the Ligwilthdakw of Campbell River, and Dzawadaenukw of Kingcome Inlet. I am in my first year of the Early Learning and Care Diploma program at Camosun College. I am fortunate to be a part of the first and so far only Indigenous cohort. I am grateful for the W SÁNEĆ people for allowing me to learn on their traditional territory. I currently am employed with Hulitan Family and Community Services Society in an Indigenous Early Years program for children and their caregivers. Once I complete the program, I plan on continuing with Journeys of the Heart. I have a nine year old son, who I hope is one day inspired by my hard work at Camosun College.



**Mackenzie White**  
**Saddle Lake Cree Nation**

Pacific Rim Early  
Childhood Institute Inc.  
Health, Safety and Nutrition

My name is Mackenzie White, I was born to the Saddle Lake Cree First Nations. I strongly believe it takes a village to help raise a child, and that education for our youth is extremely valuable in teaching the next generations about self identity, culture, traditions or beliefs. My future goal is to become a mentor, teacher and spokesman for promoting integration and recognition of language, heritage and diversity into the education curriculum. One thing I would love to accomplish is to travel across Canada by train.



**Mary Ouillette**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

I belong to the Salmon Arm Metis Association, and have been actively involved in my community from a very young age as a traditional dancer.

I am taking the Early Childhood Education Certificate program offered, for the first time, at Okanagan College Salmon Arm campus. This is an incredible opportunity for me to be able to enrich the lives of children with a firm respect and understanding of Indigenous cultures, and to be a strong representation of my people within my career.

I am so grateful to NRT for supporting me as I learn and grow. The opportunities they have given me mean so much.





**Samantha Tremblay**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

Sprott Shaw College  
 Early Childhood Education

I enjoying working with kids, I have always loved children so I enjoyed the course a lot. Hopefully one day I hope to open up a daycare.



**Sandra Siah**  
**Squamish Nation**

Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
 Education Assistants

My career goal is to be an important person in the education world. Being an Education Assistant is just the beginning of my journey. I want to help children through their education life in Elementary and High school. I want to have a long lasting impact on individuals and to show them they are just as capable as I am, I have three young children under the age of 10 and completing this University course. You can do anything you set your mind to.



**Savanna White**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

Camosun College  
 Indigenous Early Learning and Care

My past inspired me to heal myself because my passion is helping others. When someone is not secure and healthy within themselves there is not much capacity for others. Families are complex and complicated. I want to be the person to love and support families so they can grow into their best selves. Afterall, our children and families shape our future. As an educator, I want to gift our future the tools they need in order to care for our earth and each other.



**Shanice Parr**  
**Nuxalk Nation**

Pacific Rim Early  
 Childhood Institute Inc.  
 Early Childhood Education

Hello My name is Shanice Parr, I come from a small town on the coast called Bella Coola and I am a member of the Nuxalk Nation. I am currently in my second year of schooling and I am a few classes away from receiving my diploma in the field of Early Childhood Education. My main goal when I started this course was to be able to move back home to my small community to give back and spread my knowledge in the field.

“Throughout my 2 years of Post secondary NRTF has helped me immensely with the expensive costs of schooling and living. I have so much gratitude...  
 — Shanice Parr



**Shayla Anderson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

Sprott Shaw College  
 Early Childhood Education

I am a student attending post-secondary pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education. It has been a longterm goal of mine to be able to work with children, and be a positive role model to them. It is a dream come true to be able to graduate, and thanks to the trust fund, achieving said goals are made so much simpler. The fund is truly a blessing and helps put First Nations Students a little more at ease, offering some stress relief while enrolled in the programs.



**Shiann Gilpin**  
**T̓sideldel First Nation**

Sprott Shaw College  
 Early Childhood Education

I am a mother of two currently almost three. My lifetime goal is to finish my education, show my children it isn't easy but its all worth it in the end. I also have another goal of helping other young mothers/fathers pursue their dreams and by that I will work full time in a daycare center or in home daycare center. Possibly look into social work in the next few years as well, because I love to help our people, our children are our future.



**Tammy Harper**  
**Onion Lake Cree Nation**

Native Education College  
 Early Childhood Education

Hello, My name is Tammy Harper I am First Nations Cree/Carrier Born in Edmonton Alberta, and I have lived in Vancouver for 36 years. I have four beautiful children and three amazing Grandchildren. I love to sing traditional drum songs, spend quality time with my family and enjoy spending time in nature. Learning and going back to school has been a huge accomplishment for me and I hope to further my goals and work towards my Bachelors of Education. Grateful for all the great opportunities and the amazing people that have made this journey possible. Kinnanaskomitin (Cree For Thank you)



**Tina William**  
**Splatsin**

Okanagan College  
 Early Childhood Education

My name is Tina William. I am a member of the Splatsin First Nation and live in Enderby. I am the daughter of George William and Bev William. I have five children, Jade (22), Kailey (12), Jack (8), Drake (4), Scarlett (3). I plan to finish my Early Childhood Education certificate in December 2019. I hope to continue on and complete my Infant Toddler Certificate, then continue on to a Special Needs Certificate, and receive my diploma as an Early Childhood Educator.



**Vanessa Labreche**  
**Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation**

Douglas College  
 Early Childhood Education

My name is Vanessa, I'm 19 years old and I'm from Aldergrove, BC. I always had a passion for working with kids since I was in high school. I knew I wanted to do something in the field of work, but I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted. After high school I started to work in a day care and realized I loved it and knew that this was the career path I wanted to pursue. My goal for the future is to complete my schooling to the highest level of degree and open up my own daycare center.



**Ang Smith**  
**Gitanmaax Band**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Ang Smith, I am Gitxsan and I am from Gitanmaax. I am enjoying my schooling and I look forward to getting my degree and working in the social work field. I have a son in grade eleven and he is also a good student, along with Sea Cadets and 'Ksan Performing Arts Dance Group. Student life is not easy but the forward movement is sure getting me places.



**Angela Adams**  
**Splatsin**

Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Social Work

I am a proud Secwepemc woman raised in Enderby on the Splatsin reserve. I am a mother of three beautiful daughters. Growing up I was told the importance of continuing my education after I graduated, but drinking and partying was more important. So after turning my life around I realised that I wanted to be a good role model for my girls and show them that with determination and perseverance they can accomplish anything. After I complete my schooling I plan on coming back to provide community support to my people helping them to the best of my ability. I would like to thank New Relationship Trust by helping support my learning journey, it is very much appreciated.



**Anna-Marie Horn**  
**Big River First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

Hi, my name is Anna, I am from Big River First Nation, and I am studying a Bachelor of Social Work at NVIT.



**Annika Martynuik**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Education

My name is Annika Martynuik and I am a member of the Skidegate Band Council. I'm attending Vancouver Island University for a Bachelor of education. I plan on either teaching in an elementary school or I teaching English as a second language. I chose this career path because I was inspired by some of the teachers back home and I love learning new things.



**Ashley Azak**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

I am a resilient First Nations woman who cares for my family of 5 children, 3 small ones under 7, and 2 teenage step-sons. I am pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Youth Care with the University of Victoria. I have not had the easiest road to follow on my education journey and times get tough but as a mother I am able to keep pushing when times get tough.



**Ayesha Elliott**  
**Lake Babine Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My Name is Ayesha Elliott from the Lake Babine Nation. I am currently attending Nicola Valley Institute of Technology to complete my Bachelors of Social Work degree. After finishing my General Arts degree, I became interested in working within the social work field. I feel that our communities need a lot of healing and support and I hope that with this degree I can make a difference. Thank you NRT for supporting me on my journey!



**Bailey Johnson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

Taanishi! Hello, My name is Bailey. I am a Métis student, from Summerland in the Okanagan. I am currently in my second year of NITEP (The Indigenous Teacher Education Program) at UBC Vancouver. Being apart of the public school system for most of my childhood, I witnessed a lack of Indigenous education being provided. My biggest motive to teach was to be able to change the way that the public school system teaches children and incorporate more Indigenous learning. It's very important to me to have Indigenous leaders and representatives in the education system and to be able to teach in a setting that honors culture. My goal is to be able to teach children empathy and understanding and to stress the importance of Indigenous history and how it has played a part in the society we have today. Sincere thanks to NRTF for allowing my dreams to become reality!



**Caroline Thompson**  
**Tseshaht First Nation**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Arts - Child and Youth Care

As a single mom of 2 boys, I am very thankful for this award. It truly means a lot to my little family. I continue to strive to be a role model not only for my sons, nephews, nieces, and others in my community. I am a Tseshaht Nation member. Aside from earning the degree, I have a dream of opening up 2 types of group homes for our Aboriginal youth in care. One for young moms, and the other for youth. I would like to see our youth today succeed and be the leaders of tomorrow.



**Darlynda Jack**  
**Ulkatcho First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Darlynda Jack, I am a mother to four amazing children. My children have inspired me to move forward with my goals of obtaining my Masters in Organizational Development. I have previously obtained my Family and Community Counselling diploma, and am now in the third year of the Bachelor's of Social Work program at NVIT. I am a very dedicated student and I aim to make some positive changes for our Indigenous Communities. I know that incorporating positive changes takes a lot of work, dedication and most importantly collaboration amongst our Nations and I would love to be a part of the process of advancement in the near future. Our communities have dealt with a lot of structural inequalities and if we learn to work together, we can help one another to move forward in a positive way that will be better for all of our Indigenous Communities.



**Dianne Natrall**  
**Squamish Nation**

Capilano University  
Bachelor of Early Childhood  
Care & Education

My personal goal is to work with children with special rights to ensure they both have a voice and success within our centre. I have been previously a Foster Parent for our Ayas Men Men Social Development for 17 years to a special rights child. He was medically diagnosed with Fetal Spectrum Disorder (FASD) since the age of three. Needless to say he had experienced being stigmatized both within the school system and within our community. At the age of three his grade one teacher did not accept him for who was all she saw was his disability. I became his voice once I realized what was happening to him within our educational system. He informed me that I could share his educational journey.



**Erica Ryan**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

My Haida name is Gidin Jaad (Eagle Woman) and my English name is Erica Ryan. I am a Haida and Tsimshian woman. My mother is from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii and my Father is from Lax Kw'alaams. I am a mother of two children, an entrepreneur and aspiring teacher. I make my home in Skidegate, and am currently finishing my teaching credentials through the University of Northern British Columbia in Terrace B.C. I am excited to infuse the Haida language, culture, ceremonies and ways of knowing into my future classrooms for the benefit and growth of all my students.



**Estelle Carmona**  
**Shíshálh Nation**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

Hello, My name is Estelle Carmona from Shishalh Nation. I am passionate about Child Welfare. It is my life's purpose to make a positive impact in the lives of children, families, and communities. I am grateful for receiving this scholarship, and I look forward to finishing my degree and continuing onto my Master's. Thank you.  
Me apasiona el Bienestar Infantil. El propósito de mi vida es hacer un impacto positivo en las vidas de los niños, las familias y las comunidades. Estoy agradecido por recibir esta beca, y espero terminar mi carrera y continuar con mi maestría. Gracias.



**Fallon Crosby**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

My name is Fallon Crosby, my father's name is David Crosby and he is Haida Eagle from Skidegate. My mother's name is Trudy Crosby and she is Kwaguitl from Cape Mudge and Kingcome Inlet. I have a 9 year old daughter and have been sober for over 11 years! I grew up on Haida Gwaii and am attending UNBC, I'm enrolled in the Bachelor of Education Program.



**Georgia Walkus**  
**Gwa'sala-  
'Nakwaxda'xw Nations**

University of Lethbridge  
Bachelor of Arts - Education

Nugwa'ą m Georgia Walkus, gayutłą n lax a Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation. I am currently studying at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta. I am in my first year pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree. I am a member of the women's varsity soccer team and work hard to balance both academics and athletics. I have always enjoyed teaching or helping others to learn whether informally or through volunteer coaching and mentorship. I have had teachers, coaches and mentors impact my life in a positive way and feel that working with young children is a way to have a positive influence on the lives of others. I believe that learning and following your passions can make a difference for individuals and communities.



**Georgina Jeffrey**  
**Sik-e-Dakh**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program  
Mother of 4 and ages are 24, 18, 4 and 1. I originally come from the Hazelton area but moved away when I was 12 years old and called Kamloops my home for nearly 20 years. I now call Bella Coola my home for the past 7 years. I am in my second year of NITEP. I worked as a Education Assistant for the past 6 years.



**Janessa Redwood-Henry**  
**Cowessess First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Janessa Redwood-Henry. I am a Saulteaux-Ojibway woman from Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. I am currently in my third year of my Bachelor's of Social Work degree. As a career goal I would like to support Indigenous youth and young adult women, I'd like to help break intergenerational trauma by incorporating empowerment and cultural teachings in my work. I would also like to create my own healing centre where I would use a holistic approach to healing trauma and working with people in addictions.



**Jaymyn La Vallee**  
**Squamish Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

Jaymym La Vallee (Sḵwḵ wú7mesh, Kwikwasut'inuxw and 'Namgis) grew up in North Vancouver, BC on the Capilano Reservation. She is currently learning her Indigenous language, Kwakwala, and is completing her Bachelor of Education through the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) at the University of British Columbia. La Vallee hopes to work with Indigenous children and young adults, teaching language and culture. She is passionate about food sovereignty and hopes to incorporate land-based learning values into her philosophy of teaching.



**Jennifer Anderson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of Northern British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Jenni Anderson and I am on the homestretch of my Bachelor of Social Work degree at UNBC in Terrace. I have always enjoyed working with people in different aspects of their lives. I am looking forward to working in a career where I am able to help people and create a lasting meaningful impact in their lives. I enjoy working with children and youth and hope to continue with this work in the future. Through my work I want to be able to inspire and help youth continue with their education and move on to post-secondary institutions.



**Jessica Creyke**  
**Witset First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Education

Had'ih, Siy sozi Jessica. Wet'suwet'en hibitisisde, Witset hibi yinta tsasye , Likht'samis'yu hibitisisde. I am a single mother of 3. I am very passionate about language learning and cultural revitalization. I am currently moving from my community as I move into my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of my Bachelor of Education. I am excited to incorporate culture and language into the current curriculum for my community. Awitza'



**Jessica Naziel**  
**Witset First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

I am Witsuwit'en and I belong to the Tsayu (Beaver Clan). I am interested in learning within an Indigenous perspective. I want to learn how to make a change within the curriculum that empowers Indigenous students. I want children to question where they come from and consider the possibilities and opportunities available to them. Every job I've had, has focused on breaking records (making sales or hitting quotas). As an Indigenous person in Canada, I want to break social, economic and political barriers that we have in society. I want children to realize that they are important in our future and remind them of their potential.



**Joshua Houghton**  
**Squamish Nation**

Capilano University  
 Bachelor of Early Childhood Care & Education

I am passionate about early intervention with our children. I believe in equal access to education for all, especially within our Indigenous communities. I will be a voice and advocate for programs and services that promote success in the beginning stages of our children's educational journeys. Children need support and a good foundation. As they move along with their studies I will assist them in acquiring the tools, skills and knowledge to set them up for success. We as Educators are there to make sure their right as children are followed. I am so excited to gain my skills and knowledge so I can get out in the field and start my career.



**Julian Lowley**  
**Lake Babine Nation**

University of Northern British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Social Work

I belong to the Frog Clan of the Lake Babine Nation. I grew up on the Woyenne Reservation in Burns Lake, BC. I moved to Prince George, BC to pursue an education in criminology; I eventually shifted my focus to human services and obtained my diploma in social service work. I am currently working to obtain my degree in social work. Once I receive my degree, I plan on working as a Guardianship Social Worker for a local Indigenous family service organization. I eventually want to become a counselor and then a teacher at either the local university or the college.



**Katia Olsen**  
**Tsartlip First Nation**

Vancouver Island University  
 Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Language Revitalization

I am raising my children to live in healthy ways and break generation cycles daily through sports, language and culture. Living a healthy active lifestyle has allowed me to make many connections in other communities and be able to represent my community in a good way. Upon completion of my Bachelor of Education it is my goal to return to our community based school in W ,SÁNEĆ and teach our students and be able to show the importance of an education. It is my goal to be immersed and teach in my language to give back the language to our people as my mentors have worked hard to teach me the language and I would like to be able to pass on what I have learned this far.



**Kevin Tyson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of the Fraser Valley  
 Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I am an extremely high energy and motivated single father of a beautiful 5-year old boy. My career goal is to become a registered speech pathologist while pursuing a PhD in speech sciences. The aim is to open a private practice specialized in treating children with autism and pursuing research with a focus on the consequences of digital technology on speech development. Film is another passion of mine and would like to direct a self-produced short or feature film within the next five years.



**Keyshon Nelson**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

University of Victoria  
 Bachelor of Science

My name is Keyshon Nelson and I am from the community of Gingolx. My career goal is to achieve a higher education in psychology to bring back to the community in Gingolx, or other Indigenous populated areas as it is much needed. I like to read books including whatever source of fiction that can invoke deep thought and feelings. I like finding new ways to grow and contemplate what I can do to better my surroundings and influence people to the same.





**Kiana Olafson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Education -  
 Indigenous Teacher Education Program

My name is Kiana Olafson and I am a proud member of Métis Nation British Columbia. I am in my fourth year of my Bachelor of Education in the Indigenous Teacher Education Program at the University of British Columbia. I am very excited to be finishing up my degree and to soon begin my career as an educator. I hope to be a positive role model and create a safe space for the youth in my community. I am very grateful for the support of the New Relationship Trust Foundation in helping me pursue my goals.



**Leon Erickson**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

University of Northern British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Education

My name is Leon Erickson, son of Art and Bertha Erickson (inle). I am of the Lhoh Ja Bou (Bear) clan of Nak'azdli Whut'en in Fort St. James, BC. I am attending the University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George, BC. I returned to post-secondary in 2017 and flourished as a student. My life experiences gave me access to incredible amounts of knowledge that assisted my academic career. I am in my second (and final year) of the Bachelor of Education program at UNBC in Prince George. I wish to provide for my family as a father and husband. I wish to extend my learning to include a Masters degree and give back to my community.

Message to students: Post-secondary education can be hard if you try to do it on your own. However, most schools have implemented many resources available to all students, and some resources are for Indigenous students only. I strongly urge you to seek out mentors, teachers and resources in your post-secondary education as soon as possible.



**Kianna Everson**  
**K'omoks First Nation**

University of Victoria  
 Bachelor of Social Work

Gilakas'la, nugwa'am U'ma. Gayutlan lax K'omoks. Hello, my name is Kianna Everson; my traditional name is U'ma or "Noble Woman". I am of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry: Dutch, Russian, and English on my mom's side, and K'omoks, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Norwegian on my father's side. I was raised on the K'omoks First Nations reserve surrounded by Indigenous teachings, family, and loved ones. However, I also witnessed the systemic injustices faced by my family and community. The historical and continual pain and injustices Indigenous peoples endure inspired me to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work Degree with an Indigenous Specialization. I will graduate in June and enter the workforce in hopes of generating meaningful change.



**Larissa Mowatt**  
**Skowkale First Nation**

Simon Fraser University  
 Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

My name is Larissa and I'm from Stó:lō First Nation. I am currently attending Simon Fraser University and have just entered the third year of my degree. My major is in psychology with a minor in criminology. I have a passion for helping people and that is what I plan on doing when I complete my degree. I would like to be a counsellor and use my knowledge to help those in my community.



**Lorianne Alphonse**  
**Yunesit'in Government**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
 Teacher Education Program

Se INKWEL (mother) is Joanna Alphonse and Se ?ABA (father) is Raymond Alphonse. I am a proud mother of five children. Since childhood, I have lived traditionally through hunting, fishing, gathering and trapping. I am a fluent speaker of Tsilhqot'in language. I am becoming a certified elementary teacher in the Bachelor of Education program with University of British Columbia's Native Indigenous Teacher Education Program and taking courses at Thompson Rivers University in Williams Lake. In 2019, I received my Diploma of General Studies. I look forward to making a difference in the lives of young people and working as an indigenous educator.

## In loving memory



**Luke Thomas**  
**Tsleil-Waututh Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Bachelor of Social Work

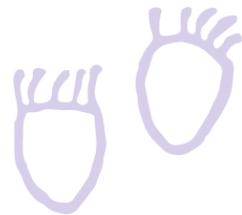
My professional goal is to use my Social Worker degree to work closely with Indigenous children and families. This is important to me because I did not have any strong role models when I was a child, and I would like the community members I work to know that they have one positive, safe resource to access when they need help. My personal goal is to continue to grow and learn physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.



**Lyam Donetz**  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

My name is Lyam Donetz and I am Kwakwaka'wakw and Skeetchestn. I was raised in Port Hardy, BC and my traditional name is Gustzidas. I am currently enrolled in the NITEP program at The University of British Columbia. I chose to pursue education because I enjoy working with children and youth. My goal is to become an elementary school teacher. Besides school I have a passion for playing soccer and learning Kwakwaka'wakw, the traditional language of the Kwakwaka'wakw people.



**Lynzee West**  
**Haisla Nation**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

My name is Lynzee West. I am a proud member of the Gitksan and Haisla nations located in Northwest, BC. I am a mother of three and continually working towards a better life for my family. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor of Education through UNBC. I am a third-generation teacher and second-generation IRS survivor. I look forward to giving back to my community through teaching. I understand the importance of education and want to provide our youth with as many opportunities for growth and encouragement as I can. I look forward to having a positive impact on my nations youth.



**Marcus Reid**  
**Heiltsuk Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts

I have goals of supporting our people and others that face oppression from their race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, religion, immigration status, and especially those that intersect between. The path I am following to pursue my personal goal is education and community organizing. I am so grateful there are innovative school programs and financial resources for Indigenous students to thrive and change systems that need to be decolonized. These factors, have helped me graduate college and continue on to the university, where I'm currently pursuing my undergraduate in Indigenous studies and Education. Hopefully, this degree will be a strong foundation for graduate Indigenous studies in education, law, policy, and community development because that's the plan! T'oooyak'siy' h'iiin!



**Maria Martin**  
**Heiltsuk Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

I am in my third year of the NITEP Ba Ed Program, and the Special Ed. Diploma programs. I have had some wonderful learning experiences that lead me to this path of pursuing higher education in the NITEP and Special Ed programs at the University of British Columbia. I continue moving forward with these two program goals and will work with young children in an early years and elementary level to foster and enrich their learning.



**Meagan Wilson**  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My traditional name is Sibelxawidzemga, and my English name is Meagan Wilson. My family comes from the four corners of the Kwakwaka'wakw territory. My goal is obtain a Masters degree in Social Work and be able to give back to my community. I want to walk beside my fellow Indigenous people and watch them thrive to be the best they can be. It is in my heart to help others.



**Megan Egan**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Douglas College  
Bachelor of Arts - Child and Youth Care

My name is Megan and I am 30 years old. I live in Maple Ridge and have a cat and a small dog. My band is located in Kamloops and my dad is still living up there as well. My personal goal is to raise a family which would include one child of my own and an adopted child. As well, I want to help my community whenever I can. My career goal is to be a Child and Youth Counselor for First Nations and to be able to work in the community to help the kids struggling.



**Megan Harkey**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

I am currently working towards my goal of becoming an elementary school teacher, and I hope to work in the local community filter school where a large number of our Musqueam students attend. Additionally, I am building credits towards a Diploma in Special Education, which I feel will be beneficial not only to my career as an educator, but especially for my students. goals a reality.



**Melissa Watts**  
**Squamish Nation**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

Melissa is a 4th year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) student at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology – Burnaby Campus. She is gaining knowledge and skills relevant to both Indigenous and mainstream individuals, families and communities. Her heart belongs to both the downtown East Side of Vancouver, BC where she was raised and to Port Alberni, BC where she was born. Upon completion of the BSW Program, she hopes to assist one of her home communities by means of social justice, community healing and positive change using both Indigenous knowledge as well as contemporary social work practice. Melissa values her cultural customs, traditions, protocols, spirituality, ceremonies, and her connections to the land. She feels we can create a more inclusive environment for all mankind by simply exercising respect, humility and acceptance for one another.

“I am so grateful for the New Relationship Trust, without these scholarships I would not have been able to complete my schooling on a full-time basis and still manage to provide for my two young boys!  
— Megan Harkey



**Merissa McNeil**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Bachelor of Social Work

I am from the Nisga'a Nation and I come from the Laxsgiik clan, House of Hleek. I was born and raised in Vancouver BC far from my home territory, so I have always felt disconnected from my culture, language and traditions. Returning to school after years lost in addictions seemed like the logical choice after the birth of my daughter. I started with wanting to give my daughter a better life; I now want to use my own life experiences to help guide others to make better choices than I have in the past. I want to be apart of making positive and healthy changes in the lives of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.



**Michaela Stanley**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Columbia Bible College  
 Youth Work

My Nisga'a name is Neekhlugum Gibbu, my English name is Michaela Stanley. I am from Prince Rupert, BC but live in the Lower Mainland for school. I am currently in my first year at Columbia Bible College for their Youth Work BA program. My passion as been working with children or youth for as long as I could remember, so being able to go to college for something I have a deep passion for has been so good. I have been wokring as a volunteer youth leader for the past three years and it has been so great to be able to gain the experience in that setting before I gradute. After I gradute I want to be able to go back home and work with the youth up there and be a support system for them that they might not currently have.

*“I am so grateful to have been selected for this scholarship. Living on a student budget in a city as expensive as Vancouver is not easy at times. T’ooyaksiy’niin!  
 — Merissa McNeil*



**Nathan Chenoweth**  
**Upper Nicola Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Bachelor of Education

I’m Nathan Chenoweth, I was born and raised in the Nicola Valley and am a proud member of the Upper Nicola Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation. I am currently enrolled in the two year TRU Indigenous Teacher Education program. I have always wanted to become a teacher and to serve my community. I am very grateful for the support of the NRT Foundation.



**Nicki Wolfenden**  
**Gitanmaax Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Bachelor of Social Work

I am Gitxsan and am originally from a small northern town in BC called New Hazelton. Being a single mother of two children I cannot express enough gratitude towards The New Relationship Trust for this incredible scholarship. I began my post-secondary journey four years ago as a mature student, today I am currently in my third year of social work. I had no idea when I started on this path that I would fall in love with learning. Once I have completed my social work degree I plan on either going for my Master’s Degree or law school.



**Nina Ney**  
**Liard First Nation**

University of Victoria  
 Bachelor of Education - Elementary

Hello, my name is Nina Ney and I’m a Tahltan Indigenous woman in my fourth year of the Bachelors of Education (Elementary Curriculum) program at the University of Victoria. As a teacher, I want to create change within my local community by being a positive Indigenous leader to the children and youth, encouraging and empowering them to be all they can be. I foresee having a career in teaching as an exciting and rewarding profession and I cannot wait to get into the field of work, once I’m done my degree in the spring of 2020.



**Paulette Nyce**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Paulette Nyce and I come from the Nisga'a Nation. I am currently in my 4th year of Bachelor of Social Work. My education journey has been challenging and rewarding. I am happy I will be achieving this part of my journey and continue to pursue my passion within my chosen career. I would like to thank my daughter, my parents, and my sisters for the continuous support. T’ooyaksiy’ n’iin.



**Rose Patterson**  
**Laxgalts’ap Village Government**

University of Victoria  
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Rose Winona Patterson the granddaughter to Dorothy Smart Clark and the niece to Frank Calder of the Nisga'a First Nations. I am a 60's scoop survivor. My family was Caucasian, the only mission statement we followed was, "it takes a village to raise a family." My parents were of Quaker religion and my siblings and I were raised off the land without electricity and with positive family values. My goal is to walk with all First Nation's and through their teachings and stories learn more about myself as well as share knowledge as Nisga'a.



**Saige Werstuik**  
**Westbank First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Bachelor of Arts

Way' Isxwist Saige Werstuik, I am a proud member of Westbank First Nation, which is situated in West Kelowna on the unceded territory of the syilx (Okanagan) people. I currently am attending UBC Okanagan. I am in my third year of my Bachelors of Arts degree. I am majoring in Psychology and my overall educational goal is to achieve my PhD in Clinical Psychology. I plan to become a licensed practitioner so that I can work with youth in my community as well as help develop or reinvent wellness departments in Indigenous communities. Límlemt (Thank you) for your generous support so I can continue my journey through school!



**Samantha Desautels**  
Gingolx Village Government

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Education

I am a young First Nations mom of two from the Nisga'a Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program at Vancouver Island University to become an elementary school teacher. I believe all children are special and I would like to embrace their full potentials and capabilities. I have a great passion for making a difference in the community, so the struggles I obtain throughout my studies only give me more motivation to finish to become a great asset in the education system. Being First Nations I am able to connect with and understand the difficulties indigenous students may be facing in all aspects of their lives. I feel it is very imperative that I educate myself and help all children to be the best students they can be.



**Serena Yatkowsky**  
Métis Nation British Columbia

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Serena Yatkowsky and I am proud to be BC Metis Nation. I grew up in a small town called Armstrong which is located in the Okanagan Valley. I moved to Merritt in 2016 to attend classes at the Nicola Valley Institute in Technology with the ultimate goal of obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Social Work. It has always been my passion and goal to work with and help children. My career goal is to work with Indigenous children, families, and communities to help stop the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system.



**Sierra Lewis**  
Squamish Nation

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

My name is Sierra Lewis I come from the Squamaish Nation which is located on unseeded Coast Salish Territory. I am currently pursuing my BA in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. My goals for my professional development Include being a clinical youth counsellor and working with the Government to decolonize practices regarding Indigenous youth in Care. I would like to thank the New Relationship Trust Foundation for the Indigenous Early Years Fall Scholarship 2019. This funding will immensely help with my tuition, text books & relocation expenses to Victoria! Huy chexw! (Thank You)



**Stanley Daniels**  
Canim Lake Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

Weyktp, Stanley Daniels ren skwest. Te Tsqescen Te ste7kwen. Styetemc-Ken secwepemc-Ken. Len qe7tse lu7 Leonard Archie. Ren ki7ce re Georgina Daniels. Len pe7es lu7 Tommy Archie ell Isidore Daniels Sr. Len Kye7es lu7 Laura Archie ell Rosa Emile. Tkwenmi7ple ren tsetswe7. Hello, my name is Stanley Daniels. I am have my third year advanced diploma in Chemical Addictions Counselling from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. I am a current third year student in the Bachelor of Social Work program. I am the uncle of two incredible nieces Avery and Kaydence. My family is my life.



**Stephanie Holmes**  
Tl'azt'en Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

I'm a proud Dakelh Warrior from Tl'azt'en Nation. I come from a small community called Tache, BC. I am the oldest out of five siblings with two children of my own. I know we as First Nations people have been suffering the effects of colonization and have been trying to survive through various forms of trauma. I am determined to help my people thrive in a world that continues to work against them. My children, family, and community are my greatest motivators to become a great Social Worker.



**Tammy Price**  
Heiltsuk Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

I enjoy spending quality family time together and practicing our traditional way of life. I am in my 3rd year of the Bachelor of Social Work program. Throughout my years of working with many Indigenous organizations they all have had an influence on my decision to pursue my Social Work degree. I look forward to gaining greater knowledge, skills and abilities to practice social work with our Indigenous families. In the future, I would like to return to my traditional territory to work along with our governance and members to create programs that are culturally safe, healthy and empowering for children and families so all our families will continue to flourish.



**Tanner Foreman**  
Tahltan Central Government

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

My name is Tanner Jack Akwata Foreman, I am a member of the Tahltan First Nations, and I am studying to become a child psychologist. During my time at the University of Victoria I have joined also the universities rowing program. I was born in Vancouver, Canada, and while my family moved around, we never left BC. I feel a very strong connection with this province and this country, and I hope to help those who need support.



**Terris Purkiss-Elkins**  
Nuxalk Nation

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

I am a Nuxalk woman from the Nuxalk Nation Territory on the central coast of British Columbia. I am 33 years old and have two children. I joined the NITEP program for Education in 2018 and I have been with my cohort for two years now and we are loving the comradery and support we have with each other. In 2014, I made the decision to come home after a lot of thought. The community is where my heart was and I knew that if I could help out the community I should give it a try. Upon completion, our community will be well equipped with teachers who have a strong pedagogy in indigenous education. In the near future, I am planning on getting a Master's Degree in Mathematics and Science.



**Tianna Grosse**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

The journey through my undergrad has been long and winding but I am finally entering the last year of my undergrad. I am eager to take on the challenge of this coming year and complete my teaching degree next summer. Without the support of my family, community and program I would not have made it this far. I am determined to continue on and obtain the tools that I need to work with our children as an elementary school teacher.



**Tina Wenman**  
**Boston Bar First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

My name is Tina Wenman. I am from Boston Bar First Nation which is one of the First Nation bands within the Nlaka'pamux territory (Canyon). I am enrolled into my fourth year of the Bachelors of Education program at UBC. One of my most favourite hobbies is playing baseball. I play baseball from the end of March to the beginning of October. I play on a few different teams and in a few different leagues. I travel all over British Columbia to play in many different tournaments. I would like to thank the Government of BC and the Government of Canada, through the BC-Canada early learning and child care agreement for giving me the opportunity to be aware with 2019/2020 undergrad Indigenous Early Years fall scholarship.

“The IEY Summer Scholarship came at the perfect time as I am currently completing the last elective credits I need to be eligible for UBC’s teacher education program. The support I have and continue to receive from New Relationship Trust has been incredible and I am endlessly grateful.— Tianna Grosse



**Tish Lovely**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

As a teacher, my passion is to see a child’s eye light up with curiosity and discovery. I have a particular interest in First Nation, Inuit, and Metis students to ensure they have a better trajectory which is equivalent to their peers. I love BC’s renewed curriculum which focuses on bringing Indigenous learnings to the children. In my Kindergarten practicum, we identified the cottonwood tree, harvested the buds for medicine and then made a lip salve.



**Yvonne Hill**  
**Gitga’at First Nation**

Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts - Education  
and Psychology

I have been at Simon Fraser University for over a year now, and look forward to completing my undergrad degree before pursuing a Master’s Degree in Education. After competing my Master’s Degree, I look forward to moving home and working as an Elementary school teacher in our local school.



**Carly Jones**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of Victoria  
Master of Social Work -  
Indigenous specialization

Tansii! My name is Carly Jones and I am a proud Métis woman and citizen of Métis Nation British Columbia. My family originally comes from the Red River Valley, specifically the French and Michif speaking community of St. Adolphe, Manitoba. I am currently in the 2nd year of my Masters of Social Work at the University of Victoria where my studies focus on Métis-centered healing for children and families on both individual and community levels. My best hope is that through community-grounded research, I can contribute towards healing and liberation for my family, community, and Nation.



**Cassidy Swenson**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of British Columbia  
Master of Physical Therapy

I am currently a recipient of the NRTF Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and am so proud and grateful to be using it towards my education in becoming a physiotherapist. Upon graduation, I hope to work in a child development centre assisting children with neurological conditions in their physical development and mobility. I am excited to make a difference in my future while doing something that I love.



**Charmaine Peal**  
**Gitlaxt’aamiks  
Village Government**

Thompson Rivers University  
Master of Education

My Nisga’a name is Naxnokgumganaaw. I’m from the house of Luux Hoon, and was born and raised in the Frog/Raven clan. I was raised by my grandmother, the late Ida Peal, and my late mother is Trudy Guno. I’m a teacher and mother. I am attaining my Master of Education at Thompson University. I am a lifelong learner and inspire others to work towards their goals so they too may open the doors to their dreams. My focus is land-based learning from an Indigenous perspective. I want to encourage other teachers to teach land-based learning from an Indigenous perspective.



**Cody Schlamp**  
**Saulteau First Nations**

Yorkville University  
Master of Education -  
Educational Leadership

I am a proud First Nations woman who is a wife and a mother to amazing twin daughters. I have been teaching in my community for five years and I love it. When not working, I enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, and snowboarding with my family. I am a lifelong learner and chose to return for my Master’s Degree to help my Nation grow our small Primary Program to the goal of one day having our own First Nations full elementary school. I thank NRT for all they do to help students succeed. Mussi





**Darryl Gray**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

University of British Columbia  
Master of Social Work - Advanced

My Name is Darryl Gray. My matriarchal bloodline is Ts'msyen from Lax Kw'alaams, British Columbia, and I belong to Waap Liyaa'mlaxha, a Gisbutwada (Blackfish) House in the Gitaxangiik Tribe. My patrilineal bloodline is Oglala, Sioux, from Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

I am in the Masters of Social Work Program at the University of British Columbia. This allows for my academic studies in mental health practices with Indigenous men. The area of study is very dear to me because of my own healing journey through mental health and Indigenous cultural practices. The goal of my academic studies is to learn and experience through my journey.

**Niki Watts**  
**Saddle Lake Cree Nation**

Yorkville University  
Master of Arts - Counselling Psychology

Niki Watts is a Cree artist from Bella Coola BC. She was given the Cree name "Happy Cheerful Woman" by her late Mosom (Grandfather) and is also an adopted member of the Nuxalk Nation, her Nuxalk name is "Little Fawn". Watts is an award-winning artist receiving national recognition through art contests and awards. Watts is finishing her first year of Yorkville University's Master of Arts Counselling Psychology Program and plans on opening a counselling practice in her community which incorporates counselling, art therapy, and Indigenous healing. Her counselling practice will specialize in working with the young people of Bella Coola.



**Elisha Elliott**  
**Tsartlip First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Education - Indigenous Language Revitalization

My name is MENEȚIYE Elisha Elliott and I come from the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation on Southern Vancouver Island. I am a mother to two beautiful girls. I am in my fourth year of teaching in the SENĆOŦEN immersion program at the ŁÁU,WEL,NEW Tribal School. I registered for the Master's of Indigenous Language Revitalization program at the University of Victoria to strengthen my own skills and knowledge of the most effective methodologies to use in the classroom to pass along our ancestral language. I am grateful for this blessing, it is a great help to me throughout this educational journey.



**Jilleun Tenning**  
**Stz'uminus First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

I am in my third of the Masters of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. My passion is working with Indigenous youth, specifically within the homeless sector, to build upon their strength and resiliency to foster positive change. My dream is to work as a counsellor within Indigenous communities to witness healing journeys and a reconnection to culture.



**Justin Duncan**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of British Columbia  
Master of Physical Therapy

I am currently enrolled in the second year of the Masters of Physical Therapy program. I hail from Prince George, BC. I do plan on working in an underserved community such as Prince George, BC or surrounding area. It has always been of interest to help serve and create a health care facility for indigenous peoples. I have a keen interest in neurorehabilitation and working with patients post-stroke.



**Karla Joseph**  
**Xwísten**

University of Toronto  
Master of Social Work - Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency

My name is Karla Joseph and I am of St'át'imc descent and belong to the Xwísten community in British Columbia. I am completing a Master of Social Work - Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency (MSW-ITR) degree through the University of Toronto. With this degree I want to work with public, private, and First Nations schools and organizations to become more trauma-informed. I also want to work with Indigenous families and communities to regain their strength and recognize their resiliency.



**Keenan Andrew**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

Uu-klah-ish Imscha hístuuk-shilth Ahousaht hístuuk-shilth nuučaanuł (Nuu-chah-nulth) Isaak camis Chuu – ǵeekoo ǵeekoo. My traditional name is Imscha, I come from the people of Ahousaht of the nuučaanuł Nation. I want to follow in my parent’s footsteps who have fostered over 100 Indigenous children and youth and adopted four of my siblings. I feel that my education will help me in my plans of opening a group home designed specifically for Indigenous children and youth who are in foster care. I will support these youth in a culturally grounded way as a Registered Clinical Counsellor.



**Lorna Fraser**  
**Kitasoo Band**

Vancouver Island University  
Master of Education -  
Educational Leadership

My grandmother Mary Ann’s teachings and the name she bestowed upon me “Quilethlalabalth”, translated as “to give back”, holds me accountable to the high-ranking women that held the name before me and to the Kitasoo Xai Xais people and their future leaders. To my husband. Giasixa, Qs tgis, ga jukv nugwa qsu! Thank you, New Relationship Trust Foundation, for believing in me and all Indigenous people! Your support fuels the fire of resurgence for our people both culturally and in Western education. As we move forward we now know that our success requires a strong foundation in both.



**Norissa Mongrain**  
**Antoine First Nation**

University of Waterloo  
Master of Social Work

My spirit name Golden Eagle Woman. I am Algonquin and Finnish, originally from Ontario. In August I will have completed a Master of Social Work at the University of Waterloo. Although challenging, I am proud to say that I will be the first person in my family to have gone this far academically. I hope that my resiliency will one day inspire my daughters to become change makers with me. I must acknowledge that I could not have gotten this far without the financial support of NRTF, my supportive workplace, friends, community and especially my FAMILY.



**Shezell-Rae Sam**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

My name is Shezell-Rae Sam, I am from Ahousaht First Nation. My matriarchs instilled in me a drive to help our people. When I have completed my Master’s degree, I plan on helping our community as a registered Clinical Counsellor and educator/instructor. I will have traditional teachings and traditional knowledge that will guide my counselling practice. I will bring traditional ways into the classroom institutes.



**Susan Soloman**  
**Gitanmaax Band**

University of Toronto  
Master on Social Work - Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency

I am grateful for the scholarship and look forward to my last year of the MSW at the University of Toronto. I am from the Gitanmaax band and my personal goal is to complete my MSW and work in the health field at the various hospitals in the lower mainland. Thank you for the opportunity to complete my studies in the Master of Social Work Degree.



**Stephanie Erickson**  
**Tl’azt’en Nation**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Master of Education - Counselling

Hadih! My name is Stephanie Erickson, and I am Dakelh/Sekani from Tl’azt’en Nation and a member of the Lusilyoo (Frog) clan. My project is grounded in revitalizing Indigenous ways of being and healing while incorporating global therapeutic techniques to transcend intergenerational trauma. My motivation comes from creating a better tomorrow for my children, family, and nation. As a practicing clinician, I envision myself working a “Two-Eyed Seeing” model of incorporating the best of this western world (biopsychosocial) and the best of indigenous practices (mind, body, spirit). I aspire to assist my clients in transcending trauma and creating an unshakeable core of resiliency.



**Tania Prince**  
**Nak’azdli Whut’en**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Master of Social Work

Hadih, my name is Tania Prince and I am a member of Nak’azdli Whut’en - Dakelh (Carrier) Nation. I belong to the Lht’sumuyoo Beaver Clan. I am currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Master of Social Work program at the University of Northern British Columbia - Prince George Campus. My values and life experiences have guided me towards my career choice and passion to support and advocate for Indigenous children, families and communities. My primary learning goal is associated with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action - “to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices”.

“I want to extend my most profound appreciation to NRTF, FNHA, and IEY for the recognition of my efforts! I have put in many sleepless nights and hard work to get to this point, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude. This acknowledgement encourages to continue to pursue my dreams. Snachailya.  
— Stephanie Erickson



**Shawn Bob**  
Coldwater Indian Band

University of the Fraser Valley  
Master of Social Work - Indigenous Focus

Nskwest Ncletkwu Shna?em. Tuł kn C'eletkwmx of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. My parents are William Leonard Bob and Beverly Bob(Oppenheim).

I have been serving my home community, the Nicola Valley, since I completed my Bachelors Degree in Social Work through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in 2005. I worked 9 years with the Conayt Friendship Society that helped me build a solid foundation for practice and program delivery.

Working for an Indigenous Non Profit society helped me learn to facilitate programs and ensure it fit the needs of the community. Since 2014, I have been working in a very diversified role as the Social development coordinator for the Coldwater Indian Band, my own people, and it has been an honor to serve them and be witness to their growth. I am also very proud of my daughter Victoria Mahringer, who continues to raise the bar for both of us.



**Treena Decker**  
Skidegate Band Council

University of Victoria  
Master of Social Work

My name is Treena Decker and I am a student in the Master of Social Work (Indigenous Specialization) at the University of Victoria. I was adopted at birth and raised away from Haida culture so a large part of my education within the Indigenous Specialization has included learning about who I am and how to walk gently in my healing. I have two grown children, Elisha and Evan, who have inspired me to pursue post-secondary education and I have been blessed to have great role models in my adoptive, biological and extended community families who have encouraged me in different ways along my journey.

I feel very fortunate to receive this scholarship as it allows me to continue my journey of learning and healing so that I can walk with people on their journeys. I am filled with gratitude. Hawa'a!



**Amanda Jaskwaan Bedard**  
Old Massett Village Council

Simon Fraser University  
Doctor of Philosophy -  
Interdisciplinary Studies

My Haida name is Jaskwaan, and I am from the Tsiits Gitanee Eagle Clan of Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I am a Haida language activist and singer, and am a part of the revitalization efforts of Xaad Kil, the Old Massett dialect of the Haida language. I have my M.A. in Indigenous Governance and B.A. in History and Indigenous Studies from the University of Victoria, and teaching degree from Simon Fraser University. I have completed a three-year Language Mentor Apprentice Program learning Xaad Kil from Elder Primrose Adams. I am committed to teaching my three children Xaad Kil, and to realize the dream of my Elder teachers to have the Haida language spoken freely in our community once again.



**Billy (William) Rowluck**  
Lytton First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Doctor of Philosophy -  
Language and Literacy

I am in my first year of a PhD program at UBC. My personal and career goals are closely aligned; I aspire to assist in the creation of curriculum resources that accurately reflect my Father's Indigenous ways of knowing with provincial curriculum outcomes. I aim to create resources that are highly engaging for students, controlled and directed by First Nations, and able to support all students within Canada's public school system.



**Christopher Reid**  
Gingolx Village Government

McGill University  
Doctor of Philosophy -  
Educational Studies

I am a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation and a PhD student in Educational Studies in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. My doctoral research focuses on the lived experiences of urban Indigenous youth in public school systems and in land-based learning projects. I am also involved in supporting a range of community-based educational initiatives for Indigenous people in Montreal. I am extremely grateful for the financial support of the New Relationship Trust Foundation and its partners.



**Ferrin Yola Willie**  
Dzawad'enuxw First Nation

University of Victoria  
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous  
Language Revitalization

Nu'gwa'um Yola. Ga'yu'tlan lax Musgam-augw Dzawada'enuxw. I am Yola (wind in Kwakwala) and I am Musgamaugw Dzawada'enuxw from Kingcome Inlet, BC. I am simultaneously learning my Kwakwala language and sharing my learning with my family, including my three children. It is a challenging but beautiful process to learn our language while away from our homelands in an urban setting. I am passionate about the revitalization of our Indigenous languages and the restorative benefits of language learning on the mind, body and spirit. Once completed my PhD I plan to continue supporting our Kwakwaka'wakw and Indigenous communities with language learning and wellness. Gilakasla!



**Jennifer Anaquod**  
**Muscowpetung**  
**Saulteaux Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Doctor of Philosophy

I have two children who inspire me everyday to continue with my education. My Ph.D work examines the importance of connection to place for all Indigenous peoples but especially for our early learners. It is my goal that my PhD research will better my understanding on how connection to place and a sense of belonging prepares our early learners and their families to transition into Kindergarten successfully. These findings will help to develop curriculum and parent resources to enhance the early education experiences of our Indigenous learners.



**Natasha Wawrykow**  
**Skuppah Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
 Doctor of Philosophy -  
 Counselling Psychology

‘Uy’ skweyul. My therapy focus includes inter-generational trauma and anxiety reduction with Aboriginal populations. While on internship, I had the opportunity to work with Indigenous students at Migizii Agamik- Bald Eagle Lodge, at the University of Manitoba. My dissertation focuses on identifying sources of cultural and personal self-worth for Aboriginal students. This project will help Aboriginal people connect with healthy validating sources of self-worth. Study results can be used to support Aboriginal student’s academic success through creation of university programs which offer required validating experiences. Huy ch q’u.k.



**Suzanne Sterling-Bur**  
**Nadleh Whut’en First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
 Doctor of Philosophy -  
 Interdisciplinary Studies

My father is from the N’lakap’mx Nation and my mother is from the Sto:lo Nation. I am an advocate for breaking down barriers, addressing colonization and promoting healthy and positive change within Indigenous communities for children and their families.

I am currently a student in the PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Studies – Indigenous Studies Theme. My Doctoral research will be focused on gaining a better understanding of an Indigenous perspective on the belief of giftedness. My purpose will be to learn more about the belief of giftedness for Indigenous peoples in BC and the sharing of family stories of raising a gifted child/youth and supporting them to be successful with their own innate abilities. k’wuk’wscémxw/Thank you



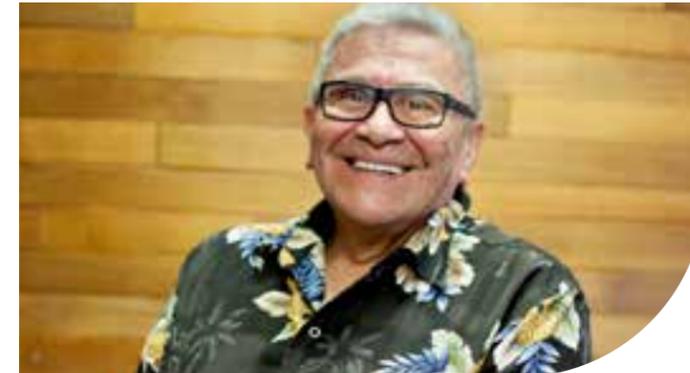
**Teresa Swan**  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**

University of Calgary  
 Doctor of Philosophy - Community  
 Rehabilitation and Disability Studies

My ancestry is Métis: my mother’s family is from the Dakota Plains First Nations and my father’s family is French-Canadian. I am entering my 5th year of doctoral studies at the University of Calgary specializing in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies. My research explores the experiences of students with disabilities in special education.

# OUR PARTNERS

## Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders Scholarship & Bursary Program



The 2019–20 Scholarship and Bursary Program is in honour of Chief Dr Robert Joseph O.B.C, O.C., the founder of Reconciliation Canada and Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation.

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C., O.C. is a true peacebuilder whose life and work are examples of his personal commitment. A Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation, Chief Joseph has dedicated his life to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding and racism at home and abroad.

His insights into the destructive impacts these forces can have on peoples’ lives, families and cultures were shaped by his experience with the Canadian Indian Residential School system.

As one of the last few speakers of the Kwakwaka’wakw language, Chief Joseph is an eloquent and inspiring Ceremonial House Speaker. He shares his knowledge and wisdom in the Big House and as a Language Speaker with the University of British Columbia, an internationally recognized art curator and as co-author of “Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast”.

### AWARD BACKGROUND

The BC Federation of Labour and the Business Council of BC are pleased to announce a one-time joint **Undergraduate Scholarship of \$5,000 and two Trade Bursaries at \$2,000 each** for the 2019–20 fiscal.

Indigenous students who are BC residents, and are completing their last year of education toward trades, technical or post-secondary undergraduate degree or designation are eligible to apply.

The awards are provided to students who demonstrate a leadership role in reconciliation and that are completing their last year of studies leading to graduation within a trade, technical or post-secondary undergraduate degree program or designation at a recognized BC training, post-secondary or accredited institution.

## This award is presented in partnership by:



As a collaborative, non-partisan organization, **the Business Council** strives to be a venue where members, policy experts, elected officials and government decision-makers can address problems and form solutions together.

The Business Council works collaboratively with a committed membership that includes BC's top employers to ensure that its work is credible, timely and relevant. Through diligent, evidence-based research and interactive input from members and policy leaders, the Council provides informed, pertinent insight and advice to BC's top decision makers, with the objective to create a prosperous and sustainable economy for all British Columbians.

The Business Council's membership consists of 250 member companies from all of BC's major economic sectors. Collectively, they are responsible for roughly a quarter of all jobs in BC. The Business Council has been a tireless advocate for competitive taxes, effective regulations, fiscally responsible government budgets, economic reconciliation and a well-functioning set of government programs delivering education, health care and other services to citizens.



**The BC Federation of Labour** represents over 500,000 members from affiliated unions across the province, working in every aspect of the BC economy. It has a long and proud history of fighting for the rights of all working people to a safe workplace and fair wages.

The goals of the BCFED are best exemplified by its slogan: "What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all."

Today's BC Federation of Labour is actually the second organization by that name. The first was formed in 1910 as workers across the province united in a single body to pursue political change in the provincial Legislature.

That first Federation was worn down by the battles and divisions that afflicted working people during the period between the First and Second World Wars, particularly the Great Depression. But by 1956, the need for unity was obvious. The two main labour centrals of that era, following on the national lead of the Canadian Labour Congress, joined forces to re-create the BC Federation of Labour.

The Federation is a member of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and works with the CLC to further the interests of working people across the country.



## Chelsea Adams Ehattesaht First Nations

Camosun College  
Indigenous Studies

My name is Chelsea Adams and I come from Ehattesaht and Ahousaht First Nations. I am the exhaustedly proud mother of three amazing children, all under the age of 4. I am currently studying Indigenous Studies at Camosun College and my short term goal is to complete a Bachelors of Social Work from the University of Victoria. My long term goal is to complete the Indigenous Law program also at UVic so that I may one day practice law to support our people in a good way. I know that education is a critical tool for our people to move ahead with achieving great things. I hope that my babies can follow in the family footsteps to continue the work that my great grandfather started long before me.



## Melissa McKay Laxgalts'ap Village Government

Simon Fraser University  
Community Economic Development

My name is Melissa McKay I am of Nisga'a descent and come from the House of Haymaas' of the Ganada tribe, my Nisga'a name is Gwixx Limim Gamaats'. I am a mother to twin girls who are now 7 years old in grade 2. To further my education and experience I am taking the Simon Fraser University's Community Economic Development Certificate. My current role as the Economic Development Officer at the Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society is to bring new innovative ideas to light providing job creation and a sense of belonging and security to our citizens and community members.



## Kostan Levirs Skidegate Band Council

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Economics

My name is Kostan Levirs and I am from the Haida Nation. I was born and raised on Haida Gwaii. In 2016 I moved to Victoria to further my education. I am entering my fourth and final year at the University of Victoria, pursuing an Economics Bachelor of Arts degree. Upon graduation, I plan on entering the finance industry to gain experience. Eventually, I plan on returning home to Haida Gwaii to showcase everything I have learned and worked for. My end goal is to have the opportunity and ability to push my home nations economy in the right direction.

"I would like to thank the Business Council of BC and the BC Federation of Labour for presenting me this generous award! This scholarship will play an important role in assisting me while I finish my degree."  
— Kostan Levirs



Canfor recognizes that building respectful, transparent relationships that reflect the interests of First Nations are critical to its vision of sustainable forest practices. Canfor is happy to partner with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage First Nations people to explore career paths in the forest industry.



**Kashtin Apsassin**  
**Blueberry River First Nations**

University of Victoria  
Master of Global Business

Born of two worlds, in between both, and carving my own path. I am a young Dane-Zaa professional seeking out the world and everything I can learn from it. I have a passion for intercultural experiences, and finding common ground among different worlds. I am pursuing a Master of Global Business at the University of Victoria, driven by my interest in marketing, international trade, geopolitics, and new cultures and languages. I am positioning myself to be a professional of the future - deeply interconnected to worldly affairs, and intensely sensitive to the nuance of other cultures, whilst seeking to explore my own. .



**Michelle Walsh**  
**Nadleh Whut'en First Nation**

Thompson Rivers University  
Master of Science - Environmental Science

Hadih! Michelle Walsh s'tsutnee. I am from the Dakelh Nation in the Central Interior of BC, specifically from the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation - Lhtseh yoo Clan (Frog), on the banks of the Nadleh River that drains Nadleh Bunk'ut (Fraser Lake). I am currently enrolled in the Thompson Rivers University Environmental Science Master's Program. I have always had a passion for working with talook (salmon) and I want to complete my schooling to help improve the state of salmon and their habitat in BC and to also inspire my 2 young daughters to chase down their dreams, work hard, and never give up. Snachailya (Thank you)!



Drillwell Enterprises is one of Western Canada's largest and most experienced water well drilling contractors. Drillwell maintains a fleet of equipment of varying size and capability, specializing in Water Well Drilling, Hydro-fracturing, and Exploration ventures. Drillwell Enterprises has provided an annual bursary to the New Relationship Trust Foundation since 2016.



**Cole Shackelly**  
**Nooaitch First Nation**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Electrical Foundations

My name is Cole Shackelly and I was born and raised in Merritt British Columbia. I grew up on a small family ranch where I would help look after a small variety of animals such as horses, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and dogs. I have gained knowledge and skills doing electrical, carpentry, mechanics, hunting, fishing, gathering berries, cultural events, traveling, cooking and baking. I have traveled to the city of Burnaby to pursue a Red Seal Electrical Certificate and eventually hold a business of my own.



Peace Hills Trust (PHT) is Canada's largest and oldest First Nations owned federally regulated financial institution and is also Canada's only independent Trust Company. Driven by a vision to satisfy the unique financial needs of the Native community, the Samson Cree Nation embarked on an ambitious project in 1972 which culminated with the incorporation of Peace Hills Trust on November 19, 1980. Nearly 40 years has passed since that historic day when Peace Hills Trust first opened its doors. We were founded with the objective of providing financial and trust services on a national basis to First Nations and their communities. The company has a primary market in First Nations' administrations, their businesses and in their members. Peace Hills Trust has a regional branch concept to position itself, on or off reserve, to serve the largest number of First Nations' customers in a given area. In addition to First Nations' business, we have many opportunities with non-First Nations customers. We're proud that we are fulfilling the predictions of the founding members who worked hard to get our Company set in motion.



**Sabrina Stevens**  
**Gitlax'taamiks Village Government**

Canadian Vocational Training Centre  
 Computerized Accounting and Automated Office

Hi there, My name is Sabrina Stevens and I come from the village of Gitlax'taamiks but currently living in Terrace BC to attend the program I am enrolled in. I'd like to say I consider myself a reliable, hardworking, and well-respected person. These two months into this program has been such a good change for my life and I like that I chose this path in going back to school. My goal is to complete these certificate courses and look into accounting to further my education.



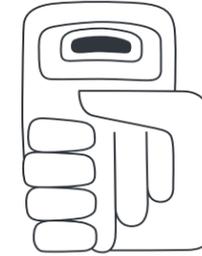


“I am so incredibly grateful for this bursary and the opportunity it provides for me to follow my passion of counselling. I’ve already learned so much within the first 7 months of my program - about myself, about helping others, and the industry.

—  
**Alyssa Schneider**  
Scholarship Recipient

*Bio on page 15*

## OUR PARTNERS | NRT



### NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

INVESTING IN FIRST NATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building. NRT invests in BC First Nations by supporting them in five key capacity development areas: Governance Capacity, Education, Language, Youth & Elders, and Economic Development.





**Aaron Mitchell**  
**Okanagan Indian Band**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Aboriginal Governance and Leadership

I am a member of the Okanagan Nation. I have completed 3 years of the Chemical Dependency Councillor program, and have now decided to take a certificate in Indigenous Governance and Leadership, in order to better serve and advocate for our peoples. I plan on continuing my counselling on to a Master's Degree and helping our people heal from our past and hopefully encouraging our people to continue on with helping others on their healing journeys.



**Akimi Okabe**  
**Laxgalts'ap Village Government**

Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
 Accounting

My name is Akimi Okabe. I come from the House of Kwa'kaans in the Nisga'a Nation. I am currently pursuing my education in Accounting at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. I wish to further my studies to obtain my CPA and CAFM Certification. Besides going to school, I am a full-time single mother of two beautiful children, 13 years and 9 years. I love to travel and hope to visit new places in the future.

“Education can be very expensive, and NRTF's generosity brings me and many others one step closer to achieving our dreams. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.  
 — Alexis Thompson



**Alexis Thompson**  
**We Wai Kai First Nation**

Vancouver Community College  
 University Transfer

My name is Alexis Thompson and I am from the Cape Mudge Indian Band. My goal is to complete a major in Physics, then pursue a PhD in Engineering Physics. I'd like to use my career to research and develop sustainable sources of energy that can reach isolated areas. Many Aboriginal communities live in poverty as they don't have secure or sustainable access to power. I'd like to try to change that and do my part to help better the lives of Aboriginal People's.



**Allison Barton**  
**Kitasoo Band**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
 Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Allison Barton. I am from the Kitasoo Nation, I currently live in Vancouver, BC. I am in my second year of Criminology at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, I graduate in May. I plan on enrolling to Simon Fraser University for their double major program of Bachelors of Arts - Psychology and Criminology. My goal is to get a career as a forensic psychologist. Fun fact: I watched every episode of Forensic Files three times.



**Amanda Delorme**  
**Tseshaht First Nation**

Camosun College  
 Indigenous Studies

I am a 29 year old mother of two daughters. I am a member of Tseshaht, with ties from the Sioux nation. I have been on my own healing journey for 9 years, living a clean and sober life and working to heal from my traumas. My goal is to become an Indigenous counselor, to help our people heal from traumas. I want to see our people thrive and become the best version of themselves.



**Amanda Telek**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Vancouver Community College  
 Hairstylist

I am studying hairstyling to become a business owner within the beauty community. I plan on continuing to hold homeless haircutting events and giving free haircuts to our community and elders. I am excited to what this journey will bring me as I have had a passion for hair since I was very young.



**Ashley Newman**  
**Laxgalts'ap Village Government**

Blanche Macdonald Centre  
 Professional Hairstyling Advanced

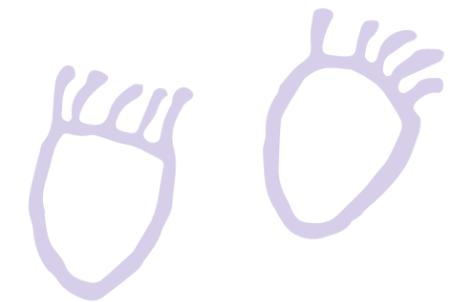
My Nisga'a name is "Ksiwogum Xsgaak" (Dreaming Eagle). I proudly hail from the Nisga'a & Heiltsuk Nations. I am currently attending my second diploma program at BMC. My Career goal is to use my creativity and learned skills to help people feel their best through hairstyling and makeup.



**Ayana Brown**  
**Lower Nicola Indian Band**

Dixie State University  
 Biology

Hello! My name is Ayana Brown and I'm from the Lower Nicola First Nation located in Merritt British Columbia. Some of my personal goals is to be a good role model for my community and family. A few career goals include being in a field of research, medical, health and wellness. I feel very privileged to receive NRTF bursary to help me reach my educational goals.



**Barry Schmitz**  
**Lytton First Nation**

University of the Fraser Valley  
 Heavy Mechanical Foundation

I decided to take this course to further advance my skills and knowledge towards my future goals. My plan is to return to Lytton, BC for permanent residence and open my own business. It's a small town but with the right plan anything is possible. I have a background in accounting, strategic planning, computers, environmental and now mechanical. All of this combined is a recipe for success. I have 2 handsome young boys and a beautiful wife. I want to teach my boys that with the right attitude and drive you can make great things happen.



**Bernice Wilson**  
**Kwakiutl Band Council**

Camosun College  
Aboriginal Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Hospitality Management

I have raised three children, supported my husband’s jewelry business, and navigated a debilitating disease: Ulcerative Colitis. My IBD diagnosis initially made it so I could not leave my home, however after careful management how I prepared food I was able to manage my condition. I made it so that cooking became what I now recognize as my calling. I want to have a low-cost, locally sourced food option that employs Aboriginal youth and feeds elders nutritious and interesting foods. I look forward to contributing more fully as a community leader one day as a small business owner in addition to my current role as a cultural advocate.



**Brendon Etzerza**  
**Tahltan Central Government**

Blanche Macdonald Centre  
Global Fashion Marketing

I went to school in Terrace, BC at Caledonia Senior Secondary where I took art and textiles. I really liked these courses and I pursued more art activities. I painted at home, I upcycled clothing, and also created my own silk screens, I found my passion and felt it was time to pursue it. I contacted the school and started working on my portfolio. I also attended a short sewing course in August through Blanche MacDonald to brush up on my sewing skills. When I am done I hope to market my own designs or work in the industry to get more experience. In the future I would like to make my own skateboard brand that is environmentally conscious and try to use as much recycled clothing as possible.



**Brittney Moore**  
**Laxgalts’ap Village Government**

Northwest Community College  
Associate of Arts

My ultimate goal is in becoming a K-7 school teacher with a focus on smaller community schools where there are limited resources and have a greater demand for proper education. Throughout my journey, my goal is to learn more of my own culture and history so that I can make a difference and have a positive impact in the lives of not only my own children but future generations as well.



**Candace West**  
**Lake Babine Nation**

Vancouver Community College  
Office Administration

My name is Candace West, I am from Lake Babine Nation which is located in Burns Lake, BC. My grandparents are Late Emma West and Late Herbert West, My Parents are Late Terry West and Beatrice Bill. I am from the frog Clan and I have one daughter, whose name is Terri-Lynn West (14 years old). I also have a girlfriend, her name is Crystal and we have been together for 12 years. I am currently taking Office Administration at Native Education College, and this is one of my greatest accomplishments going back to school. I strive to be better than I was yesterday, and I tell my daughter that anything is possible when you continue your Education after high school.



**Carrigan Tallio**  
**Nuxalk Nation**

Camosun College  
Carpentry Foundation

My name is Carrigan Tallio I am from Nuxalk Nation, Bella Coola, BC. I have recently started a job with my First Nation as the property manager for all rental housing on reserve. My passion is housing and helping my community. I have recently just received a certificate in First Nation’s Housing Manager program through Vancouver Island University. I plan to continue my education and expand in business administration. I am very grateful for New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting students like myself.



**Carter Eaton**  
**Heiltsuk Nation**

College of New Caledonia  
Apprentice Industrial Mechanic

My name is Carter and I live in Prince George, BC. I have been working in a saw mill for the past 11 years. I started out as a labourer and worked my way up to a machine operator/supervisor and then a maintenance personnel. Just over 3 years ago I started my apprenticeship as a Millwright and now I am currently in my 4th year schooling at the college, and looking to get my Red Seal Certification in the near future.



**Cary Lee Bugge**  
**Nanoose First Nation**

Brighton College  
Business Administration

My name is Cary Lee Bugge. I am Anishinaabe and a member of Nanoose First Nation. Currently I am enjoying my studies at Brighton College to obtain my Business Administration Diploma, and looking forward to securing work in this field. Over the years, I raised my family, fostered, and worked in healthcare out in the community. Today, I am excited to enter a new phase of my career, and plan to pursue opportunities in the Aboriginal Business development sector. I am sincerely grateful for the generosity of the NRT Foundation awards programs that is making a big difference for me in moving forward with my new career goals.



**Charles Heit**  
**Gitxsan Nation**

Vancouver Community College  
Jewellery Art and Design

I am born into the great Gitxsan Nation, Kispiox Village, FireWeed clan. My real name is Simogyet Xyadiit. When I was 15 I went to live with my grandparents and to carve with my late uncle Walter Harris. We drew and painted and carved and hunted and fished eight days a week, a great Gitxsan life we shared together. Years later I started to teach myself about “repousse’ jewelry” and I became good at that. Next I got into the Native Education Collage and then the Vancouver Community Collage to learn many other jewelry making techniques.



**Charlotte Krulicki**  
**Snuneymuxw First Nation**

Vancouver Community College  
Graphic Design

Charlotte is a graduate of Vancouver Film School's Classical Animation program and in her second year of Vancouver Community College's Graphic Design Diploma program. Her illustration work has been featured in Exclaim! Magazine and Hot Art Wet City Gallery. Her inspirations include children's storybooks and the natural beauty of the Pacific North West. In her near future, she is excited to find employment in Vancouver as a UI/UX designer and be freelancing as a motion graphic artist and illustrator. She would like to thank New Relationship Trust for their generous bursary award that will help her continue her education.



**Christie Robbins**  
**'N̓amgis First Nation**

Native Education College  
Aboriginal Justice Studies

Being a survivor of domestic violence I have come to realize how bad the justice system is especially for our people and the gaps in the services I know how hard it can be to move past violence but I want to be able to help our people I hope transfer to SFU to complete a Bachelor in Criminology and go on to either help offenders in the justice system or women fleeing abuse.



**Colby Manuel**  
**Neskonlith Indian Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
Carpentry/Joinery Level 1

My long-term goal is to build my own house and help my family with theirs on our family land. Carpentry is what I have wanted to do for a since my first experience with it. Becoming a Red Seal Carpenter is my long-term goal starting with this course. Another goal is to assist my band, who want youth to help repair some local houses and build new housing.



**Colby Stephens**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Coast Mountain College  
Business Administration

I am from the Nisga'a Nation & Gitga'at First Nation. I am from the Eagle Tribe and I currently reside in Prince Rupert. I am enrolled in Business Administration, and my future goal is to complete my diploma and move forward in a Manager position to gain experience. Eventually I would like to open my own business.



**Colton Mathias**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Thompson Rivers University  
Welder Foundation

My name is Colton Mathias- Jules. I am Secwepemc from the Tkemlups te Secwepemc band in Kamloops, BC. I have just completed my foundations of welding and learned many skills that I can bring with me to the field. I am excited to start my career and am very thankful for the help from the NRTE.

"I had no idea that there was this type of help out there to help succeed in education goals. I am very Honored and Grateful to be one of the students chosen. — Crystal Barton



**Crystal Barton**  
**Laxgalts'ap**  
**Village Government**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Crystal Barton, I am 37 years old and married to my wonderful husband Clint and we have 3 amazing children. They are: Kelli (19 years old), Keenen (14 years old), and Raegan (10 years old). My personal goals are to go back to school and achieve my Associate of Arts Degree in Criminology. After receiving my Degree, I plan to use my new-found studies to help acquire some sort of Restorative Justice for our young people and/or become a Corrections Officer. I also want my Children to see me succeed in my endeavours and to show it is NEVER too late to go back to school.



**Crystal Young**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Camosun College  
Associate of Arts - Social Work

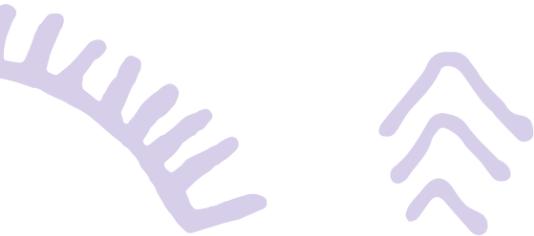
My name is Crystal Young and I am from Skidegate village on Haida Gwaii. My personal goal is to become a Social Worker and move back to my village and help those who truly need the support. I wish to finish my degree and start work in the city where I can gain knowledge and skills before I head home and get ready to settle down in a life long career with those I know.



**Dakota Ferguson-Hall**  
**Nuxalk Nation**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Millwright Foundation

Hello, my name is Dakota I am apart of the Nuxalk Nation from Bella Coala and the Qayqayt Nation from New Westminster. I am going to BCIT to be a millwright and to obtain my redseal ticket. I got my first year ticket through ACCESS and they ran a First Nations program at BCIT. If it wasn't for them, it would have made life more difficult for me to go back to school and start my apprenticeship. Also, I enjoy the outdoors.



**Chelsea Soloman**  
**Penelakut Tribe**

Capilano University  
Indigenous Independent  
Digital Filmmaking

My name is Chelsea Soloman and I am a member of the Penelakut tribe. I am twenty six years old, I have been working in the film and tv industry with my father since 2014 as a Production Assistant. My dream is to become a director and producer. Once I complete my Indigenous filmmaking program at Capilano University I plan on working with Kwassen Productions.





**Darlene Tommy**  
**Skwah First Nation**

Seabird College  
Social Service Worker

My late parents are: Aloysius (Wishy) Tommy and Mary (Sadie) Julian from Matsqui First Nation. After graduating from High School I moved to California where I lived the majority of my years. When I moved back to British Columbia I worked for the Sto:lo Nation Chiefs for close to 10 years as their Administrative Assistant. My aim today is to help individuals and families through difficult times by taking the Social Services Worker course.



**Dawn Tom**  
**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Office Administration

My name is Dawn from Nakazdli band, I'm married and have 3 children. I recently applied for the Office Administration course and loving it so far! My motivation are my husband and children, I want to be a good role model for them and anyone else who is thinking about going back to school. My goal is to finish this course and take my second year as Executive Assistant in Merrit, BC and then come back and work for my band in the band office here in Nakazdli! I will do my best and care a lot for what I do.



**Dennis Nyce**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Coast Mountain College  
First Nations Fine Arts

I am a Traditional Nisga'a Artist/Carver. I am connecting with those that are willing and interested in the revival of Traditional awareness and uniqueness of the meaning of Traditional art and culture. My artworks and carvings are expressed through different mediums, such as red/yellow cedar, alder, maple, and Traditional designing/painting. I am trying to bring back storytelling through masks, totem pole carvings, and song; specifically, the transformation mask. I have made two now and danced both at special events. I would like to thank New Relationship Trust Foundation for the time and patience, and also the commitment to sponsor artists to achieve their goals.



**Derek Harry**  
**Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation**

Thompson Rivers University  
Welder Foundation

He was born in 1973 in Williams Lake, BC. He is now a father, a husband, and a proud member of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Nation and a hard and dedicated worker. Unfortunately, because of the recent forest sector slow down, he is also unemployed. After working as a non-certified millwright and unticketed welder at Ainsworth/Norbord in 100 Mile House, BC for over twenty-five years, he recently lost his job when the mill went on an indefinite curtailment. His passion is welding and has decided to go back to school at an older age and get his C ticket so he can continue to provide for his family.



**Dion Clark**  
**Laxgalts'ap Village Government**

Divers Institute of Technology  
Commercial Diver

I was born and raised in the small community of Laxgalts'ap outside Terrace, BC. From a young age I always knew I wanted to work with my hands and be a welder. I completed my welding program at BCIT and worked at Seaspan Shipyards in Vancouver for four years while I completed my Apprenticeship hours. My ultimate career goal has always been to go for my underwater welding which I am now doing through the Divers Institute of Technology in Seattle, Washington in January 2020. I am looking forward to being certified as an underwater welder and working all over the world.



**Dixon Louis**  
**Okanagan Indian Band**

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology  
Heavy Equipment Technician Apprentice

Growing up I was surrounded by logging and was exposed to the industry at a young age which led to an interest in heavy equipment, after graduating high school I looked into the many different trades involved in logging and Heavy Duty Mechanic caught my eye. I am now a 3rd year Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice, upon completion of my 3rd Year I will continue my apprenticeship to eventually become a fully ticketed Red Seal Journeyman. Once a Journeyman I would like to purchase my own service truck and open a business offering the skills and knowledge gained from my apprenticeship to further my career as a Heavy Duty Mechanic.



**Dustin McGladrey**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government**

Capilano University  
Indigenous Independent  
Digital Filmmaking

Dustin McGladrey is an emerging Nisga'a filmmaker working within the entertainment and media industry. He has worked in Radio Broadcasting for seven years attaining 6,680 hours of on-air experience. He is currently attending the Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking Program at Capilano University where his skills are being developed to become a scriptwriter and director. He is also a part of the 2018 Polaris Music Prize grand jury and helped select Jeremy Dutcher to win the grand prize, which gives him pride. His goal is to turn Polar Tour into a feature film and to complete a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia.



**Dustin Newcombe**  
**Nuxalk Nation**

Camosun College  
Carpentry Level 3

I live in Bella Coola BC and have completed level three carpentry within my community through Camosun College. I will be attending fourth year carpentry in the beginning of November. I have recently completed the ten week program through interior heavy duty equipment operator school in Winfield BC. My goal is to use my skills to help my nation grow and keep building. I plan to live here for the years to come and give back to the future youth by being a mentor in carpentry.



**Elizebeth Robinson**  
**Gitxaala Nation**

College of New Caledonia  
Welding Foundation

My name is Elizebeth Robinson. I have always wanted to be a tradesperson, and I've finally went out and made it a priority. I am now a foundations welder with goals to be a proper Red Seal welder. I am so grateful to everyone that has helped me on my journey and so grateful for all the amazing opportunities life has given me. I knew I wanted more in life, so when the opportunity arose, I went back to school for a skilled labor program. It was free education, that gave me amazing new knowledge and certificates to qualify me to be a labor worker. The plot twist was one lucky student can continue their education into a tradesperson, and the blessing was that I was that lucky student, and am now successfully in a Welding foundations program.



**Enya Graham-Shewish**  
**Tseshaht First Nation**

Vancouver Institute Of Media Arts  
Broadcasting & Online Media

I grew up in Port Alberni, but now live in Vancouver City. I believe that you were put on this earth to build a life for yourself, so do everything in your power to make it the best life possible. Complete happiness IS obtainable and It's my mission to help people reach it. I will help adolescents and adults build a solid foundation for themselves. To do so, we must have self love, know your self worth, beauty and knowledge. Now is your heaven, not after death. So let's create our happy place.



**Gavin Hunt**  
**Kwakiutl Band Council**

Vancouver Island University  
Carpentry Level 4

Hello, my name is Gavin Hunt. I am an Apprentice Carpenter. I spent my first 7 years of my apprenticeship learning how to timber frame. During that time I also was lucky to get experience in all the aspects of the trade. From framing, fine finishing, and even a bit of glazing. I am now currently on a Finishing Carpentry crew, which tests my skills and knowledge in a new different way. In February, I am looking forward to completing my fourth year and getting my Journeyman. After I am done school, I am planning on returning to the same finishing job and also hopefully start taking on side jobs.



**Hannah Robinson**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

Canadian Vocational Training Centre  
Computerized Accounting and  
Automated Office Certification

My name is Hannah Robinson, I am 22 years old. My Nisga'a name is Nii Wilim Lax Aks which means "Always On The Water". I am from the house of Axdii Wil Luugooda and my tribe is Ganada (Raven/Frog). I come from Laxgalts'ap, but I live in Gitlaxta'amiks. I am currently enrolled in the Administrative Assistant with Book-keeping through Canadian Vocational Training Center. My current goals are to finish this program, receive my certificate and get a job either in finance, or as an administrative assistant. Along with school, I am a mother of a 3 year old. Life is really hectic but I am enjoying being back in school.



**Ian Pease**  
**Lytton First Nation**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Technical Arts

For film I make animated characters, lava-laden earth quake fissures, and much more. The Technical Artist Advanced Diploma will teach me the python script inter workings of the software that I use to make my film animation. This diploma will make me a much more valuable working professional within Vancouver's game and film effects studios. Also, I write feature film scripts inspired by my daughter and the Plains Warrior traditions. By the time this program is over, it could be that I am more python scripting machine than man, but hopefully in a cool Darth Vader-like way.



**Isaac Benjamin Watts**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Native Education College  
Business Management Diploma

My name is Isaac Benjamin Watts Jr. I am Nisga'a from the village of Gingolx. I have a fishing charter business, and recently received my Class 1 Driver's license. I am currently working towards starting a transportation business within our four rural communities. I am currently studying to obtain my Business Management Diploma. After my diploma, I will be working towards my Bachelor's Degree.



**Isabelle Williams**  
**Cowichan Tribes**

Vancouver Island University  
Criminology

My goal is to obtain my BA in Criminology. I found myself broken and unable to live life in a productive way due to the effects of the intergeneration trauma brought about from Residential School. When I was younger I found myself caught in the Canadian Correctional System. I have since then decided to return to school so that I may be able to share my experience and hope, and help others who are part of the overrepresentation in the correctional system. I am grateful for this new journey that I am on! I am so grateful for the bursary I received. Because of it I am able to continue my education and help many others on their journey to living a happy healthy life. Thank you NRTF!



**Jada Manuel-Bruisedhead**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Thompson Rivers University  
Welder Foundation

My name is Jada Manuel-Bruisedhead. I am from Tk'emlups te Secepemc (Kamloops) in the Thompson - Okanagan region. I am the youngest of three sisters and come from a very strong single mother and grandmother. I am currently a first year student at Thompson Rivers University and one of three girls in my Welding Foundation program. My goal is to eventually become a Red Seal Welder and have the ability travel doing what I love-welding. I am very grateful to accept the NRTF Bursary! Trades work is surly a costly course to take and knowing I have that extra help is so relieving. Thank you!



**Jade Boyko**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Blanche Macdonald Centre  
Fashion Diploma Program

Born and raised on Haida Gwaii, I come from a family of artists, weavers, carvers, painters and craftsmen. I have always had an interest in repurposing clothing and creating costumes since I was a young girl. I like to draw, paint and create. After working for several years in the airline industry, I decided it was time to expand my knowledge in a field where I am using my creativity. Creating designs with Indigenous/ Haida elements will be my focus. Haida people have always integrated our native concepts into everything we did, so naturally our culture will influence my designs. I am grateful for the support to help me achieve the knowledge to be successful in this career.



**Jade Collison**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Coast Mountain College  
Business Administration

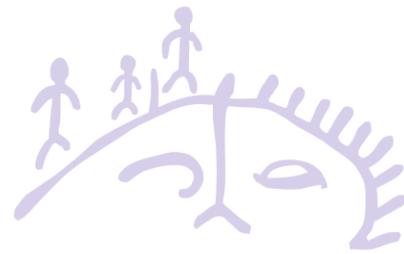
My name is Jade Collison I am from Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I am currently in my first year Business Administration at Coast Mountain. My goal is to complete my degree in business administration with a concentration on human resources. I would like work for a few years in human resource department(s) before moving forward on to my bachelors in business administration.



**Jasmine Russ**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Eastern College  
Massage Therapy

Hello, my name is Jasmine Russ. I am a second year student, taking Massage Therapy! I believe, and have been told that I am a nurturing spirit and soul. My personal goals is to become the person I am meant to be and to find happiness in a career and overall lifestyle! I have juggled many obstacles, trying to find the right profession for myself. I am beyond happy to have found out Massage Therapy was for me, after a long 6 years! I cannot wait to see where I go with this profession after graduation!



**Joshua Sawchuk**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

Vancouver Island University  
Foundation Electrician

Hi, My name is Joshua Sawchuk. I am enrolled in the Electrical Foundation course at Vancouver Island University. I currently live in Nanaimo but I originally am from Prince Rupert. Wiring/Electrical theory has always interested me so I am happy to learn about it. The course is fun and there's lots to learn. After completing this course I plan to become an apprenticeship electrician. I want to thank NRT for this opportunity. This bursary will be very helpful.



**Justin McIvor-Tighe**  
**Kitasoo Band**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Justin McIvor-Tighe. I am currently taking the Criminology course at Nicola Vally Institute of Technology in Merritt, BC in hopes to become apart of the RCMP. I am also from Merritt, BC. I have many hobbies I enjoy. I love going to the gym everyday and working out. I also play hockey outside of school on my free time twice a week. I am thankful for this bursary because it will help me with my transportation to and from Merritt and it will also help me with next semester.



**Kaitlyn Nyce**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a  
First Nations Studies

My name is Kaitlyn Nyce and I'm from the village of Gitwinksihlkw, B.C. My Nisga'a name is "Saga-liksta'am máx mak'ay", and it translates to "Sharp Island Rainbow." I am Nisga'a and Haida. My traditional clan is Raven and Frog. I graduated high school at 16, and decided to attend Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute. I'm in my first year of my studies. My career goal is to become a teacher.



**Kala Cardinal**  
**Tahltan Central Government**

College of New Caledonia  
Social Service Worker

My dad is Cree and mom is Tahltan so I refer to myself as a Cree-Tan, however I am registered under Tahltan Band which is located in northern BC. After graduating grade twelve I decided to work for High Road Service Society as it is a company that provides full support for individuals with disabilities that struggle with daily living. It is a rather large and ever-growing company and after working for them for a year I knew I wanted to go back to school to pursue my Social Work Diploma or possibly one day my degree.



**Karly Morgan**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
Associate of Arts - General Studies

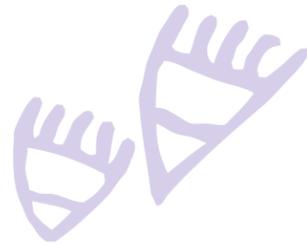
Karly's volunteer involvement in event harm reduction and lived experience as well as her passion for altruism and social justice inspired her to pursue a career as a social worker. After successful employment in outreach and emergency housing she decided to take the next step and begin post secondary education. Karly graduated from the NGO and Non-profit Studies Certificate program at Kwantlen University with distinction in 2019. She has since been completing general studies in order to apply to the BSW program at NVIT for Fall 2020. With the support of the New Relationship Trust Fund, Karly hopes to give back to her Indigenous community as a mental health and addictions worker in the non-profit sector.



**Kayla Fisher-Boyd**  
**Gitxaala Nation**

Capilano University  
Indigenous Independent  
Digital Filmmaking

Kayla Fisher-Boyd is from Gitxaala Nation, She comes from the Gisbutwada Tribe. She is in her second year at Capilano University for a diploma in Film Studies. She is also the 2nd in her family to graduate high school at Charles Hays Secondary in 2017. She hopes to become a Producer or Production Manager one day in the Film Industry. She is the eldest of ten children and is a big role model for her siblings. She is the very first in her family to go to Post-Secondary. She hopes to graduate with a diploma in Film studies in June of 2020.



**Lauryn Adolph**  
**Xaxli'p**

Capilano University  
Indigenous Independent  
Digital Filmmaking

I am from Lillooet and a member of the Xaxli'p Nation. I am currently in school for film; after finishing this program I plan on creating media (shorts, short films, documentaries) specifically focused on Indigenous perspectives. I would one day like to direct a feature film that uses St'át'imcets as its main language, as I'd like to contribute to the revitalization of the language.



**Lavern Guno**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

Coast Mountain College  
English

My name is Lavern Guno, I am from Gitlaaxt'aamiks and my goal is to get my Certificate in The Health Care Assistant Program. Once I complete this program, I am going to apply to the Terraceview Lodge for employment so I can obtain employment hours. Then I will apply to get into Access to Practical Nursing and then I can apply to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Examination (CPNRE) for licensure as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).



**Leah Angus**  
**Laxgalts'ap**  
**Village Government**

Coast Mountain College  
Hairdressing Foundation

Leah Angus is a housekeeper at Bear Country Inn. In this role Leah works with her team to ensure all guests feel comfortable and enjoy their stay while visiting Terrace BC. Before joining Bear Country Inn, Leah worked 5 years in a diverse range of organizations such as Chances Casino, and Ardene. In these roles, Leah was responsible for the customers experience, taking payments and maintaining the cleanliness of the establishment. Leah is a strong believer in second chances. Leah supports anyone who is trying to change their life around for the better.



**Leonard Gaze**  
**Adams Lake Indian Band**

Thompson Rivers University  
Carpentry/Joinery Level 1

I am interested in this program to get experience utilizing the techniques I learned in my first year of Carpentry/Joinery Level One with my career. I came across this opportunity, and found it was relevant to my job as a Log Peeler. I was able to go back to the same company I left 15 years ago, and luckily they saw potential in me. My future goals are to build my family home custom-made from cedar logs, and continue to help and improve the communities that have supported me getting to where I am today.



**Linda James**  
**Kwikwasut'inuxw**  
**Haxwa'mis First Nation**

Native Education College  
Business Start Up

I was born in Vancouver and grew up in Foster Care in Squamish. Over the past few years I have reconnected my biological family and my culture. It has brought me immense healing and has helped to fill a void in me from being raised without them. I am currently taking the Business Start Up course through Native Education College so that I can start an Indigenous Catering Company. Food has always been my passion, I have worked in restaurants since I was seventeen and I plan to incorporate my coastal Indigenous roots into this business venture. I want to be self-sufficient so that I have more time to spend with my elders to learn our Kwak'wala language and absorb all the knowledge that they carry. Gilakas'la

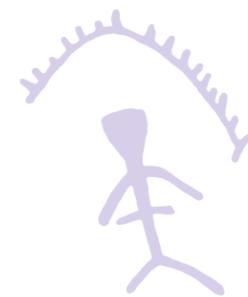


**Lindsay Pierre**  
**Katzie First Nation**

Douglas College  
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Lindsay Pierre and I am a member of Katzie First Nation. I am majoring in Criminology at Douglas College! I come from a close knit family that supports my dreams wholeheartedly. I hope to find employment in victim services working with women and children or working in the court system helping First Nation People involved in the court process.

This bursary I have been awarded will help me immensely during my studies! I am very grateful for this gift and will use the money towards my studies well!



**Lyle Williams**  
**Squamish Nation**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Ironworker Generalist

I was born in West Vancouver and grew up on the Capilano reserve as a member of the Squamish Nation. I started Ironworking many years ago and had the opportunity to enhance my skills at BCIT. I plan to attend until I obtain my Red Seal Ironworker certification. I am also a member of the Local 97 Ironworkers Union and have proven myself to be dedicated to my career as an Ironworker.



**Makayla Commodore**  
Soowahlie First Nation

University of the Fraser Valley  
Social Service Worker

Hi my name is Makayla Commodore. I am from Soowahlie First Nation located in Cultus Lake, BC. I am currently working towards receiving my Social Work degree at the University of the Fraser Valley. I work with individuals with disabilities and would like to continue after once I receive my degree. I love how rewarding the helping profession is and it is what continues to push me to reach my goals.



**Marcella Commodore**  
Soowahlie First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Aboriginal Governance & Leadership

My name is Marcella Commodore and I am from Soowahlie First Nation located in Cultus Lake, British Columbia. I am currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Governance and Leadership Certificate program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. I chose this program to strengthen my skills and abilities to govern and to increase my education in community development. I am hoping to continue my education to the diploma program to expand my knowledge in economic development and contract management.



**Marcy Sellars**  
Xatśúll First Nation

Langara College  
Health Sciences

My name is Marcy Sellars. I am from the Xatsull First Nation. I have been going to Langara College for several years working towards accomplishing my career goal of eventually becoming an Indigenous Registered Nurse. I grew up in a rural area, so health care is often an issue for Indigenous peoples. Witnessing that is where my spark of interest for my chosen career path started. I have succeeded thus far in receiving an Associate of Arts Degree, and am continuing to further my knowledge in Health Sciences as well as Sports/Fitness Nutrition, Latin American, and Women's Studies. Health Sciences is my ultimate passion, and am looking forward to furthering my education to accomplish my career goal.



**Marjorie James**  
Stz'uminus First Nation

Sprott Shaw College  
Executive Office Administrator

Uy Skeywul (Good day)  
I'm taking the Executive Office Administrator Program as a full time student at Sprott Shaw Community College. In completion of my program at Sprott Shaw I will receive a diploma in the Executive Administration field. I would like to thank New Relationship Trust for this remarkable contribution toward assisting me in my educational goals. Huy ceepqa.



**Mary Edgars**  
Old Massett Village Council

Capilano University  
Associate of Arts

Kunn giidii Ka'jagang is my Haida name; it means Singing Baby Grey Whale. I have lived in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii all my life (18 years). I come from the Naikun Qi-igaaway clan, which is a Raven Moiety. We are from the Rose Spit Area. I have graduated from Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay Secondary. My interests are basketball and volleyball. The past two years, I have joined the Old Massett Ladies basketball team that attends the All Native Basketball tournament in Prince Rupert. I am very passionate about continuing my education at the Capilano University. I would like to receive a Bachelor Degree in Arts. My Goals for post-secondary are to finish these 2 years for my Associates Degree, then when I am done I will go back to Haida Gwaii to help my community grow, and then after 1-2 years I will go back to school to further my education.



**Mary Williams**  
Old Massett Village Council

Camosun College  
Indigenous Studies

I am from the K'uun Laanaas Jaanaas Raven Clan of Old Massett. I chose Indigenous Studies because I have a passion for learning about other Indigenous cultures in Canada. After I am done my program I will transfer to the Indigenous Law Program, because I would one day like to represent the Haida Nation and pursue a career in reconciliation. My goal is to finish school, move back to my home community and work for the Council of the Haida Nation.



**Melody Williams**  
Old Massett Village Council

Langara College  
Associate of Arts -  
Commerce & Business

I'm Melody Williams from Old Massett. I am currently attending Langara College where I am studying in Commerce and Business. Once I've obtained my degree from Langara, the goal is to transfer to UBC and work towards becoming a Chartered Professional Accountant! I would like to give a big thank you to NRT for supporting me, Haawa!



**Michael Tait**  
Gitxsan Nation

Coast Mountain College  
First Nations Fine Arts

My name is Michael Tait – Modix Dillax. I am both Gitxsan and Nisga'a. We are Matrilineal in our teachings and upbringings, so I am learning from my Mother and Grandmother which are Gitxsan. My village is Gitanyow. I come from the House of Nii Ky'ap. My clan is the Lax-gibuu clan, which is the Wolf clan. I was born in Terrace. I was never raised in one spot too long growing up. Right now, I am currently working in Terrace. Currently I have a home-based studio space. I am currently going through my second year to get my diploma. Artists that have helped me are Dempsey Bob, Stan Bevan, Ken McNeil, Nathan Wilson, Nakkita Trimble, Kobe Antoine, Dennis Nyce, Smiddy Grandison, Alfred Davidson IV, and Miller McKay. The difference that I have from other artists is faith in God, and an understanding of his teachings and stories, which I use in my art.



**Mitch Bryant**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

Sonic Enclosures  
 Welding Apprenticeship

Hi my name is Mitch and I am studying a Welding Apprenticeship at Sonic Enclosures.



**Moriah Wilber**  
**Skuppah Indian Band**

Vancouver Island University  
 Resource Management  
 Officer Technology

My name is Moriah Wilber, this is my first year at the Vancouver Island University. I am from the small Village of Lytton BC and spent a few years living in Chilliwack. It is my goal to complete the Natural Resource Management Officer Technician program. I am looking forward to taking more courses to help me decide on a more specific career path. Protecting the land and natural resources have always been very important to me and I look forward to pursuing a career where I can make a difference.



**Myles Neufeld**  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**

Langara College  
 Creative Writing

My name is Myles Neufeld. I am an Indigenous, transgender man from the Okanagan, who has overcome immense adversity. I am pursuing an education to expand my knowledge, so I can provide better representation for queer people and people of colour. I plan to do this through the many books I have written, and the many that I will write in the future.



**Nikkayla Gladstone**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Vancouver Island University  
 Exploratory University Studies

From a young age I was able to understand the importance of our land and sea, I now want to be a part of protecting the land and natural resources. My grandfather was the Grand Chief of the Haida Nation when the National Park was being thought about and he lived to see it become a reality. He believed in preserving and conserving for all the upcoming generations by creating sustainable ways to harvest food, fish and log. We as custodians of Haida Gwaii have traditionally practiced ways of utilizing the land. We all want to continue this practice, and I would love to become a part of it. My education will ensure this.



**Norma Louie**  
**Mamalilikulla First Nation**

Vancouver Career College  
 Accounting & Payroll Administrator

Yo, Gilakasla. My name is Norma Louie. I am from Mamalilikulla First Nations. I was born and raised in Alert Bay, BC. I am currently enrolled at Vancouver Community College in Surrey, BC to get my Accounting and Payroll Diploma. I am also a mother of 2 children and proud to say that I will be the first child on my mother's side to receive a diploma in our family. This is one of many reasons why I choose to go back to school, to be an example not only to my family, but to all First Nations people that change is possible.



**Ntsetswek Henry**  
**Lil'wat Nation**

University of the Fraser Valley  
 Agriculture Technology

My name is Ntsetswek Henry, I come from the Lil'wat and Sto:lo territory. I am constantly on the go and on the look out to learn new things. I am currently completing my last year in the agriculture technology program this coming new year. At some point I would like to become a horticulturist. When I am not working in the agriculture industry or at school, I like to fill my spare time with fishing, beading, sewing, and traveling.



**Paul Tait**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
 Millwright Foundation

My name is Paul Tait. I am Nisga'a from the village of Gitlaxta'amiks (New Aiyansh). I have recently completed my Millwright foundations course and I am currently working as a first year apprentice for a local union. Millwrights are basically industrial mechanics. My work right now is building a factory for the company Amazon, which is used for shipping and sorting items. I love my job since everyday is a different task. This will be my career for the rest of my life and can't wait to be a Red Seal millwright which is my goal.



**Riley Brown**  
**Kitsumkalum First Nation**

Northern Lights College  
 Heavy Mechanical Technician

My name is Riley Brown, I am from Terrace, BC, and I am currently enrolled in Heavy Duty Mechanics Foundations doing my first year at the Northern Lights College in Fort St. John, BC. My goal for this career is to be able to have a steady job no matter where I end up living, and be able to provide a good life for myself and my family. I'd love to one day be able to afford to renovate my dad's current house or help him buy a new one as he is getting older in age. I'd like to say thank you so much for the bursary as it will help me so much in starting my career and buying my tools.



**Roberta Gosnell**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks**  
**Village Government**

College of New Caledonia  
 Applied Business Technology -  
 Office Assistant

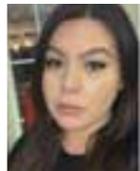
I am currently enrolled in the Online ABT-Office Assistant Certificate Program with College of New Caledonia. This is a 1-year program that I have been wanting to take as I've seen the need for them in my community. My plan was to go to school while working close to home, and I did just that! This online program has helped me in so many ways, and I couldn't have done it without the support of my family, Village Government and Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institute. My plan moving further, is to get my Diploma in Accounting and Finance. I find that I am good with numbers and I enjoyed the accounting courses provided in this program.



**Roderick Sandy**  
Williams Lake Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Associate of Arts

My name is Roderick Michael Sandy. I am a member of the Williams Lake Indian Band. We are part of the Secwepemc Nation. I am currently pursuing an Associate of Arts in General Arts Degree at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. My goal is to complete the Introductory to Psychology, then continue to university to get a degree in Psychology. I will remain in the Lower Mainland until I have enough education and job experience to return home and use my knowledge to become part the healing and restorative justice for Indigenous communities around the Williams Lake area.



**Rose-Maria Wasnick**  
Okanagan Indian Band

Langara College  
Arts and Science

My name is Rose-Maria, and I am from the Okanagan territory. My goal in life is to be a healthy role model to my son, niece, and nephews. I am planning to pursue a Paralegal Degree, as law and the criminal justice system has always fascinated me, and it is an area that I enjoy learning about. Thank you NRTF!



**Russell Elio Jacobs**  
Squamish Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Aboriginal Governance & Leadership

My parents are Elizebeth Vanessa Campbell (nee Paull) and James Russell Jacobs. I am Squamish from my mothers' side; my father is originally from the eastern Ontario Akwesasne tribe. I have lived in North Vancouver for 32 years. My current school studies are Aboriginal Governance and Leadership. Ethics and how it plays into the leadership role is an area of research that is becoming more visible on how a person in power conducts themselves. Ethics in many forms of the workplace are catching my attention for further study. Future studies Technology Support, as technology changes from year to year. A personal goal I have is being aware of the positive people I have in my life.



**Samuel LeCamp**  
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Thompson Rivers University  
Carpentry/Joinery Level 1

My name is Sam LeCamp. I spent or wasted most of my life, living check to check on welfare as I dealt with health conditions which tried to stop me from living life the best I could. With Congestive Heart Failure Disabilities, my high blood pressure needs to be monitored. My career focus was Construction, I have always loved to build and be proud of my accomplishments. So I finally felt that my health was good enough, checked with my doctor, and started with Labor ready jobs and found an employer willing to train me.



**Sara Thomas**  
Halalt First Nation

Camosun College  
Office Administration

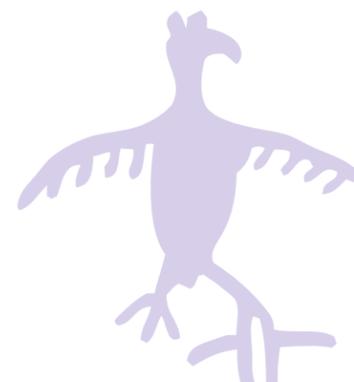
My name is Sara Thomas from the Halalt First Nation on Vancouver Island. I am a mother to a 10 year old son, Nicholas. I am currently finishing up 3 courses to receive a Certificate in Office Administration. I also have 1 class this term that is a start to a Diploma in Business Administration. My goal is to receive a BBA in HR. My main goal is for my son to see me graduate and walk across a stage. He is my inspiration to keep moving forward and keep doing better for not only myself but for him as well.



**Sarah Bright**  
Laxgalts'ap  
Village Government

John Casablancas Institute  
Makeup Artistry

My name is Sarah, and I am from Greenville, BC. My personal goals are to get my passport and save up to travel. For example, i wanna go to Cuba. I love the culture and the beauty of it. My career goals are to become a Makeup Artist and work in bridal makeup as well as tv/film. I would mainly like to work in film because you never know what kind of makeup you will be doing. For example i can be doing SFX makeup one day and then basic makeup the next.



**Shane Gurney**  
Gingolx Village Government

Vancouver Island University  
First Nations Stewardship Technicians

My name is Shane Gurney, I was born in Prince Rupert, then moved to the Nisga'a village of Gingolx where I grew up. I graduated from Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School in 2005. I recently completed the Stewardship Technician Level 1 in May held by the Gitsxan Development Corporation in partnership with Vancouver Island University. In November I'll complete Level 2 of the program and use my skills and knowledge that I will obtain to work in and around our Nation.



**Shannon Green**  
Gitlaxt'aamiks  
Village Government

Canadian Vocational Training Centre  
Computerized Accounting and  
Automated Office

Hello, my name is Shannon Green, I am from New Aiyansh, BC but currently reside in Kitimat, BC, and I am a member of the Ganada Tribe (Raven). I am a single mother of a 10 year old daughter. My personal goal is to obtain my full drivers license, my educational goals are to complete the Office Assistant with Bookkeeping program and I would like to obtain my Master's Degree in Business. My career goal is to someday open my own hobbies store in New Aiyansh. What made me decide the type of career I wanted, was the Student Summer Employment program in New Aiyansh. I was placed in the village government for 4 weeks filing and helping other departments.



**Sheena Watts**  
**Laxgalts'ap**  
**Village Government**

Northwest Community College  
 Associate of Arts -  
 First Nations Specialization

I was a teen mother whom thought carrying on & furthering my education was impossible. Although I am not one to ever give up my dream/goals which is to one day working with our First Nation youth in and around my community, this year will be my 2nd year of pursuing my dream/goals. I have a few years left in order to reach my ultimate goal & am grateful for the wonderful help NRTF provides that makes it easier to focus on my courses and thrive while attending college.



**Sheldon Dawson-Samuel**  
**'N̓am̓gis First Nation**

Camosun College  
 Plumbing & Pipe Trades Foundation

I am currently a full-time student in the Plumbing and Pipefitting program at Camosun College in Victoria, BC. My goals are to obtain my Journeyman ticket (Red Seal certification), work within a company to develop my skills and work towards owning my own plumbing business. I have always enjoyed being physical through soccer and rugby, which in turn made sense for me to choose a career path that requires quick thinking, concentration, team work and physical labour.



**Shyanne Batt**  
**Tsleil-Waututh Nation**

University of the Fraser Valley  
 Geographic Information Systems

I am Sto:lo and part of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, I currently live in Langley. I am the first person in my family to get an university degree with not only one, but two. I am working on getting a third university degree, because someone told me I wouldn't be able to finish high school, let alone university. I am still working on what I "want to be when I grow up." All I know is I want to make change. Walt Disney got me through University; "If you can dream it, you can do it." Without this quote and the support of family and friends, I don't think I would have made it through university.



**Simone Paul**  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Executive Assistant Diploma

My name is Simone Paul, mother of Rylan Paul, we are from Tkemlups te Secwepemc. My personal goals are to learn more about my culture and language and ensure that son can as well. After I received my Digital Photography Diploma, I decided to continue to better myself through school. I am currently getting my Diploma in the Executive Assistant program, I'm laddering up to get my Bachelor of Business Administration. I'm hoping my education will help contribute not only to my own photography business but as well as my communities.



**Starnita Nyce**  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a  
 Nisga'a Studies and First Nations Language

My name is Starnita Nyce. My traditional Nisga'a name is "Sag a likst'aam bil ist", which translates to "sharp island star." I come from both the Nisga'a and Haida nation. My traditional clan is Raven and Frog. I live in the village of Gitwinksihlkw, where I attend Wilp Wilx o'oskwahl Nisga'a. I'm in my second year of studies. After I obtain my Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies, I plan to obtain a Masters of Arts degree.



**Stefani Beverly**  
**Squamish Nation**

Capilano University  
 Associate of Arts

Stefani Beverly is a member of the Squamish Nation and works for Squamish Nation in the Chen Chen Stway Human Resources Department during the summer months. As a child she was highly active in sports and continues to be highly active in sports during her adult years. Stefani is currently a second year full-time student in the Associate of Arts Degree program at Capilano University. Upon completion, she hopes to take her skills, experience and education back to her community.



**Taylor Ross**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

College of the Rockies  
 Carpenter

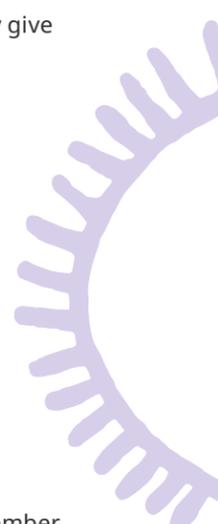
I am Taylor Ross, I grew up in a reservation called Lax Kw Alaams. I recently finished my first and second year of carpentry. My personal goals are to become a journeyman and to start my own company in the future. I believe this is a great opportunity for myself to make a great career out of and some day give back to my community.



**Teira Joseph**  
**Splatsin**

Thompson Rivers University  
 Human Service Diploma

My name is Teira Joseph, I am a member of Splatsin of the Secwepemc Nation. I am in the first year of my Human Service Work Diploma at Thompson Rivers University. My educational goals are to complete my diploma and move onto the Bachelor of Social Work with the intention of earning my Master's Degree in Social Work. Upon completion I plan to work with and for Indigenous people. My passion for this area of work started at home, my family has always been involved with fostering kids. It is through this involvement that I have been witness to the demand for skilled Social Workers. It is my belief that my love for helping people will be put to good use in this field! Thank you to New Relationship Trust in assisting me to reach my education goals.





**Theresa Morris**  
**Binche Whut'en**

Langara College  
Accounting

The elders call me, "Deleez" and my english name is Theresa Morris. I was born and raised in Witset, however, I am a registered member of Binche Whut'en where I also sit on Chief & Council as the off-reserve Councillor. I work for the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology as well as attend Langara College accounting program. Whether you are an employee, serve on a board of directors or plan on running your own business- financial literacy is absolutely crucial. It can also bring in a second income which is necessary living in the lower mainland. Being financially competent makes you an automatic asset to any organization even if you are not employed in the finance department or sector.



**Tian Lord**  
**Skidegate Band Council**

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Foundations in Innovation & Technology

My name is Tian Alexander Warren Lord, I am from the archipelago of Haida Gwaii. It is a wonderful place to grow up, but doesn't offer too much for employment and education opportunities. Being isolated off the west coast of Canada, I to try learn something new everyday from Science and Politics. I like the idea of having an occupation that can be used anywhere in the world and having a variety of transferable skills that can be used from one job to another. Something that interested me is water treatment and electricity, two staples of society that are needed everywhere.



**Tina Etzerza**  
**Iskut Band Council**

Coast Mountain College  
Business Administration

My name is Tina Etzerza; I am from the Tahltan Nation. I have lived at home in Tahltan Territory my entire life. I am attending Coast Mountain College, pursuing a Business Administration Diploma with a concentration in Accounting. Upon completion I will continue on to university and achieve a Bachelor of Accounting Degree. In my long term career goals and accomplishments I plan to make a difference at home, in Tahltan Territory. By bringing my knowledge and training home I will be part of the Tahltan team working towards a brighter tomorrow, full of opportunities for our future generations.



**Todd Naknakim**  
**We Wai Kai First Nation**

New Image College  
Film Acting Conservatory

With this experience my intent is to create a T.V. show that focuses on language for my people back home. Greatly appreciated for this contribution to my future.



**William Mark**  
**Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation**

Vancouver Island University  
Motorcycle Mechanic and Marine Technician

Hello, my name is William Mark, born and raised in Port Alberni, BC. I am married with two daughter, ages 11, and 10. My personal goals are to finish up my first year with good grades and finish as one of the top of my class. My career goals are to become a marine technician and eventually own my mobile marine mechanic business.



**Victor Cooper**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

Camosun College  
Professional Cook 1

My name is Victor Sheldon Cooper, i was born and raised in Prince Rupert and I am from Lax Kw'alaams. I hope to eventually open my own business of a pool hall arcade and cafe combo. I grew up visiting a local one in Prince Rupert, which helped me by providing a safe place to hang out and play. Having a safe place to hang out kept me from finding trouble and make friends. I hope to provide such an environment for families and youth.



**Zachary Kompst**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

Vancouver Community College  
Professional Cook 2

My name is Zachary Kompst. I am a member of the Musqueam Nation in Vancouver, BC. I've been cooking for a couple years and it is what I love to do. I now have a year of schooling from two separate programs. I'm working in my second restaurant which is one of the best in the city. In my time off it still brings me joy to cook for friends and family. I love to cook and couldn't see myself doing something else.



**Zachary Munroe**  
**Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government**

Canada Soccer Association  
Coach Youth License Level B

I am a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation, a father of 4 children, and married to my beautiful wife. I have a great deal of passion giving back to my community in the form of soccer, as that is my area of expertise, and I am very passionate about being a mentor/leader for our future leaders. I believe sport has many disciplines, and offers the youth involved opportunities to express themselves in many ways, and more importantly it provides a safe positive environment for them to participate in.



**Aiyana Twigg**  
**Tobacco Plains Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts

My nation is very small, and one thing I noticed growing up, is that many people never spoke our language, or they did not know how to. The Ktunaxa language is very endangered, as many First Nation languages are. My goal is to major in Linguistics, so I can research, document, and learn my language so that it is never lost or forgotten. I want to develop some sort of curriculum in which we can make the Ktunaxa language easier to learn. Eventually, I want to go back and get my Master's Degree, and learn as much as I can about the structure of languages, especially the Ktunaxa language. Then, decolonize the way languages are taught and connect language to the land, as it was once before.



**Annah Setter**  
**Whispering Pines/  
Clinton Indian Band**

Mount Royal University  
Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice

I am entering my third year of the Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice undergraduate degree at MRU. At MRU, I sit on the panel of student board of conduct where a group of students review and resolve cases of misconduct on campus. I am involved in MRU's Iniskim Centre which exists to assist Indigenous students in various ways. Upon graduation I plan to attend Law School or become a member of a municipal police force where I will actively work to create change from within the system for Indigenous people. of society that are needed everywhere.



**Austin Whitney**  
**Xaxli'p**

Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Computing Science

I am the youngest of three children and we are all pursuing our goal to complete a university degree. Through the generous support of the Xaxli'p First Nations community and scholarships such as the NRTF, we have been able to realize our dreams. I will be entering my fourth and final year in Computing Science at Simon Fraser University. I had decided to follow my passion for video games and computer technology by pursuing a degree in the computer science field. Computer technology is our future with endless applications affecting every aspect of our personal and professional lives. Upon graduation, I will seek employment opportunities with the top tech companies. I am honoured to be a recipient of the NRTF Scholarship and thank you again for helping so many Indigenous students reach their academic goals.



**Blaine Lindstrom**  
**Tahltan Central Government**

British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Science -  
Ecological Restoration

I am a 30 year old member of the Tahltan First Nation. I grew up in a small town called Dease Lake. I started working in the mining industry, which was very strong in the area, as an environmental monitor. I loved the the job and wanted to do more advanced work. I moved to Vancouver to attend BCIT to get a degree in Ecological Restoration. After some time, and much more experience, I plan to return to my Nation.



**Brandon McReynolds**  
**Squamish Nation**

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point  
Bachelor of Business Management  
& Marketing

My name is Brandon McReynolds. My ancestral name is Yatalten which was given to me by my family through my grandmother's lineage. I come from the village of Eslah7an where my family has lived for hundreds of years. I'm proud of who I am and all my relation. My goal is to one day play professional hockey then open up my own fitness facility where I can work with high level athletes of all sports.



**Connor Louis**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

Queen's University  
Bachelor of Arts (Hon)

My name is Connor Louis, a proud member of the Musqueam First Nation. I am the son of Larissa Grant and I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts Hon. Program at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. I chose to leave Vancouver to acquire a great education and continue my football career at the university level. I have not yet chosen my major but my goal is to complete my education and continue to be a role model for young First Nations students that have a dream to attend university and play university sports.



**Chelsea Mitchell**  
**Metlakatla First Nation**

University of Toronto  
Bachelor of Arts - Economics  
and Mathematics

My name is Chelsea Mitchell and I am from Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Currently, I am a third year student studying at the University of Toronto, pursuing a specialist in Economics and Mathematics with a minor in Statistics. After I graduate, I intend to attend graduate school in order to obtain a Master of Economics degree, and hopefully eventually a PhD in Economics. My ultimate goal is to become a professor at a university.



**Dakota Nelson**  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology  
and Indigenous Studies

My name is Dakota Nelson and I come from the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw and Tahltan Nations. I am currently in my third year of my double major in Anthropology and Indigenous Studies at the University of Victoria. I have chosen to study Anthropology to be the Indigenous voice when necessary in a mainly settler-dominated discipline. I hope to pursue a career in ethnography so I can study and research Indigenous cultures around the world in a productive and respectful way.



**Daniel Kennedy**  
Cook's Ferry Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science -  
Computer Science and Statistics

Hello, I'm Daniel Kennedy, and I was born in Vancouver. Through my education at the University of British Columbia, I hope to launch an engaging career in either the tech industry or otherwise statistical analysis. My experience has shown me that there are few Indigenous students in all STEM fields; I hope that me and my peers can work to reverse this trend.



**Diamond-Lee Point**  
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous  
Teacher Education Program

I am a third year student in the NITEP Indigenous Teacher Education Program, at the University of British Columbia. I am specializing to become a high school Social Studies and History teacher. As a future Indigenous educator, I plan to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and pedagogy into my classroom. I am determined to dismantle the "Pan-Indigenous" teaching approach that has been taught in the classroom and to students for far too long. It is important for teachers and students to know and understand that Indigenous knowledge is context specific, and as a result when taken out of its context can be misinterpreted, misrepresented or misused. As a future teacher, it is my responsibility to be part of the change in thinking and to provide my students with the tools to engage in deep, life long learning.



**Elliott Vissia**  
Hupačasath First Nation

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering

Hey, my names Elliott Vissia and I'm a member of Hupacasath First Nation out in the Alberni Valley. I'm currently in my fourth year of mechanical engineering at the University of Victoria, however I'm looking to switch my career path to dentistry to better serve my community. In the upcoming school year I'll be studying for the DAT and satisfying prerequisites to be able to apply. With my dental degree I would hope to help alleviate the lack of oral hygiene and dental care that is so extremely prevalent within indigenous communities.



**Emily Graceanna Pearson**  
Stellat'en First Nation

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Biology

Hadih. Soozih Emily Graceanna Pearson. Stellat'en inkez luksilyoo usli. I have been interested in the sciences since I was a child, so I naturally followed that path into my post-secondary education. We are currently facing a biodiversity crisis due to habitat loss, over exploitation and climate change. I hope to move forward with a career in conservation that utilizes my knowledge in the biological sciences alongside our traditional ways of stewarding the land. As a biology student, it is my goal to promote sustainability so that we can leave a bountiful environment for the next seven generations.



**Gage Sippel**  
Seabird Island Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Music - Advanced Performance

My name is Gage Sippel and I was raised on Seabird Island First Nation and graduated from Agassiz Elementary Secondary School. I am currently in my third year of my Bachelor of Music degree in Musical Performance at the University of British Columbia. After completion of my degree I intend to pursue a Master's Degree in Music to further my education in the subject matter. I eventually aspire to have a career as a musician in an orchestra or as faculty with a post-secondary institution.



**Georgia Baker**  
Squamish Nation

University of Calgary  
Bachelor of Arts - English

I am from the Squamish Nation in North Vancouver, BC. I have grown up in X̱wemelch'stn Village, and still continue to live there while I am not in Calgary. I am going into my third year at the University of Calgary in the Arts program. My plan once I graduate is to come back to BC and get my degree in Education. I want to teach at an elementary school and then further my career in the Education field in whatever way I can. I am hoping to be a strong advocate for my future Indigenous students and Indigenous Education.

I am incredibly grateful for the NRT Foundation for accepting my application! This scholarship will help me immensely in my third year and I could not be more thankful! Thank you so much.



**Gina Mae Schubert**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Bachelor of Design

Gina Mae Schubert – Jaada-Sk'iila, Yahgulanaas of the Haida Nation Ms. Schubert is the direct descendant of Haida artist Captain Andrew Brown from Old Massett, BC. An Interior Designer and autodidact of contemporary art. Ms. Schubert has an Associate Degree in Interior Design and her desire to protect the environment is embodied in her education at Emily Carr and is finding solutions to solve pollution, design replacement products that the world has become dependent on to solve the problem of the destruction of Biodiversity and protect mankind. Ms. Schubert is a single mother of two children, Raven, 16 and Keenawaii 12. She believes that teaching them respect for knowledge and following what you are passionate about is the only way to bring about positive change in the world.



**Jaiden George**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Jaiden George is an outdoor Photographer and Filmmaker from Tofino, BC. A future Hereditary Chief, his work primarily concerns the conservation of Indigenous land and culture, examining contested spaces, human impact and environmental crisis in the Pacific Northwest. After attaining his BFA, he plans to continue studying at Emily Carr to get his MFA. His first film - Finding Solitude - is currently on tour in BC.



**Jeffrey Sutherland**  
**?aqam**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Commerce

I am a proud member of the Ktunaxa Nation. I take any opportunity to be on our homelands and keep up with our Nation's economic, political, social, and cultural landscape. I am in my second year of my Bachelor of Commerce at UBC, and I worked in the Economic and Investment Sector of my Nation this past summer. It is my goal to continue this involvement and use what I learn to help grow my Nation's economy. Beyond this, my interests include listening to music, collecting records, playing any instruments (primarily guitar), and playing/watching hockey. Every day when I wake up I tell myself two things: every time I walk into a room, I am going to have a good time, and if I can make at least one person smile today, I left the world a better place than it was before.



**Jennifer Elliott**  
**Stz'uminus First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Commerce

I have grown up in an environment filled with politics and witnessing the economic development of my community. This has influenced the path I follow now, where I am pursuing my Commerce Degree in Business and then I will continue on to a Master's Degree. I've not only wanted to take part in helping the growth and betterment of my own community, but I've wanted more opportunities for all First Nations communities. I have always been taught that an education will take you a long way, that is my priority in reaching my goals.



**Kara Ross**  
**Okanagan Indian Band**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

Wai', my name is Kara Ross I am entering my last year of my undergraduate degree with a major in Indigenous Studies and a minor in English. My goal for next year is to return to UBCO and complete a Bachelor of Education so I can become a teacher. I want to focus on revitalizing and sharing the Okanagan language and teach other Indigenous related courses in a positive and culturally safe way to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.



**Karlee Drake**  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Education -  
Post Baccalaureate

I am the daughter of Peter and Shelly Drake. I am Liqwiltok from the Wei Wai Kum and Wei Wai Kai Nations (Campbell River and Cape Mudge). I grew up on Quadra Island and caught a ferry to school from grades 7-12. I have had addictions, suicide, cancer, residential school, inter-generation trauma, and many other dark times thrown at myself, and my family. Despite the odds one day I decided I wanted to enjoy MY life, because I didn't want to be another statistic. 7 years ago I moved away from home to attend school, since then I have obtained my Bachelors degree in Indigenous studies - minoring in Anthropology. I am the first in my family to graduate post-secondary, and currently working on my teaching degree. Even after dropping out twice, that doesn't stop me from wanting to get my PhD one day.



**Katelyn Cooper**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection

My name is Katelyn Cooper and I am from the Tsimshian Nation located in BC's North Coast. I grew up in Prince Rupert and spent most of my summers in Lax Kw'alaams. I chose to pursue an education in Natural Resource Management because I have a passion for protecting freshwater and marine species that are central to my culture and way of life. My career goal is to continue working in Fisheries Management in the North Coast to better serve my community. I am an avid volunteer for organizations that promote ocean health and salmon conservation.



**Krista Truscott**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Vancouver Island University  
Bachelor of Business Administration

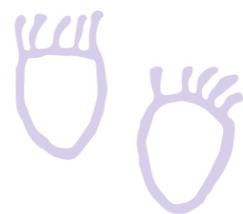
My name is Krista Truscott or x sgaak likst'aa (eagle on an Island). I am from Prince Rupert, BC and moved to Vancouver Island when I was eight years old. I have one year left of my Bachelor of Business Administration degree and plan on completing a Master's of Business Administration with a specialization in Marketing. My dream job after graduation would be marketing for a non-profit organization. I realized my love for not for profit organizations while volunteering at the local Women's Centre.



**Madeline Kelson**  
**Haisla Nation**

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

My name is Madeline Kelson and I'm from the Haisla Nation. I am in my third year of studying Political Science and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. I work and am interested in traditional Indigenous laws. My current plan is to apply to the new joint Indigenous Legal Orders and Canadian Common Law program at The University of Victoria in the fall of 2022.



**Madelyn Brown**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Eastern Washington University  
Bachelor of Arts - History

Madelyn Brown is a member of the Nisga'a nation and a student at Eastern Washington University studying history with an emphasis in 19th-century Indigenous studies. She is currently conducting undergraduate research with her university's American Indian Studies program and the Coeur d'Alene tribe. Her research interests focus on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its historical influence on environmental-care techniques utilized by Pacific Northwest tribal communities. Madelyn will be graduating with her Bachelor of Arts degree this June with the goal of continuing her education and gaining admittance into a master's or PhD program in history.



**Natasha Jones**  
**Pacheedaht First Nation**

Camosun College  
Bachelor of Business Administration

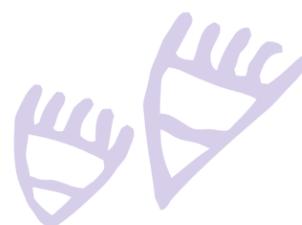
My name is Natasha Jones, from Pacheedaht First Nation. My goal is to be graduated in June 2021, and to work in my community as the Band Administrator. I plan to further my education after I complete my current program, and will take a Indigenous governance Master's program. I am a new mom, and that pushes me to do more for my daughter.



**Neil Louie**  
**Nadleh Whut'en First Nation**

University of the Fraser Valley  
Bachelor of Arts - Philosophy

My name is Neil Louie, I am a 40 year old father of four from the Nadleh Whuten Indian Band near Fraser Lake BC. I am entering the third year of the Bachelor of Arts program at the University of the Fraser Valley and I'm aiming to graduate in the spring of 2021, at which point I plan to go on to attend law school with the ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer.



**Noah Chenoweth**  
**Upper Nicola Band**

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

Hello, I am Noah Chenoweth and I am a member of the Okanagan Nation and the Upper Nicola Indian Band. I am studying Indigenous Studies at UBCO and learning a great deal about our Indigenous history and my responsibility to my community moving forward. I wish to continue serving my community and when completed my university studies I will seek a profession that allows me to continue to serve our people.



**Noelle Young**  
**Tzeachten First Nation**

Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Bachelor of Fine Arts

My name is Noelle Young and I was born in Chilliwack, BC. I have continually found a path in the arts from a young age beginning in dance. I graduated from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre in 2016 where I began a career as a professional dancer in contemporary/modern dance. As life takes us down many different avenues, I am now in my second year at Emily Carr University of Art + Design for Visual Arts. With a focus in sculpture, I am currently working in the metal, wood, and mould-making shops and I am excited to dive further into working with these materials in my future at Emily Carr. In the bigger picture, I have a passion for teaching children and plan to intertwine that with my love of art to develop and nurture the creative minds of future generations to come.



**Pala Kovacs**  
**Lílwat Nation**

University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
Bachelor of Business Management

My name is Neekiki. My goal is to become an Economic Development Manager to advise Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Over this summer I have been working with the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association in the Industry Development Department, helping Indigenous people in this region learn the values of and earn a profit from tourism. I plan to complete my degree by April 2022. Thanks to the New Relationship Trust Foundation, I have been able to make the best of my time in post-secondary. With financial support I've been granted the favourable option of studying stress-free. I have so much appreciation for the financial support I've received. Kukwstumkacw.



**Reiley Terbasket**  
**Lower Similkameen Indian Band**

University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
Bachelor of Science

I am studying my 3rd year of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan. I have always had a strong interest in the sciences and in the environment and attending post secondary allows me to build valuable knowledge which will allow me to work in my Nation. I aspire to be employed in a field that continues the important work of managing and protecting our land and natural resources for our future generations. I am grateful to my community and to New Relationship Trust for supporting me to continue my post secondary education.



**Ruth Speck**  
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

ʔi ʔə ce:p ʔəw ʔeləy ʔal! Ruthie Speck kʷə nə skʷix, təni? cən ʔə ʔ xʷməθkʷəyəm ʔi? ʔawi:is. My goal is to become a hən ʔəmihən and English teacher. Over the past couple years I've come to realize the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and using my own language. Studying hən ʔəmihən has also helped me understand more about myself, culture, and the ones who came before—this has left me with a longing to continue to learn and pass on that knowledge. I now have a desire to learn my father's language, Kwak'wala. With the help of NRT, I will gain the necessary skills to effectively teach my future students. ʔəyətələ cən New Relationship Trust Foundation.



**Sheri Ptolemy**  
Samahquam

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts - Creative Writing

Sheri Ptolemy started songwriting at the age of 14 after teaching herself to play guitar. She released an EP of original songs in 2013 and now studies Creative Writing at UBCO with a focus on poetry and screenplay. She believes that being a writer is a great platform and wants to use it not only to entertain and create great songs and movies, but to give a voice to people who have important stories to share, stories that have the possibility to bridge the gap of misunderstanding and share the truth with the world.



**Taiden Galway**  
Squamish Nation

Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts

I graduated with honours from Fraser Heights Secondary in June 2019, I was on the honour roll at Fraser Heights Secondary every year since Grade 8. I received the Principal's Special Recognition Award and also a Culinary Arts 12 Award. I have a diploma for NVIT's Law Enforcement Preparatory Program and a Food Safe certificate. I am now attending Simon Fraser University full time wanting to receive a Bachelor of Arts in English, followed by the Professional Development Program. In the future I would like to have a career as an English or Social Studies high school teacher.



**Troy Thomas**  
Neskonlith Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Arts - English Literature

After a number of wayward years, I was fortunate to have an opportunity to return to university to complete my formally abandoned degree. I had always dreamt of being part of the first generation in my family to attain a university degree, but was unprepared in my youth for the difficulties life itself presents to the naive. After years struggling with ill health and injury, moving from job to job, having this opportunity means the world to me. I am thankful to my family, community, nation, as well as to the Tqeltkúkwi7 for without the support of many, I would have been lost long ago. I am also thankful to the New Relationship Trust for this award.



**Veronica Surette**  
Kispiox Band Council

University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Veronica Surette and I am a member of the Kispiox First Nation band. I am excited to be starting classes at the University of British Columbia. I am from Richmond, BC and I am looking forward to moving onto the UBC campus for my first year. I plan to complete four years of classes at UBC, and finish with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. I feel extremely grateful to be receiving the NRTF scholarship, as it will help fund my future studies.



**Warren William**  
Witset First Nation

Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Arts

Hello, my name is Warren William and I am from Witset First Nation reserve. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at Thompson Rivers University. My goal is to get educated and find a field of study I can utilize to benefit myself and my community. When I find a major I am passionate in I would like to graduate and eventually move back home with my new qualifications.

I would like to give a big thank you to the NRT Foundation, the transition from a community of under 700 people to a big university has been drastic to say the least, and any help I receive is appreciated greatly.



**Wilson Mearns**  
Musqueam Indian Band

University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts - Slavic Studies

My name is Wilson Mearns and I am a proud member of the Musqueam Indian Band, Vancouver BC. I graduated in June, 2019 with Honours from Elphinstone Secondary located on the Sunshine Coast. I am heading to the University of Victoria to complete a Humanities degree in Linguistics, with a focus on Slavic Studies. I will have the opportunity to learn some of my own native language while attending UVic. This will be my first year and I am excited to start on my new educational path. I hope to be a great role model for younger members of my band and can encourage them to do well in school. I look forward to meeting with other Indigenous students and learn from the elders at the university.

“I am extremely grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their monetary support for my post secondary education. I will work hard at my studies, and will treat the time at university like a job. Thank you for the opportunity to focus on my studies. Osiem.  
— Wilson Mearns



**Aaron Grant**  
**Lax Kw'alaams Band**

University of Northern British Columbia  
Master of Arts - First Nations Studies

Jah! Xaaydaga 'las! – "Hello! Wonderful People!" Yahlnaaw has begun her Master's Degree at the University of Northern British Columbia in First Nations Studies studying Indigenous language revitalization via traditional storytelling and community building. After completion of her Master's, Yahlnaaw aims to enroll in the University of Victoria's Indigenous Language Revitalization PhD program. Yahlnaaw is aware of what it is like to be an Indigenous person growing up in a colonized education system and wants to aid in creating a pathway for upcoming Indigenous brothers and sisters in academia.



**Alyssa Walthers**  
**Upper Similkameen Indian Band**

University of Saskatchewan  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Growing up, I always had a fascination and connection with all animals, whether domestic or wild. While working towards my Biology degree in Halifax NS, and taking on various volunteer roles, it became clear that veterinary medicine would be the perfect fit for me. Several years later, I am now in my final year of vet med at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon SK, where I will be undertaking a diverse set of clinical rotations. My goals after graduation are to become a mixed animal practitioner, participate in community outreach initiatives, and to eventually own my own clinic.



**Elias Laing**  
**Fort Nelson First Nation**

University of Calgary  
Master of Business Administration

I belong to Fort Nelson First Nation and have deep roots and connections to my Dene heritage on my mother's side. I am proud to have been raised in a traditional, family and community oriented environment. I believe that the time is now to further my education, seeing as I am young, healthy, and capable of attaining a higher level of education to achieve my hopes and dreams in this precise moment. My grandmother, a residential-school survivor, instilled in me the value of education and I pledge to never forget or disregard her valuable teachings.



**Erik Prytula**  
**Old Massett Village Council**

Thompson Rivers University  
Master of Science -  
Environmental Science

I am a member of the Haida Nation and am currently attending Thompson Rivers University for a Masters of Environmental Science. I hold a degree in Biology and a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Administration. I am a traditional Haida Artist and was a finalist nominee for Emerging Artist of Kamloops 2016 and 2017. I was mentored by master artist Reg Davidson, and work with argillite, cedar, and acrylic paint. I'm the lead designer in a business called Adamant Prints, where the goal is to produce inspirational clothing. I'm also a designer and model for Fashion Speaks International, which is a Fashion show that raises money for the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



**Evangeline Guerin**  
**Musqueam Indian Band**

Simon Fraser University  
Master of Arts - Linguistics of  
a First Nations Language

I was born on Vancouver Island and raised in Vancouver. I grew up with my grandparents, Helen Guerin & late Robert Guerin. I was surrounded by the hul'q'umi'num' language and cultural teaching growing up. When I was younger I attended our language classes because my grandparents and family members all shared teaching the language. Most of my grandparents spent their life doing research and teaching the language. I'm very passionate about the path I chose to take with the language. I'm Very grateful to be considered by the New Relationship Trust Foundation. hay ch q'a.



**Jaidin Wale**  
**Gitanmaax Band**

University of British Columbia  
Juris Doctor

My grandfather and my father's family are Lax Gibuu (Wolf) and my mother's side of the family is of European descent. I am the oldest child of four siblings, an adoring auntie, and a proud member of my nation's Gitxsan Women's Basketball Team. I am also a first year law student at the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. My dream is to use this legal training to benefit the Indigenous community here in Vancouver and my own community back at home. I further hope that my developing advocacy skills will be a useful tool to further reconciliation within the mixed Indigenous and settlor spaces where I live, study, and work.



**Melpatkwa Matthew**  
**Simpchw First Nation**

University of British Columbia  
Master of Arts - Geography

I am currently conducting research on Secwepemc and Indigenous water governance, environmental issues, language revitalization, and Secwepemc culture. My research focus is on Indigenous geographies and intergenerational transmission of water and cultural knowledges. My goal is to further Secwepemc water governance and to implement and inspire de-colonial approaches to taking care of water and formulating sustainable alternatives to colonial capitalist water governance and water systems. My career goals are to work as a Professor in Indigenous Geographies and to continue educating my people on water governance.



**Nakkita Trimble**  
**Gingolx Village Government**

Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Master of Fine Arts

My name is Nakkita Trimble. My Nisga'a name is Speaking Through Art. I am from Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda, The House that is Never Empty. I am Frog clan and maternally from Gingolx, British Columbia. Maternally I am Nisga'a. My great grandparents names are Rose (Gurney) and Christopher Trimble. My great grandparents were one of two of the last arranged marriages from my village. Currently my goals include completing my Masters with a focus on Indigenous Tattooing Practices of the Nisga'a Nation. My future goals include working toward my Doctorate with the same focus. I am doing this work for my Nation.



**Pawa Haiyupis**  
**Ahousaht First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Arts - Indigenous Nationhood

ułasiš pawatsqʷačił. I belong to the house of ɔlaakišpiił. I am finishing a Master's degree in Indigenous Nationhood at the University of Victoria, and my career goals are to help First Nations to rebuild their traditional systems of governance, encouraging more connections between people and their ancestral territory. Also, I am keen to develop land-based curricula with local knowledge keepers to heal from colonial trauma and educate our people, especially youth, in Indigenous values, teachings, languages, and ceremonies. Having deep ancestral roots grounds this work and guides us to echo the thriving social, economic and spiritual livelihood that our people had pre-Indian Act.



**Rae Anne (Claxton) Baker**  
**Tsawout First Nation**

Simon Fraser University  
Master of Arts - Linguistics of a First Nations Language

I was raised between Cowichan and Tsawout. I am currently working diligently to complete my Masters, studying the Linguistics of Hul'q'umi'num'. My goal is to become fluent and continue working to the best of my ability to contribute to language revitalization within our community. hay 'ul' 'uy' nu shqwaluwun kwunus 'i tatul'ut tthu hul'q'umi'num' sqwal. I am very happy to be learning the Hul'q'umi'num' language.



**Samantha Bray**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

University of Saskatchewan  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

My short term career goals are to be a small animal (dog and cat) veterinarian. Long term, my goals are to own a mobile veterinary clinic that can visit reserves and other northern communities to improve access to veterinary services. I hope to reduce the negative connotation that surrounds the treatment of animals on reserves. I am extremely grateful to have been chosen to receive scholarships from NRTF throughout my education in veterinary medicine. The debt to earning ratio in veterinary medicine is a huge burden to new veterinarians and thanks to NRTF that is not something I personally have to deal with and has made it easier to succeed in a tough program.



**Sarah Robinson**  
**Fort Nelson First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Juris Doctor

My name is Sarah Robinson, a proud citizen of the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Sauteau First Nation in Treaty 8 territory. I'm married into the Toquaht Nation on Vancouver Island, and I live in their small community of Macoah on the shores of Barkley Sound. I love to learn about Indigenous legal systems, and am passionate about ensuring that Indigenous peoples and Nations can navigate settler systems of law. I'm pursuing a law degree to better understand these complex systems, and to one day help others understand them too.



**Saul Brown**  
**Heiltsuk Nation**

University of Victoria  
Juris Doctor/Juris Indigenarum Doctor

He is a student of Heiltsuk Gvi'ilas (laws) and governance. As food sovereigntist, he sees the intrinsic value and necessity of giving effect to Heiltsuk laws out on the water and land. He has worked with elders on numerous files with the intent of breathing life into Heiltsuk ancestral law in the contemporary. Saul is the former negotiator for the Heiltsuk reconciliation process and has worked as governance advisor for First Nations across the province. He is immensely grateful for receiving this scholarship from New Relationship Trust as he continues his education in making the space for Indigenous legal systems to flourish within what is now known as Canada.



**Taylor Wale**  
**Gitanmaax Band**

University of British Columbia  
Master of Science

I am a Gitxsan salmon womxn and graduate student from the community of Gitanmaax. My future goals are to return to the Skeena River and again work alongside my community to protect and promote the health of our rivers and salmon, under our ancestral governance structures and protocols. In the meantime, I am working to complete my thesis, researching energy redistribution dynamics & selectivity of traits for Sockeye salmon in the context of Indigenous-led, known-stock terminal fisheries.



**Zoe Verlaan**  
**Spuzzum First Nation**

University of Victoria  
Master of Arts - Political Science

My name is Zoe Verlaan and I am a member of the Spuzzum First Nation. I am currently in the second year of my Masters program in Political Science. My thesis looks at the connections between Indigenous sovereignty, gender, and sexuality in written and oral artistic works by self-identified Indigenous women and LGBTQ2S people. My goal is to contribute to a healing process for our communities from the gendered and sexualized violence of settler colonialism while prioritizing decolonization and revitalization.

“I'm extremely grateful to NRT for supporting my educational goals. Their cultural understanding and support makes me want to be a better student and person, because I know that a team of people are cheering for me. Mussi (thank you), NRT!  
— Sarah Robinson





**Andrea Reid**  
Gingolx Village Government

Carleton University  
Doctor of Philosophy - Biology

I am a Nisga'a citizen (Village of Gingolx) and a PhD Candidate in Biology at the University of British Columbia and Carleton University. I completed both my BSc in Environment and my MSc in Biology at McGill University. I am passionate about finding sustainable solutions for our fish, and the rivers, lakes, and oceans that support them. My research blends ecological and social approaches to explore ways of improving how we treat and manage our vital but increasingly threatened Pacific salmon populations. I am also dedicated to youth outreach, and regularly lead salmon science camps and talks in my community. In January 2021, I will join the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries as an Assistant Professor and Chair of the new Indigenous Fisheries Research Unit.



**Eugenia (Gena) Edwards**  
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

Wilfred Laurier University  
Doctor of Philosophy

My name is Kwiks Ti7na I carry my great grandmother Celestine's name. I am a St'at'imc woman from Ts'kw'aylaxw. I am the great great granddaughter of Chief Thomas Adolph who signed the Lillooet deceleration of 1910. And the granddaughter of Grand Chief Victor Adolph Sr. who helped establish the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada now known as the Assembly of First Nations. I am also the great great granddaughter of Chief Edward Towspoolah the first recorded Chief of Ts'kw'aylaxw. My parents are Sharon & Eugene Edwards, my children are Darian and Taylor and my grandson is Towspoolah (Greyson). My fiancé is Medrick Azak. My goals are to implement different dispositions through Indigenous perspectives at all government levels pertaining to child welfare and environmental sustainability utilizing our own epistemology, ontology and pedagogy. We have existed for time immemorial within our own úcwalmicw systems and will continue.



**Corrina Sparrow**  
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia  
Doctor of Philosophy - Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice

I identify as a Two Spirit person, and have been a helper with Indigenous communities for the past twenty years. For my doctoral studies, I will build on work previously done with my relatives, to explore Coast Salish Two Spirit resilience as a means to inform cultural revitalization, community wellness, and alliance building with our LGBTQ+ friends. This nation-based Two Spirit research is the first of its kind, and will help inform program, policy and community development efforts in our relative Nations respectively.



**Jordan Wilson**  
Musqueam Indian Band

New York University  
Doctor of Philosophy - Sociocultural Anthropology

I am a curator, writer and emerging scholar from the Musqueam First Nation. For the past ten years I have been working in museum contexts, with the aim of institutional change and development of Indigenous curatorial methods. I'm interested in the legacies of anthropological practices, issues related to Indigenous representation, and Indigenous resistance to and refusals of settler colonialism. As a PhD student, I am pursuing these interests through the lens of Musqueam's revitalization of its ancestral language, hən̓čəmiḥə́. My work is informed by a commitment to the self-determination of Musqueam, and is inspired by the hard work of our ancestors and my extended family.



**Vina Brown**  
Heiltsuk Nation

University of Alaska  
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous Studies

Yau, my name is láqvas gí'wa which means Copper Canoe, I am from the Heiltsuk and Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations. My father Frank Brown is Heiltsuk and carries the name and chieftainship lálíyasila. It was our latest family potlatch that I had my name láqvas gí'wa affirmed within our most secret and sacred ceremony, the Caiqa, also known as the our red-cedar bark ceremony. I am my family's copper carrier; therefore, my name translates into English as Copper Canoe Woman. My mother Kathy Brown is Nuu-Chah-Nulth from the Ahousaht First Nation. I am a mother to a beautiful one-year-old son named Hongvi. I am a lover of Native culture, land, and water. I am an advocate for the continuation of Heiltsuk knowledge systems and food systems. My passions include beading, dancing, spending time with my family, and traveling. Walas Giasixa for listening.

“Receiving the support of the New Relationship Trust is an honour. It's gratifying to feel supported by an organization dedicated to the educational pursuits of BC First Nations students. Seeing my profile amongst others who are doing important work reinforces that we aren't alone in our educational journeys.  
— Jordan Wilson



“The NRT Foundation support allows me to fully focus on learning and fully immerse myself into my academics and community involvement. I am forever thankful to the NRT Foundation for supporting me.

—  
**Noah Chenoweth**  
Scholarship Recipient

*Bio on page 117*



“I am incredibly grateful to receive this award and it always helps me to relieve some financial stress at the beginning of each semester. Thank you so much for your support.”

— Tatyana Daniels

## SEEKING INDUSTRY SUPPORT

**Help us make a difference by supporting Indigenous education now.**

Your support will help an Indigenous student in BC to complete a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree. In addition, it will help the NRT Foundation to build an endowment fund that support Indigenous scholarships and bursaries for generations to come.

The NRT Foundation offers partners the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to building the capacity of BC Indigenous peoples. By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, every partner is realizing a student’s education goals, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and helping to create the skilled work force that will enable British Columbia to meet its future economic and social development needs. Each partnership is tailored to meet the needs of potential funding partners and BC Indigenous peoples.

The NRT Foundation is a registered Canadian charity. Charitable tax Receipts will be provided to donors in accordance with CRA guidelines.

### Empowering First Nations communities

Indigenous peoples have been historically disadvantaged at all levels of education attainment; investing in Indigenous education achieves a profound effect in addressing the following disparities:

**23%** gap in high school completion rates of Indigenous students compared to non-Indigenous Canadians.

**33.9%** of Indigenous people have some form of post-secondary compared to **54%** of non-Indigenous Canadians; and **\$2,000** less per capita is spent on First Nations primary & secondary education than the rest of BC.

## BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE

British Columbia is facing a growing skilled labour shortage; investing in Indigenous education builds a workforce that guarantees BC’s future economic prosperity.



With nearly half of the Indigenous population under the age of 25, it is estimated by the federal government that over 600,000 Indigenous youth will enter the labour market in the next 25 years



Higher education for Indigenous people leads to better chances of employment. Indigenous communities are in close proximity to an overwhelming majority of urban centres, towns, and rural work sites



Indigenous people are looking to organizations as a partner to improve education and employment outcomes in their communities.

### Find out what you can do to help make a difference today.

The NRT Foundation is seeking industry partnerships. If you are interested in setting up an award for your company, or for an Indigenous community that you do business with, please contact:

**Matt Cook-Contois**  
Partnerships & Marketing Manager  
at (604) 925-3338  
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

**New Relationship Trust Foundation is a registered Canadian charity.**



“I am a mother to a beautiful 10 year old girl. I am studying Chemical Addictions to help my community. Little did i know this course and school would save me and help me reconnect with my culture and identity.

—  
**Taya Rankin**  
 Bursary Recipient

*Bio on page 26*



**This brochure was designed by Kirsten Whitney, a New Relationship Trust Foundation Undergraduate Award Alumni.**

Kalhwa7alap Nsnekwnúkwa7 SKirsten nskwátsitsa T’it’q’etmeckan. (Hello, friends/relatives/people, my name is Kirsten I grew up in the T’it’q’et community which is adjacent to the town of Lillooet, BC. T’it’q’et is one of 11 communities that is part of the St’át’imc Nation. My traditional name is Qwezqwazíʔken (blue bird). I am from the Scotchman/Leech family on my mom’s side and the Smith family on my dad’s side from Samahquam.

I graduated in 2017 from Emily Carr University of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Design (BDes), majoring in Communication Design and a minor in Curatorial Practices. I am currently an in-house graphic designer at Science World, British Columbia. I am also a committee member of the newly developed Canadian Indigenous Design Charter which is a part of the Graphic Designers of Canada ([gdc.design](http://gdc.design)).

**GET IN TOUCH WITH KIRSTEN**

You can find my online portfolio at [krstndesign.com](http://krstndesign.com)  
[kirsten.7.whitney@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.7.whitney@gmail.com)



**The NRT Foundation firmly believes in providing opportunities for past and present students.**

Investing in Indigenous youth builds our communities and paves the way for a strong Indigenous future. Kirsten’s journey from an award recipient to our brochure designer highlights the NRT Foundation’s commitment towards Indigenous resurgence and we thank her for sharing her talents with us!



# NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST FOUNDATION

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