

Investing in our future



NEW
RELATIONSHIP
TRUST
FOUNDATION

**2020–2021
SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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 2020–21 Scholarship and Bursary Award Recipient Brochure. This yearly highlight allows us to honour and celebrate the educational success of each award recipient.

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 2020-21, we provided funding support for a record 321 students. This is the fourth year in which we have supported Métis students along with First Nations students who are from communities out-



Kory Wilson

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

side 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 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 donors, we continue to seek more partnerships.



Clifford White

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

This year, we welcomed the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund as a new partner. This partnership supported the NIB Trust – NRT Foundation Education awards as eighteen bursaries and twenty-nine new scholarships for well-deserving students. We are grateful for our returning partners: The 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 3,108 scholarships and bursaries totaling \$14.3 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 workforce 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 Indigenous 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.

3,108 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.

Together, with the support of Partners and Donors, the NRT Foundation has awarded a total of 1,617 Scholarships since its inception.

BURSARIES

Bursaries are available to all eligible Indigenous students who are enrolled in Certificate, Diploma, Associates Degrees, and 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 1,491 Bursaries since its 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 looking to fill positions with qualified employees.

To learn more about this opportunity and how to get involved, please contact Matt Cook-Contois, Senior Associate – Programs Specialist at (604) 925-3338 or 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
2020/21	138	133	35	15	-	321
TOTAL	1491	997	323	173	124	3,108



EDUCATION GRANTS DISBURSED

Since 2007, the NRT, NRT Foundation and Partners have distributed more than \$14.3 million to support the post-secondary education of Indigenous people in BC.

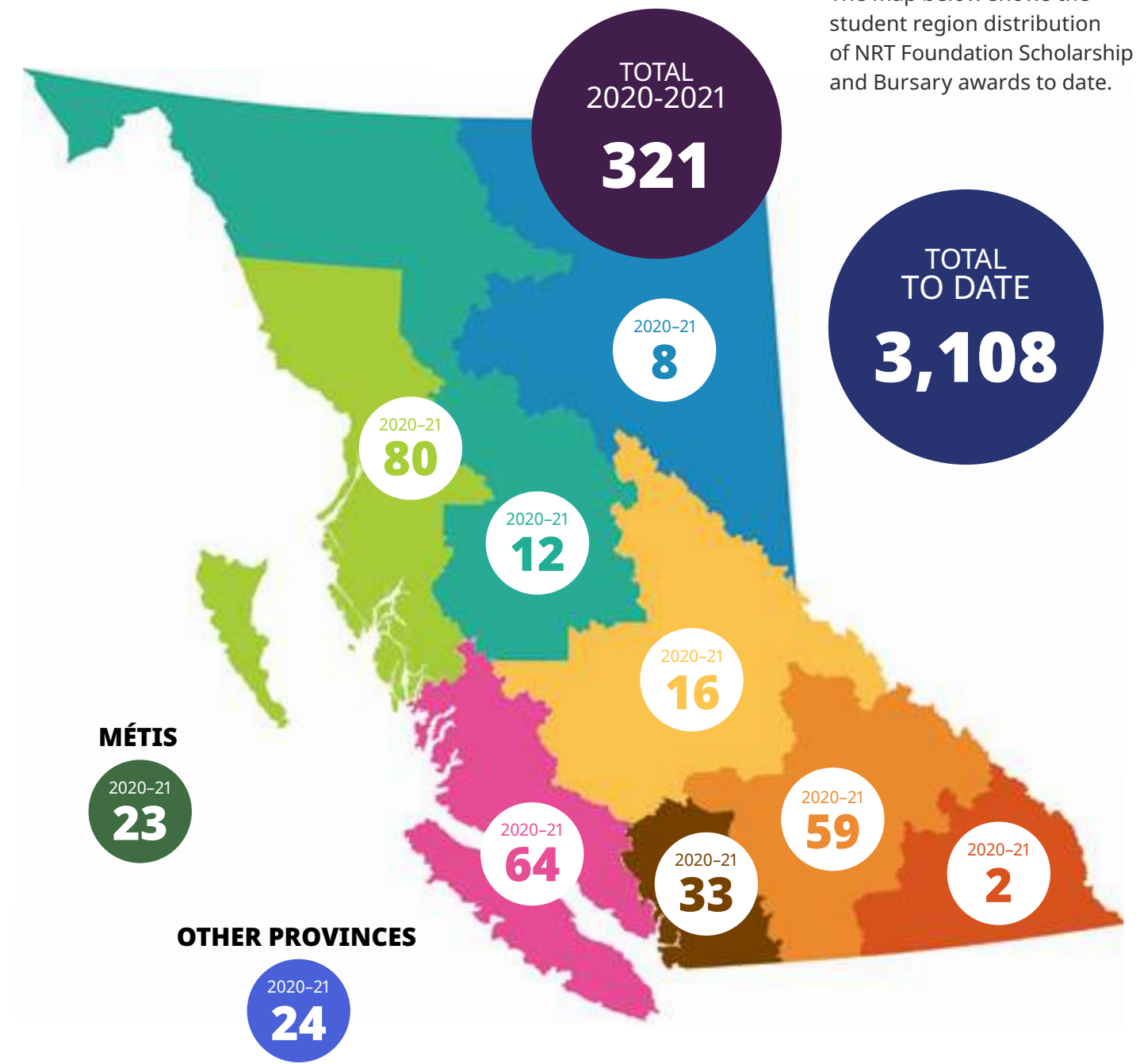
EDUCATION LEVERAGED

	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
2021/21	\$1,307,500
TOTAL	\$14,313,750

2020-2021

WHERE THE FUNDING GOES

The map below shows the student region distribution of NRT Foundation Scholarship and Bursary awards to date.



PARTNERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The contributions from our generous Partners allowed the NRT Foundation to support over 300 Indigenous students with Scholarships and Bursaries in 2020-21. Almost all Indigenous students face financial barriers while attending post-secondary school. 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, creating a skilled workforce that will enable BC to meet its future economic 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 across BC through the NRT Foundation Scholarship & Bursary program, please contact:

Matt Cook-Contois

Programs Specialist - Senior Associate
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 46.



“This opportunity was my original plan to execute in 2019, but I was blessed as a life-giver as of December 15, 2018, when I was informed I was pregnant. This did not deter me from my educational goals; if anything, my son has inspired me to become the best version of myself possible.

—
Maria Kruger
Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 21



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 64.



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 66.



Peace Hills Trust is Canada's largest and oldest First Nations owned federally regulated financial institution, driven by a vision to satisfy the unique financial needs of the Indigenous community. Founded with the objective of providing financial and trust services to First Nations across Canada.

PHT recipient bios begin on page 68.



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 71.



Since 2015, the NIB Trust Fund has been committed to supporting First Nations and Métis peoples, communities, organizations, groups, and individuals through financial resourcing to address the impacts of the Indian Residential Schools System and to support healing. The NIB Trust Fund manages the investment of the residual funds from the Indian Residential School Agreement and disburses capital and the earnings from these funds to improve the quality of life for First Nations and Métis people and communities. The NIB Trust Fund team is devoted to achieving our vision of today's youth and future generations being grounded in language, culture, and a way of life that fosters a strong identity and resiliency.

NIB Trust recipient bios begin on page 48.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is the first and only provincial health organization of our kind in Canada. Our mission is to transform the way health care is delivered to First Nations and Indigenous people in BC. We are working to reform health care through direct services and collaboration with provincial partners. We are governed by and serve First Nations individuals and communities in BC. Our talented teams value respect and foster lateral kindness in their working relationships. Our holistic approach to wellness, based on First Nations teachings, is incorporated into all aspects of our work culture.

The FNHA invites you to join us on a journey to wellness. We're looking for compassionate individuals like you to be a part of our innovative and multi-cultural team, a team that is bringing health and wellness to BC's First Nations populations.

We have partnered with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage and support First Nations individuals to pursue exciting and rewarding careers in healthcare through bursaries and scholarships for various training programs,

including programs that can be completed in under a year.

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

We recognize and celebrate the diversity of all BC First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and promote a work environment that models cultural safety and humility of every employee. When you work with the FNHA, you will truly make a difference in your life and for many others. Here, your work changes lives, starting with your own.

Want to know more? Visit us at fnha.ca/about/work-with-us

or email careers@fnha.ca



Alyssa Wale
Gitanmaax Band

College of New Caledonia
Dental Hygiene

Hello! I'm Alyssa and I am from Vanderhoof, BC. I belong to the Gitksan Nation and would like to start by thanking the New Relationship Trust for selecting my application, and for supporting my education. I am currently in the Dental Hygiene program at CNC in Prince George, BC and plan to graduate as a Dental Hygienist in 2022! I was drawn to this career as I really enjoy working with people and wanted a job where I could support myself and give back to my community at the same time. I am excited for this opportunity the Gitanmaax band and the New Relationship Trust has given me and am extremely grateful for their generosity.

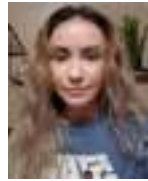


Anaysa Stevens
Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government

Camosun College
Associate of Arts

My name is Anaysa Stevens, I come from the Nisga'a, and the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations. I am very honoured to receive this bursary; living on Vancouver Island can be quite the challenge while attending school, although very worth it! My overall career goal is to contribute in making a difference in society, for the greater of the human race and our planet. I believe that there will be great change in the way society is run, and the way that we perceive life; I'm very grateful to be a part of our evolution.





Angela Smoliak
Okanagan Indian Band

Native Education College
Family and Community Counselling

I have a strong passion to help our people as I understand the on-going troubles we face. I had been wanting to take the Family & Community Counseling program for so long but OKIB lacked funding available for those who haven't been in school for a long time. For several years, I have had difficulties obtaining funding for my post-secondary education. Through a College prep course instructor at the NEC, I found out about NRT. I appreciate the First Nations Health Authority award. I really look forward to contributing to the creation of an effective health care system. I know this is what I am meant to do, and I appreciate everyone who has made this personal journey possible.



Angela Dueck
Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Vancouver Island University
Dental Assistant

I was adopted as a baby and grew up mainly in Vancouver, BC. My ex-husband and I travelled to the Northwest Territories in 2006 and loved it so much that we moved there two months after our first visit; we lived there for 7 years. While we were there, we were blessed to be able to adopt our son from the Dene Nation. We now live in Nanaimo, BC and I am currently enrolled in the Dental Assistant Certificate program at Vancouver Island University. Returning to school as a mature adult is challenging, but my goal is to provide a secure and happy upbringing for my son, Elwood. I would like to thank the NRTF and I truly appreciate this opportunity given to me.



Annette Nookemus
Ditidaht First Nation

Discovery Community College
Health Care Assistant

I took the Health Care Assistant program in 2020 because I think it's important to help and take care of our Elders. I am grateful for the opportunity to graduate from HCA this year especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This job gives me a lot of opportunities everywhere, and I have always enjoyed helping Elders. I am grateful to meet new Elders because they have a lot of interesting stories to share and also it's nice to just be able to sit with an elder and spend time with them. I have witnessed some elders who get lonely by themselves and all they ask is for some company without any questions asked. Thank you, I am grateful for this year because I will do good things with this job opportunity.



Ashley Jaeger
Gingolx Village Government

Vancouver College of Counsellor Training
Youth & Family Support Worker

I belong to the house of Axdii Will Lugooda and I am from the Frog Clan. I am the oldest of seven children. My Grandmother is Jean Fitzgerald (née Trimble). I plan to continue my education to obtain my degree in counselling. I want to focus my work on youth and the LGBTQ2S+ community while I am in my studies. I hope that by furthering my education I will be able to set a good example for my community. I would love to express my utmost gratitude to the First Nations Health Authority and the NRT Foundation! I am so grateful to have been chosen for this Bursary. This will truly help me continue my education! Thank you!



Brenna Joseph
Splatsin

Thompson Rivers University
Human Services

My name is Brenna Joseph. I am from Enderby, BC where I lived until until I was 18, before I moved to Kamloops, BC. I am currently attending Thompson Rivers University where I am currently in my first year of the Human Services Diploma. I have also previously completed two years towards my Bachelor of Arts degree. I hope to be able to someday use my education to create positive changes within First Nations communities.



Breya McChesney
Cowichan Tribes

University of the Fraser Valley
Social Service Worker

My name is Breya McChesney and I am from Cowichan Tribes in British Columbia. I am currently enrolled in the Social Services Diploma with an Indigenous focus and when I graduate I plan to work for Indigenous communities. My goals are to then obtain my Social Work degree and work in Corrections, my long-term goals would be to achieve my Master's in Social Work and open my own counselling practice. Thank you for this opportunity and thank you for your support.



Brittany Salmon
'Namgis First Nation

College of the Rockies
Recreation Management

My name is Brittany Joseph and I am from Alert Bay, BC. I am currently in my second year of my Recreation Management Diploma. I feel like recreation is an extremely important aspect of a holistic well-being and is so valuable to Indigenous youth. I am excited about being able to learn about recreation and eventually hold a position where I am a part of the recreation community.



Brooke Florence
Katzie First Nation

Douglas College
Academic Foundations

I went to school to be a Health Care Assistant at the end of 2013, and I've been helping the elderly ever since. I have since left a toxic relationship and moved back to Katzie in June 2019. I couldn't have done this without the continued support from my Dad. Ever since, I have set goals for myself such as exercising, eating healthier, attending counselling, and applying for Academic Foundations for Potential Nursing program at Douglas College. I was so happy when I received an acceptance letter! I cannot wait to become a Registered Nurse as I want to help and make a difference. I want to gain knowledge and experience at a hospital, and once I gain enough experience, I would love to help out my community as an RN. Life is better when you're laughing with the ones who matter the most to you. Dream big, set goals, and take action! Smile, stay strong and spread nothing but love and positivity.



Celestine Sampson
Stz'uminus First Nation

North Island College
Health Care Assistant

My name is Wushunitse' (Celestine Sampson), my roots are in Stz'uminus First Nation and Cowichan First Nation. I come from a culturally strong family and a proud mother of 3 with one on the way while pursuing my career. I have chosen to be a Health Care Assistant because I strongly believe in taking care of our Elders and have great respect for our Knowledge Keepers. My ultimate goal is to work with Elders in the community and provide positive experiences starting with caring for them in their own home. I cannot wait to begin my career as an HCA. Huy'ch'qu



Collette James
Skowkale First Nation

Stenberg College
Practical Nursing

My helq'emeylem name is Si'yam:telst. I was raised by my father in a single parent home as my mother struggled with alcohol, as a result of Residential School. I have had great passion for working as an HCA for 6 years. The past 5 years has not been an easy journey, the father of my daughter overdosed and nearly died. I became pregnant and I chose to go into Wilmas transition home. I now reside in Vancouver with the YWCA society with my twenty month old daughter who I raise alone. Currently, I am breaking the cycle so I can give my daughter a better life, I want her to have a fighting chance to be the person she chooses to be full heartedly. Not only will I have the opportunity to do what I love, but I will be able to provide my daughter with a better future in becoming a LPN.



Curtis Young-Mercer
Gitlaxt'aamiks
Village Government

Vancouver College of Massage Therapy
Registered Massage Therapy

I have a degree in Business Administration and 8+ years experience in the Business Consulting field. I truly believe that learning never ends; it is a constant journey. I am beyond thankful for the the opportunity to pursue my learning in the field of Massage Therapy at Vancouver College of Massage Therapy. After completion of this 20-month program I plan to return home with another skillset that will allow me to continue to help others not only in business, but with their health as well. The NRT Foundation and their Post-Secondary Award platform enables students to focus on their learning, rather than making ends meet. I would also like to encourage all those reading this, to continue to push yourself beyond your limits. You can do anything you put your mind to. The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.



Daniel Clark
Okanagan Indian Band

Okanagan College
Kinesiology

Hello, I'm Daniel Clark and I'm a member of the Okanagan Indian Band. I'm currently enrolled in the Kinesiology Diploma at Okanagan College and my long-term goal is to become a physical therapist. I'm passionate about how the human body functions and I have experience working in my community with helping people improve their health and fitness. I want to further my education so I can help people in reaching optimal body functioning and living healthier lives.



Janet Harry
Haisla Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Chemical Addictions Worker

I come from the Beaver Clan, and my traditional name is Pulxaneqs. I have finished the certificate for CHAD-Chemical Addictions Program at Nicola Valley Institute and I am now working on the Diploma for CHAD. I am aiming to finish all four years and obtain my Master's Degree. My husband James has his own Outreach Society that we are currently working to get up and running, a part of this for me is obtaining my Master's Degree and have a more indepth sight into fulfilling our vision.



Jasmine Montgomery Reid
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

Indigenous communities are experiencing a huge healthcare gap that is not being addressed, and my drive is specifically motivated to pave the way so isolated community members can feel safe and heard in their healthcare facilities. Also, with my last three years of work experience focusing on "Youth Outreach" with the Restorative Justice Program and the Bella Bella Community School, I have recognized the inequity of health services for Indigenous peoples. My goal and motivation is to become a Nurse Professional to make an impact on the health field with a holistic approach to wellness. This is my passion, and with acceptance to this program my long-term goals are becoming a reality.



Jeremy Weiss
Da'naxda'xw First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Social Services

Gila' kasla, my name Jeremy Weiss from Da' naxda' xw First Nation. I plan on working within the Indigenous community and focus in the area of addictions and helping others heal from them. I have just started my second year of studies, and I will graduate with my Diploma in 2021. I've overcome addictions as well, and hope that people may be inspired by my story to do the same.



Jessica Natrall
Squamish Nation

Native Education College
Family and Community Counselling

I am from North Vancouver, BC and from the Squamish and Selkirk First Nations. I am currently in the Family and Community Counselling Certificate Program at the Native Education Centre. After I complete the certificate program, I plan to continue on to the Family and Community Counselling Diploma Program. Upon my Diploma completion, my plan is to transfer into a Bachelor of Social Work program. I am passionate about helping our First Nations people.

“My goal and motivation is to become a Nurse Professional to make an impact on the health field with a holistic approach to wellness.

— Jasmine Montgomery Reid



Jodie Smith
Gitlaxt'aamiks
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
Social Service Worker

My name is Jodie Smith, I am a full-time student, mother, and wife. Born and raised in Prince Rupert, BC, a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation from the Village of New Aiyansh, I currently reside in Terrace, BC. I am enrolled in the Social Service Worker Certificate Program, and plan on furthering my education by continuing into the Social Service Worker Diploma program.



Joshua Joseph
'Namgis First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Health Care Assistant

Hello, my name is Joshua Joseph and I am a 'Namgis First Nations student. I am from Port McNeil, BC, and I was born and raised there. I am studying in the Healthcare Assistant program and plan to continue my education. My goal is to become a Counselor. My ambition is to help people, my history in my home town and family has given me tremendous experience and insight on helping others who have had similar treatment. My aim is change the world by helping out one person at a time. We all need a little help from time to time, especially during our current circumstances of 2020. Thank you and be safe.



Karen George
Cowichan Tribes

Somatic Experience Trauma Institute
Somatic Experience Counsellor

The Somatic Experience is a form of alternative therapy aimed at relieving the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and other mental and physical trauma-related health problems by focusing on the client's perceived body sensations (or somatic experiences). Once I complete the program, I will be able to integrate the Somatic Experience learning into my practice, as it weaves well with Art Therapy. I can apply this while working with First Nations communities, and the impact of historical trauma from Residential Schools and the intergenerational effects. I will be able to work with all ages of individuals, children up to Elders, providing one-on-one sessions or facilitating groups. Somatic Experience Counsellors are in high demand and there are only a few local SE counsellors on Vancouver Island, and none in Duncan. I am deeply honored and truly appreciate the support. Thank you.



Keisha Fletcher
High Bar First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Human Services

My name is Keisha Fletcher and I come from a small town called Clinton, BC. There is very few resources available in my small town and I have always strived to be able to bring mental health and addictions services to my small town especially for my band, High Bar.



Kennedy Louis
Okanagan Indian Band

Canadian National Institute of Health
Dental Hygiene

My name is Kennedy Louis and I am from the Okanagan Indian Band of Vernon, BC. I completed a degree in Human Kinetics at the University of British Columbia in Kelowna last year with the support of my family and my home community. I love to help people, and thoroughly enjoy learning the science behind all aspects of the human body and ways we can promote and maintain a healthy lifestyle. I have chosen to further my education in the healthcare field and return to school in Ottawa, Ontario to become a Registered Dental Hygienist. I hope to complete my program and work within my community and surrounding communities so that I can help in working towards closing the gap in Indigenous healthcare inequities and improve culturally appropriate accessibility for Indigenous populations.



Mallory Ritchie
Lil'wat Nation

Capilano University
Outdoor Recreation
Management Diploma

My name is Mallory Ritchie and I am from the Lil'wat nation in Mount Currie, BC. I am currently attending Capilano University in the Outdoor Recreation Management Program. My career goal is to be able to take First Nations youth out on the traditional territory to learn about the land.



Maria Kruger
Penticton Indian Band

Okanagan College
Certified Dental Assistant

My name is Maria Kruger, I am of Okanagan/Shuswap descent. I was born and raised in Penticton, BC. My parents are Abe and Elaine Kruger. Upon acceptance to the Certified Dental Assistant certificate program, I completed extra credits offered through Okanagan College. I previously took the Dental Reception Coordinator program through Vancouver Community College. This opportunity was my original plan to execute in 2019, but I was blessed as a life-giver as of December 15, 2018, when I was informed I was pregnant. This did not deter me from my educational goals; if anything, my son has inspired me to become the best version of myself possible. Therefore, I still enrolled at VCC knowing well I would be pregnant for the duration of the program. My son was 5 weeks early, having a premature baby was difficult, but completing my program with the help of my mother who was able to temporarily relocate was simply doing the impossible. The college personnel, ACCESS staff and my co-hort were beyond supportive. I decided to move back to the Okanagan for the time being, spending a year with my son was precious. I am grateful to have been accepted to the Okanagan College CDA program, and I plan to successfully complete this 10 month program to improve the quality of life for my family and I. Lim' Limpt



May Cooper
T'lesqox

Thompson Rivers University
Practical Nursing

My career goal is to finish my Practical Nursing program in Williams Lake at Thomson Rivers University. Once I have finished my program I would love to work with my Chilcotin people. I would also like to work with the Kamloops Indian Band at the Kamloops Hospital. What they are doing there is amazing, by providing a special room so we as First Nations people can have our sage and ceremonies for the sick. I want my people to have more options for health care. I want to give back to our Elders for what they have taught us growing up. I want to thank my family, my husband and 3 kids for being very patient, and my mom for all the support and for being by my side since I started my Education journey. I want to thank my band, Toosey Indian Band, and the Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Training Employment Centre. I want to thank NRT Foundation for giving me this amazing bursary fund to help my education journey. Thank you.



Megan Egan
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Douglas College
Child and Youth Care

Hello, my name is Megan Egan and I am from the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc band, but live I in Maple Ridge, BC. I am currently work as an Aboriginal Support Worker in a school. My career goal is to be an Aboriginal Child and Youth Counselor. I would like to give back to my community and help children in need, as well as educate them.



Nikki Adams
Lytton First Nations

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

Aww qu-n T'loo (Hello). I am Nikki Adams. I am from the Nlaka'pamux Territory, in BC. I am a proud mother of three young children. Currently, I am enrolled in the Nursing Program at Sprott Shaw College. My goal is to set a good example for my community and my family. I look forward to building my experience and to get out into the community to help others with their health and well being. quequeshschAmwh (Thank you). All my relations.



Norma Natrall
Squamish Nation

Native Education College
Family and Community Counselling

My name is Norma Natrall and I am from the Squamish Nation. I recently graduated from the Education Assistant program in March 2020, but due to COVID-19 it was hard to find a job. So I applied to the Family and Community Counselling Program. After my FCC program, my goal would be able to work in a school setting part-time, and to be working as a Outreach Youth Worker or a Community Support Worker part-time as well. I would prefer doing both roles within Indigenous communities to give back to Indigenous children and youth.



Percy Bechard
Gingolx Village Government

MacEwan University
Social Work

Hello, I'm Percy Bechard and currently working on my first-year Social Work program at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta. I have served with the Canadian Armed Forces completing three tours overseas working alongside with the locals who lived in poverty. I have also worked as a Correctional Peace Officer and did front line service for several years just before attending university. I want to fulfill my social work goals and provide a positive outlook for Aboriginal peoples.



Randi Russell (Dudoward)
Lax Kw'alaams Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Chemical Addictions Worker

I'd like to start by thanking community sponsors for making this possible, N'tooyaxsn NRT, FNHA and Tricorp for your ongoing support and commitment to educational & career growth. I come from the Ts'msyen Nation and reside in Lax Kxeen (Prince Rupert) where I was born and raised. I come from the communities of Lax Kw'alaams (Place of Wild Roses) and Lach Klan (Kitkatla), and my crest is Ganhada. I feel a great sense of respect and pride for where I come from and am passionate about Indigenous wellness and advocacy. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my personal and professional growth through studying and focusing on Indigenous wellness. I am currently studying Chemical Addictions Certificate offered through NVIT and CTC. I'm looking forward to providing experience and support to the community.



Santana Cabral
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

Kelowna College of
Professional Counselling
Applied Psychology and Counselling

I am enrolled in the Kelowna College of Professional Counselling, taking their Diploma of Applied Psychology and Counselling Program with Specialization in Counselling. I am incredibly grateful and excited to be on this learning journey, as I know it will give me the knowledge and tools needed to make a real impact within my community. Upon graduation and my practicum, I plan to work with First Nations communities to provide a safe space to learn, heal and grow. Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity and the support in my educational goals. I cannot wait to see what lies ahead for me on my educational and life journey.



Sarah Humchitt
Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Capilano University
Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma

Yau, My name is Sarah Humchitt and I come from the Heiltsuk territory of Bella Bella, BC. I am a current student in a Rehabilitation Assistant program at Capilano University, and will finish the program in December 2020. My intention is to continue my education through to a Kinesiology program and onwards towards a career in Occupational Therapy with an interest in mental health services. I hope to one day work in rural Indigenous communities to provide therapeutic rehabilitative services close to home. Ġáxsiġa New Relationship Trust Foundation for their support!



Shaelan Willson
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Access to Practical Nursing

Hello, my name is Shae! I am an 18 year old from the Lower Nicola Indian Band. I am currently taking my first year of the Access to Practical Nursing at NVIT. I graduated high school a year early and jumped right into my journey of finding a career in the health care industry. I completed my Health Care Assistance last year and found that being in this field is my passion. I love being able to help others. I am not sure where my journey will take me, but for now I am truly enjoying the one I am on. I thank NRTF and LNIB for the support which allows me to further my education to be an LPN.



Sherry Hance
Tl'etinqox Government

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Indigenous Human Services

Sid Sherry Hance sets'edinh. My name is Sherry Hance. I am a proud Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) from Tl'etinqox T'in (Anaham) reserve. I am in the Indigenous Human Service (IHMS) Diploma at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). I will be graduating with my IHMS Diploma in April 2021. I am an aspiring Social Worker so I will be applying for the Bachelor of Social Work Program at NVIT. I am particularly interested in the social justice aspect of Social Work. I would like to become an advocate for Indigenous individuals, families, communities, and any other person facing inequalities. I would like to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and healing into my practice. Sechanalyagh (thank you).



Tahia Adams-Wilson
Metlakatla First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Social Services

Hello, my name is Tahia Adams-Wilson and I am from Prince Rupert, BC. Currently I am enrolled for my second year in the Social Services Diploma Program at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, BC. After I receive my diploma in April 2021, I will be applying for my Bachelor Degree in Social Work. From then on I will be working towards forming a career in working with Indigenous communities. I very much look forward to this exciting and challenging career path.



Tiarra Sterling
Lower Nicola Indian Band

College of the Rockies
Practical Nursing

My name is Tiarra Sterling and I am from the Nlaka'pamux Nation, which is in a small town in the South Central Interior (Merritt). I am in my first year of the Licensed Practical Nursing program at College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, BC. My end goal is to finish the LPN program, gain some experience, then go back to school to become a Registered Nurse and specialize as a Pediatric nurse. I want to return back home to work in my community and set a good example for my family.



Teira Joseph
Splatsin

Thompson Rivers University
Human Services

Hello, My name is Teira Joseph. I am from the Splatsin First Nation in Enderby, BC. I am currently taking the Human Service Diploma at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops BC. My long term goal is to obtain my Bachelor of Social Work and work with Indigenous families. Growing up on reserve, I have seen the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, this is one the reasons I have decided to pursue social work. I could not do this without the support from my band, friends and most importantly, my family.

“My long term goal is to obtain my Bachelor of Social Work and work with Indigenous families. Growing up on reserve, I have seen the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, this is one the reasons I have decided to pursue social work.”

— Teira Joseph



Tiffany Jaeger
Gingolx Village Government

Okanagan College
Associate of Arts - Psychology

My name is Tiffany Jaeger and I am from Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda, The House that is Never Empty, and the Ganada clan from the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx, BC. I am in my last year of my Associate of Arts degree with focuses in Psychology and Social Work. I will be moving on to my Bachelor of Social Work next fall, and it is my goal to move on to my Master's of Social Work following that. Choosing to pursue an education of Social Work has always felt like a natural transition to the next step in my life. I am passionate about social issues and want to be part of the solution to prevention, as well as a part of the healing journey for the deep rooted issues that are embedded into society and within my community.



Whitney Blackwater
Kispiox Band Council

Coast Mountain College
Access to Practical Nursing

I am Whitney Blackwater and I grew up in Kispiox, BC. Everything I have earned in my life I had to struggle to achieve. I had no guidance while growing up in Kispiox. It was the lack of support that drove me hard to become the person I am today. I enjoy helping others, knowing how someone people have no one. Nursing is my passion.

“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



Adrian Van de Mosselaer
Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Adrian, I am from Kelowna, BC and I am very excited to be pursuing a career as a Registered Nurse. I hope to one day work within First Nations communities, and eventually I see myself furthering my education into a specialization.



Aimee Tresierra
Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I am in my 4th and final semester of Nursing at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. My journey through these years have not been easy, struggling to be a stand up student while starting a family at the same time. I now have two beautiful girls age 1 and 3 who inspire me every day to be the best person that I can be. I chose nursing to not only help others but to be able to support Northern communities and underserved communities, especially areas that are more rural. I want to thank NRTF for supporting me through my endeavours, by providing me and my family with financial support which has allowed me to spend more time with my little girls as well as more time to focus on my studies.



Amanda Berry
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

I am proud to be able to go to school and shift education to a positive light for my family. My goal when I have finished my degree is to work with youth in an Indigenous wellness/counselling position and then ultimately go on for my Master's of Social Work. The adjustment has been extremely hard for me as a struggling learner and as a middle-aged woman. However, going back to school at 41 has pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to grow, not just as a mother, wife but as an individual. This program has allowed me to become closer to my language, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing. I look at the world with a richer Indigenous lens. I want to thank you again with assisting in furthering my education and investing in mine and my children's future. néxʷm kʷukʷscéyp ʔes kncémxʷ (thank you very much, for helping me).



Anna Brown
Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

My traditional name is Thuxvma axa (Frozen Rain Falling). My English name is Anna Nicole Brown. I am finishing off my third year in Social Work. I aim to complete my Bachelor's degree and then continue on to get my Master's in Social Work. I am from the Heiltsuk Nation but also have Thompson Sto'lo and Scottish ancestry, which I am very much proud of. I have 4 beautiful children who are my reason for achieving a higher education. I aspire to be not only a good role model for them but for the future generations.



Caleb Lawlor
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My pursuit of nursing stems from my passion to advocate for marginalized populations both domestically and abroad. Thus, I see working for non-government organizations or becoming a member of the Canadian military very realistic career options for myself. I want to uphold the mandate of “accessibility” to healthcare as defined as a requisite of universal healthcare in the Canada Health Act. Because of my aspirations, my pursuit of higher education and the expenses I will need to incur will undoubtedly not end here. Thus, I want extend my sincerest, “Thank you”, to the New Relationship Trust Foundation and the First Nations Health Authority for your generous support as it is tremendously helpful to me in the pursuit of my personal and academic endeavours.



Caroline Thompson
Tseshaht First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts - Child & Youth Care

I am the second oldest of eight children. I am a single mom of two wonderful sons. I am registered under the Tseshaht First Nation. I have roots from Nuuchahnulth and Haida Gwaii as well. I am in my fourth year of the Child & Youth Care degree program at VIU on Vancouver Island. I feel very fortunate to be a recipient of a scholarship from NRTF. Being a full time student is very tough work, and I know it will be rewarding once I completed my educational goals. kleco kleco!



Darlynda Jack
Ulkatcho First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Darlynda Jack and I am a mother of four. I am graduating this year with my Bachelor of Social Work and I am so grateful for all of NRTF’s help. I plan to continue on with my education. I have been thinking of attending Law School due to the amount of injustices that Indigenous people encounter. I am a huge advocate for change within the Canadian justice system and anything related to Indigenous issues. Therefore, education can only help us in this battle to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples for the years to come.



Elainah Andrew
Lilwat Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Dental Science

Hi I’m Elainah, I am currently in my fourth and final year of my Bachelor degree in Dental Science at UBC. My current goals are to eventually return to school to become a DMD or to receive my Master’s Degree. I would really like to thank everyone at New Relationship Trust for supporting me throughout my last four years, I would not be where I am today without your generosity.



Emma deWit
Witset First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Eddie and I am a Wet’suwet’en two-spirit person who currently studying to become a Registered Nurse. My career goal is to work in rural Indigenous communities as a Nurse Practitioner one day. It is crucial in my practice to care in an anti-racist and culturally safe way. Social justice has been a big part of my practice. Nurses have the opportunity to advocate for our patients and for systemic change. My hope for the future is that I can advocate in a good way to make healthcare accessible and safe for all people.



Erin Gustafson
Gitanmaax Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Hello, my name is Erin Gustafson, and I was born and raised in Kamloops, BC. I have worked as a Community Health Worker for the past twelve years, but I have always had nursing as my ultimate goal. Working within my community is a life-changing and rewarding experience that has inspired me to pursue nursing. I want to continue my nursing education with a focus on community nursing and Indigenous health.



Hailey Josephson
Snuneymuxw First Nation

University of Alberta
Bachelor of Science - Dietetics

Hello! My name is Hailey Josephson. I was born and raised on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, BC and am a proud member of Snuneymuxw First Nation. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor of Science degree, with specialization in Dietetics. I am working towards my career goal of becoming a sports Dietitian. Being able to combine my love for food with my passion for sports is something that I feel extremely thankful for.



Hiliary Willis
Ulkatcho First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

Hello, my name is Hiliary. I am a First Nation woman from Ulkatcho First Nations, a wife, and mother of two young children (3 and 6 years old). I am in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. After completing the BSW program I would like to work with Indigenous children, youth, and families in an advocacy role and then move on to completing my Master’s of Social Work.



Jacqueline Hamill
Lax Kw'alaams Band

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Health Sciences

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Hamill and I am from the Tsimshian Nation. I'm currently in my final year at Simon Fraser University, working towards my Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences. I have a strong passion for maternal health care, and I'm excited to pursue a career focused on working with Indigenous mothers, families and their beautiful babies.



Jaden Stefanyk
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Social Work

I am a mother to Isabella and am a proud member of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc community. I identify as female/her/she. I am a woman trying to better my life through obtaining a Bachelor of Social Work so that I may fulfill my calling to help my community to live a healthy life. I have always been passionate about supporting individuals, building their self-esteem and self-efficacy, and I take pride and honour in serving the community. I especially have a desire to support individuals who experience the mental health and substance use disorders. After graduating from the Bachelor of Social Work program I plan on gaining employment at a delegated Aboriginal agency. It is my dream to commence and facilitate group counselling within a delegated agency to support individuals who have experienced intergenerational trauma as a result of the Residential School systems. It is necessary to recognize and challenge the complex social, historical, economic and legislative issues that contribute to the oppression of Indigenous people.



Jordan Kapalka
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts - Humanities

My name is Jordan Kapalka and I am a member of the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Victoria, where I am taking Foundations in Health Studies courses. My goal is to get my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and pursue a career as a Registered Nurse. I have always had a passion for helping people, and have wanted to be a nurse for as long as I can remember. I hope that with this career I will be able to give back to my community and be a positive role model.



Jordan Hunt
Kwakiutl Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Social Work

I am 37 years of age, and have 3 children with my partner of 15 years, who is working on her PhD in Language Revitalization. As we are of Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry, we are learning as a family our traditional language of Kwakwala. After completing my Bachelor's degree, we plan on moving back to our unceded traditional territory of the Kwakiutl located on northern Vancouver Island. I look forward to completing the decolonization of my mind, body, and spirit through daily ceremony, language, and gratitude. After completing my degree, I plan on working with healing methods and ceremony involving water, creative expression, movement, quiet and contemplation, fellow creatures and mother earth as outlined in decolonizing social work by Indigenous academics across Turtle Island.



Joshua Houghton
Squamish Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

I'm a single father and my son motivates me to pursue my education to further develop my skills and experience. Currently I'm enrolled in the Child Youth in Care program at the University of Victoria. I want to pursue social work to improve the lives and services of Indigenous youth. This Scholarship from First Nations Health Authority and the New Relationship Trust allows me to continue my education and advocate to improve the health and wellbeing of the youth in Indigenous communities. It allows me to focus on my studies without having the financial stress of post secondary. It improves the life of myself and my family.



Josie Duncan
Xat'sùll First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Midwifery

Ey swaye! I was born in East London, South Africa to Canadian parents and moved to Canada at three years of age. I am currently thriving in my first year of the Bachelor of Midwifery Program at UBC. Hopefully, after graduation in 2024, I will be on the road to establishing my own practice that is able to serve a multitude of surrounding rural areas with midwifery care. Growing up in a small town of 250 people called Lac La Hache, BC made me realize how needed community-centered care is and that I want to make it a focus in my future career. I want to extend immense gratitude to the NRT Foundation for the generous award that will make a tremendous difference in my studies.



Julian Stokes
Old Massett Village Council

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Health Sciences - Honours

Though I have always intended to become a doctor, it was only recently that I also discovered a similar passion for health science research. I am in the final year of my Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours program at the University of Northern British Columbia, after which my long-term goal is to become a neurologist and clinical researcher working in rural and medically underserved communities in Northern BC. I see this as a way of giving back to the community in which I was raised, and I hope to serve as a role model for those with similar aspirations.



Julianne Daniels
Stz'uminus First Nation

Camosun College
Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership

ÍY SŁÁĆEL! Good day! My name is Julie Daniels and I'm from Stzu'minus First Nations. However, I currently reside in W SÁNEĆ with my family. I'm in my final year of the Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership Program at Camosun College. My goal is to be a certified Clinical Exercise Physiologist. I also have a desire to work in a sports organization, or within communities to create meaningful programs that encourage physical activity and health for all ages and abilities. I'm pleased to receive this award and would like to express my gratitude to the NRT Foundation and the First Nations Health Authority as this award will help me in my final year of my Bachelor Program.



Katia Haslam
Penelakut Tribe

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Midwifery

I was raised on Tsartlip lands on Vancouver Island. I am in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia working towards my Bachelor in Midwifery. I am in my 3rd year and currently practicing in Penticton, BC. I am a mom to a wonderful 18 month old girl named Kismet. I am extremely passionate about Maternity care and one day hope to be able to create more access to Midwifery care in rural towns. I came to the path of Midwifery because I admired how my mother radiated strength and pride when she talked about the births of her three kids. However, there are pieces of her birth stories, of her care in particular, that have always struck me the wrong way. This had me simply dreaming that I would one day have and be able to offer maternity care that was supportive and individualized. As I am in my placement, working with real people, I am constantly reminded how truly individualized care needs to be. The transition that is pregnancy, birth, and postpartum is extremely complex and powerful. I want to be a care provider who never loses sight of that and holds space for people appropriately.



Keisha Charnley
Katzie First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Midwifery

My name is Keisha Amanda Charnley and I am from the Katzie First Nation and Blackburn, Lancashire, England. I am a grateful guest and relative on unceded x̣ṃəθḳəỵəm, Sḳẉx̣ wú7mesh, and sə́ḷḷẉəta? territories. I come from birth workers. In my family and community, aunties, helpers, and healers have carried the sacred teachings about how to lift up pregnant people and families to support the ceremony of bringing new life into the world. My great-grandmother, family, Elders and ancestors have been doing this work since time immemorial, and have left teachings throughout our territories that I am slowly picking up on my journey to becoming a midwife. I wish to continue their work and honour them through the care that I offer to my community to the best of my ability. I am now in my final year of the UBC midwifery program and plan to practice in my community as a midwife and birth worker.



Kathryn Ignace
Skeetchestn Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Weyk-tp, my name is Kathryn Xyemetkwe Ignace and I am a young Indigenous woman of Secwépemc ancestry. I was raised in the Skeetchestn community and I am proud of my Secwépemc culture and heritage, which my parents and Elders have shared with me throughout my upbringing. I am currently in my second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Thompson Rivers University. I decided to enter this field of work due to my passion for helping, caring for, and healing people through holistic means. Additionally, I decided to enter this field so that I may advocate for Indigenous populations and address the health inequities and social injustices that exist.



Kennedy Jones
Skidegate Band Council

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I plan on graduating from my nursing program and continuing on to get my Master's as a Nurse Practitioner specializing in pediatrics or urgent care. I will always consider Haida Gwaii as my home and I plan on moving back and working as a Nurse Practitioner once I graduate. One of the biggest reasons for my success is having my friends and family constantly supporting me back at home. Being an Indigenous woman, I am proud to represent my community and I continue to thrive due to all of the Indigenous role models who inspire me and encourage me through my journey to becoming a healthcare provider!



Kirsten Caley
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Kirsten Caley, and I am a 19-year-old nursing student from Campbell River, BC. I am studying at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in Kelowna, BC to become a nurse. I enjoy playing rugby and played for the UBCO Women's Heat team last year. I hope to become a nurse and work in maternity care when I graduate with my degree. I'd like to thank the New Relationship Trust Foundation and their sponsors for giving Aboriginal students like me the opportunity to further their education.



Kristen Clair
Quatsino First Nation

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Kristen Clair and I come from the strong Indigenous roots of the Kwakwaka'wakw people on the northern end of Vancouver Island. Growing up, I was able to embrace my culture and educate myself about the importance of an Indigenous community and how I can help with the regrowth of our culture as a youth. I am currently in my second year of nursing school at Camosun College to become a Registered Nurse and graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am focused on incorporating Indigenous views and medicine into my practice and educate others on the history and reconciliation of Indigenous people.



Kristina Bray
Stellat'en First Nation

University of Saskatchewan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Kristina Bray and I am a member of Stellat'en First Nation. I am currently living in Saskatoon, and I am in my fourth year of nursing! I chose to pursue nursing because I have a passion for helping and caring for people and I have a goal to make hospitals and other health care organizations a safe space for Indigenous people across Canada.



Mark Connelly
Seabird Island Band

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Social Work

In my earlier life, I grew up in two households with my mother and father being separated. I attended 7 different elementary schools and 2 high schools as I had to attend schools that were close to my mother's house. Growing up surrounded by Sixties Scoop and Residential School Survivors who had not learned their own coping and parenting skills, my childhood was tumultuous to say the least. These experiences taught me resilience and perseverance. Travelling to places such as New York, Belgium, Budapest, Vietnam, Las Vegas, San Fransisco, London, and many amazing cities around the world for work in the food and beverage tours. The most outstanding experiences were with the individuals I had to opportunity to work, live and grow with to make it deeply impactful on my work and life experience. I bring unmatched resilience and experience into my future role as a Social Worker. Life has prepared me to give back to those in our communities as a true advocate for my future clients.

“In this time of the pandemic, I think my area of expertise may lean toward genetics and immunology.
— Mary Mearns



Mary Mearns
Musqueam Indian Band

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Science

My name is Mary Mearns and I am a proud member of the Musqueam Band. I am a third year student at Simon Fraser University, located in Vancouver, BC. I am taking Molecular Biology and Biochemistry courses this year. I will complete a Bachelor of Science, which I hope will lead to a career in the health field and possibly medical research. In this time of the pandemic, I think my area of expertise may lean toward genetics and immunology.



Mary Angus
Laxgalts'ap Village Government

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Mary Angus, I come from the community of Gitwinksihlkw. I am an 18 year old second year student at the university of British Columbia Okanagan. I am studying my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. My goal after I become a nurse is to further my education, and go to medical school to become a doctor. I plan on using my degree to work with Aboriginal Peoples in remote locations who need more health care workers.



Paige Coutlee
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Paige Coutlee and I am currently studying in my third year of the BScN Program in Kamloops, BC. After graduation, as an RN I would like to specialize in mental health nursing. A primary reason as to why this caught my attention is due to the fact that it affects everybody. Although more specifically, the impact of colonization and the inter-generational trauma that those with Aboriginal heritage live with everyday is a huge area of interest for me. My goal is to work intimately within communities rather than working in hospital settings. By working in intimate environments with community members I will be able to facilitate strong, holistic and therapeutic relationships, which is a crucial component in caring for those with mental health challenges. I believe that mental health is an area of health that is often overlooked, and I would like to be a part of the change in eliminating that stigma. Although society has come a long way in accepting and supporting mental health issues, there is still much room for improvement on an international scale. Mental health care is increasingly available for all varieties of social groups, but I would like to see more affordable and easily accessible support, specifically for those of lower socioeconomic status and for people of colour. I am honoured to have the opportunity to help make a difference in this area of health and a career involved in the movement of ending stigmas is one that I'm excited to embark on.



Quinn Van de Mosselaer
Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I live in Kelowna, BC and attend the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The medical field is what interests me to which I am pursuing an education in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I plan on providing healthcare to First Nation communities and becoming a travelling nurse.



Ragina Charlie
Penelakut Tribe

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Social Work

Uy' Skweyul (Good Day). My traditional name is Lustunaat, I am a proud member of Penelakut Tribe. My future goal is to get into the Master's of Indigenous Social Work program at the University of Victoria. My reasons for pursuing a career in the helping profession is my own life experiences. I didn't have an easy upbringing and my family often struggled. Throughout my own struggles, there were notable people that I remember who gave me their support and helped me through my struggles. My goal is to become one of those people. I want to walk alongside those who need a helping hand. I hope to work from a strengths based perspective to instill resilience for Indigenous people and communities. My professional goal is to do this as a Family and Youth Counsellor within a Indigenous agency or community. I am truly grateful for the support that New Relationship Trust has given me. The support has lifted a tremendous amount of stress of my shoulders and has allowed me to focus on my studies. Huy ch q'u.



Richard Johnson
Wuikinuxv Nation

Dalhousie University
 Bachelor of Science - Medical Sciences

Yau (Greetings), my name is Richard Johnson and I am a member of the Wuikinuxv Nation, in Rivers Inlet, BC. I am in the process of completing a degree in Medical Sciences with a minor in Indigenous studies with the goal of going to medical school for cardiac surgery. I am also interested in how western medicine interacts with Indigenous philosophies and how that interaction can be improved to address all the needs of Indigenous peoples. Gianakaci (Thank You).



Savanna Sandy
Williams Lake First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Savanna Sandy. I am a Secwépemc mother of one, and member of the Williams Lake First Nations Band. I aspire to work with First Nations people who are dealing with the challenges of colonization. Being an urban Indigenous person raised in the Lower Mainland, I understand the challenges that come with being an Indigenous woman in a highly diverse environment. Following my education I would like to contribute my knowledge and skills working in poverty reduction and mental health services that cater to Urban Indigenous people. Thank you for selecting me for this award!



Shannon Munro
Wei Wai Kum First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
 Bachelor of Health Science

I chose a career in the healthcare field because I am a compassionate person who thrives in situations where I am helping other people and working towards improving the population as a whole. I feel as though the Bachelor of Health Science program that I am taking will help me acquire the knowledge and skills required to achieve all of my career goals and flourish in a positive work environment, where I can leave a lasting legacy. I truly appreciate the NRTF and the financial support that they have generously provided to help me through my studies. Thank you very much.



Sherry McKinnon
Witset First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Sherry McKinnon, I am a fourth-year student at the University of British Columbia (UNBC) studying in the Bachelor of Social Work Program specializing in Child Welfare. I am from the community of Witset. A mother of 4 beautiful children, a lucky and spoiled wife of 21 years, and the eldest daughter of 5 born to supportive parents. Born into the Wet'suwet'en nation and raised in the Bulkley Valley. I am an active member of the Laksilyu (Small Frog) clan within our traditional system. My career goals will always be geared to better the lives of Indigenous people, as a soon to be BSW graduate I am excited to see where my journey takes me.



Shyanna Sawyer
Skidegate Band Council

University of Victoria
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I am a part of the Naa Yuuwans Xaaydaga (Big House People) Eagle clan of Haida Gwaii. I am in my fourth year of nursing school at the University of Victoria. Spring of 2021 will be completing my final placement at our local hospital in Daajing Giids. My short term career goals are mostly centered around becoming a Registered Nurse and working in my community for a few years. In the future, I hope to get my Master's degree and become a Nurse Practitioner focusing on women's health and well-being from an Indigenous perspective. I hope to spend my life as a nurse working for and with my community through different health initiatives and programs.



Stevie Hunt
Kwakiutl Band Council

North Island College
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My long term goal is to become a nurse practitioner but, I intend to focus on opportunities for social justice and advocacy during my journey. I have a passion for mental health and addictions that stem from my own experience. Fulfilling this dream of becoming a nurse allows me to be a positive role model and show my community that you can break the cycles of intergenerational trauma and there is always time for change. I have a two year old son who motivates me in many ways and reminds me to not take life so seriously - even in a rigorous 4 year program such as this one!

“This journey has been very long but I am so grateful for organizations like the New Relationship Trust Foundation that provide a helping hand for Indigenous, Métis and Inuit students all across the country. I'd like to take this time to say thank you to all of the generous sponsors for making these bursaries and scholarships possible.

— Shyanna Sawyer



Tammy Price
Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
 Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Tammy Price; my lineage is Heiltsuk and Haida Nation, and I am a proud mom of four children. Our family enjoys spending quality time together and learning about our “way of life” and gaining continued knowledge of our culture from family and elders. I am a full-time student at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Social Work program and will be obtaining my degree in April 2021. Throughout my years of working with many Indigenous organizations, they have all influenced my decision to pursue my social services career. I look forward to gaining more knowledge, skills, and experience to practice social work with Indigenous families, communities, and organizations. After completing my degree, I plan to pursue my Master's in Social Work, then return to my traditional territory to work with our governance and members to create culturally safe, healthy, and empowering programs for children and families.



Taylor Peterson
Tahltan Central Government

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Taylor Peterson. I identify with the Eth'eni Family and Chiyone Clan in the Tahltan Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of British Columbia. I developed a passion for medicine, traveling and the overall well-being of those around me in my younger years. I decided to take these passions and pursue a career as a Registered Nurse. One day, I would like to explore new avenues of the world through travel nursing, as well as working in my traditional territory while inspiring and motivating the younger generations of Tahltans to pursue an education like I did. I would like to thank my friends and family for helping throughout this endeavour.



Victoria Alfred
'Namgis First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I am Victoria Alfred from Alert Bay, BC and the 'Namgis First Nation. I am beginning my journey studying in the Registered Nursing (RN) program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. I have a background in the health care field as a Primary Care Paramedic and this new training is an expansion of my education to allow for a more extended role in the patient care continuum. I have a 10-year education plan following my RN program. I wish to focus on two specialization areas (Emergency Room and Critical Care); the 10 years is to allow for time to practice and engage in the specialization field. My long-term goal is to complete this training and practice in a high-volume hospital to allow for nurturing of my skills and expertise. Eventually I would love to return home to Alert Bay, BC. I want to return as a highly trained nurse to impact the health of my community and to act as a mentor. Thank you!



Adelena Leon
Sts'Ailes

University of British Columbia
Master of Occupational Therapy

The people around me have contributed the most towards my path to occupational therapy. Even through life changing challenges, people are resilient. Seeing the varied types of support that occupational therapists provide to help their clients regain independence, improve self-care, and increase overall quality of life has contributed to me pursuing this profession. The holistic and client-centered approach in occupational therapy has often reminded me of my Indigenous values as well. Occupational therapy has a unique role in helping people navigating recovery in partnership with other health-care providers, at the same time focusing on the individual themselves. I hope to contribute some of my Indigenous experience into both clinical care and possible future research to enrich this collaborative approach.



Brittany Mullin
Upper Similkameen
Indian Band

University of Victoria
Master of Public Health

My name is Britt. I grew up in Nanoose Bay, and have lived in various communities on Vancouver Island for most of my life. I am a registered Dental Hygienist pursuing a Master's of Public Health. My passion is helping others live their best lives through advocating for balance across all domains of personal health and development of strong, vibrant and healthy communities.



Alanah Woodland
Samahquam First Nation

University of Toronto
Master of Social Work

Kalhwa7acw, I live in the north of the St'at'imc territory; my roots are in the southern St'at'imc territory a land blessed with an abundance of water. I have an Master's of Science in Community Health Sciences that helped me understand the seeds of individual, and community well-being. I recently completed a certificate in Indigenous Oriented Therapy and Complex Trauma at JIBC which solidified my desire to pursue helper. I am currently pursuing my second year of an Master's in Social Work in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency; it is providing more tools for my future work as a counsellor. I am very grateful for my Elders and ancestors who have shared what they know and helped guide me on my path. I enjoy my time working as a helper with our younger generations. My hope is to support children and their families as we continue in our paths of health and healing.



Chantal Bouchard
Stz'uminus First Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Occupational Therapy

Hi, my name is Chantal Bouchard. Myself and my family are of from the Stz'uminus First Nation. I am in the second year of the Master of Occupational Therapy program at UBC. I am striving to be an occupational therapist that practices in a client-centered and holistic way. I hope to help people recognize their strengths and resources and assist them in reaching their goals. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, riding my bike, and spending quality time with my friends and family.



Jessica Key
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Science - Nursing

She has worked as a Registered Nurse in a mental health and substance use setting with youth for three years and has focused on providing trauma-informed, culturally safe, harm reduction-oriented care to a unique and wonderful population. She is currently pursuing a Master’s of Science in Nursing with a research focus on delivering genuine culturally safe care in mental health services for Indigenous youth. She is an advocate for reviewing and improving mental health systems and addressing the systemic and colonial harms that exacerbate challenges that individuals already face.



Jordan Hendry
Lax Kw’alaams Band

University of British Columbia
Master of Public Health

As education is a fundamental determinant of health, I am committed to providing culturally safe educational programming in order to promote health equity in Indigenous populations. I hope to one day work on public policy that recognizes and prioritizes the rights of Canada’s Indigenous people to achieve health equity. I would like to say a huge thank you to New Relationship Trust Foundation and the First Nations Health Authority for supporting me on my educational journey. Easing the financial burden that comes with pursuing additional education allows me to be fully present in my studies. I am extremely grateful to have this opportunity and am committed to using my learnings to support my community in the future.



Kirstie West
Saik’uz First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Counselling Psychology

I am in the Counselling Psychology Masters Program at Simon Fraser University. I have always hoped to choose a career in the helping profession as I would like to help heal First Nation people facing Intergenerational trauma through a culturally relevant lens. Through personal experience with Intergenerational trauma and my educational background, I would like to affect greater change to learn, heal and grow through a blended program of Psychological Assessments and Indigenous ways of knowing. In the future, I would like to open my own private practice in Northern BC to promote healthy living, mental health awareness and to begin the journey of healing together in an effective, culturally relevant and ethical approach.



Megan Basso
Gitga’at Nation

City University
Master of Counselling

My name is Megan Basso and I belong to the Tsimshian Nation of Hartley Bay, BC. I am currently a Family Support Worker on Vancouver Island and work for an agency that serves seven of the First Nations communities in our surrounding area. I am also enrolled in my first year of my Master’s of Counselling degree. My hope is to be a pre-approved counsellor on the First Nations Health Authority list to directly bill the government to provide counselling services for free to Indigenous clients.



Nicole Nohr Dawydiuk
Spuzzum First Nation

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

After growing up in Chilliwack, BC, I completed my Bachelor of Science at SFU and am now pursuing my Master’s of Science in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC. My primary research interest is Indigenous health, specifically regarding primary health care utilization and accessibility. After I complete my degree, I hope to use my research and learnings to support and advocate for culturally appropriate health care services and community resources. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the NRT Foundation and to the First Nations Health Authority for this award. It will allow me to focus on my thesis and complete my degree. Thank you!



Norman Schaefer
Nadleh Whut’en First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Counselling Psychology

My passion is listening to people and walking beside them as they climb through the mountains and valleys of life. Indigenous life involves beauty, joy and laughter, but Indigenous people also know what it is like to live through trauma and grief. When I finish my program, I will walk together with people from Indigenous communities and different ethnic groups who are facing challenges in their lives. I will have opportunities to work as an Indigenous counsellor in private practice, in a mental health clinic or in a school setting. I would like to thank the NRT Foundation and the First Nations Health Authority for their generosity and support.



Taralynn Morgan
Gitanmaax Band

University of Northern British Columbia
Master of Education - Counseling

I worked as a Research Manager in the Psychology department working to improve the support of Indigenous students. This program is teaching me the applicable skills to support families, couples, and individuals. Once I complete the program, I will be moving back to the Gitanmaax reserve to work with the youth on mental health wellness. I want to be able to work with the Gitxsan communities to help prevent suicide and create a consent and sexual health course that starts with the children. I believe that consent and sexual health are vital to mental wellness. Once the children and youth of the Gitxsan territory can harness their autonomy, I believe they will be the future leaders of Canada.



Victoria White
Tseshaht First Nation

University of Victoria
Master of Public Health

I want to share my gratitude to both the New Relationship Trust and the FNHA for the generous scholarship. I worked in the Community and Human Services field for over 20 years in various capacities, including Education, Training, Social Development, and Health. I plan to pursue my PhD in Social Dimensions of Health in the future. I have come to learn about social determinants of health and the importance of interventions that are needed for our people, that will aid in closing the social and economic gap between us and other British Columbians. This work starts at home with ourself and our families, and within our community.



Corrina Sparrow
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy - Gender,
Race, Sexuality & Social Justice

My research investigates contemporary Coast Salish Two-Spirit identities, resurgence, decolonization, and the use of traditional land-based teachings and knowledge to strengthen Two-Spirit/Indigenous queer wellness, identities, and community development. Corrina’s ancestors come from x̣ṃəθḳẉəỵəm Nation, the Qualicum Nation of the Pentlatch People, and the Netherlands. A recent MA graduate and Two-Spirit scholar (Coast Salish Two Spirit master’s thesis, University of Victoria 2018), Corrina brings extensive community-based experience to their work—from their current role as Social Development manager at Musqueam Nation, national co-chair and executive secretary for Two-Spirits in Motion Society, to twenty years of strong advocacy and helping work in Indigenous child and family safety, cultural programming, community development, and social planning.health of Indigenous peoples.



Darryl Gray
Lax Kw’alaams Band

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy - Social Work

My name is Darryl Gray. My matrilineal bloodline is Ts’msyen from Lax Kw’alaams, British Columbia, and I belong to Waap Liyaa’mлахha, a Gisbutwada (Blackfish) House in the Gitaxangiik Tribe. My patrilineal bloodline is Oglala, Sioux (Lakota), from Pine Ridge, South Dakota. I am a registered student at the University of British Columbia in the PhD in Social Work Program. My only immediate career goal is to complete the PhD in Social Work degree. The long-term career goals coincide with my current academic learning and mentoring in becoming a professor and researcher in the discipline of Social Work. I am grateful to New Relationship Trust (NRT). The NRT scholarship has supported me through all of my degrees (AA, BSW, MSW and now PhD) in academia. Thank you to First Nations Health Authority for the generous support in making my scholarship possible.



Elliott Vissia
Hupačasath First Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Dental Medicine

Hello, my name is Elliott Vissia and I am a member of Hupacasath First Nation. I’m currently enrolled in the Doctor of Dental Medicine program at UBC in my first year after making the transition from Mechanical Engineering at UVic. I found that engineering was more self-serving, and I wanted to be a part of something greater than myself with a community focus, hence the drastic change in educational pursuits. I am hoping to work back on traditional Hupacasath lands following graduation and have been in discussion with chief and council about developing a dental facility. I would also like to start an outreach program for some of the more distant communities on the west coast to allow for easier access to dental care. Klecko (thank you) for this generous award, and for allowing me to focus on my studies!



Jessica Barudin
‘Namgis First Nation

Concordia University
Doctor of Philosophy -
Individualized Program

Yo Gilakas’la. My name is Jessica Barudin. I am Kwakwaka’wakw, a member of the ‘Namgis First Nation. I am a proud mother of two daughters, wife, Sundancer, Indigenous health advocate, doctoral student, and yoga teacher. My research project aims to co-create a culturally-responsive yoga program led by Kwakwaka’wakw womxn and girls. The focus is empowerment through movement, ceremony, women’s teachings, and language revitalization. I am passionate about teaching yoga and wellness practices to Indigenous women and youth, while supporting them to feel connected and balanced in their bodies. I am driven to create meaningful change in the way our people experience health and wellness in our communities.



Krista Stelkia
Osoyoos Indian Band

Simon Fraser University
Doctor of Philosophy - Health Sciences

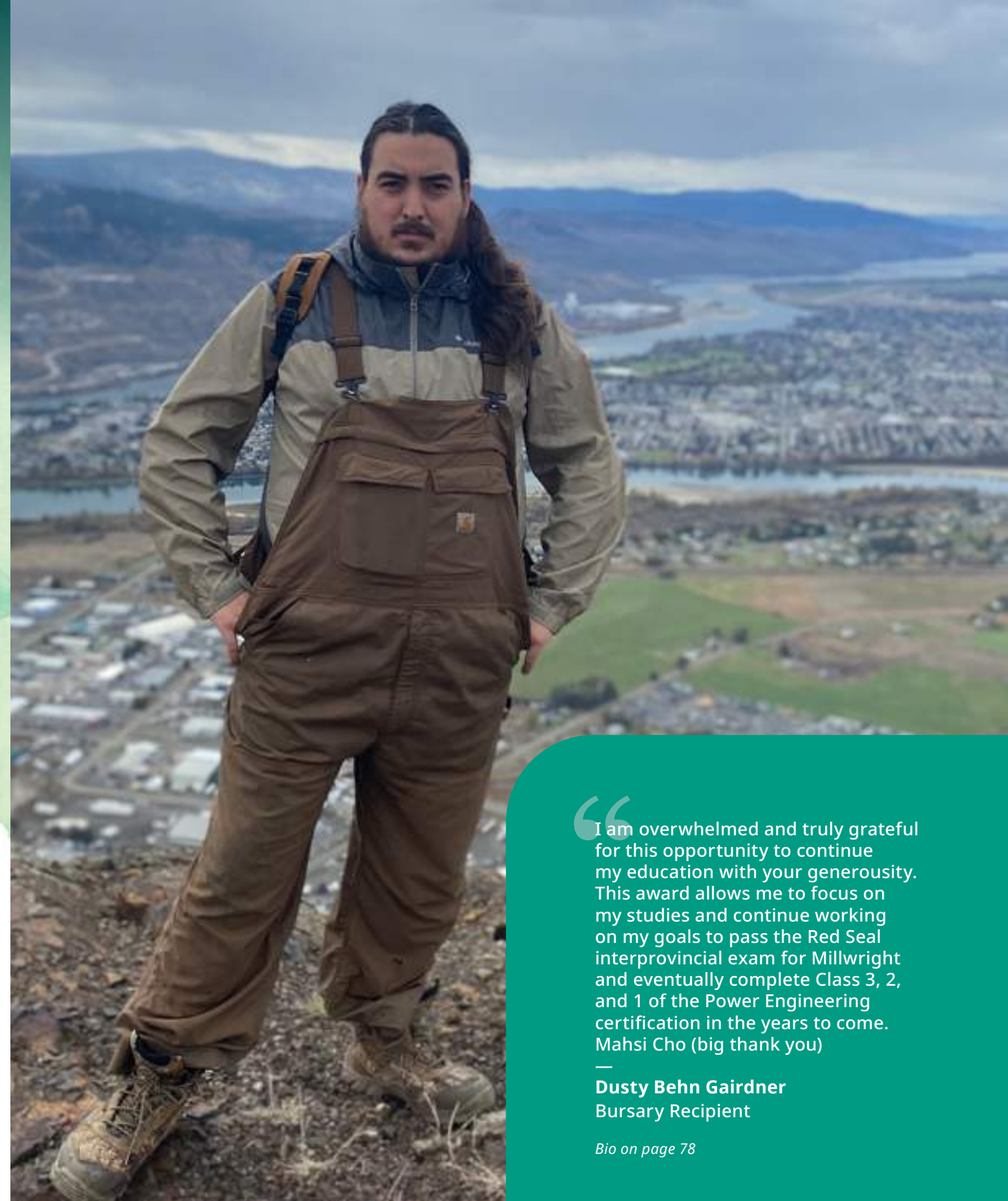
My name is Krista Stelkia and I am Syilx/Tlingit from Osoyoos Indian Band in the interior of British Columbia and have strong family connections to Tlingit/Tagish living in Yukon Territory. I am a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, studying in the area of Indigenous health. My doctoral research examines the complex and intersecting ways in which structural racism can influence chronic disease and overall health and wellness among First Nations in Canada. My career goal is to become a Professor in the area of Indigenous health where I can contribute towards teaching and mentoring the next generation of Indigenous health scholars.



Melanie Nelson
Samahquam First Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy -
School & Applied Child Psychology

My dissertation research is exploring how First Nations youth are identifying and accessing mental health supports. My thesis research examined how Indigenous parents experience the process of having their child assessed and designated/diagnosed, given the construct of disability does not exist in traditional thought or language. I have experience as a clinician in public schools, not-for-profit organizations, and private practice. My goal is to become a registered psychologist. I have also been learning traditional approaches to healing and wellness from my Elder Gerry Oleman (Tsal'alh Nation, St'at'imc), so I can offer both traditional and western approaches when working with communities. One area of focus for me, in recent years, is working with educators and helping professionals (psychologists, speech language pathologists, counsellors) start thinking about how they can take up Reconciliation in their respective practices. I do this through the use of research, illustrated by rich quotes from parents who participated in my thesis research.



“I am overwhelmed and truly grateful for this opportunity to continue my education with your generosity. This award allows me to focus on my studies and continue working on my goals to pass the Red Seal interprovincial exam for Millwright and eventually complete Class 3, 2, and 1 of the Power Engineering certification in the years to come. Mahsi Cho (big thank you)

—
Dusty Behn Gairdner
Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 78

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.



Brandon Jimmie
Squiala First Nation

University of the Fraser Valley
Criminology

Hello, my name is Brandon Jimmie and I am from Squiala First Nation in Chilliwack, BC. I am 30 years old and a father of three sons. I am currently a criminology student at the University of the Fraser Valley. I aspire to make a difference for the Indigenous people who are overrepresented in the criminal justice system in Canada. I would like to be a youth probation officer, spend some time in corrections, and make a difference in the courts. Prior to returning to school I worked with high/at risk youth and my job was to help guide them through their lives by promoting success and being a good role model. It was through this position that I was inspired to return to school, I knew I could make a bigger impact for the Indigenous people with higher education.



Evan Yano
Spuzzum First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Natural Resource Science

Hi, my name is Evan Yano and I am extremely thankful to accept this award. I was born in Williams Lake and raised in a very small town in the Cariboo called Lac La Hache. Being brought up in such small rural communities, I developed a strong passion for the harvesting and conservation of natural resources. I would like to pursue this passion by completing my degree of Natural Resource Science and move forward with a career in wildlife biology. I would like to be able to find ways to conserve our precious natural resources while still being able to drive Canada's economy. I am very excited to graduate and start doing my part in working towards a greener future. Thank you for helping me achieve this.



Eleanor Abbott
Skwah First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

I am a 47-year-old single mother of one child, working full time to pay for school on my own. I am from Chilliwack, BC and live in my home community of Skwah First Nation. My career goal is to complete the LPN Program, work for a First Nation community for a few years, then continue on with my education. My final career goal is to become a Registered Nurse, through a Bachelor of Nursing Degree. I believe I am never too old to continue my education.

“I am a 47-year-old single mother of one child, working full time to pay for school on my own... My final career goal is to become a Registered Nurse, through a Bachelor of Nursing Degree. I believe I am never too old to continue my education.

— Eleanor Abbott

OUR PARTNERS | NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD TRUST



Since 2015, the NIB Trust Fund has been committed to supporting First Nations and Métis peoples, communities, organizations, groups, and individuals through financial resourcing to address the impacts of the Indian Residential Schools System and to support healing. The NIB Trust Fund manages the investment of the residual funds from the Indian Residential School Agreement and disburses capital and the earnings from these funds to improve the quality of life for First Nations and Métis people and communities. The NIB Trust Fund team is devoted to achieving our vision of today's youth and future generations being grounded in language, culture, and a way of life that fosters a strong identity and resiliency.

NIB Trust | Bursary



Charly Defouw Métis Nation British Columbia

Selkirk College
Associate of Arts

Selkirk allows me to still do the activities I enjoy, such as hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing! I am Majoring in Education because I want to pursue a career in teaching, hopefully kindergarten! I grew up taking care of my younger cousins and I loved watching them grow up and become their own people. I have always had a special connection with kids and that is why I chose to teach as a career!



Danielle Boudreau Métis Nation British Columbia

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

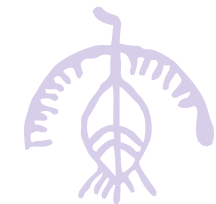
My name is Danielle Boudreau and I am 18 years old from Victoria, British Columbia. I am in my first year at the University of Victoria majoring in Political Science. My career goals are to become a lawyer and represent people of Indigenous ancestry in any sort of problems they face. My whole life I have played softball and hockey and even made the North American Indigenous Games roster for Team BC to compete for my province. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, I did not get the chance to play in them yet.



Cheyenne Shouting Blood Tribe

Native Education College
Family and Community Counselling

Oki Niitani'ko, (Hello, my name is) Cheyenne Shouting. I am Blackfoot, from the Kainai Blood Tribe Alberta. After I graduate from NEC, I would like to further my education at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) working towards my Bachelor of Social Work degree. I would also like to work with First Nations Children and Families. The past year has been a huge struggle for me personally, as I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and severe Depression and Anxiety. I took a couple semesters off school to work on my health; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. My chronic pain and illness have affected so many aspects of my life, but the people that I met along my healing journey have inspired me in so many ways. They inspire me to keep fighting, to keep moving forward, and assurance it will get better. I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped me. I want to help others the same way these people have helped me.



Danielle Gagne Métis Nation British Columbia

University of the Fraser Valley
Early Childhood Education

My name is Danielle. I am 24 years old and live in Chilliwack, BC. The bursary is allowing me to complete the Early Childhood Education program at the University of the Fraser Valley. I currently work as an ECE Assistant and attend school in the evening to obtain my full certificate. I personally had such a positive experience as a child in daycare that I want to give the same to children today. I love working with young children and look forward to possibly obtaining an ECE Diploma in the future.



Darren Yallee
Tulita Dene First Nation

Visual College of Art & Design
Interior Design

Darren Yallee Tulita Dene is a member of the Tulita Dene First Nation in the Northwest Territories. He is a single father and a Craftsman/Designer. He has 10 years of carpenter and construction experience. He is a Graphic Designer Diploma Graduate and is confident, ambitious, and determined to meet and exceed all goals and tasks presented. He believes it would be an opportunity of a lifetime to further the growth of his career in design. He is a creative individual with an exceptional work ethic and a highly professional attitude.



Isabella Furlong
Aklavik Indian Band

Douglas College
Associate of Arts - Future Teachers

My name is Bella Furlong and I am a member of the Gwich'in band rooted in Aklavik, Northwest Territories. I am a first year student at Douglas College in New Westminister in the Future Teachers Program that will eventually lead me to a university to complete my degree. When I become a teacher I hope to leave a positive influence on my students and make their education experience worthwhile and enjoyable. Working with Indigenous youth in sport and in the classroom is one of my long-term goals after finishing my schooling, as I hope to encourage and educate athletes to reach their potential. Mahsi' Choo!



James Beardy
Fox Lake Cree Nation

Vancouver Island University
Resource Management
Officer Technology

I moved away from home to be near my son who lives here in BC. My move here was a new part of my journey in life. Being around such new and beautiful natural beauty inspired me to want to get into the environmental field like I wanted to when I was younger. With much preparation and a year of upgrading, I now find myself accepted and attending the Resource Management Officer Training offered at Vancouver Island University. This diploma will begin my dream of protecting our crucial resources and also gain entrance into the Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection. I want to monitor and manage forest and wildlife ecosystems and hope to one day pass on my knowledge. I also would like to return home to my community with the experience and knowledge I gain and help with land agreements and territory revitalization.



Jax Bailey
Métis Nation British Columbia

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Technology Teacher Education Diploma

I am working towards becoming a trades teacher and I am ecstatic to be working towards a career that I am passionate about. I love the merging of technology and trades and look forward to sharing my skills and passion for this field with future students. I am unable to express the level of gratitude I have towards the NRT Foundation for their support towards students like me, as it has allowed to turn my dreams into reality and improve my future in ways I never thought possible.



“I moved away from home to be near my son who lives here in BC. My move here was a new part of my journey in life. Being around such new and beautiful natural beauty inspired me to want to get into the environmental field like I wanted to when I was younger.

—
James Beardy
NIB Trust Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 50



Kole Tait
Métis Nation British Columbia

Justice Institute of British Columbia
 Law Enforcement Studies

Tansi, my Name is Kole and I was born and raised in the Kootenays. I am a proud Métis man with a goal of becoming a Police Officer in BC. I hope to make a difference in communities and be a role model to other Indigenous youth. I am very thankful for the support of the NRT. This year has already been so challenging and knowing I have this support allows me to concentrate fully on my studies.



Lauren Dumont
Métis Nation Alberta

Northwest Culinary
 Academy Of Vancouver
 Culinary & Pastry/Bread

My name is Lauren Dumont and I'm a young female aspiring Chef From St. Albert, Alberta. Currently, I am chasing my dream of becoming a well rounded cook in the hospitality industry by attending culinary school at Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver. Being in this industry from a young age showed me all the ups and downs that comes with pursuing your passions; the abundance of learning and joy I get from cooking has made everything worth it. I am so excited to continue my culinary journey after school and never stop learning about what I love.



Linda St. Pierre
Northlands Band

Vancouver Film School
 Acting for Film & Television

Linda St. Pierre is currently a student at both the Vancouver Film School and the Vancouver FX Studio. She was given a scholarship by Kevin Smith, from the famous Jay and Silent Bob duo. Hailing from Lac Brochet, Manitoba and from the Denesuline First Nation, Linda has spoken at Indigenous Youth Conferences across Canada for the past six years and also spends a great deal of her time speaking with Elders, as well as taking part in healing workshops, held in both English and Dene. A true Jill of all Trades, Linda is also a Lash Technician and Cosmetic Brow Technician as well, with a goal of becoming an actor, screenwriter and special effects/prosthetics technician.



Olivia Craggs
One Arrow First Nation

Langara College
 Associate of Science

Hi! My name is Olivia and I'm a proud member of One Arrow First Nation. Beginning my journey in biochemistry, I plan to contribute to a future that incorporates traditional, natural and Western medicine. I am passionate about improving the health of Indigenous people in rural areas of Canada and ensuring health care is accessible to all. Like many Indigenous people, I have experienced the effects of colonization through generations. With much of my work and volunteer experience related to community involvement, I am motivated to continue to empower Indigenous youth to pursue and complete their post-secondary education.



Raven Fawkes
Métis Nation British Columbia

Camosun College
 University Transfer

She is a second year pre-social work student at Camosun College and is planning on going to UVic in 2021 to complete a Bachelor of Social Work. She is passionate about Indigenous health, as well as Indigenous child and family welfare. She is also interested in getting involved with Indigenous research during her undergraduate and would like to complete a Master's degree one day. Raven is currently gaining work experience with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and the Burdett House. Outside of work and school, she loves to spend time hiking and camping, particularly along the gorgeous West Coast of Vancouver Island. She has also been spending her time getting to know her Métis culture more with the MY Eco Action program, where Métis youth are able to participate in land-based reconciliation work, while also having opportunities to learn from Métis Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers.



Rylan Tailfeathers
Blood Tribe

British Columbia Institute of Technology
 Aircraft Maintenance Engineer

I am a member of the Kainai Nation in Alberta. I am pursuing a career in Aircraft Mechanics and have completed 2 of the 8 levels of my program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. After I graduate I want to focus on helicopter maintenance and hopefully service the helicopters that are used in the search and rescue operations on the North Shore mountains.

“The NRT Foundation and NIB Trust Fund’s generosity and kindness have inspired my efforts which will help me to continuously learn, and I plan to further my education in the Dental Field. Miigwech for the support and I am truly grateful.

— Sybil Mecas



Sybil Mecas
Waywayseecappo First Nation

Vancouver Community College
 Dental Reception Coordinator

Boozhoo! My name is Sybil and I am Anishinaabe from Waywayseecappo First Nation. The NRT Foundation and NIB Trust Fund’s generosity and kindness have inspired my efforts which will help me to continuously learn, and I plan to further my education in the Dental Field. Miigwech for the support and I am truly grateful.



Trent Peters
Métis Nation British Columbia

College of New Caledonia
 Electrical Apprenticeship

Hello, my name is Trent Peters and live in Fort St James, BC. I am Métis and I recently completed my 2nd year Electrician course at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. I am excited to get started for my 3rd year.



Sydney Doonan
Métis Nation British Columbia

Tansi! My name is Sydney Doonan and I'm an Early Childhood Education student studying at the Native Education College. I come from the Peace River Métis Community located on Tse'khene hunting territory in Treaty 8. Being Two-Spirited and growing up in a rural community of about 2,000 people, hundreds of kilometers away from the nearest major city, education was my only path out. I spent two years studying at UVic before I was educated enough to realise that the path I needed to take is to give back to my home community, and make it into a place people like me want to live, rather than leave. I'll have my ECE certification in August of 2021, and I hope to transfer to UBC's NITEP program so that I can become a teacher—and a positive force—in my community. I am sincerely grateful for this NRT scholarship that's making it possible.



Trevor Messon
Eabametoong First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Carpentry Apprenticeship

My name is Trevor Messon, I am from Ojibway First Nation in Eabametoong, ON, and I was raised in Toronto, ON. I have a background in carpentry and my goal is to become a Red Seal Journeyman. I relocated to Vancouver, BC to get sponsored for all of my levels. I hope to help other people in Toronto eventually achieve in their Red Seal as well, as it is getting harder to get sponsored. I want to help other Indigenous people succeed in the trades.



Bailey Johnson
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

I am a part of the NITEP program at UBC, a specialized teacher education program for Indigenous educators. Through a program that enforces relevant and authentic education through Indigenous ways of being and knowing, I hope to one day provide education to my students that focuses on a holistic methods of learning. I hope by the incorporation of my culture and my Indigenous identity I can motivate students to value their own identity, become open-minded to a multitude of frames of references, and allow them to feel validated in educational/work place settings. My goal is to motivate youth to pursue their dreams without feeling they need to sacrifice their culture or their authentic selves in order to do so.



Christy Reed
Acadia First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

I am working on my undergraduate degree in Education with the end goal of becoming a primary teacher. I am hoping to provide a supportive learning environment to Indigenous students in my District, and look forward to continuing my journey to give back to my community. I truly appreciate the NRT foundation for giving me this opportunity to continue with my studies. I can not say thank you enough for making my dreams possible, not only for my own children who have been witnessing my journey, but for my future students as well.



Dominick Wells
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Commerce

I am currently in my third year at UBC's Sauder School of Business, specializing in Finance. My career aspirations are to one day own my own business, but before then I intend to work in Indigenous economic development and volunteer within the charity/non-profit space. Through volunteering, I have come to realize that helping and being of service to others has an incredibly positive effect on one's life and outlook. I intend to continue volunteering and giving back to my community long into the future. My other passions include Hatha Yoga, meditation and mindfulness, cycling and learning languages.



Erin Blondeau
Métis Nation British Columbia

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology

Over the last few years, I have been on a journey of cultural rediscovery by researching my ancestors, our culture before the digital era, and who the Métis people are today. I've been having so much fun learning the ways of my ancestors and sharing that knowledge and tradition with my son. In my work, I focus on anti-racism as a part of Resilience BC, as well as volunteer with the BC Métis Nation, and various environmental organizations throughout Canada. When I graduate, I am hoping to work in humanitarianism or climate action leadership. I can't wait to do my part one day in helping other people reach for the stars and achieve their dreams; it is my goal to start my own bursary fund so I can help someone the same way NRTF has helped me.



Georgia Grenier
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Georgia Grenier, I am currently in my fourth and final year of my Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and I hope to pursue a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy afterwards. I grew up in a rural community and have learnt about the many challenges with health care that individuals in rural communities face, so I wish to take my future practice to these regions and give back in the best way I can. I would like to thank the NRT foundation for their generous support and encouragement for my educational goals. Their contribution means so much to me, and I am so thankful that I am able to study what I love with their help.



Ian Forbes
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering

My name is Ian Forbes and I was born and raised in Nanaimo, BC, however I have just begun my 3rd year of pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Victoria. I am a hard working Indigenous student and have worked diligently in order to achieve academic excellence in my studies. When I'm not studying I like to spend my time cycling, hiking or doing anything outdoors. Looking towards the future, my studies as a Mechanical Engineer will directly prepare me to work within the renewable energy industry, whether it be developing new wind turbine technology, working with hydrogen fuel cells, or anything in-between.



Jessi Smith
Henvey Inlet First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Technology

Hello, my name is Jessi Smith and I am from Henvey Inlet First Nation. Growing up on Vancouver Island I have always had a strong appreciation for all that nature encompasses. Now, I am bridging my relationship with the environment and my connection with people by pursuing a career in Environmental Public Health. I am currently studying at BCIT with a goal to be an Environmental Health Officer. I hope to bring my knowledge back home where I will work along side First Nation communities across Vancouver Island in supporting health and wellbeing.



John Spink
Métis Nation British Columbia

Capilano University
Bachelor of Motion Picture Art

I like going on different hikes in beautiful Fraser Valley. Currently, I attend the Motion Picture Arts Program at Capilano University. I recently graduated from the Indigenous Independent Digital Film-making program at Capilano University. I have been captivated with the art of film since I was very little. During my studies, I played different roles working on our numerous film projects. I've worked as a director, light, camera, sound, editor, grip and production assistant. I have written few scripts and directed my own PSA, documentary and short films. I've worked on the sets of few feature films and documentaries, such as "Monkey Beach" by L. Todd (2019) and "Legacy Canoe" (2019) by S. McArthur. To give back to my community I volunteer as a first aid attendant at different community events.



Julian Stonechild
Muscowpetung First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts - History and Indigenous Peoples Studies

My name is Julian Stonechild and I am an enrolled member of Muscowpetung First Nation. I am currently working towards my Bachelor of Arts in History and Indigenous Peoples Studies at Vancouver Island University. I hope to one day work with and for Indigenous people in telling our histories and stories.



Kevin Tyson
Métis Nation British Columbia

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

My name is Kevin Tyson and I am a citizen of Métis Nation BC. I was born in Burnaby, British Columbia, and raised between Parksville, a beach community on Vancouver Island, and Surrey. I am currently an undergraduate student at Simon Fraser University, double majoring in Psychology and Linguistics. My career goal is to become a Registered Speech-Language pathologist and open up a private practice in the Lower Mainland. It is a passion of mine to help people with speech disorders express themselves. I am the father of a super funny and smart 6-year old boy who loves to cook, play soccer, and read. When I find free time, I enjoy being active, playing the piano, reading, and writing screenplays.



Laura Schellenberg
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

My name is Laura Schellenberg and I identify as a part of the Métis Nation in BC. I was born and raised in Kelowna, BC where I am currently enrolled in the final year of my undergraduate degree at UBCO. I have chose to major in Indigenous studies, because I plan on completing my Bachelor of Education next fall. As an elementary school teacher, I hope to prioritize a safe space where Indigenous voices are recognized, while teaching with decolonial approaches. I truly believe education is the root of decolonization, as well as reconciliation; therefore, I will centralize Indigenous teachings, histories, and identities in my classroom. Thank you NRTF for providing me with the financial support to pursue my educational goals, which in turn will educate others and further the reconciliation process.



Megan Hanna
Métis Nation British Columbia

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Education

My name is Megan Hanna and I am from the Métis Nation BC, Weceya Métis Society. I am in the final semester of my teacher education at Simon Fraser University. I am currently in my qualifying practicum semester and I will graduate this December with a Bachelor of Education, focusing in Indigenous and Special Education. I am very thankful to receive this award to help me in my journey in becoming an Elementary school teacher.



Megan McCallum
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of the Fraser Valley
 Bachelor of Science - Nursing

I am 19-years-old second year nursing student at the University of the Fraser Valley! I am determined to use my educational adventure for the BSN to mold myself into an exemplary Registered Nurse who is enriched with invaluable healthcare skills. After I obtain an undergraduate degree and decide on a specialty, I plan on getting a Master degree to expand my expertise. In the future, I see myself working in a local hospital. I am really confident in my career choice and cannot wait to find true purpose within my profession. I aspire to be known as a well rounded, dependable, and knowledgeable nurse with leadership qualities. I want to eventually be proud of myself for dedicating my career to medicine and helping others. I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from the NRTF.



Nakoa Faulconer
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Vancouver Island University
 Bachelor of Social Work

Tansi! My name is Nakoa and I am a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. I am the mother of a three-year-old girl and she is a driving reason for obtaining my degree. I am pursuing my education in the Social Work field because I want to be an educated and compassionate ally who supports the resiliency, strength and success of Indigenous families. Thank you for supporting me towards my educational goals. It means so much to me and my family.



Rebecca Dalhuisen
Sandy Bay First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
 Bachelor of Social Work

Hello, my name is Rebecca Dalhuisen and I am currently a third-year student enrolled in TRU's Bachelor of Social Work Degree program. I have experience working with at-risk youth and am excited to be able to continue to help youth and families in a different role as a Social Worker. Following the completion of my BSW, I hope to obtain a Master's Degree in order to pursue a future career in Counselling.



Sarah Keppler
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Simon Fraser University
 Professional Development

My name is Sarah Jane Keppler and I'm a member of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. I'm a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate of Emily Carr University of Art + Design with aspirations to teach Secondary School Visual Art. I'm currently a student in Simon Fraser University's Professional Development Program enrolled in their Indigenous Perspectives Teachers Education Module. This degree will allow me to receive a Bachelor of Education and certification as a teacher with the Ministry of Education. Visual art is my passion and I look forward to supporting and encouraging young individuals in their creative journeys and personal growth.



Melissa Miller
Sandy Bay First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
 Bachelor of Social Work

Today, I am a role model to my two children Kayla and Kayden. I have worked really hard to overcome many barriers and struggles throughout my life. However, it is those barriers and struggles that made me the strong, determined, independent Indigenous woman I am today. Going back to College, after dropping out 15 years ago, was my dream and being recognized by being awarded this scholarship has proven my hard work has not gone unnoticed. This award has reduced my financial burden and will help me in the next chapter of my life. In two years, I plan on graduating with a specialization in child protection. My ultimate goal is to become a counsellor and group facilitator working with Indigenous clients using culture as a healing tool for those who are still suffering. Thank you NIB Trust for your investment in students like me. Your confidence in me and your generosity is helping to make my goals and dreams a reality. I hope to one day give back to my community and to help others achieve their goals. Miigwich!



Scharie March
Cold Lake First Nations

University of the Fraser Valley
 Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies and Philosophy

My name is Scharie March, I am from the Denesūłiné Nation. I am currently in my third year in the Bachelor of Arts Degree program. I'm enrolled a double minor in Indigenous studies and Philosophy at the University of the Fraser Valley. Once I complete my degree, I would like to apply for Law school, specializing in Indigenous property law. My end goal is to bring my knowledge back to help support Indigenous communities.



Shelby Henry
Chippewas of the
Thames First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

My name is Shelby Henry and I am Anishinaabe from the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. I am currently working towards my Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of British Columbia. My goal is to become an elementary school teacher and inspire students to value and love their education journey. I will be implementing an Indigenous curriculum into my classrooms to teach our cultural knowledge and the importance of it.



Theresa Hoelke
Bonnechere
Algonquin First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Business Administration

Hi, I'm Theresa from Nanaimo, BC. I'm currently a student in the Bachelor of Business Administration at Vancouver Island University intending to major in Accounting. After I finish my studies, I hope to find a rewarding career that allows me to problem solve and help others succeed.



Brennan Lew-Cooke
Qalipu First Nation

University of British Columbia
Juris Doctor

Brennan is Mi'kmaq from the Qalipu First Nation in Shallop Cove. Brennan aspires to work in Aboriginal law one day practicing in Coast Salish territories. His goal is to help reinforce Aboriginal Rights and Title through land and water protection. With a passion for culture and staying active, Brennan believes empowering youth towards environmental activism through outdoor education. Brennan also volunteers his time at the Urban Native Youth Association's Dojo where he helps facilitate kickboxing, snowboarding, and fitness programming for Indigenous youth in his community.



Eryn Braley
Saddle Lake Cree Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Public Health

As a Teaching Assistant in Biology, I now have the opportunity to support first-year university students in their educational journey. I am also a Program Assistant at UBC's Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health. I moderate, facilitate, and help plan the UBC Indigenous Cultural Safety course, a requirement of 13 health professional programs at UBC. In my career, I hope to help break down barriers in the way of health for Indigenous communities. I am excited to be on this journey, and to learn about Indigenous perspectives on health and wellness, the systemic issues that result in health gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and cultural safety and humility.



Katherine Turriff
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

University of British Columbia
Master of Community
and Regional Planning

Shé:kon, Katie iónkiats, wakenien'kehá:ka táhnon rotihskaré:wake na akhwá:tsire. I was born and raised in Belleville, Ontario. I did my undergraduate degree in planning at the University of Waterloo, and I am currently studying Indigenous Community Planning at the University of British Columbia. I'm excited to tackle decolonization within the realm of planning, and my identity as both a Native and white person informs my aspirations to build strong relationships of mutual respect between Indigenous and settler communities. The principles of the Haudenosaunee Great Law (peace, strength, and good mindedness) directly influence my work. I am also a beadworker and a Mohawk language learner.



Leslie Peters
Métis Nation Ontario

University of British Columbia
Master of Education - Special Education

Hi, I'm Leslie Peters. I grew up in Pickle Lake, Northwestern Ontario and have Métis status. My family originates in Moose Factory. I have spent the last 20 years in the Yukon Territory. I've come to UBC to get my Master's in Special Education with a focus on behaviour disorders. My dream is to be able to provide services to Métis and First Nations children in a culturally sensitive way and to help with healing and reconciliation. I dream of empowering Indigenous people to become Canada's leaders as we move forward.



McKenzie Braley
Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Clinical Psychology

My name is McKenzie, and I am Cree and a member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta. I grew up in Abbotsford, BC. Now, I live in Vancouver, BC, where I am pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology at Simon Fraser University. My career goal is to become a clinical psychologist. Through this role, I will help to diagnose, assess, and treat people with mental health, psychiatric, and neurological challenges. I will also conduct research to help us learn more about these conditions. I am proud to be an Indigenous person in the field of clinical psychology and to be an Indigenous voice in research.



Nicole Lodge
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of Northern British Columbia
Master of Education -
Multidisciplinary Leadership

My name is Nicole Lodge. I was born and raised in Fort St James, BC and I am of Métis descent. I received my Early Childhood Education Certificate in 2012. In 2013, I completed my Social Service Worker Diploma with honours. I continued on to graduate with honours and receive my Bachelor of Social Work Degree with a First Nations Specialization in 2015. Currently, I am in my first year in the Master of Education - Multidisciplinary Leadership program at the University of Northern British Columbia. I work full-time as an Indigenous School Social Worker. A passion of mine is incorporating my dog, who is a certified therapy dog into my daily holistic and preventive practice with my Indigenous students.



Danette Jubinville
Pasqua First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Doctor of Philosophy - Health Sciences

Danette Jubinville Biiwashikwe is of Cree, Saulteaux, and mixed European ancestry. She belongs to the Cyr family from the Pasqua First Nation. She grew up in Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories. She is a mother, doula, and community health researcher. Danette co-founded the Ekw'i7tl doula collective in 2015, when she was pregnant with her daughter Keestin. Danette has a Master's of Science in Health Sciences from Simon Fraser University and a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations and Indigenous Studies from UBC. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Health Sciences at SFU. Her graduate research focuses on Indigenous reproductive and maternal wellness and the role of Indigenous doulas in supporting the well-being of Indigenous people and communities. Danette aspires to open an Indigenous birth centre in Vancouver, as a hub for Indigenous reproductive health care, education and research.

“I would like to sincerely to thank NIB Trust Fund and the NRT Foundation Post-Secondary Awards who have supported me in being able to continue my education and strive to reach goals that were once just dreams. Meeting financial demands has been one of the biggest considerations throughout my educational journey. This is the first time that I have the bounty of being able to focus most of my attention on my studies. I am so grateful for this opportunity. Maarsii.

— Kristine McLeod



Jasmine Dionne
Métis Nation Alberta

University of Victoria
Doctor of Philosophy - Political Science

The Boreal Forest is my beautiful home and also the place where my doctoral research will occur. I plan on researching the historical and ongoing diplomatic and political practices of the Indigenous Nations in and around my community in an effort to shape our responses to the missing and murdered crisis. Specifically, I will be looking at how we protected our own peoples and Nations as well as neighbouring Nations from harm, how we practiced care for those whom have been harmed, as well as how we responded to violence. I believe there is much to learn from these diplomatic and political acts of care and protection. My career objectives involve being an educator and community based researcher. I hope to be a professor of Indigenous studies and Indigenous politics as well as continuing to pursue respectful and reciprocal research projects led by Indigenous peoples and their communities.



Kristine McLeod
Métis Nation British Columbia

University of Victoria
Docotor of Philosophy -
Educational Studies

I am focusing on how to better meet the learning needs of Indigenous students in a variety of learning environments. I am married with three children and two grandchildren. My future aspirations are to work with Indigenous communities and find ways to share and explore Indigenous ways of knowing and learning through curriculum.



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.



Dorothy Stewart
Wet'suwet'en

Native Education & Training College
Human Resources Assistant

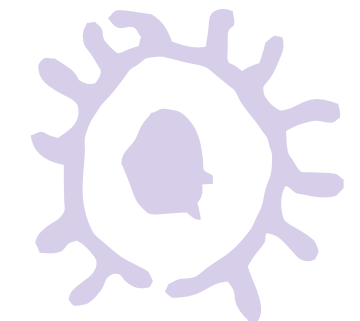
Hello, my name is Dorothy Stewart. I belong to the Witsset First Nation, and I currently reside in Prince George, BC. I was raised by my adoptive family from 5 days old, but found my birth family when I was 30 years old. I was then opened up to a whole new world of traditions and customs that I found fascinating. I have always been interested working in an office environment, and continually challenge myself to learn more and more. In 1995, I returned to school to obtain my Administrative Assistant Certificate. From May 1996, with certificate in hand, I hit the ground running and gained all the office experience I could. Now I would like to return to school and get my Human Resources Assistant Diploma where I plan on getting my Certified Human Resources Professional designation. I am absolutely thrilled with this opportunity and cannot wait to get started. Musi.



Zack Martin
Saik'uz First Nation

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Power Engineering Technology

My name is Zack Martin. I am a part of Saikuz First Nations, and grew up just outside of Vanderhoof, BC. My current goals are to finish my program in Power Engineering Technology and find a job that has opportunities to grow and develop in, or finish a degree in engineering.



Chandler Farlin
Saulteau First Nation

University of the Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Arts - Economics

My Name is Chandler Farlin. I am currently in my fourth year of Studying Economics at the University of the Fraser Valley. I Belong to Saulteau First Nation although I live in the Fraser Valley. My career goal is work in economic development with Indigenous organizations to help build prosperous communities that provide Indigenous youth with opportunities to achieve success. I want to make a difference, and give back to my community, which provided me with the opportunity to achieve my educational goals.

“My career goal is work in economic development with Indigenous organizations to help build prosperous communities that provide Indigenous youth with opportunities to achieve success. I want to make a difference, and give back to my community, which provided me with the opportunity to achieve my educational goals.

— Chandler Farlin



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.



Byron Bob
Coldwater Indian Band
Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

Hello! My name is Byron. I am from Coldwater First Nation, and I am currently in my third year of my Bachelor of Arts, with a Psychology Major at Thompson Rivers University. I also work as an Education Coordinator Assistant with Skeetchestn Indian Band, and I have always wanted to go back to school to finish my degree. I am now on my way to finishing my goals, much thanks to the New Relationship Trust Foundation and their many sponsors! I strongly believe that it is our job as First Nations People, to go out in the world and achieve your dreams and goals, then bring back what you have learned to your community and people. DREAM, SET GOALS, & ACHIEVE.



Peace Hills Trust 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 Indigenous community, our sole shareholder, the Samson Cree Nation embarked on an ambitious project in 1972 which culminated with the incorporation of Peace Hills Trust on November 19, 1980. 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 vision of the founding members who worked hard to get our Company set in motion.



Mackenzie Hall
Skowkale First Nation

Langara College
 Associate of Arts - Commerce & Business Studies

Hello, my name is Mackenzie Hall and I'm from Skowkale First Nation, located in Chilliwack, BC. My traditional name is Siyamoteniya which is the female version of Siyamolten, my grandfather's name. I will be attending Langara College for 2 years with the Aboriginal Transfer Program, and then I will transfer to UBC Sauder School of Business. My overall plan is to achieve my Master's Degree at Sauder School of Business and find a job where I can excel as a leader. I want to improve the reserve governance system by helping Indigenous communities have jurisdiction over their lands and resources through economic development and taxation.



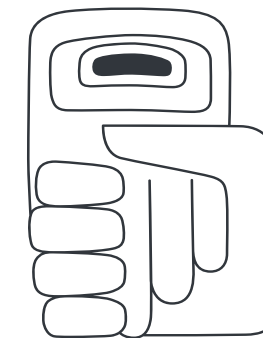


“I am an aspiring dancer/choreographer (in the BFA Dance Honours program at York University) who hopes to awaken the minds of audiences through thought-provoking choreography; using the delicate, potent, and exciting fusion of contemporary dance and Indigenous storytelling. I am able share my rich culture, timeless traditions, and vibrant identity in powerful ways, sometimes even without words. As my worldview is brought to life through theatre, dance, and movement, I am able to honour the voices that have come before me, that have raised me, that are yet unborn, and that are stored within me as blood memory. Gi'lakasla.

—
Rayne Cook-Thomas
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 103

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.

NRT's mission is to invest in the capacity development and transformation of First Nations governments and their citizens.

Our vision is a British Columbia where First Nations enjoy a high quality of life that includes vibrant cultures and languages, effective and independent governments, social justice, and economic prosperity, and where all forms of education are valued and accessible.

We believe in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that respects and advances First Nations' decision-making, traditional teachings, and laws. To achieve our Vision, the following Guiding Principles inform our shared work:

- Supporting First Nations in their capacity development efforts as they pursue individual and communal self-sufficiency
- Engaging in effective communications and engagement with those that we serve to strengthen and inform our activities
- Ensuring fair and equitable access to our services through the creation of transparent criteria that focus on initiatives that lead to measurable change at the individual, community and Nation levels
- Increasing the investment fund through responsible management, leveraging of our assets and pursuit of additional resources while not duplicating or replacing existing government or First Nations programs



Alex Deneault-Isnardy
Skeetchestn Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Heavy Mechanical Foundation

My goal is to become a Red Seal Heavy Mechanic and start the first year of my Apprenticeship as soon as I complete the Foundation program. I've worked hard at getting the best grades all throughout my high school years and it wasn't always easy, but with my work ethic, and support from my mom and dad, I was able to succeed and graduate with Honours. I'm very determined to secure my future with a good job doing what I love to do. In my spare time I like to help my dad doing mechanic work on vehicles when needed, hunt wild game, go berry picking with my parents, fish for trout and salmon, ride my ATV, ride my horse and team rope with my family.



Alexandra Papps
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Environmental Resources Technology

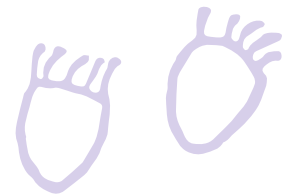
My Nisga'a name is W'ii Biyaals, which means the Brightest Star in the Sky. I am member of the Wilp Wisin Xbiltkw. Through the Environment Resource Technician program I have never felt more connected to my culture while away from home. Finding the right career path was a long journey and would not have been possible for me to move my family of my husband, our two sons (4&5 years) and our daughter (18 months) with me on my education journey. I'm enjoying learning not only Indigenous history and culture, but the practical and technicals skills needed for a career in Environmental Resources.



Andrea Wilkerson
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Bridgerland Technical College
Welding Technology

My name is Ande Wilkerson, I am a granddaughter of Walking on the Sky. I love my culture of the Gitxsan/Nisga'a. That is why I am seeking to gain my education, to make my ancestors and my Nation proud, and be able to reap the benefits of my accomplishments. I am taking classes in welding and automotive collision. These skills will help me to one day make my own business in both welding and the automotive industry. I grew up making coastal artwork from my culture and my business will involve painting cars and motorcycles in my family's Native art. I am glad to be a woman in this industry, I feel these are great skills to have, and I hope to pass these skills onto my children.



Anita Seymour
Stz'uminus First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Dental Assistant

My name is Anita Seymour. I am from the Stz'uminus First Nation. My goal is to obtain a career of my own, setting an example for my family by showing them the value and beauty of gaining an education. I am excited for the new growth opportunities in my near future.



Annette Christopher
Canim Lake Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Aboriginal Governance and Leadership

I am an 57 year old Indigenous woman from the Secwépemc Nation, Canin Lake Band in the Interior of British Columbia. I have lived the lower mainland for 20 years seeking education and full-time employment. My education goals are upgrading or taking new courses to get me back into the workforce. I am enjoying going to school to further my education and to learn new knowledge for today's society. Education is very important and would think I am being a good role model to the younger generation, as I say, Education never stops, we learn something new everyday, whether we know it or not. I would like to thank everyone who helped me get here and pursue my goals. Kuk-stemc (thank you).



Arlene Horutko
(aka Klapatiuk)
Lhtako Dené Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
First Nations Public Administration

I am currently working full-time as a Carrier Language teacher/Indigenous Support Worker, and I am enrolled as a full-time student at UNBC working on my Diploma in Language/Health and Healing. Eventually, my long term goal is to receive a Master's Degree in First Nation Studies with a joint Major in Women's Studies. When I am not studying I love to crotchet, bead and other various crafting projects with the Elders or my family and friends. My future goal is to teach the Carrier Language and Culture to the future generations and having my legacy inspire those to continue the teachings.



Belinda Morrison
Old Massett Village Council

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
First Nations Speech
and Language Assistant

Sgatdum Ganawhl way, Ksim Ganada Niiy, Laxglts'ap wil jogay, Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda wil witgwiw. My name Nisga'a name is the Frog Who Sits at the Feet of Elders. I am from the Frog tribe and I come from the Village of Greenville. I have to recognize that I would not have ended up on this path in my education if it were not for Chief Matthews School in the Haida Nation. I always knew I was interested in the childcare field and this school gave me the opportunity to experience more than that. My end goal will be to finish this program, accumulate my own personal stack of resources and continue my education into teaching our future.

“When I am not studying I love to crotchet, bead and other various crafting projects with the Elders or my family and friends. My future goal is to teach the Carrier Language and Culture to the future generations and having my legacy inspire those to continue the teachings.

— Arlene Horutko (Klapatiuk)



Bonnie Campbell
Gitga'at Nation

Coast Mountain College
Business Administration

Hello, my name is Bonnie Campbell. I am Tsimshian from Laxsgyiik (Eagle) Clan. I am originally from Gitga'at, but now live and attend post secondary in Prince Rupert, BC. I am a very proud mother to 3 beautiful children. I am currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma program for Accounting. It has been a dream of mine to one day own my own business. Once I complete this program, I plan on making that dream a reality by opening my own establishment. I want to contribute to our growing business community here in Prince Rupert.



Bridgette Hill
Old Massett Village Council

University of the Fraser Valley
Business Administration

My name is Bridgette Hill and I am from Haida Gwaii Island. I currently study Business at UFV. My passion is to help Indigenous communities develop economically and help keep traditions alive. I am the first of my family to pursue post-secondary education and it is an honor to have this opportunity. The Indigenous Student Center has helped me during my academic journey and the staff is amazing. Attending the cultural events and hearing the songs of our people bring my heart joy. My family and the people are my rock and what motivates me to keep looking ahead instead of looking behind. I will go back home when I graduate, and I can't wait to see my community.



Carol Archie
Stswecem'c Xgat'tem
First Nation

Career City College
Business Management Diploma –
Human Resources Specialization

My name is Carol Archie. My Secwépemc (Shuswap) lineage comes from my parents, Sandra (Roper) Archie, of the Esk'etemc (Alkali Lake) First Nation and my father, Eric Archie, of the Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek) First Nation. My learning curve in the Human Resources field came as an "on the job" training through my previous employment with the T'exelc (Williams Lake) First Nation organization. Learning on the job was how I found my passion to want to know and better understand the benefits of how Human Resources can assist and/or guide an organization and an individual. Once I complete my diploma program my vision is to continue to learn through mentorship to enhance the tools I have learned through my education. This will assist me in building my confidence to be able to assist, advocate and empower organizations and individuals to be more successful as an organization and an individual.

“I would like to thank the New Relationship Trust Foundation for this award. I have never received an award like this, and I am grateful. It makes me feel like others believe the dream that I can vision. The financial matters for me have been difficult since living independently is the only option for me and this award will ease my worries. Miigwech Chi-miigwech

— Bridgette Hill



Carter Chanin
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Culinary Arts

Hi, my name is Carter Chanin. I am a member of the Skidegate Band located in Haida Gwaii. I have had a passion to learn cooking since I was in high school. I am a first year student enrolled in the Culinary Arts Certificate Program at Vancouver Island University. My goal is to become a Red Seal Chef in my trade of choice. I one day hope to open a restaurant and/or teach others about this special trade in my community, or wherever this career takes me. Thank you to the New Relationship Trust Awards Program for assisting me in meeting my educational goals!



Cassandra Jacobson
Kwakiutl Band Council

Douglas College
Criminal Justice

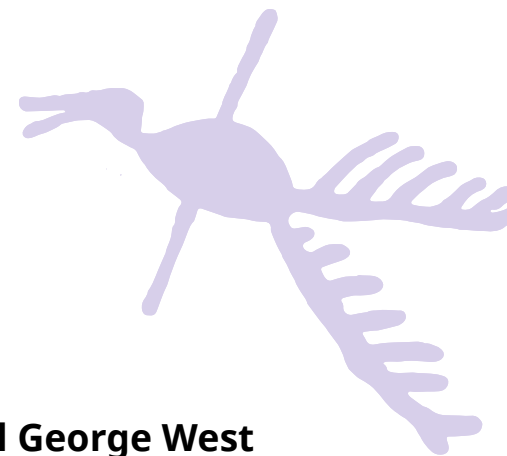
Hello, My name is Cassandra Jacobson, I am from Surrey, BC, and I have always wanted to be a police officer. I have always been a person to help people in need, so when I was choosing a career I considered what would be best for me, and also help people and the community. I first wanted to be a nurse, but after more thought I started to find I had a lot of interest in law and how police officers, judges, and lawyers help people. So, I decided to change my career goal to become a police officer.



Catherine Louis
Okanagan Indian Band

Langara College
Associate of Arts - Aboriginal Studies

My name is Catherine Louis, I am from the Okanagan Indian Band within the Unceded Territory of the Syilx nation. I have been pursuing my career in Social Services with a focus on Aboriginal youth, for the past 6 years. This year, I intend complete my Associate Arts Degree in Aboriginal Studies, to prepare myself as I apply for Social Work with an Indigenous Child Specialization.



Chanel George West
Takla Lake First Nation

College of New Caledonia
Early Childhood Care and Learning

My name is Chanel George West and I am from Takla Lake First Nation, Carrier Sekani. I am in the second year Early Childhood Education Diploma Program specializing in infant/toddler and special needs training. I want to help children thrive and become successful for when they start kindergarten and preschool. It is so hard finding an infant/toddler daycare, and I want to help those families that need it most, and not turn anyone away because they have an infant or a child with special needs.



Chelsea Mandseth
Wei Wai Kum First Nation

Okanagan College
Perianesthesia Nursing Specialty

Hello, my name is Chelsea Mandseth and I originally grew up in the Lower Mainland, but moved to Campbell River where my mother's family is from. Since moving here, I have learned a lot about my Native culture and it has taught me a lot about who I am today as a person, and as a nurse. My Native name is Caregiver, which is an honour. I see myself continuing on my nursing journey, and to hopefully lead a very fulfilling career by doing so.



Courtney Chanin
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Business Management

I have wanted to attend University for the last 2 years but have never been able to afford it. After a lot of hard work, and the help of grants and scholarships, I now get to follow my dreams. After I complete my Certificate program, I hope to continue my studies in the Bachelor of Business Administration Program with the intentions of working as a Financial Advisor when I am finished. I want to be able to empower and teach people how to take control of their financial well-being.



Dakota Morrison
Gingolx Village Government

Douglas College
General Studies

My name is Dakota Morrison. I am Ganada from the village of Gingolx, and a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation. I grew up close to my family and my culture in Prince Rupert, BC. I want to pursue a career as a Social Worker so that I can support our people, and other Indigenous Peoples, on their journeys to health and wellness. T'ooyaksim' N'iisim, thank-you, New Relationship Trust Foundation for this opportunity.



Dion Clark
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Divers Institute of Technology
Commercial Diving

My name is Dion Clark and I was born and raised in Laxgaltsa'ap. From a young age, I have always had an interest in welding and working with my hands. I followed this interest first to completing my welding ticket, and now onto completing the Commercial Diving Program through the Diver's Institute of Technology (DIT) in Seattle, Washington, USA. This program has allowed me to combine my passion for the trades and working underwater. I am looking forward to working in the industry as a commercial diver.



Crystal Barton
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My Nisga'a name is Majagaleeimlaxdax, my given name is Crystal Barton and I am from the house of Ni'isjoohl and the Ganada clan. I have been married to my husband, Clint Barton, for seven years (together for 17 years) and we have 3 amazing children, ages 20, 15, and 11. My childhood has not always been easy, as both my parents were survivors of Residential School. The effects of that blocked my education for a while until I was ready to nurture my spirit back. Going back to school has been a saving grace for me, it also shows my children how you can be successful at any age. Getting an education is important to making a living in this world as long as you don't give up! As I continue on with my education, I will decide on a career, but my plan after school is to reach out and work with First Nations communities.



Dawn Tonks
Bonaparte Indian Band

Interior Academy
Professional Hair Stylist

I am a mother, wife, sister, daughter and auntie. I am a published poet and writer. I am an amateur bodybuilder, and will compete in my first show in 2021. I graduated from UBCO in 2011 and went on to work for eight and a half years at a copper/gold mine as a mill operator. I had to leave that job to due to health concerns. Now, at 44 years old, I am finally becoming a hairstylist! This was a dream I had as a teenager, but couldn't make happen due to life circumstances and poverty. Upon graduation from the Interior Academy, I plan to open my own business and be my own boss. I look forward to being independent, growing my client-base, and serving my community. I hope to be an example to Indigenous youth to never stop striving, never stop learning, be brave, and take chances, as you just might get everything you dreamed of.



Dixon Louis
Okanagan Indian Band

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
Heavy Equipment Technician

Hello! My name is Dixon Louis, I am from the Okanagan Indian Band and am currently completing my fourth and final year in my apprenticeship as a Heavy Equipment Technician at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Alberta. My future career goals are to become more independent, and start a business as Mobile Heavy Duty Mechanic utilizing my knowledge and experience gained throughout my apprenticeship.

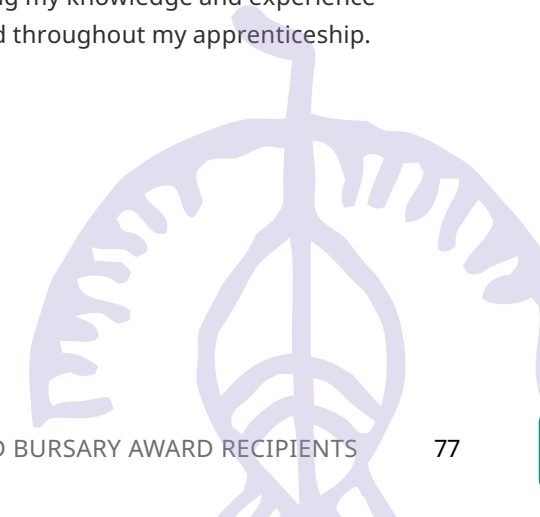
“My childhood has not always been easy, as both my parents were survivors of Residential School. The effects of that blocked my education for a while until I was ready to nurture my spirit back. Going back to school has been a saving grace for me, it also shows my children how you can be successful at any age. — Crystal Barton



Conrad McMillan
Okanagan Indian Band

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Power and Process Engineering

Hi, my name is Conrad McMillan and I am from Vernon, BC. I'm currently in my second and final year of Power & Process Engineering. I'm working on my third class Power Engineering Certificate and my Diploma. I hope to come out of this program and help provide clean and reliable energy for years to come.





Dusty Gairdner
Fort Nelson First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Power Engineering Technology

I am in my first year of Power Engineering at Thompson River University. I completed my Millwright in 2019 and am continuing in this complimentary field. A geo-thermal energy study is being researched for the Fort Nelson First Nation, and with this training I will be prepared to work with my Nation to work towards reducing climate pollution while creating new jobs. I'd like to extend my sincerest thanks to the New Relationship Trust Foundation Education Awards. I am overwhelmed and truly grateful for this opportunity to continue my education with your generosity. This award allows me to focus on my studies and continue working on my goals to pass the Red Seal interprovincial exam for Millwright and eventually complete Class 3, 2, and 1 of the Power Engineering certification in the years to come. Mahsi Cho (big thank you)



Emerald Kains
Akisqnuq First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Computer Systems Technology

My name is Emerald Kains and I am from the Akisqnuq First Nation. I am in my second and final year of the Computer Systems Technology program at BCIT. I chose this path after working in Indigenous healthcare research and seeing the benefits of technology and software in this field. I want to gain experience working as a software developer and pursue other avenues to make technology and learning about software more accessible.



Francis Racy
Gitwangak

Vancouver Island University
Early Childhood Education and Care

At my aunt's funeral, I received the name En nuu Ann Gaiwh, which is an important fishing site within my Nation. I come from a long line of hereditary Chiefs in the Gitxsan Nation of Gitwangak. I am a single mother, and my goal in life is to break intergenerational trauma, and to help my children reach their goals in life. My educational drive is to learn more about the development of children and how to help lay a good foundation for their future. It is such an amazing feeling to know your hard work paid off by seeing children meet and surpass new developmental milestones. I also want to dedicate my future to advocating for parents to receive aid they need to be successful. I will take what I learn and blend it with my Indigenous teachings in order to help heal the pain of intergenerational trauma within my Nation and beyond.



Hannah Parnell
Old Massett Village Council

Native Education College
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

I come from the Ts'aahl Jaanaas clan. I am 20 years old and I am going to school to become an Early Childhood Educator in the Aboriginal Infant and Toddler Educator Diploma and Aboriginal Special Needs Educator Diploma. Currently I'm attending online school because of the pandemic and this is my second year. Once I graduate NEC I want to go back to my hometown and teach at the school in my hometown. Thank for this award, I appreciate it. It is going to help me a lot during my studies.



Henry Morgan
Kispiox Band Council

Thompson Rivers University
Associate of Arts

My hereditary name is Uskuu'sel, I come from the Gitxsan Nation. I currently live in Prince George, BC with my family. I am working towards my Bachelor of Arts Degree and will be the first in my family to achieve this level of education. My parents have supported me through life with love, wisdom and guidance. I have lived away from my community for 20 years gaining experience and education. Upon completion of my degree, it is my goal to return to my community and be a leader and role model utilizing education and culture to strengthen my connection with family and community.



Isaac Watts
Gingolx Village Government

Native Education & Training College
Business Management

My name is Isaac Watts Jr. I am from the Nisga'a Nation of Gingolx, and I am from the Wolf Tribe. My goal is to work in the business world and be a coordinator for community development projects within my community.

"I have lived away from my community for 20 years gaining experience and education. Upon completion of my degree, it is my goal to return to my community and be a leader and role model utilizing education and culture to strengthen my connection with family and community.

— Henry Morgan



Isaac Etzerza
Tahltan Central Government

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Plumber Apprenticeship

Hello, my name is Isaac Etzerza. I am a member of the Tahltan Nation, from Telegraph Creek, BC. I'm in the fourth year of my Plumbing apprenticeship through BCIT. I plan on starting my own plumbing company. I want to contribute to my community by offering a career/apprenticeship in the plumbing trade to those that are interested.



Jacqueline Brooks
Cowichan Tribes

Vancouver Island University
Exploratory Studies

My name is Jacqueline Brooks, I am from Cowichan Tribes and I live in our traditional territories. I aim to turn my negative experience in the day school system, into something positive. My goal is to work with children and give them the best educational experience I possibly can.





James Jackson
Old Massett Village Council

Visual College of Art & Design
 Graphic Design

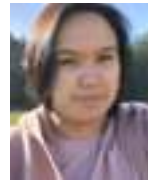
I am originally from Massett, BC and grew up in South East Alaska in a Traditional Tlingit village. I was raised traditionally and taught to preserve our culture, people, and our art. I began carving at age of 12 and fell in in love. Most recently I was provided the opportunity to pursue an art career with Visual College of Art and Design Vancouver. My goal is to create a career to support my family, as well as preserve my people’s traditional art. I was originally in one of the first Graphic Design with Native art in Alaska back in the mid 90’s. When I am certified, I want to create a free course for Native communities to facilitate a free children’s graphic design with Native Art course. I have many goals and ideas to accomplish and fulfill, all upon completion of this two year course. I thank you for your award.



Janice Tom
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Centre for Arts and Technology
 Network Administrator Specialist

I create Social Media Pages, websites, and troubleshoot personal computer hardware/software issues, and assist with Network Administration. I enjoy working in the technology sector because I like to be challenged in all areas of technology. I enjoy passing on my skills and utilising my education and experience to do the work that I do, as I feel it is a highly desired skill that I’m proud to have obtained. My goal is to achieve the proper Certification in Network Administration so that I can work at a high level in technology.



Janine Thompson
Huu-ay-aht First Nations

Vancouver Island University
 Early Childhood Education and Care

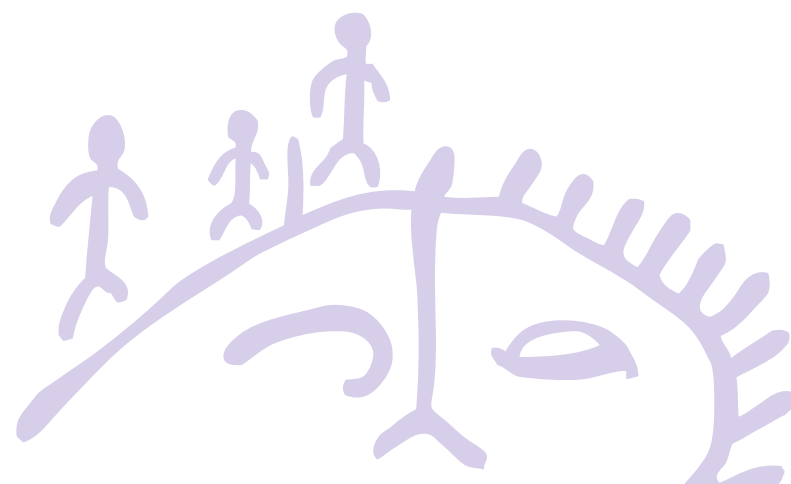
Hello, my name is Janine Thompson (Chu’ux) and I come from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. I live, laugh, and learn in the territory of the Snunymuxw First Nations. I am in my first year of Early Childhood Educator Diploma program and plan to transition into of a Bachelor of Social Work.



Jasmine Blanchard
Seabird Island Band

Blanche Macdonald Centre
 Professional Esthetics/Spa Therapist

Hello, I am Jasmine Blanchard from Seabird Island Nation. I am currently enrolled at the Blanche Macdonald Centre for Professional Esthetics and Spa Therapy. I wanted to get into esthetics to help educate people and assist them in gaining their skincare goals while boosting their confidence. My goal is to build my business, contribute to my community and be a good role model for my nieces and nephew.



Jaymyn La Vallee
Squamish Nation

University of British Columbia
 Special Education

I’m a Squamish and Kwakwaka’wakw woman who recently completed my Bachelor of Education at UBC. I am currently working towards completing my Special Education Diploma. My goal is to become an Indigenous Special Education teacher. I believe there is a need for this in our smaller communities. I would also eventually like to get my Master’s of Education in land-based learning so that I can structure our places of learning in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. It has been a long journey to be where I am at and I hope that I can inspire our young people and facilitate their learning journey.



Jennifer Elliott
Stz’uminus First Nation

University of Victoria
 Associate of Arts - Commerce

Jennifer Elliott is a proud member of the Stz’uminus First Nation, located on Vancouver Island. She is currently enrolled at the University of Victoria, continuing her studies for her Commerce degree of Business. The motivation for her choice of study was influenced by her background growing up in a political family. Her father was on council for 7 years, then chief for 11 years. He has always been her biggest inspiration for seeing first-hand how much one person can do for a community. She loved seeing the economic development of Stz’uminus, but she wanted to be able to give more. Thus, Jennifer’s true goal is to achieve the Master’s Degree that is half law and half business provided by UVIC, for this will open many opportunities for her along with Stz’uminus’ goal of self-sufficiency. This goal is a big one and will take about 10 years, however, she is unwilling to waver from this goal even at a glance at how high the requirements are and the restrictions on its capacity.



Jessica McCallum Miller
Gitwangak

Coast Mountain College
First Nations Fine Arts

Jessica McCallum-Miller is from House Geel of the Fireweed (Blackfish) Clan of Kispiox. Growing up in Northern BC surrounded by the mountains and waters, she felt a calling to create pieces of artwork that are inspired by nature. She believes that everything in nature is a teacher, that the trees, rocks, and sacred waters have stories to tell. Jessica tries to reflect this through her work when creating Traditional Tsimshian Artwork. She also enjoys creating contemporary and colourful pieces inspired by wildlife with a focus on respect for the conservation of animal life and sustaining our environment. Since the age of 20, Jessica has worked and lived as an Artist and Politician in Northwest BC. She is currently the youngest female and only Indigenous person elected to serve on the Terrace City Council. With a focus on sustainability, social equity and progressive leadership, she hopes to positively impact future generations and empower others to follow their passions.



Jessica Brooks
Skidegate Band Council

Langara College
Applied Science for Engineering

Hello! My Xaayda name is K'aadang.nga ad gam Gyuusda gang Jaad. After Langara, I plan to enroll in BCIT's Marine Engineering program to pursue a career that would allow me to be near the ocean while doing something I'm passionate about. Engineering is a difficult discipline of study, but that's one of the reasons why I love it! You can't learn or grow by taking an easier path in life, and there isn't anything else I would rather do or become. I aspire to be an engineer, and a good role model for my little sister. I've never had a positive role model to look up to, and so, I want to be that positive influence in my sister's life.



Joni Morris
Tsartlip First Nation

University of Victoria
Business Administration

Thaathlia Stuteewut (Joni Morris) was born in the Tsartlip First Nation and is the daughter of Antoinette Williams and Paul Sam Senior, and the granddaughter of Helen Jack, Ray Williams, Moses Sam, and Ida Paul. She is married to Boxwemet (Robert Morris). She is a mother to Wesk, Spotet, and Thanithalanew. Joni's career goal is to become a band manager for her community, as she wants to support her community in any way possible in times of need. She is working full time in the Health Department of Tsartlip, and one day wants to help manage it. She thanks all who have been a part of this process to NRT Foundation. She and her family are grateful. HISWKE



Julien Clement
Nazko First Nation

College of New Caledonia
Electrical Foundations

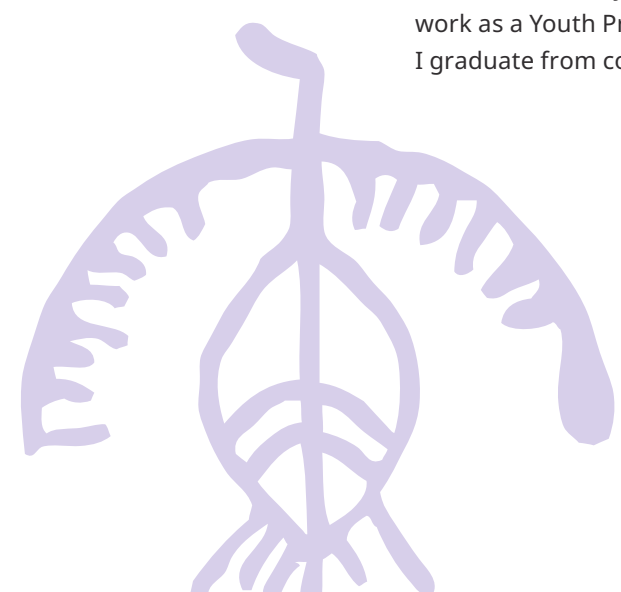
My name is Julien Lucas Perry Clement. I am 24 and I live in Hixon, BC. I am from the Nazko First Nations and I am attending CNC in Prince George, BC. I want to become an Electrician because I would be able to travel anywhere in the world with the trade knowledge and be able to get a decent job with it. I am aiming to make the most memories, not the most money in life. This scholarship will help me out immensely, as my band are unable to provide funding for trades anymore. This money will be going to my schooling, and help me stay focused, rather than trying to find ways to make money while in school. Thank you again for helping me go through school, it means a great deal knowing I have support and I'm not in such a dire situation as I once was.



Karalee Antoine
Saik'uz First Nation

Douglas College
Criminology

My name is Karalee Antoine. I am a basketball player and I am from Vancouver, BC. My career goal is to work as a Youth Probation Officer once I graduate from college in a few years.



Keilah Jolicoeur
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Selkirk College
Early Childhood Education

I plan to continue my schooling to become a Counsellor for children. My goal is to be a positive role model for Aboriginal children. There are not very many Aboriginal caretakers, and I want to make a difference and change that. I want children to feel more comfortable in daycare by having someone care for them with the same background, and it helps both of us learn more about our heritage together. I feel that this program can help me be more in touch with my Native heritage as my family isn't in touch with our background due to my mother being adopted. I want to say thank you to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for selecting me and allowing me to continue my schooling and further my education and become where I want to be in the future. I am so grateful for this opportunity and I am beyond excited to become an Aboriginal caretaker.



Kelsey Denomme
Gitlaxt'aamiks
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
Professional Cook Apprenticeship
I am from two Nations, the Nisga'a Nation and the Gitxsan Nation. I'm the youngest in my family of two girls and one boy, with my sister being the oldest. My career goal is to become a professional baker. I'm a quiet person when it comes to meeting new people, but with my friends I'm outgoing and loud. My other interests are soccer, basketball, painting and listening to music.



Keyshon Nelson
Gingolx Village Government

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts-
Art History and Visual Studies

My name is Keyshon Nelson. I am from Kincolith, of the Nisga'a Nation. My career goal is to obtain a degree in Art History and Visual Studies.



Lavern Guno
Gitlaxt'aamiks
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
Health Care Assistant

My name is Lavern Guno, I come from the village of Gitlaxt'aamiks, also known as New Aiyansh. My goal is to become a Health Care Assistant, and eventually go back to school to be a Licensed Practical Nurse and possibly a Registered Nurse one day.



Leanne Sam
Tsawout First Nation

Spratt Shaw College
Medical Office Administrator
Health Unit Clerk

My name is SWIJIYE (Leanne) Sam from Tsawout First Nations. I am currently enrolled in the Medical Office Administrative Hospital Unit Clerk Diploma Program at Spratt Shaw College. My goals are to pursue a career in Island Health and setting a strong example for my lovely daughter.



Lily Shuter
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Business Administration

Lily Shuter is a mother of five beautiful children whom she raised to value their heritage, respect their Elders, love the land, water, and wildlife. Lily has lived in the Beautiful Nicola Valley of Merritt, BC all her life and has a traditional way of life with her family. Lily is currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma program and looks forward to pursuing the Degree next year. Before becoming a full-time student with NVIT, Lily worked with the Lower Nicola Indian Band for sixteen years, uneducated at the minimum wage. Then, she decided to pursue a higher education to help benefit her family and to contribute to the community. Lily was nominated Valedictorian of her class in 2016 and 2018, and is currently on the Student Society Board and Student Council. She volunteers around the campus when needed with tours to help future students feel comfortable. Being a part of the college on different levels had a positive impact on Lily and others.



Lindsay Pierre
Katzie First Nation

Douglas College
Criminology

My name is Lindsay and I am a proud member of the Katzie First Nation. My career goals are to find a position in Crisis Intervention or the Native Courts. Being able to pursue my career goals is something that makes me proud and feel accomplished. I love helping people, and I would especially love helping First Nations communities.



Loni LeBlanc
Skidegate Band Council

Think Tank Training Centre
Computer Animation, Visual Effects
and Game Design

Hi, my name is Loni LeBlanc and my Haida name is Gahlandaay Dlaang. I am from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii and I am of the Naa S'aagas Xaaydagaay Eagle Clan. I am beyond excited to be enrolled in one of the top Computer Graphics training programs in Canada, Think Tank Training Centre, a fantastic institution where I will be studying Computer Animation, Visual Effects and Game Design. I have always been very intrigued by 3D animation, and have had a longing to learn about this exciting field. With my newfound skills I would love to help tell our Indigenous stories. Storytelling is a significant way we share with the world to show who we are as Indigenous people. With my education in animation I would like to work on Indigenous films and help make these stories a visual reality. I would also like to study more of my own culture's stories of creation, the supernatural, and history. I hope to one day soon be able to share our Haida stories through 3D animation and inspire others.



Lucy Woodman
Gingolx Village Government

Coast Mountain College
First Nations Fine Arts

Lucy wa'y, ii Hlgu Maksguum Ganaaw. Ksim Ganaaw ñiiy, ii Gingolx wil wítgwi'y. Nisga'ahl nooy, ii Tlingithl nígwoodiy. Rose (Gurney)hl wahl agwii- nits'iits'iy, ii Christopher Trimblehl wahl agwii-niye'e'y. Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda. My name is Lucy Trimble and my Nisga'a name is Little White Frog. I am from Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda, The House that is Never Empty. I am Frog clan and maternally from Gingolx, BC. My great grandparents were the late Rose (Gurney) and Christopher Trimble, they were one of two of the last arranged marriages from my village. I highlight the fierceness, strength and change makers who come in many forms that are breathing life into sleeping traditions. I have a Master's of Social Work with an Indigenous Specialization through the University of Victoria, and I am currently working as an Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician for a delegated agency. I registered for the Freda Diesing Fine Art Certificate Program when it was offered virtually. I have taken out a student loan to fund this program, and am highly grateful for NRTF support.



Marcus Daniels
Stz'uminus First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Criminology

Hi, my name is Marcus Robert Daniels. I am a member of the Stz'uminus First Nation and I am a traditional mask dancer. I go to Vancouver Island University full-time and work part-time as a group home caregiver. My goal is to help people. I started to study criminology and I learned about justice and how to help people in need. After I received my diploma in Criminology, I started working as a Security Professional, then after a year became a caregiver in a group home. We look after four First Nations youth for day-to-day activities. My family and spouse have been my number one support, as I could not have made it this far without their love and helpfulness. I am very close to completing my degree of Criminology, so I am going to keep moving forward to show that anyone can do something great as long as you put your mind to it.



Marcy Sellars
Xats'ull First Nation

Langara College
Arts & Science General

My name is Marcy Sellars and I am from the Xats'ull First Nation. My career goal is to become an Indigenous Registered Nurse, and Sports/Fitness Nutritionist. I have a great passion for health care in various aspects, and hope to further help Indigenous peoples, both locally and internationally, increase their health status.



Martin LeBourdais Johnson
Whispering Pines /
Clinton Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Welder Foundation

My name is Marty LeBourdais and I belong to the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band in the Secwépemc Nation and reside on the Whispering Pines Reserve. My career goal is to become a Level A Red Seal Welder. In order to achieve this goal, I am enrolled in the Welding Foundation and Apprenticeship Level C. Next, I will complete Level B and Level A technical training and complete a total of 4680 hours of work-based experience for my Red Seal Welding Designation. Knowing the possibilities of this trade, and how much I enjoy it, is why I have chosen it as my career path. Being able to work with my hands and seeing a completed project gives me gratification. I enjoy the satisfaction of taking blueprints and being able to read them and make the final product. This is a trade that is going to be able to maintain its sustainability in the job market.



Mary Williams
Old Massett Village Council

Camosun College
Indigenous Studies Diploma

I am from Haida Gwaii, and am a proud member of the Haida Nation. My goal is to get a degree in Indigenous Studies and continue my education at the University of Victoria to hopefully get into the JID Indigenous Law program. After that, I plan to return home to Haida Gwaii and represent the Council of the Haida Nation. I hope to represent my Nation well, and fight for Indigenous lands and title.

“She is passionate about (re) connecting Indigenous peoples to their lands and roots because it allows an opportunity for healing. She dreams of a career of bringing her own people back on out on their land and holding language camps outside.

— Myia Antone



Mary Jane Edgars
Old Massett Village Council

Langara College
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Mary Edgars, I am from Haida Gwaii. My career goals are to get a degree in Criminology and hopefully go back to my homelands and do my part in helping make Haida Gwaii a good place for my people.



Mary-Rose McDermott
Fort Nelson First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous University Preparation

My name is Mary-Rose McDermott and I am from Fort Nelson First Nation. I am a full-time student at SFU. I enjoy working with children and youth and my goal is to complete my Bachelor of Education. I hope to return to work in my home community as well as develop curriculum from an Indigenous perspective.



Myia Antone
Squamish Nation

Simon Fraser University
First Nations Language Proficiency

Myia Antone (she/her/hers) is currently a student in an advanced Skwx'wú7mesh sníchim (Squamish language) program. Being 1 of approximately 40 speakers means she carries a lot of responsibility revitalizing and passing down her language. She recently founded the nonprofit Indigenous Women Outdoors, to break down barriers that exist for Indigenous womxn to get out on the land and try new outdoor activities. She is passionate about (re)connecting Indigenous peoples to their lands and roots because it allows an opportunity for healing. She dreams of a career of bringing her own people back on out on their land and holding language camps outside.



Myles Neufeld
Skeetchestn Indian Band

Langara College
Associate of Arts - Creative Writing

I am a queer, Indigenous trans-man originally from the Okanagan. As I came to know myself though, I chose to move to Vancouver to be closer to my queer and Indigenous communities. I've faced a lot of prejudice and adversity in my life and have had many health problems growing up and still do, but all of it has turned me into the writer that I am today. I've taken the pain of my upbringing and have written worlds, all in the hope to transport readers who are struggling in life to a new and interesting world. Overall, I want to make queer characters and narratives in media commonplace, to eliminate prejudice and willful ignorance.

“I sincerely thank NRTF and all partners and donors for this opportunity, as it will definitely help me in my education journey.

— Safoura Rigi-Ladiz



Nikkayla Gladstone
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Resource Management
Officer Technology

My name is Nikkayla Gladstone and my family comes from Haida and Heiltsuk territory. I grew up for a majority of my life on Haida Gwaii surrounded by my loved ones. I'm enrolled in the Resource Management Officer Technology Program at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. When I complete my diploma I plan on returning to VIU to take my Bachelor degree in Natural Resource Protection. When my schooling is done, my goal is to return home and contribute to the conservation and preservation of our lands, waters and resources for future generations.



Ryan Elliott
Nuxalk Nation

Native Education College
Family and Community Counselling

Yaw, my name is Ryan Elliott, I am from the Nuxalk Nation, who's traditional land is located in Bella Coola, BC. Currently, I am in my second year working towards a Bachelor of Social Work. I want to work with Indigenous Peoples to aid in establishing personal empowerment to build strength for communities that large.



Safoura Rigi-Ladiz
N'Quatqua First Nation

Langara College
Journalism

I am St'at'imc from N'Quatqua Band. I am also Iranian, which is where my name is from. As challenging as this program is, I have never felt more inspired and happy to be in school. What originally inspired me to pursue an education in journalism was my interest in writing and social justice. In the future I plan to apply my knowledge from this program to help amplify the voices of Indigenous people, and advocate for people, artists, and environmental & social justice movements through journalism and media. Once I graduate I plan on moving to a smaller town on Vancouver Island and work for a small newspaper, focusing on community reporting.



Samantha Delacherois
Westbank First Nation

Okanagan College
Associate of Arts

way' iskw'ist Smúk a?xh. in' turh' x'wnarh' x'wnám (Shirlie Delacherois) i? skw'ists. in' mistrh' Rob Hatt i? skw'ists. in' k'íkwa? George Fosbery i? skw'ists. istrh' tíma? twi? Doreen Henderson i? skw'ists. I plan on pursuing UVIC's joint degree program in Canadian Common Law (JD) and Indigenous Legal Orders (JID). I would like to work within my community to bridge the gap between social work and law through a decolonized and anti-oppressive lens. With an education in Indigenous social work and Indigenous law I will be able to advocate for Syilx and Indigenous Peoples alike on both individual and structural levels. It is an honour to have been recognized with this award. limlám/ thank you.



Sarah Good
Old Massett Village Council

Langara College
Associate of Science

My name is Sarah Good, and I am from the Haida Nation in Old Massett. I'm from the Yahgu Jaanas Raven Clan from Daadans. I am in the general science program at Langara, I'm working towards graduating with an Associate of Science (General). My career goal is to become a wildlife biologist.



Sarah Bright
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

John Casablancas Institute
Makeup Artistry

My name is Sarah and I am in school to become a makeup artist. I want to become a teacher at my school as well as work in bridal and film makeup. A makeup artist can be flexible and work at multiple jobs. I enjoy creating looks and I love the confidence it gives me. As well as feeling beautiful, the process of it is relaxing. I really enjoy putting makeup on others, because of how happy they look when I am done. It gives me great pleasure to see that I can put a smile on people's face.



Selina Child
Kwakiutl Band Council

Camosun College
Indigenous Studies Diploma

I have a nursing background and with the experiences of helping others in that position I decided I wanted to help others in a different way. I have always had a passion to help others, so my goal is to finish a degree in Indigenous Social Work and become a counsellor. When deciding to return to school, my three children were definitely my biggest motivation. I want to show them that you can do anything when you set your mind to it, and dedicate yourself to your goals. I am enjoying this program and looking forward to more growth and skills to help me in helping others. I really appreciate the support, awards like these help decrease financial stresses and allow your energy to be focused on learning. Thank you.



Shannon Yeomans
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government

Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Accounting

Ksim Ganada. Wilp Ksim Xsaan. I am a mother of one. My little family recently moved away from home, it was time to show our son the opportunities he has for his future. He's enjoying what he's seeing and I love hearing his plans. I started work as a finance assistant in 2013 with my home community and I grew to love the fast paced environment. I now work for my Nation since 2018. Working here has made me want to further my education and complete my Diploma in Business Administration to start. I would love to complete my Master's degree one day as well.



Shawnae iilsgidee Robinson
Old Massett Village Council

Coast Mountain College
 Business Administration

My Haida name is Iilsgidee, and I am from the Yahgulaanas Raven Clan. Upon opening my emails, I had an overwhelming sense of gratitude, coupled with excitement to find out that I had been selected by NRT to receive a Foundation Education Award. Since the Business Administration Program has started I have been so successful that I plan to continue my education path for professional development. Again, I would like to thank you for your support and assistance because of which, I will be able to achieve my education goals.



Sheila Wilson
Penticton Indian Band

Okanagan College
 Business Administration

I am a single mother to my daughter Mia Haines-Wilson, who is five years old. She is the ultimate reason I attend school; I want to role model to her that education is relevant to our futures. I role model education, wellness, as well as sobriety. I am six years sober and continue to strive for the best for myself and my child. My educational goal is to graduate with my Business Diploma and continue my education journey to graduate with my Business degree at Okanagan College. My career is to work in Management within my community or Nation. I want to help our people be more self-sufficient and manage our own businesses, so that we can live and be on our land in our own way.



Sherayne Pigeon
Tl'etingox Government

Okanagan College
 Mechanical Engineering Technology

My name is Sherayne Pigeon and I am attending the local Okanagan College in Kelowna, BC. My long-term career goal is to first get my Mechanical Engineering Technology Diploma at Okanagan College, then bridge over to UBC to complete my Mechanical Engineering Degree. In the midst of getting my diploma and degree I will be applying for the Co-op program, this will be a huge advantage in developing connections and narrowing down my field of choice. My end goal, is to work for BC Hydro and through them work with my community. This is an exciting time, and I making my dreams come true. Much appreciation to NRTF.

“I am a single mother to my daughter Mia Haines-Wilson, who is five years old. She is the ultimate reason I attend school; I want to role model to her that education is relevant to our futures

— Sheila Wilson



Simone Paul
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Thompson Rivers University
 Executive Assistant

I am Simone Paul and I am from Tkemlups te Secwépemc. I would like to have my own photography business. I would like to further enhance my business background, not only for me, but also for when I continue to work for my community. I would like to help in any way that I can. I want to learn more about my culture and language as well.



Tara Jacobs
Stz'uminus First Nation

Vancouver Island University
 Child and Youth Care

Hello, my traditional name is Telhulwut, I am also known as Tara Jacobs. I live in the Stz'uminus First Nation Territory. I am in my last year of the Child and Youth Care Degree program as I have always loved working with children and youth. My program has really helped me grow as a person, I am truly grateful! I have enjoyed my education journey which brought new friendships and great support system. I could have not made it this far without the kind, caring support from my husband, family, friends and professors. My main strive and dedication is wanting to show my four children that when you put your mind to your goals and dreams, that you can make it happen. I plan on jumping right into the work field when I graduate, I am unsure of what door to open but look forward to being out in the field soon.



Tatyana Schneider
Samahquam First Nation

Native Education College
 Indigenous Land Stewardship

I was born in Lheidli T'enneh territory, but grew up in Saanich from ages eight to fifteen. Since then I have lived in the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh traditional territories. I am an Ucwalmicw woman and I am going to exercise my education by proactively working towards the preservation of our homelands for the next seven generations and onward. Being born in the North tends to foster a strong sense of resilience in people. You learn that after every harsh winter comes a beautiful spring. That was the truth of my childhood, but is no longer. The earth is heating at an uncontrolled rate, our opportunities to step up and create a future for all of us is passing us by. I am extremely grateful for this award, and promise to uphold my responsibility to the sponsors as I finish out my certificate course at Native Education College. I hope that once I complete my schooling, I can pursue a career working within or for Samahquam. The process has been challenging but also so rewarding and I look forward to the next eight months and what they have in store for me.



Theresa Beaton
Soowahlie First Nations

University of the Fraser Valley
Medical Office Assistant

My name is Theresa Beaton, I am from Soowahlie First Nations in Cultus Lake, BC. My career goal is to become a medical office assistant. I have five children: a 21 year old, twin 16 year olds, an 8 year old, and a 5 year old. I also enjoy beading and crocheting in my spare time.



Tony Kenoras
Adams Lake Indian Band

Simon Fraser University
Secwepemc Language Proficiency

Weytk, Re skwest ri7 Tony Kenoras (my name is Tony Kenoras). I am from Adams Lake Indian Band right outside of Chase, BC. I am a father to two beautiful children: one boy (2yrs), and one girl (4yrs). Currently I am employed by my band to create fitness workout plans for people in my community as I am a recent graduate from a Bachelor of Kinesiology program from UBC. My job is part-time, but I wanted to expand my work opportunities towards teaching, as I want to teach physical education at the Chief Atahm School in my Nation. The program I am in offers a 1 year certificate, then the next step is a diploma, after that a Bachelor of Education degree. This is what I plan on working towards. Combining these two fields of study is my ultimate goal, so I will be work towards it.



Yvonne Hill
Gitga'at Nation

Simon Fraser University
Professional Development

My name is Morgan Hill and I am from Hartley Bay, BC. I'm currently training to be an Elementary school teacher, so I can successfully move back to my hometown and be an active member of my community once again.



Aiyana Twigg
Ktunaxa Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

With training in First Nations Endangered Languages (FNEL) and Anthropological linguistics, I hope to decolonize and deconstruct the westernized concepts that are embedded in linguistics that negatively impact Indigenous languages and their connection with culture. My ultimate goal is to approach Indigenous languages in a decolonized and holistic way that respects the intrinsic connection between language and culture, while also fostering a relationship with linguistic analysis and documentation. I am currently the Arts Indigenous Student peer advisor, and one of the main facilitators for the Indigenous Leadership Collective at UBC.



Aleah Johnson
Wet'suwet'en

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

I also hold a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Certificate in Traditional Ecological Knowledge from UNBC (2013). When reflecting on my teaching philosophy, it is important to acknowledge my past experiences, beliefs, and ways of learning. By doing this, I am incorporating my lived experience with Indigenous knowledge while integrating the western teaching theories. By combining these two world views, I plan to build the foundation of my teaching philosophy as a holistic and community and land-learning environment for the students in my class. As a teacher, I plan to adopt a form of inquiry-based learning where the students and I learn together.



Alexis Baldwin
Gitwangak

University of the Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Science

I am the youngest of my sisters, and the first daughter to pursue a post-secondary education. My goal is to achieve my Doctorate of Veterinarian Medicine and provide affordable services to the people of my community. I have always had a deep desire to help animals and those within my community, and this career path will allow me to do so. I want my story to inspire others to pursue their goals in education. As a student I faced hardships within my post-secondary education journey, and I want to be able to show those in the same situation that nothing is out of reach if you keep going, and to believe in yourself. I'm grateful for my family, loved ones, and my community who have helped me to pursue my goals in education.



Alicia Marchand
Okanagan Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

Way' My name is Alicia Marchand and I am from the Okanagan Indian Band in Vernon, BC. I currently hold my Aboriginal Education Support Worker Diploma. I have worked at the Cultural Immersion school within my Nation for a year now. Since working with the kids and in a school setting for the first time, I realized my passion, teaching. I am currently enrolled in my first year of the NITEP program. I am working towards getting my teaching degree. I feel very blessed that I have my career goal. I am excited to soon be teaching our youth.



Alysha Milne
Kispiox Band Council

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Linguistics

My name is Alysha Milne and I am a proud member of the Kispiox First Nation. I currently attend Simon Fraser University pursuing a major in Linguistics and minor in Psychology. I hope to continue my education in the future and receive my Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology. After having seen the dramatic impact speech therapy has had on children's lives, I hope that I too can help make that same difference, allowing others to communicate and advocate for their wants and needs. I would like to thank the NRTF and First Nations Health Authority for their support in my academic goals, I sincerely appreciate it!



Anja Aird
Saulteau First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Business Administration

Tanisi! My name is Anja Aird and I am a proud member of Saulteau First Nation. I am currently attending Thompson Rivers University studying business. My goals are to complete my Bachelor of Business Administration and to become a successful realtor. Affordable and sustainable housing for young families is something I would like to pursue when I have finished my degree. I am a single mother and hope to be a role model to my daughter and other First Nation females pursuing an education in business. My parents have taught me the value of having an education, and I would like to pass these teachings onto my own daughter. I am grateful for this award, and I am excited about where my journey will take me.



Annika Martynuik
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Education

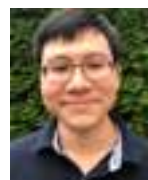
I'm studying towards a Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University. I was inspired to pursue a career in education by the teachers I had growing up and my passion for learning. I plan on becoming a teacher at an elementary school or teaching English as a second language.



Arlene Antrim
Ulkatcho First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Arlene Antrim, and I'm from the Ulkatcho First Nations. I'm currently in the Bachelor of Arts program, majoring in Psychology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. I'm feeling very appreciative of the support I have received, which I benefited from immensely in regards to reaching my educational goals.



Austin Whitney
Xaxli'p

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Science - Computing Science

I am Austin James Whitney and I am a proud member of the Xaxli'p First Nation located in Fountain, BC. After I complete my major in computing science at SFU this year. I would like to work as a software developer in a big tech company. Thank you to the Xaxli'p Education Committee and to NRTF for supporting me throughout my education and helping me reach my academic goals.



Ayana Brown
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Dixie State University
Bachelor of Science - Accounting

My name is Ayana Brown and I am a member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band located in Merritt, BC. I have been attending university in the United States at Dixie State University for the last two and a half years. I'm in my third year and love my business accounting degree. I'm a dancer and lover of anything outdoors. I hope to earn my MBA after my undergraduate degree and work in healthcare management. I want to run healthcare facilities like hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other healthcare centers. I want to help my community and Elders have better access to healthcare education and care. I believe that I can positively impact my community by learning how to run healthcare facilities and bring my knowledge to my community. Thank you, NRTF for the opportunity to earn this scholarship.



Beverly Martin
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Education

My name is Beverly Martin and I am learning the Nuuchahnulth Language. I hope to teach or mentor in the Nuuchahnulth Language, or create resources, and digitize old recordings of our language.



Blaine Lindstrom
Tahltan Central Government

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science - Ecological Restoration

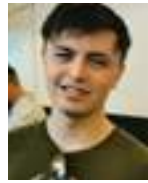
My Tahltan name is Mesdzi Nehass. Mesdzi means owl, and as a young toddler I would stay awake to play after the lights went out. These days I am still a night owl, but now I focus on my studies rather than just play. I've dedicated my life to the land, specializing in Ecological Restoration at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. I want to bring this knowledge and experience home to build up the Tahltan territories value in its environment and increase resilience to the future challenges that climate change will certainly bring.



Brandon McReynolds
Squamish Nation

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Bachelor of Science - Business Administration

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 relations. With my current experience working with the Squamish Nation I aspire to complete my schooling and return to work with the Economic Development Department and focus on real estate and investments. With our location of reserve lands, we're fortunate to have the opportunity to build large developments for the community. I plan to one day manage this position and become a project developer within First Nations land. Prior to returning to my Nation I plan to proudly represent the Squamish Nation while continuing my hockey career professionally.



Bret Watts
Tseshaht First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Kinesiology

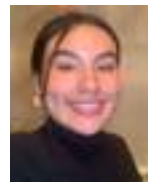
My name is Bret Watts and I am a member of the Tseshaht First Nation from Port Alberni, BC. My traditional name is Kuna, which means "Gold". I am currently studying Kinesiology as an undergraduate at the University of British Columbia. I wish to use the knowledge from my degree to improve health outcomes for my community or other First Nations through the use of physical activity and recreation. I am looking to either pursue a Master's degree in Physiotherapy, Public Health, or Kinesiology in the future.



Connor Louis
Musqueam Indian Band

Queen's University
Bachelor of Arts Honours -
Political Studies

My name is Connor and I am a proud Musqueam Indian Band member. I am in my second year at Queen's University majoring in Political Studies and a member of the varsity football team. I chose Political Studies because I want to supplement my traditional education in order to work in a field that will support Indigenous people in our relationships with various governments. I am very thankful for the support from NRTF, which has enabled me to get so much closer to achieving my educational and athletic goals.



Cascade Campbell
Squamish Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

My biggest dream is to graduate from university because education is so important to my family and me. This program will help me fulfill my dream and pave my way into a successful life. I believe that these kinds of programs enable higher levels of success for post-secondary students. This allows our Indigenous youth to graduate with their degree and give back to their community. After I graduate from the Bachelor + Master of Management Dual Degree program, my goal is to leave university with the skills to continue expanding, learning, and developing with my career and education over time. Huy chexw a.



Christine Johnson
Old Massett Village Council

University of New Mexico
Bachelor of Arts - English

I am an English major from Haida Gwaii. I grew up in Old Massett, studied Archaeology at SFU, then moved to the US with the plan of attending grad school. Life took some turns and I now have a four year old son. He is the centre of my life, and he is autistic. This has meant that I needed to take a new approach to my educational and career planning. I plan to attend graduate school in a program geared towards Library Sciences or teaching adult learners. I think there is great power to be found in education, and my goal is to find a career path that makes education more accessible. I greatly appreciate the support from the New Relationship Trust - without it, especially due to the COVID crisis. Thank you.



Craig Adams
Neskonlith Indian Band

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Education

Weytkp,Re skwest ri7 Geoffrey Craig Adams. St'7ek-ke te Sk'etsin Te Secwepemc yexmell mut-ke ne Tcwe7lank. Ec r elkst-we ne Ts'elcewtqen Clleq'mel'ten me'te K-4 stsmemelt. I work as an assistant teacher in the K-4 immersion department at Chief Atahm School on the Adams Lake Reserve. I have been fortunate to receive excellent mentoring from a fluent Elder in our community and a highly experienced kindergarten teacher from the immersion school through mentoring programs since 2015. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their kind and generous donation through this grant to help me achieve my dream of becoming an immersion teacher at Chief Atahm School. Kukstsemc.



Dana Roberts
Wei Wai Kum First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Education

Yoxwdaxw'la Hi to All,Nugwa?əm Q'anasumaḡa Danaλən. My traditional name is Q'anasumaḡa given to me by my grandmothers, and my English name is Dana. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization. I have been revitalizing Likw'ála Language for over twenty years. I teach language in SD72 in a kindergarten immersion program with a certified teacher. It has been a great journey and I am looking forward to complete my degree. ḡilakas'áa New Relationship Trust for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship.



Diamond-Lee Point
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

Over the last three years I have completed the NITEP Indigenous Teacher Education Program at the University of British Columbia. Beginning this September, I have started the final 11 month Teacher Education certification program and was accepted into the IB Diploma Program cohort. Over these last years, I have been extremely dedicated in my studies in order to begin a career as an educator. After completing my Bachelor of Education, I plan to teach secondary social studies and history. My dream would be to teach a course at the high school level that would be solely Indigenous focused.



Hailey Bennett
Old Massett Village Council

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - English

My Haida name is Yaahl Tsujuus Jaad. I plan on continuing onto my PhD. Studying literature is studying how society reacts to events, how the human spirit prevails through harrowing times. I plan on using my education to educate future Indigenous students to envision the capacity of love and compassion even during times of turmoil. For Indigenous youth to feel represented in all fields and feel emboldened to pursue whatever career they want. Most of all, I would like to be a positive influence for my younger relatives to go to university and find a path in their own lives that makes them happy and healthy. I want to be a bastion on coping with mental health and attending post-secondary.



Hannah Johnson
Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Arts - History

Hi my name is Hannah Johnson. I am from the Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band. I am currently finishing my last year of my undergraduate degree majoring in History. I chose History as my major since I have such a passion for learning and how not only Canada, but the world has changed and evolved over time. The next step along my journey is law school. I am hoping with my future career I can help change peoples lives through prison reform, Indigenous law and immigration issues as well. In my free time I enjoy paddle boarding and travelling!



Hannah Trombley
Gitanmaax Band

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

My name is Hannah Trombley and I was born and raised in the small northern community of Hazelton, BC. I am a proud Gitksan First Nations woman. I am extremely blessed and grateful to have received an award from the NRT foundation, as it has lifted a huge financial burden off my shoulders. I am in the Education program at UNBC in hopes of becoming a certified elementary school teacher. I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of my community, family, and opportunities presented by the NRT Foundation. I cannot wait to further my education and return to my home community someday to teach!



Jack Palm
'Namgis First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - History

My name is Jack, I am from Roberts Creek, BC and I am studying History to be a high school teacher. I think that studying to become a teacher could lead me to become a good influence and mentor for other students in my community and other Indigenous students.



Janet Atchison
Squamish Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Kinesiology

I am midway through my third year in the Faculty of Kinesiology at UBC. While working on my undergraduate degree I have also been playing varsity rugby at UBC. I also had the distinction of competing with U20 Team Canada in the Tri-Nations Cup. After completing my undergraduate degree I will be continuing on with my post secondary studies. I am very grateful for the support of my family and my First Nations community.



Jenna Myers
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Athabasca University
Bachelor of Science - Architecture

My partner and our daughter currently live in Vernon, BC where I am studying at Athabasca University. I believe that my purpose in life is to design places which help our communities and families thrive; I am grateful to my ancestors for bestowing me with this ambition. Thank you sincerely to the NRTF for this opportunity to continue towards my educational goals.



Jennifer Parker
Okanagan Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute Of Technology
Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency

way, isk'wíst Jennifer Parker, I am part of the Okanagan Indian Band. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency (BNLF) Program through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and En'owkin Centre. I have always had a passion for learning language, and have been inspired by my family to pursue a path towards becoming a teacher of our language. I would like to complete this program and return to my community to work with our youth in learning our language and culture. Aside from school, I have a passion for teaching youth clá lq'w (to play stick game). way.



Jessica Campbell
Fort Nelson First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Jessica Campbell. I am Dene and a member of Fort Nelson First Nation from Northern British Columbia. I am currently working toward my first degree at UBC Vancouver. I wish to major in First Nations and Indigenous studies in the upcoming years. I am a college graduate with a background in Social Work. I plan to apply the knowledge I've aquired during my studies to be an advocate for Indigneous Peoples from my Nation and across Canada.



Jessica Creyke
Witset First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

Hadih! Si Sozi Jessica Creyke nee Michell. I am Wet'suwet'en from Witset, BC. I am from the Likht'samisyu clan (Killer Whale/Fireweed Clan). I am a mother of three children, they are my reason for going back in school as a mature student. I am excited to be in my professional year of my teaching degree. I am excited to bring an Indigenous perspective to the classroom, and incorporate some language too! It's been a work in progress, I am excited! Azitzah!



Juliana Speier
Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Tribal Council

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science

She is Kwakwaka'wakw Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, as well as German and Scottish. She lives most of the year and has mainly grown up in Victoria on the unceded lands of the WSANEC and Lekwungen peoples, although when she can she returns home to her traditional territory. In the last few years she has spent most of her summer back home visiting family, working with her community, and learning from the land. Juliana has grown up immersed in the oceans and forests of the Northwest Coast, and has a deep love for the nature around her and is constantly active in learning about and interacting with the land from both a scientific and Indigenous viewpoint. Through her work in both scientific and artistic fields, she wants to be able to uphold and assert Indigenous culture, title and rights both inside and outside of her community.



K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford
'Namgis First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science - Chemistry

My name is K'sana. I am from the 'Namgis, Gitxsan and Tsimshian First Nations. I am named after the Skeena River, known as the 'Ksan River, which runs through Gitxsan traditional territory. My name loosely translates to "Woman of the River."

After completing my Bachelor degree, I plan to attend medical school. My dream is to become a doctor and support Indigenous communities through medicine. Many Indigenous peoples in Canada do not have access to basic healthcare services, and rarely ever from other Indigenous practitioners. I hope that by pursuing a career in science I can be a role model and empower other Indigenous youth to see themselves working in STEM fields.



Kyley Pilkington
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Education

I completed my first degree at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, with a major in Psychology and a minor in English. I recently moved to Kelowna to begin my Bachelor of Education at the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus. My goal is to become a middle school or high school teacher. I hope to teach English, French, and Social Studies. I am someone who has always been passionate about learning, and I am very excited to be on my way to becoming a teacher!



Larissa Mowat
Skowkale First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

My name is Larissa Mowat and I am from Skowkale First Nation. I am in my fourth year of my Bachelor Degree, majoring in Psychology. After completing my degree, I hope to continue my studies in a Master's program. Once I graduate I would like to work in the area of counselling with a focus on youth in our community.



Lynzee West
Haisla Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

Ama sa! My name is Lynzee West. I am a proud member of the Gitxsan and Haisla Nations. I from the House of xGwoimtxw and the Lax Gibuu Clan. I have three beautiful sons whom I raise on our ancestral and unceded Gitxsan Laxyip. I am in my final year of the Bachelor of Education program at UNBC, and am participating in the Gitxsanimx Language Mentorship program. My culture is important to me. I am grateful to work towards its continuance and preservation. I am very grateful for programs like the New Relationship Trust Foundation. You help make my education possible. I will be a productive member of my society and Nation. I will contribute to my Nation's future and honour my role as educator. I am proud to be a third generation teacher in my family. I look forward to pursuing my Master's Degree in Counselling or Indigenous Cultural Revitalization in the upcoming school year. Ha'miia



Marcus Reid
Heiltsuk Tribal Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

I am an Indigenous youth born and raised in the city of Newton, Surrey, BC on the unceded Coast Salish territory of Katzie, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen, with family and ancestral connections to the Heiltsuk and Nisga'a First Nations. Currently, I am a working, community organizing, full-time student. I first graduated from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and now in the midst of my UBC undergraduate degree majoring in First Nations/Indigenous studies with a plan to continue to PhD level education. I hold my hands up in gratitude for my family, friends, community members, the Land, and my ancestors all for holding me in a good way to encourage me reaching for the stars! T'ooyaḱsiy' h' iin!



Mari Davis
Saulteau First Nation

University of Alberta
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Mari is in her fourth and final year for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is excited to be finished and to be able to start working in the hospital. Her goals are to work in the ER/ICU, and eventually go back to her community, where she can work on becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

"I hope that during my lifetime, I can work as hard for my daughter and future generations as my ancestors have done for me. ÍYNEC/EL SW HÁLE.
— Mataya Jim



Mataya Jim
Tseycum First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts - Sociology

ǷESTÁNIYE ƑE NE SNÁ. ĆSE LÁ,E ET Ƴ SÍǷEM. Ƴ SÁNEĆ SEN. Kwestani'ye thunu snet. University of Victoria kw' snes tthunu skwoul'ew't'hw. Ƴ SÁNEĆ tsun. My traditional name is ǷESTÁNIYE, and I am Ƴ SÁNEĆ from Ƴ SÍǷEM. I also have ties to Penáloxeth' and waayaa. I am studying Sociology and Indigenous Studies at the University of Victoria. Upon completion, I hope to fulfill my community role, working in the health and wellness areas focusing on the social determinants of health. I hope that during my lifetime, I can work as hard for my daughter and future generations as my ancestors have done for me. ÍYNEC/EL SW HÁLE.



Matt Cooley
?Esdilagh First Nation

University of the Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Business Administration

My name is Matt Cooley, I am from the Shuswap and Carrier First Nations. I played Men's Basketball at The University of The Fraser Valley and will graduate in December 2020 with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. After graduation, I plan on working in the field of Human Resources.



Melinda Pick
Skidegate Band Council

University of Northern British Columbia
 Bachelor of Education

My name is Melinda Pick, my Haida name is Guud Xangii. I am currently attending the Skidegate Haida Bachelor of Education Degree Completion Program which was offered in September 2020, on the UNBC Skidegate campus. I am taking on-line classes because of changes at UNBC because of COVID-19. Upon graduation in December 2021, I would like to be a Haida Language and Culture teacher. The jobs are limited for Haida language teachers until we expand our Haida Immersion programs so I decided to get the qualifications to teach other classes in elementary school. Haawa/Thank you for your continued funding, I appreciate your ongoing support.



Nicholas Baker
Squamish Nation

Simon Fraser University
 Bachelor of Arts - Criminology

My name is Nick Baker, and I'm from West Vancouver, BC. I attend Simon Fraser University, majoring in Criminology with a Philosophy minor, with a concentration in Law and Philosophy. I am hoping to go to law school after finishing my undergraduate, and become a lawyer specializing in either First Nations law, or Ethics law. I'm a proud member of the Squamish Nation, and I like to play lacrosse, golf, and chess.



Odelle Walthers
Upper Similkameen Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
 Bachelor of Science

My name is Odelle Walthers and I am from Calgary, Alberta. I am attending UBCO however due to COVID, learning must be remote and I spend my time doing online classes. I wish to either pursue a career in teaching, or possibly something in the art field. Our family only discovered our Indigenous heritage when I was in middle school and have recently begun reconnecting with our community. I am a member of the Upper Similkameen band in British Columbia and wish to move closer to them once the pandemic is over. I appreciate this opportunity and am excited to see what my future has for me.



Owen Harris
Gitwangak

University of Northern British Columbia
 Bachelor of Urban Forestry

I am studying forestry at the University of British Columbia to better understand forest systems, climate change, and the interactions between humans and the natural world. My career goal is to be a steward of the land and water, as my ancestors have been since time immemorial. I will share the knowledge from my forestry studies and my traditional knowledge through cultural use, recreational use, and management of our forests. The affects of climate change and deforestation threatens the health and safety of our Indigenous communities now more than ever before. I want to help find solutions so our communities may thrive like they once did.



Paula Varnell
Old Massett Village Council

University of Northern British Columbia
 Bachelor of Education

My name is Jaad Tl'aaw, I belong to the G aw Git'ans Git'ney Masset Inlet Eagle Clan, on Haida Gwaii. I am the X aayda kil/Haida Language Nest Program Coordinator in the Village of Skidegate. I am a teacher candidate in the last year of my degree with the University of Northern British Columbia. Over the last five years, I have earned my Diploma in First Nations Haida, and my Education Diploma in First Nations and Culture - Elementary Years. It is my intention to become certified with the British Columbia Teachers Federation so that I can teach the Haida Language and culture in School District 50 on Haida Gwaii. None of this would be possible without the guidance and support of the few remaining fluent Haida Language speakers in the Haida Nation. It is with both honour and respect that I carry the responsibility, to perpetuate our culture and the love of our beautiful language.



Rayn Cook-Thomas
Songhees Nation

York University
 Bachelor of Fine Arts - Honours

My name is Rayn Cook-Thomas and I am Kwakwaka'wakw from the Namgis Nation of Alert Bay, BC, and Lekwungen from the Songhees Nation of Victoria, BC. I am an aspiring dancer/choreographer (in the BFA Dance Honours program at York University) who hopes to awaken the minds of audiences through thought-provoking choreography; using the delicate, potent, and exciting fusion of contemporary dance and Indigenous storytelling. I am able share my rich culture, timeless traditions, and vibrant identity in powerful ways, sometimes even without words. As my worldview is brought to life through theatre, dance, and movement, I am able to honour the voices that have come before me, that have raised me, that are yet unborn, and that are stored within me as blood memory. Gi'lakasla.



Reiley Terbasket
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

University of British Columbia -
Okanagan
Bachelor of Science

I am an avid basketball player and have played for university teams as well as in the annual All Native Basketball Tournament. I am in my final 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. Attending post-secondary allows me to build valuable knowledge which will allow me to work in my Nation. I aspire to be an Indigenous Researcher to continue 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

ʔi ʔə ce:p ʔəw ʔeləy ʔalʔ? Ruthie Speck kʷə nə skʷix, tənɪʔ cən ʔə ʔə xʷməθkʷəyəm. My goal is to become an English and Social Sciences Secondary Teacher and hope to develop a hənʔəmiñəh curriculum for high schools. It has only been over the past couple years that I've realized the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and using my own language. Studying hənʔəmiñəh has also helped me understand much more about myself, my culture, and about the ones who came before us and this has left me with a longing to continue to learn and pass on that knowledge.



Samantha Davis
Saulteau First Nation

University of Alberta
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Samantha Davis. I am a fourth year student at the University of Alberta. I am from Saulteau First Nations in Moberly Lake, BC. My goal is to work with Indigenous Youth in the area of recreation. In 2018 I took a year off from school to work as a youth recreation coordinator in my community and at that point, I knew I would love to do that for the rest of my life.



Savana Alphonse
Tl'etinqox Government

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Arts

I am in my third year of my Bachelor of Arts Program from the Thompson Rivers University. I am looking forward to continuing my education journey so that I may advocate for my Tsilhqot'in Nation as well as other Indigenous peoples. By developing strong writing skills and also by use of creativity we can convey strong messages. I would also like continue to work in the areas of intergenerational trauma that has affected both sides of my family for generations.

“My passion is to help, guide, and offer support to encourage successful experiences for all people to benefit from. The New Relationship Trust Fund has given me the opportunity to continue my journey, and I will forever be grateful.

— Samantha Desautels



Samantha Desautels
Gingolx Village Government

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Education

Samantha Beynon (Desautels) di waayu, Gingolx di wil waatgu, Ganhada di pdeegu, Victoria di wil dzogu, Axdii will lu gooda di waabu. William and Tracy Beynon di nagyetgu. Jean Fitzgerald di Nts'i'itsu, Brian Fitzgerald na di Niyaayu, Dorothy Derrick na di Niyaayu, William Beynon na di Niyaayu. Hello, My name is Samantha Beynon-Desautels. I would like to acknowledge the unceded territory of the Lekwungen and W SÁNEĆ peoples. I have been a visitor and have called Victoria my home for the past seven years. I am mixed blood of Nisga'a, Tsimshian, Irish and Swedish. I am the great-granddaughter of hereditary chiefs William Beynon the 2nd and Chief Clah (Arthur Wellington). My ancestors give me great motivation with their past knowledge and success to strive for better. I am a mother of two and I am currently finishing the Bachelor of Education program at VIU and I also just finished writing my first children's book that relates to my Nisga'a heritage. Through my books and education, my hopes are to help end vicious cycles and stereotypes surrounding historical abuses in Indigenous communities.



Serena Smith
Skidegate Band Council

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Sing.aay 'laa. Good day. My name is Serena Smith and I am from the Haida Nation, currently pursuing an undergrad degree in Social Sciences at Simon Fraser University. I am interested in learning about the way society functions, it's cultures, and the way that systems work around the world. I am particularly interested in international relations because I get to learn about democracy, globalization, and the human rights regime. One day, I hope to return to Haida Gwaii to be able to help my community in our pursuit of sovereignty and the strengthening the Haida language. It is my goal to see our communities strengthened and our people empowered through our culture, language, and sense of belonging. I am beyond grateful to NRT for giving me this award because it will help me succeed and give me the ability to focus on my studies. The opportunity to get an education is one that I am extremely grateful for, and I will continue to do my best to focus and try my hardest. Haawa, haawa, haawa (thank you) NRT!



Selena Blake
Skidegate Band Council

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Selena Blake. I am from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii, and am a member of the Kaadass Gaah K'iiguwaay Clan of Tanu. I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Camosun/UVIC. My goal is to become a Registered Nurse and specialize in the operating room. I would love to gain some work experience in Victoria, then spend some time working in my hometown.



Shadyn Alphonse
Tl'etinqox Government

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Shadyn Alphonse, I am a Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) and Cree Nenqayni (People of the Earth) from Tl'etinqox (Anaham). I am an intergenerational Residential School and Sixties Scoop survivor. I've spent many years reconnecting with my cultural roots, decolonizing and Indigenizing my way of thinking and living. I am presently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts Program with Thompson Rivers University. It is my hope to be an advocate for the Tsilhqot'in Nation and all Indigenous people. I want to protect our lands, water, languages and traditions for the future generations.



Shannon-Rose Vickers
Laxgalts'ap Village Government

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Cognitive Science

Wilxo'osgum nit'its hl xsgaak niy'. Ksiim Laxsggik niy' ii wilps La'ay ahl Laxgalts'ap. Nisga'a Nation, w'itgwiy'. I am An Eagle With Wisdom that Comes From the Ancestors. I am of the Eagle tribe from the House of La'ay in Laxgalts'ap. I come from the Nisga'a Nation. On my paternal side I am also Tsimshian, Heiltsuk and Haida. I have lived in Metro Vancouver for the bulk of my life, but have also spent time living in my homelands of Laxgalts'ap, BC and Toronto, ON. My husband is Anishinabe and I met him as part of the Indigenous Youth Gathering which welcomed the world at the 2010 Olympic Opening Ceremonies. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience without which we may have never have met. The birth of my two children in 2011 and 2017 has shown me that home is wherever my family is, so home was often hopping all over from BC to ON for powwows and visiting our families up until I started my degree at SFU. I am a creative soul at heart, and my career goals are to find a path that allows me to channel both my creative spirit and the knowledge I've acquired. As Cognitive Science is a multidisciplinary degree combining Psychology, Linguistics, Philosophy and Computer Science, I am learning more about the breadth of opportunity ahead.



Shelley Ferguson
Qayqayt First Nation

Capilano University
Bachelor of Arts -
Interdisciplinary Studies

I am currently working towards my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Capilano University. I plan on attending graduate school when I finish at Capilano University. My end goal is to become an Art Therapist. Thank you for helping me on my journey.



Tara Rose
N'Quatqua First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

I am a proud St'át' imc woman and mother. I believe having Indigenous educators teaching Indigenous students is transformative. I plan to be an elementary school teacher. An important part of my job as a teacher will be to help my students gain an understanding of the place where they live and study, who has always occupied that land, and how to nurture a collaborative and responsive relationship with the local Indigenous peoples and the land. Another part of my work will be to create more frameworks and resources for non-Indigenous educators to meaningfully incorporate Indigenous content into their classrooms. I believe both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students benefit greatly from having Indigenous perspectives, local history, cultures, place-names, languages, art, music, songs, and stories incorporated into their learning. I can't wait to support the next generation of students to enjoy their education and excel in their studies by incorporating Indigenous pedagogy, languages, and cultures into my classroom.



Taylor Baker
Tsawwassen First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Political Science.

I am a member of Tsawwassen First Nation and I still reside on these lands. I am very fortunate to be one of the students selected for the NRTF Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. This will assist me in my future academic goals. My career goal is to work in Indigenous government as a Senior Policy Analyst, as I am very passionate about policy and inter-governmental affairs. I am currently working towards graduate school or my Bachelor of Education for Fall 2021.



Tiara French
Takla Lake First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I grew up in the best of both worlds hunting and fishing on our traditional territory during spring and summer hunting seasons, while attending school in both Takla Landing and Prince George, BC. I shot my first caribou when I was 9 years old and have learned how to hunt, skin, prepare and smoke animals such as beaver, moose, goose and groundhog. This is a very new experience for me because I have to do everything online. It is both challenging and exciting at the same time. My future career goal is to finish my psychology degree and apply for the LSAT to become a lawyer. I believe our First Nations people are not represented in this field enough and I would like to one day help my Nation with their legal matters. This way I can have a career while still being close to our lands.



Tyara Marchand
Okanagan Indian Band

University of Calgary
Bachelor of Science - Anthropology

way'sl'axt. My name is Tyara Marchand and I am a member of the Okanagan Indian Band located near Vernon, BC. I am a proud new mama of a beautiful baby boy born August 2020. I am currently in my last year of study in an Honours Anthropology degree at the University of Calgary. I have hopes of attending medical school next year and wish to become a physician. I have chosen this as my career path as I believe the current state of Indigenous healthcare in our country to be highly inadequate. I hope to be able to finish my medical education and provide culturally safe care to First Nations peoples on reserves throughout BC.



Victoria Jaenig
Penticton Indian Band

Capilano University
Bachelor of Communication Studies

Victoria has a solid background in the business, community/economic development, marketing and arts sectors with 20+ years experience. She is a three-time award winning Indigenous Artist and Producer who developed a framework for utilizing technology for Indigenous Knowledge to protect Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Language Speakers. Victoria has mentored more than 1200 Indigenous Artists and Aboriginal Youth in the areas of Film, Media and Marketing and has been involved in the start-up, growth or expansion of 27 Aboriginal businesses in 14 communities, provided technical or marketing support to 83 Aboriginal businesses in 17 First Nations communities and assisted 341 unemployed or underemployed clients in the areas of preemployment or personal and professional development. Through the use of media and new media arts and technologies Victoria provides audiences with a body of work sharing the Indigenous perspective, voice and world view.



Whitney Evans
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I am currently completing my third year Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology at UBCO. I plan to continue on to the Master's program and begin a career as a forensic psychologist. Without scholarships and bursaries, I would be unable to pursue my academic goals.



Aaron Leon
Splatsin

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies

Waytk, my name is Aaron Leon and I come from Splatsin. I am attending UBC Okanagan to achieve a Master's in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies. I hope to use this knowledge to continue to study the Splatsin and Secwépemc languages and culture. I hope to promote and explore these by using art and education to in hopes to build better and healthier communities.



Amanda Vick
Gitanmaax Band

University of Victoria
Juris Doctor

My traditional name is SiiMadam. I come from the village of Gitanmaax, in Northern BC. I am a member of the house of Wilps Delgamuukw and belong to the Lax Seel (Frog) Clan. I am enrolled in my third year of the JD/JID program at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law. I will be one of the first lawyers in Canada to receive a law degree in both the Canadian Common law, as well as Indigenous Legal Orders. It has been one of the highest privileges to walk this path of law and give Indigenous Legal Orders a breath of revitalization. I hope to take my unique education in the law and work within Canada's Criminal Justice System. I wish to advocate for Criminal Law reform and believe fully in the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples on Turtle Island. I am inspired daily by my people, my Indigenous network and my ancestors. I am very grateful for the encouragement and support they have given to me in my learning path.



Benjamin Chief
Tahltan Central Government

Vancouver Island University
Master of Business Administration

Over the past 7 years I have been writing business proposals and developing work plans for the Tahltan Band Council in the small First Nations communities of Telegraph Creek, and Dease Lake in Northern BC. When I graduate I want to be an Economic Development Officer with a focus on financial management and analysis. In my spare time, I spend a lot of time volunteering in my community helping out with various projects such as organizing nutrition workshops, group fitness classes, and youth sporting events/trips. I also do a lot of hunting, and fishing throughout the year and will often go for weeks at a time out in the wilderness.



Brenna Doolan
Gingolx Village Government

Trinity Western University
Master of Arts - Marriage and Family Therapy

I've worked with First Nations youth across BC for over ten years, and found so much wisdom, energy, gifts, and hope within our people. I believe we have much to share with the world, it is one of my passions to support local youth to travel and experience how our cultures are celebrated around the world. In my travels I've learned the richest treasures are found at home. To me, family and connection are the core of my identity as an Indigenous person. The resilience of our people sparks a vision in me to come alongside our youth, parents, grandparents, and families to support our healing and connection.





Cara Basil-Dugas
Bonaparte Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies

Weytk-p! My research interests focus on palliative care, health disparities, and health policy specific to First Nations. My career goals are to continue to work in a capacity to resolve Canada's inequitable healthcare system for all Indigenous peoples. As I continue on my academic path, it is also my goal to amplify Indigenous voices and weave Secwepemc knowledges and values throughout my research and academic work. It is important to me to give back in various ways for the gifts of knowledge and support I have received along the way. Kukwstsetsemc to NRT for supporting my journey with this award.



Chelsea Gladstone
Skidegate Band Council

University of British Columbia
Juris Doctor

My ancestral name is Xanjuu Gwang which translates as "Travelling Around" in the Haida language. I am from the Ts'aahl Eagle Clan and a member of the Haida Nation. In May 2019, I became the first member of my family to graduate from university, and I did so with a degree in First Nations and Indigenous Studies, as well as Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice from UBC. I am currently in my first year in law school at the Peter A. Allard School of Law where I hope to acquire the necessary skills that I will need to be a strong advocate for Indigenous rights. My community on Haida Gwaii, and our needs as a Nation to have more representation in the legal field is my primary motivation for pursuing law school.



Chesa Abma
Esquimalt Nation

University of Victoria
Juris Doctor

Being a student in the JD/JID program at UVic is a dream come true. I hope to use my legal education combined with my life experience to address the over-representation of Indigenous people in all aspects of the justice system, advocate for our children and youth, and improve access to justice. I also hope to contribute to the work being done by strong Indigenous leaders to promote healing, so our communities and families can flourish. Receiving this support from NRTF enables me to pursue my academic dreams. I am honoured and full of gratitude. Hay'sxw'qa si'em.



Dawn Machin
Okanagan Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Master of Science - Biology

Way'xast s'x l'x salt. Early in my career 25 years ago, with the guidance and vision of Okanagan Elders and leadership, I helped to start the technical, science and policy work that has led to the restoration of Sockeye in the Okanagan river system. After taking a hiatus to raise my three sons I have come full circle, returning to my work and pursuing my Master of Science in Biology so I can continue to contribute to my Nation's efforts to restore and rebuild salmon populations through our Syilx territories in the Columbia, Okanagan and Fraser basins. I believe that my research in fisheries and Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Indigenous Science has applications for the restoration and management of the plants and animals that we rely on within our territory.



Duane Jackson
Gitanmaax Band

Royal Roads University
Masters of Arts - Leadership

I am 26 year partner to Christine, and father to Caleb, Cooper, and Jamie. I'm a 32 year basketball coach and have worked with children as young as 7 years old up to adult men and women. My educational background is early childhood education and development which I completed when I was 40 years old and have been a member of the Aboriginal Steering Committee at the Human Early Learning Partnership for the past 10 years. The plan for the rest of my career is to complete the Master of Arts in Leadership at Royal Roads University, and possibly move into a second Masters degree in Leadership in Health or the doctorate in Leadership at RRU. I then want to move into service to children and youth by advocating for programs and resources that are available and accessible especially within Northern BC and isolated communities. I am also considering the possibility of teaching post-secondary and getting the opportunity to work with adult learners and mature students.



Elias Laing
Fort Nelson First Nation

University of Calgary
Master of Business Administration

I have deep roots and a solid foundation stemming from my traditional upbringing in the north. I am proud to have been raised in a culturally rich, family and community-oriented environment and I am the person that I am today because of it. I have been working closely with my Nation on various projects, including green energy projects consisting of wind and geothermal, community employment initiatives, and youth mentorship since 2010. My grandmother was a Residential School survivor, radio show host, and successful entrepreneur in the north, and she instilled in me the value of education and hard work. She was an extremely inspirational leader for our community and the Dene Nation as a whole, and I pledge to never forget or disregard her valuable teachings and remain proud of my Indigenous background. My cousin, Jim Antoine, has served as premier of the Northwest Territories and I wish to continue the tradition of strong leadership that my family members have exemplified, in my community, and beyond.



Emily Taylor
Tlowitsis Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Education - Educational Administration & Leadership

I want to express my sincere gratitude to New Relationship Trust for financial assistance. This program has alleviated my monetary stress, allowing me to focus on my studies and my family. I plan to continue combining Indigenous Knowledge Systems and pedagogy into my teaching and leadership practices. My long-term future goal is to run my own business where I provide Facilitation on Cultural Safety and Humility, Trauma-Informed Practice for Everyone, consulting and public speaking on topics such as "Truth Before Reconciliation: A Kwakwaka'wakw Woman's Perspective." These topics are very relevant to our current Reconciliation landscape. Gila Kasla!.



Jilleun Tenning
Stz'uminus First Nation

University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

Y SŁÁCEL HÁLE (Good day everyone). My name is Jilleun. My ancestors are of mixed descent and I am Coast Salish on my father's side. My relations are from the Stz'uminus First Nation. I began my academic journey at the University of Guelph. I have a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care with a specialization in Indigenous Child Protection and I am currently enrolled in a Master of Child and Youth Care from UVic where I hope to get a counselling designation. Going forward in my academic journey I hope to be able to complete my PhD and support other students with disabilities throughout their learning journey.



Justin Almazan
Squamish Nation

McGill University
Master of Music - Viola

I feel lucky to have traveled the world, learning from living legends during my education and career as a classical musician. However, as one of the only Indigenous Classical musicians I know of, I recognize that our culture does not offer a fair system of education, careers, and basic access to the arts. Music lessons are lessons in humanity, discipline, and self-expression, which should not be reserved only for the most privileged. I hope to pursue Doctoral studies in music to emphasize the value and urgency of generating social diversity in the arts. Like other Indigenous scholars who have been given a chance, I hope to cultivate a cycle of teaching and encouraging the upcoming generations of Indigenous artists and thinkers.



Katy Gottfriedson
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Simon Fraser University
Master of Business Administration

Katy sits as Deputy Chair for the First Nations Finance Authority, a Director for the Board of Governors at Thompson Rivers University and All Nations Trust Company, as well as a member of various boards for her community and Nation. Gottfriedson is attending Simon Fraser University in the Indigenous Business Leadership Executive MBA program. Her broad vision and passion is to ensure that her decisions and career are focused on inclusivity, fairness and practicality to continue the advancement of her constituents, her community and all Indigenous people across Canada.



Sasha Tuttle
Sumas First Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Science - Zoology

Ey Swayel! My name is Sasha Tuttle and I am a member of Sumas First Nation. I am a first year graduate student at the University of British Columbia and am enrolled in the Master of Science in Zoology program. I have been fascinated with wildlife ecology from a young age, partially due to my father raising me to have a deep respect and connection with our environment. I love learning about traditional medicine harvest and other plant uses. Once I finish my degree, I plan on working as a wildlife biologist. I am incredibly grateful for the NRT Foundation's support in the advancement of my education and for all of the work they do for Indigenous students. Thank you (Kw'as hoy).



Tara-Lynn Bell
Osoyoos Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Juris Doctor

I was born and raised in the Syilx territory and I am a member of the Osoyoos Indian Band. Presently, I am in my first year of law school at the Peter A. Allard School of Law. I believe by studying law, I will gain the legal knowledge, tools, and expertise to better advocate for our inherent Indigenous rights and title. Prior to law school, I worked as a Policy Analyst for an advocacy organization that represents and works on behalf of First Nations in BC. I'm excited to become a lawyer so that I can become a strong advocate and contribute back to community in a meaningful way.



William Robertson
'Namgis First Nation

University of British Columbia
Juris Doctor

The things that matter to me more than having a great career, and making money, is that I want to be someone that my kids will look up to. I want to have a home where friends and family can come in feeling loved, protected, and safe. I want my future wife to know that I am going to love, serve, honour, protect and provide for her with the rest of my life. I want my family legacy to be love, kindness and compassion, it is never going to be about how much money you make, how big your house is, or what kind of car you drive. I want people to remember my family name because of the impact we made not by financial success but rather, by how we valued and respected people.





Cheryl Smiley
Lower Nicola Indian Band

Concordia University
Doctor of Philosophy - Communication

My name is Cherry Smiley and I am a feminist from the Nlaka'pamux and Dine' Nations. I'm currently a PhD candidate in the department of communication studies at Concordia University in Montreal where my research works to help end male violence against women and girls. I founded Women's Studies Online, a platform for decolonizing feminist research, education, action, and community building. My career goal is to continue doing Indigenous feminist research, teaching, and building community with women in Canada and beyond.



Ferrin Willie
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation

University of Victoria
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous Language Revitalization

I am a mother of three and partner to a fellow Kwakwaka'wakw, and we are actively learning our ancestral language of Kwakwala as a family. I am also in my second year of an Indigenous Language Revitalization PhD program at the University of Victoria. This simultaneous journey of actively learning our language and pursuing a doctorate has been incredible. It is hard work and heart work! I feel fortunate to have a background in counselling as it is put to good use in the field of Kwakwala language revitalization. I am determined to reclaim our ancestral language for our family! From the moment I wake till I go to sleep each night I am always working for the reclamation and revitalization of our language.



Christopher Reid
Gingolx Village Government

McGill University
Doctor of Philosophy - Educational Studies

I am a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation raised in Epekwitk/Prince Edward Island and presently living in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. Among many things, I'm a father, educator, and researcher. I'm currently completing a PhD in Educational Studies at McGill University with a research focus on urban Indigenous people's experiences with land education, public schooling, and historical education. I am involved in several community projects in the city, most of which connect with education, including participation in the advisory board for Indigenous land-based learning initiatives (Restoring our Roots; Land as our Teacher), serving on the board of directors for the city's only Indigenous public daycare (Rising Sun Childcare Centre), and co-developing an emerging prison education project that aims to offer incarcerated people in-prison university courses (Concordia Walls to Bridges Program). I am also a member of Indigenous Climate Action's national steering committee. I have been a course lecturer in Indigenous Studies at both McGill and Concordia Universities and have also worked as a secondary-level public school teacher and a friendship centre education worker. Overall, my work's aim is to support the collective learning processes that are central to Indigenous people's political projects for self-determination.



Lucy Bell
Old Massett Village Council

Simon Fraser University
Doctor of Philosophy - Interdisciplinary Studies

Sdahl K'áawaas hin uu díi kya'áang. Díi uu X aadáagang. Iitl' kuniisii, iitl' X aadas isgyaan iitl' ginge kuyaas díi kuyaaG usdlaang. I carry a deep love of our ancestors, my people and our belongings. I am an Indigenous Museologist. I am proud that my dissertation research will allow me to share the Haida repatriation journey and to provide a critical analysis of current museum practices, policies and legislation. Haw 'nnnnnnm aa to NRT for your generous support. Thanks to you, I can dedicate my full attention to becoming Dr. Bell!



Morgan Mowatt
Gitanmaax Band

University of Victoria
Doctor of Philosophy - Political Science

I'm currently a third-year PhD student in political science and my research focuses on Indigenous sovereignty, resurgence and restructuring our legal and political relationships with the Canadian state. I care deeply about the wellness of future generations, and I owe my learning and healing journey to the generosity of the Elders and Ancestors who came before me. Outside of academia I work on a number of community projects, which largely focus on empowering Indigenous youth, on-land education, embodied sovereignty, and countering impacts of gendered and racialized colonial violence. I plan to continue my community work and provide a truthful narrative through teaching in post-secondary.




Tara Atleo
Ahousaht First Nation

University of Waterloo
Doctor of Philosophy - Sustainability Management

?uklaasiš hahuuła, my name is Tara Atleo and I am from the community of Ahousaht. I am currently completing my third year of doctoral work at the University of Waterloo, specializing in sustainability management and environmental economics. As an Indigenous sustainable development professional and researcher, I focus on creating community development and capacity building opportunities through continued stewardship mandated by Indigenous law and governance. Decisions of development and conservation that impact communities in their territories are made every day, and through my research I hope to achieve results that will help to advise Indigenous communities and their partners towards decision-making that maximizes well-being for both today, and future generations.

“Outside of academia I work on a number of community projects, which largely focus on empowering Indigenous youth, on-land education, embodied sovereignty, and countering impacts of gendered and racialized colonial violence. I plan to continue my community work and provide a truthful narrative through teaching in post-secondary. T'ooyaxs'y'nisim to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for the support.

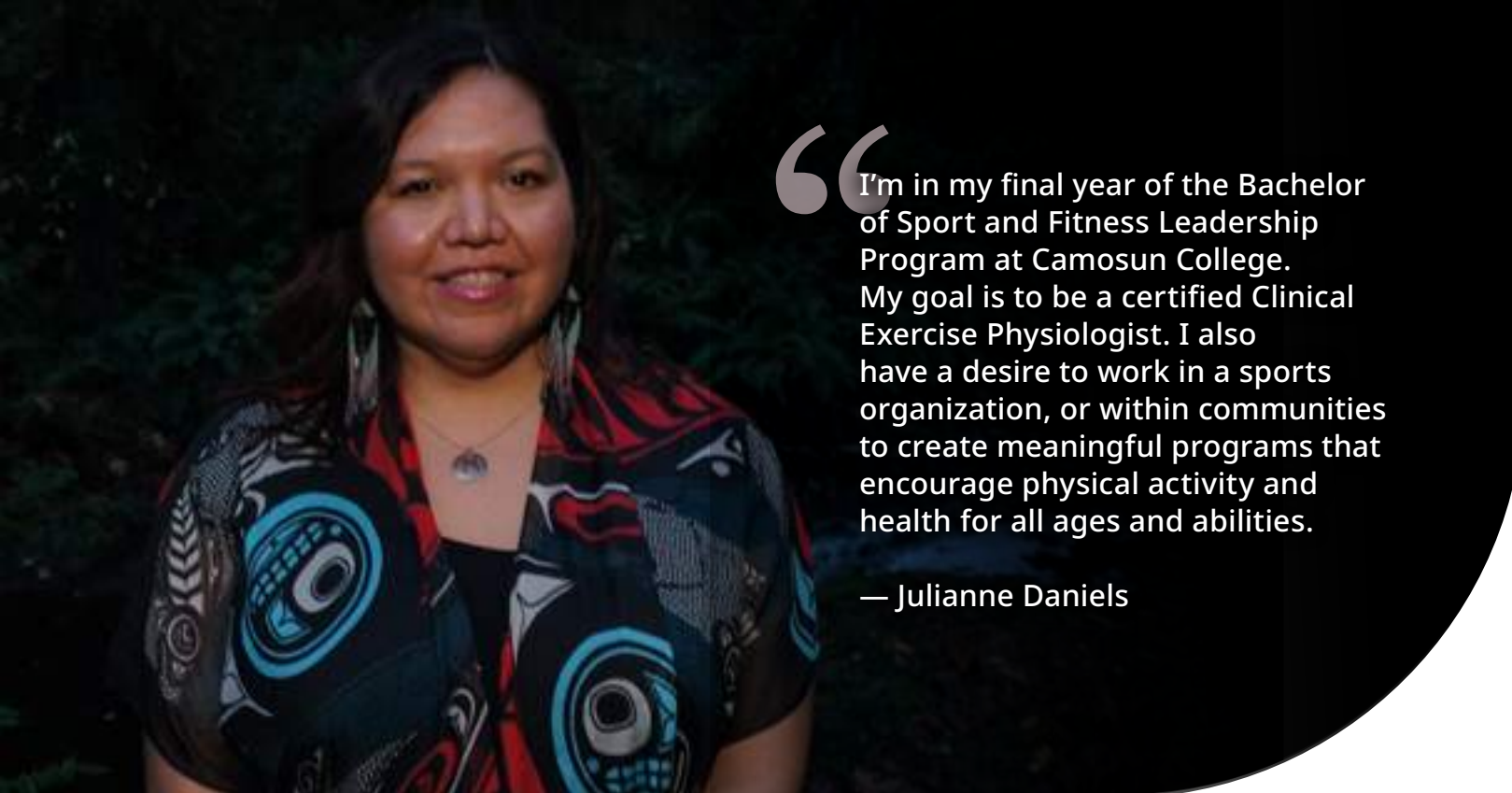
— Morgan Mowatt



“I am really confident in my career choice and cannot wait to find true purpose within my profession. I aspire to be known as a well rounded, dependable, and knowledgeable nurse with leadership qualities. I want to eventually be proud of myself for dedicating my career to medicine and helping others. I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from the NRTF.

—
Megan McCallum
NIB Trust Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 58



“I’m in my final year of the Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership Program at Camosun College. My goal is to be a certified Clinical Exercise Physiologist. I also have a desire to work in a sports organization, or within communities to create meaningful programs that encourage physical activity and health for all ages and abilities.

— Julianne 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 supports 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 First Nations. By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, every partner is realizing a student’s educational goals, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and helping to create the skilled workforce 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 First Nations.

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 educational 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 First Nations 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;



and 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
Senior Associate - Programs Specialist
at (604) 925-3338
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

New Relationship Trust Foundation is a registered Canadian charity.



“As one of the only Indigenous Classical musicians I know of, I recognize that our culture does not offer a fair system of education, careers, and basic access to the arts. Music lessons are lessons in humanity, discipline, and self-expression, which should not be reserved only for the most privileged. I hope to pursue Doctoral studies in music to emphasize the value and urgency of generating social diversity in the arts.

—
Justin Almazan
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 112



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 Qwezqwazíŕken (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 a recent award recipient for the 2021 RGD In-House Design Awards of Distinction (Judge's Picks) (rgd.ca/2021/11/10/brand-refresh).

GET IN TOUCH WITH KIRSTEN

You can find my online portfolio at krstndesign.com
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!



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