

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

2023/24



**SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mike Bonshor

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

On behalf of the New Relationship Trust and our partner organizations, we are pleased to present the 2023-24 Scholarship and Bursary Award Recipient Brochure. This yearly highlight allows us to honour and celebrate the educational success of each award recipients.

The NRT 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 2023-24, we provided funding support for 219 students. While most students are studying in



Kory Wilson

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

BC, some students are completing their studies at institutions as far away as Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Oxford.

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

We are thankful and raise our hands in gratitude to our partners who join the New Relationship Trust in celebrating and funding Indigenous post-secondary success: Coastal GasLink,



Clifford White

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

Canfor Good Things come from Trees Foundation, Drillwell Enterprises, Indigenous Leaders, Indigenous Leaders in Climate and Health, Keegan Combes Memorial Award, the Land Title and Survey Authority, and Technical Safety British Columbia. The generous contributions of these partners allowed NRT to fund an additional 30 student awards.

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.

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



Dara Parker

Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

like to support the New Relationship Trust to continue to fund students, please reach out to become part of this critical initiative.

Respectfully,

**Michael Bonshor, Kory Wilson,
Clifford White, Dara Parker**

New Relationship Trust Board of Directors



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

Our Mission:

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

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



ABOUT NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

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 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

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY AWARDS

The NRT and BC First Nations communities realize the importance of education. The NRT 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.

3,878 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 has awarded a total of 2,087 Scholarships since inception.

BURSARIES

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

Together, with the support of Partners and Donors, the NRT has awarded a total of 1,791 Bursaries since inception.

RECIPIENT DATABASE

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

To learn more about this opportunity and how to get involved, please contact Matt Cook-Contois, 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
2021/22	121	111	36	11	-	279
2022/23	113	112	29	18	-	272
2023/24	66	100	35	18	-	219
TOTAL	1791	1320	423	220	124	3,878



EDUCATION GRANTS DISBURSED

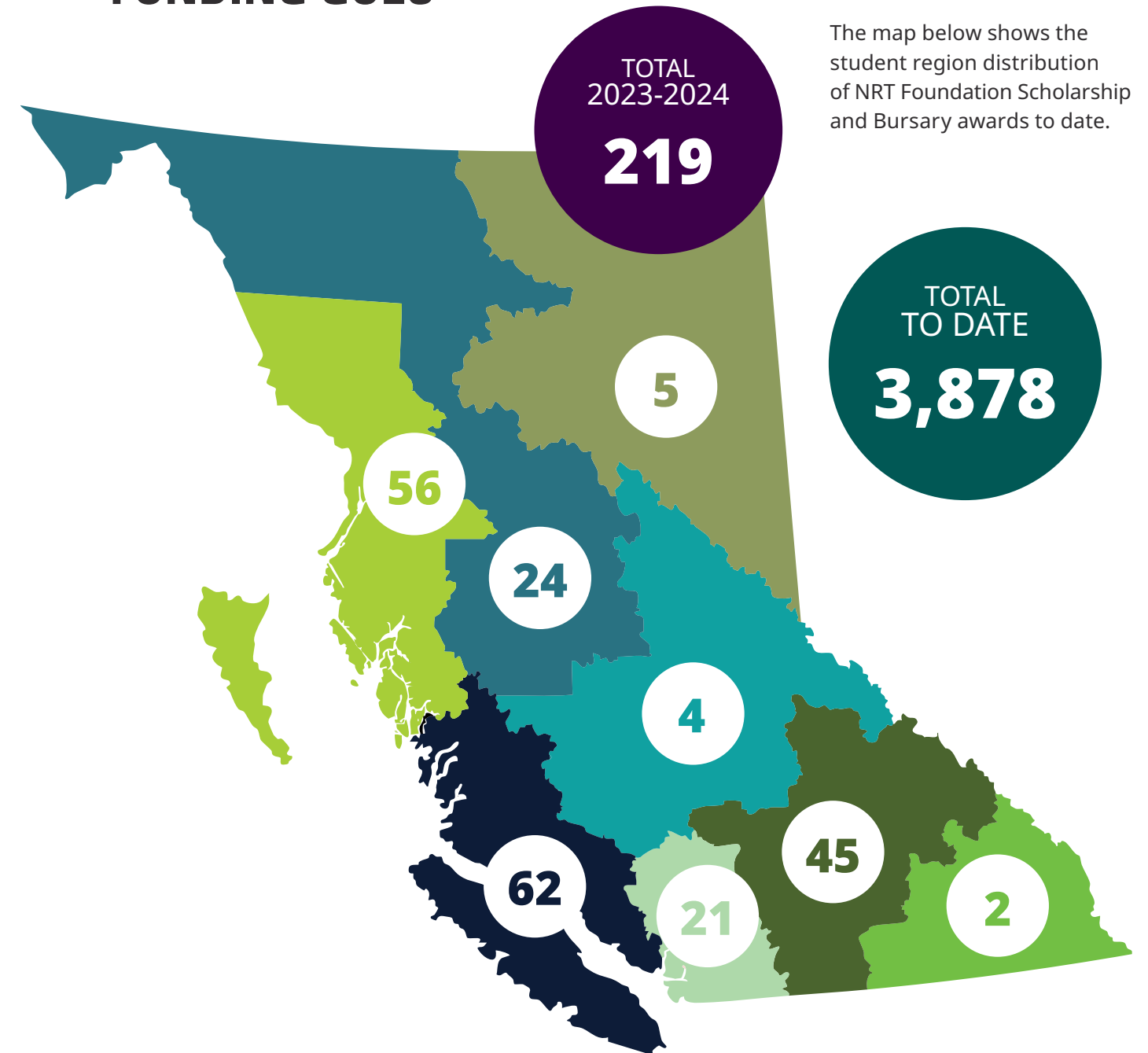
Since 2007, the NRT, NRT Foundation and Partners have distributed more than \$16.6 million to support the post-secondary education of Indigenous people in BC.

EDUCATION LEVERAGED

	NRT	PARTNERS	TOTAL
2007/08	\$ 717,500	\$ -	\$ 717,500
2008/09	\$ 763,000	\$ -	\$ 763,000
2009/10	\$ 747,500	\$ -	\$ 747,500
2010/11	\$ 743,000	\$ -	\$ 743,000
2011/12	\$ 751,000	\$ -	\$ 751,000
2012/13	\$ 581,500	\$ 150,000	\$ 731,500
2013/14	\$ 404,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 729,000
2014/15	\$ 495,500	\$ 218,000	\$ 713,500
2015/16	\$ 488,500	\$ 447,000	\$ 935,500
2016/17	\$ 596,500	\$ 526,000	\$ 1,122,500
2017/18	\$ 606,500	\$ 787,000	\$ 1,393,500
2018/19	\$ 546,000	\$ 1,079,000	\$ 1,625,000
2019/20	\$ 596,500	\$ 1,433,750	\$ 2,030,250
2020/21	\$ 600,000	\$ 707,500	\$ 1,307,500
2021/22	\$ 599,000	\$ 556,500	\$ 1,155,500
2022/23	\$ 551,495	\$ 609,004	\$ 1,160,500
2023/24	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 1,143,000
TOTAL	\$ 10,823,495	\$ 6,945,755	\$ 17,769,250

2023-2024

WHERE THE FUNDING GOES



PARTNERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The contributions from our generous Partners allowed the NRT to support over 215 Indigenous students with Scholarships and Bursaries in 2023-24. Almost all Indigenous students face financial barriers while attending post-secondary school and the NRT'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 and Partners are building the capacity of Indigenous students, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and creating the skilled work force that will enable BC to meet its future economic needs and social development needs.

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

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

Matt Cook-Contois

Senior Associate — Programs Specialist
NRT Foundation
(604) 925-3338 ext. 107
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

Coastal GasLink

Coastal Gaslink Scholarship

The Coastal GasLink project is a 670-kilometre provincially regulated pipeline that will safely deliver natural gas from northeastern B.C. to the LNG Canada facility in Kitimat, B.C. Coastal GasLink is committed to supporting opportunities for Indigenous individuals and communities to access training and education that advances their goals and priorities. The Coastal GasLink Indigenous Community Legacy Award is intended to contribute toward the long term educational goals of students affiliated with First Nation communities impacted by the Coastal GasLink project.

Coastal Gaslink recipient bios begin on page 14.



Canfor Scholarship

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 18.



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 20.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship



The Indigenous Leaders Scholarship was established through the generosity of a private donor who wished to honour their parents and contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation. Their generous spirit reflects a deep commitment to supporting Indigenous youth in pursuing their educational goals.

This scholarship is awarded to an Indigenous medical student who identifies as female and is in their second year of study or beyond.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 22.

Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarship



Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarships are made possible through the generosity of two private individuals who wish to honour their values and contribute to reconciliation. Their generous donation reflects a shared commitment to supporting Indigenous youth in pursuing their studies and achieving their goals.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 24.

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 26.





Formed in 2005, the **Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia (LTSA)** is a publicly accountable, statutory corporation responsible for operating the land title and survey systems of BC. These systems provide the foundation for all real property business and ownership in the province. LTSA has partnered with the NRT to increase Indigenous participation and educational success.

LTSA recipient bios begin on page 28.



The New Relationship Trust (NRT)

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NRT recipient bios begin on page 35.



Technical Safety BC

Technical Safety BC is an independent, self-funded organization that oversees the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment. We are a leader in technical expertise and safety education, with a vision of Safe technical systems. Everywhere. In addition to issuing permits, licenses and certificates, we work with industry to reduce safety risks through assessment, education and outreach, enforcement, and research. We strive to share knowledge and create partnerships across the province and with Indigenous Nations to build a robust safety system that serves all British Columbian's.

Technical Safety BC Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 32..





Coastal GasLink

The Coastal GasLink project is a 670-kilometre provincially regulated pipeline that will safely deliver natural gas from northeastern B.C. to the LNG Canada facility in Kitimat, B.C. Coastal GasLink is committed to supporting opportunities for Indigenous individuals and communities to access training and education that advances their goals and priorities. The Coastal GasLink Indigenous Community Legacy Award is intended to contribute toward the long term educational goals of students affiliated with First Nation communities impacted by the Coastal GasLink project.

Coastal GasLink supports learning opportunities for Indigenous people through training, education and workforce development. By supporting Bursaries and Scholarships awarded through the New Relationship Trust, Coastal GasLink hopes to advance the educational needs identified by Indigenous communities to foster long-term, positive change and to leave a positive legacy within communities.



Anisha Wilson-Price
Haisla Nation

Coast Mountain College
Automotive Service Technician

Hello, my name is Anisha Wilson-Price. I am currently a student at Coast Mountain College. I was born in Terrace, B.C., and I am from Kitimaat. My recent achievements include earning straight A's during the Winter 2023 semester. I previously studied in the Associate of Arts – General Studies program during the Winter and Summer 2023 semesters, and I am now enrolled in the Harmonized Automotive Service Technician Foundations program at Coast Mountain College. After completing my first-year program, I plan to return to the Associate of Arts – General Studies program to finish my degree at Coast Mountain College.



Christa Prince
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

College of New Caledonia
Bookkeeping Certificate

Hello, my name is Christina Smith. I am of Tlowitsis/Mumtigila ancestry from the Kwakwakawakw Nation. I walk in wellness on the Red Road, restoring balance through connection to self, others, and the land and water. My active lifestyle and passion for helping others align deeply with the values of the Therapeutic Recreation Program at Douglas College. I believe this path will allow me to support healing, growth, and holistic wellness within my community. My future career as a Therapeutic Recreation Practitioner will be both fulfilling and rewarding. I am honoured to have been selected as a bursary recipient from FNHA. Gilakas'la, Kakasolas.



Morgan Franz
Haisla Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
New Media Design and
Web Development

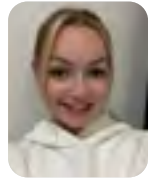
My name is Morgan, and I am a proud member of the Haisla Nation in British Columbia. After a rewarding 10-year career in the food industry, I am now pursuing an exciting new path in digital media. My dream is to combine my love of food with my passion for digital storytelling, creating content that celebrates culture, creativity, and community. I'm inspired by the way digital media connects us — allowing stories, knowledge, and traditions to reach across distances and generations. It's a powerful tool for change and understanding, and I'm excited to learn how to use it with purpose, authenticity, and creativity.



David Greene
Saik'uz First Nation

College of New Caledonia
Heavy Mechanical Foundation

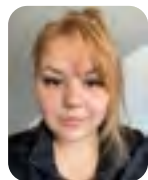
My name is David Greene. I am of Carrier Indigenous descent from Saik'uz First Nation, located just ten minutes south of Vanderhoof, B.C. My career goal is to become a Red Seal Heavy Equipment Technician, a trade I'm deeply passionate about. I graduated high school in 2007 and began my Red Seal journey in 2023. This path has reminded me that anything is possible when you dedicate yourself and work hard toward your goals. I'm incredibly grateful to my family for their constant encouragement, guidance, and belief in me every step of the way. Their support inspires me to keep moving forward and to set an example for others in my community. Musi Cho!



Jessica Kapalka
Nadleh Whut'en Band

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science In Nursing

My name is Jessica Kapalka, and I am a proud First Nations woman from the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. I am currently in my second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Camosun College in Victoria, BC. I feel very fortunate to study in such a beautiful city while working toward my dream career. After completing my bachelor's degree, I plan to continue my education by attending medical school or becoming a licensed nurse practitioner. This has been my lifelong goal, and I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust (NRT) for helping me reach these important milestones.



Nadine Patrick
Saik'uz First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Indigenous Human Service Program

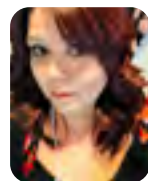
My name is Nadine Patrick, and I am from Saik'uz First Nation. I am currently studying in the Indigenous Human Service Program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. My career goal as a Social Worker is to develop and deliver life-skills-based programming that supports children and young adults in building confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of identity. I'm passionate about helping youth from different communities recognize their strengths and create positive paths for their future. Through education and community involvement, I hope to make a lasting difference in the lives of others.



Patrick Stubbington
Saik'uz First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Environmental Planning & Sustainability

My name is Patrick Stubbington, and I am First Nations. I am a Sixties Scoop survivor, born in Prince George, B.C., and raised by an English family in Nova Scotia. My childhood was marked by hardship, but it taught me resilience and the importance of healing. At 17, I began working to support myself — first in forestry, then on a shrimp vessel factory freezer trawler. I later joined the offshore oil and gas industry in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, helping build underwater pipelines and develop offshore fields. Eventually, I returned home to Prince George, reconnected with my First Nations family, and took part in a large potlatch. I have since worked in mining, fisheries, and agriculture, which led me to pursue higher education at UNBC.



Theresa Danielson
Saik'uz First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I am from Saik'uz First Nation in Vanderhoof, BC. I am a mature student attending university to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. I am currently in my first year of a four-year program, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Visual Arts. My career goal is to become an Art Therapist, and I hope to bring art-based mental health supports closer to my community. I aspire to be an Indigenous advocate within my home community and throughout British Columbia for accessible Indigenous mental health services. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and support that allow me to pursue my goals, and I am truly enjoying my time at university!



Isaiah Reynolds
Stellat'en First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science - Ecological Restoration

My name is Isaiah Reynolds I am a proud member of the Stellat'en First Nations located in the northern interior of British Columbia. I am a fisheries coordinator for my nation and have worked in the fisheries field for 8 years now and recently have been pursuing getting my Bachelor of Science degree through the Ecological Restoration program at BCIT. I truly believe we need more First Nation representation in the world of natural resources and fisheries. I plan on filling the gaps that are needed to move forward for a brighter future for me and my nation.



Jessica Naziel
Witset

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

I am thankful to have been selected as a recipient for the NRT Scholarships. I would like to learn more about mental health and wellness and trauma informed practices to support my students. As a teacher candidate, my vision is to create a safe space for my students in the classroom and in the community. My dream is to see our nations helping each other build each other up. I hope that by continuing to share the resources available for Indigenous students and communities that perhaps we can all continue to grow. I started mentioning grants that Indigenous communities or schools can be applying for. I hope that any of the supports I share can be used to bridge the education gap for Indigenous students.



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.

“I’m from Burns Lake, BC — a place my ancestors have called home long before it became a town. My great-great-grandfather and his family cleared the land beside Burns Lake by hand, creating the first village site. Their legacy inspires me as I work toward becoming a wildlife biologist. I hope to use my education to help protect ecosystems, ensure healthy habitats, and guide sustainable land management decisions that honour both the land and the people who have cared for it for generations.

— Julian Brown
Bursary Recipient



Julian Brown
Lake Babine Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Science -
Wildlife and Fisheries

I’m from Burns Lake, BC — a place my ancestors have called home long before it became a town. My great-great-grandfather and his family cleared the land beside Burns Lake with hand tools, creating the first village site. My goal is to become a wildlife biologist and gain experience that will allow me to one day start my own company. I want to help guide land management decisions that protect ecosystems and wildlife habitats. When I was younger, I never imagined myself in science, but challenging myself to pursue this degree has been incredibly rewarding and expanded my understanding of the world around me.



Alexis Langille
Ktunaxa Nation

University of Calgary
Biological Sciences

My name is Alexis Langille, and I am a proud member of the Ktunaxa Nation in Cranbrook, British Columbia. I am currently studying Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary. I hope to become a research virologist, exploring the fascinating and often unstudied world of viruses. I’m also passionate about genetics, particularly how trauma can affect our genes and be inherited through generations. My goal is to contribute to meaningful research that helps improve health outcomes and deepens our understanding of how lived experiences shape us biologically. I’m inspired by the growing connection between science, culture, and healing — and I hope to one day use my education to make a positive impact within both my community and the broader field of biological research.



Kirstie Abraham
Takla Nation

College of New Caledonia
Business Management Diploma

My name is Kirstie Abraham and I am 23 years old. I am from Takla Nation and proudly walk with the Frog Clan. I’ve chosen the Business Management program because I currently work in a position that requires me to know certain things. This diploma will give me those resources to be able to successfully take active part in deciding what happens with these companies as well as give our members and youth some hope and show them that it’s possible to do what you set your mind to, that those that are good come the hardest and it pays off. NFT Foundation gave me a stepping stone in a tough climb that I am forever grateful for.



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.



Keisha Munro
Siska Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Administrative Studies

My name is Keisha Munro, and I am a proud Nlaka’pamux woman from the Siska Indian Band in Lytton, BC. I grew up in Merritt, where I am currently attending the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) and completing my first year in the Administrative Studies program. Education has always been important to me because it opens doors to create meaningful change. With the knowledge and skills I’m gaining, I hope to build a career with Indigenous Services Canada, where I can make a positive difference for Indigenous communities. My goal is to support programs and services that strengthen Nations, empower youth, and improve opportunities for future generations. I want to be someone who not only helps my own Nation and people, but all Indigenous Nations and peoples across Canada — working together toward equality, understanding, and lasting growth.



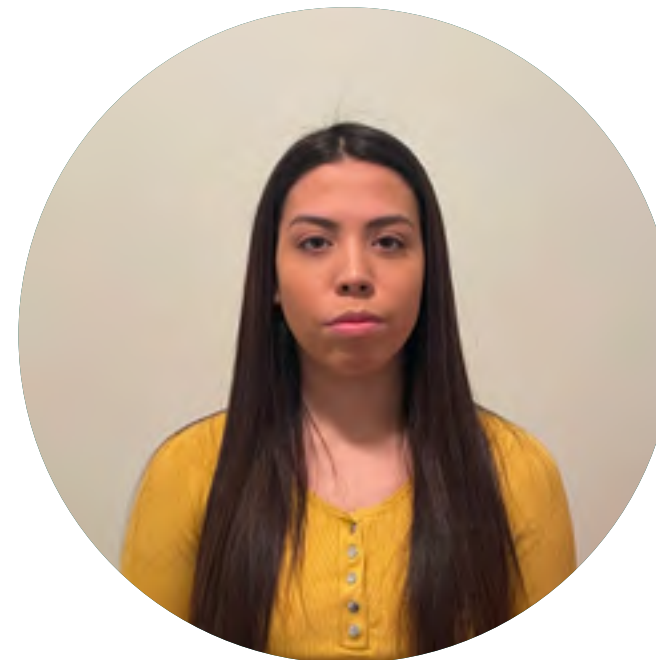


Indigenous Leaders Scholarship



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This scholarship is awarded to an Indigenous medical student who identifies as female and is in their second year of study or beyond.



Mary Angus Laxgalts'ap

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Mary Angus, and I am from Laxgalts'ap in the Nisga'a Nation. I was raised in Gitwinksihlkw, British Columbia, and I am currently studying at the University of British Columbia - Okanagan campus, completing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am now in my final year of the program and have applied to begin my Master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner. My goal is to return to work within Indigenous communities, where I can help improve access to quality healthcare and support holistic wellness rooted in both medical knowledge and cultural understanding. I am passionate about caring for others and look forward to using my education and experience to make a positive impact in the health and well-being of my people.



OUR PARTNERS | INDIGENOUS LEADERS IN HEALTH AND CLIMATE



Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarship



Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarships are made possible through the generosity of two private individuals who wish to honour their values and contribute to reconciliation. Their generous donation reflects a shared commitment to supporting Indigenous youth in pursuing their studies and achieving their goals.

Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate | Scholarship



Aedan Crocker Penelakut Indian Band

University of Calgary
Bachelor of Science - Engineering

My name is Aedan Crocker and I am part of the Penelakut Tribe from Penelakut Island and am from Saanich, British Columbia. I am enrolled in an Engineering program at the University of Calgary and plan to complete this degree with a focus on Mechanical Engineering. After I graduate, I hope to work in my field by supporting First Nations land stewardship.



Sage Thomas Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

A proud mother of three, Sage is an Indigenous Birth Worker — a trained birth and postpartum doula, breastfeeding educator, and student midwife who has supported families since 2011. She also holds an Associate of Arts in Anthropology and Sociology from Thompson Rivers University and is a visual artist who works across multiple mediums. Her passions include reproductive justice, Indigenous and gender equality, and the revitalization of Indigenous birthing practices. Sage hopes to one day open an Indigenous-centered birthing center in her community and continue this important work as a registered midwife.



Tatyana Schneider Samahquam

University of British Columbia
Urban Forestry

í kalhwá7acw, entsa leqsaylths skwátsits, sáma7 skwátsits Tatyana Schneider. I am originally from Prince George, BC, but have lived on the coast for over twenty years. I am a member of the Samahquam Nation, part of the St'át'imc tribes, whose territory lies in the area now known as the Fraser Canyon. I am also a descendant of the "Smith" clan, or Pacolhclhcan — the people who settled at the base of Inshuck-ch Mountain, a sacred place. The accountability I feel to the land and my relatives is deeply ingrained in who I am. My ultimate goal is to take what I learn back to Samahquam to help prepare our community for climate change through planning and policy. Urban Forestry is a multifaceted degree that teaches biology, community planning, and climate adaptation. Upon graduation, I plan to apply to the Peter A. Allard School of Law. Combining these two fields will guide me toward a future where I can positively impact the next seven generations — something that gives me a profound sense of purpose.



Josie Duncan Xats'ull First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Midwifery

Weyt-kp / Hello, my name is Josie Duncan. I am a proud member of the Xat'súll First Nation, located near my hometown of Lac La Hache, BC. My family background is Secwépemc and Austrian on my mother's side, and Scottish and Lithuanian on my father's side. I am currently in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Midwifery Program at the University of British Columbia. My passions include advocating for social and reproductive justice and promoting anti-colonial practices in health care and education. My goal is to help bridge the gap in culturally competent and holistic health care for rural and Indigenous communities, while also supporting the revitalization and protection of traditional perinatal practices.

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.



Katherine Eckert Katzie First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Sciences

My name is Katherine Eckert, and I am a proud member of the Katzie First Nation. I live in the Lower Mainland of BC and am currently studying in the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, focusing on Microbiology and Immunology. My passion lies in understanding how scientific advancements, medicine, and research impact our communities and contribute to long-term health and well-being. When I’m not studying, I help coach young volleyball athletes — an experience that allows me to support others in reaching their goals. I value teamwork and believe that when each person brings their best effort, we thrive together as one community.



Allison Peters Seabird Island Band

University of Fraser Valley
Social Services Diploma
(Indigenous Focus)

My name is Allison Peters, and I am Stó:lō from the Seabird Island community. I am currently enrolled in the Social Services Diploma – Indigenous Focus program and have just one year left before graduation. My goal is to continue my education by entering the Bachelor of Social Work program once I complete my diploma. I have a deep passion for giving back and supporting people on their healing journeys. As I work through my own process of healing generational trauma and unlearning patterns from childhood, I’ve come to see how education can be a powerful tool for growth and change. I believe that knowledge opens doors — not only for myself, but for creating more opportunities to give back to my community and uplift others.

“After losing my mom, I took time to grieve and focus on healing. Those years taught me the importance of patience, love, and taking care of myself before moving forward. Now, I feel ready to return to my studies with a renewed sense of purpose and strength. Finishing my education isn’t just about achieving my goals — it’s about honouring my mom’s memory, carrying her love with me, and completing what I started for both of us.

— Eleanor Abbott
Bursary Recipient



Eleanor Abbott Skwah First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

Hi, my name is Eleanor Abbott, and I am from Skwah First Nation, located in Chilliwack, BC. I am returning to the Practical Nursing Program after taking a three-year break following my mother’s passing. I made the difficult decision to leave the program so I could care for my mom and spend as much time with her as possible before she passed away. Her loss was devastating, and for a long time, I struggled to return to my studies as I worked through my grief. Now, three years later, I feel ready and determined to continue my education and complete the program in honour of my mom.

OUR PARTNERS | LAND TITLE AND SURVEY AUTHORITY (LTSA)



Formed in 2005, the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia (LTSA) is a publicly accountable, statutory corporation responsible for operating the land title and survey systems of BC. These systems provide the foundation for all real property business and ownership in the province.

LTSA has partnered with the NRT to increase Indigenous participation and educational success.

Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) | Scholarship



Kaylynn Dixel
Nooaitch Indian Band

Okanagan College
Bachelor of Business Administration

My name is Kaylynn Dixel, and I am from the Nooaitch Indian Band within the Nlaka'pamux Nation. I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Business Administration program at Okanagan College. My goal is to graduate with all CPA prerequisites and continue into the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) program to further my career in finance and business.

I'm a proud mother to one biological daughter (8) and two non-biological children (15 and 18), who continue to motivate me every day. My interests include sobriety, nutrition, fitness, business, family, and camping. I'm passionate about living a balanced and healthy lifestyle while setting a positive example for my children.

I am deeply grateful for the generous support from LTSA and the New Relationship Trust (NRT), which has helped me continue pursuing my educational goals.



Josh Lingford
Okanagan Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Business Administration

My name is Josh Lingford, and my story is one of perseverance and renewal. In my early twenties, I developed delayed-onset PTSD from my time as a firefighter. This difficult period forced me to leave school and put aside my dream of working in the medical field.

Since then, I have worked hard to heal, grow, and learn ways to manage my PTSD while finding new purpose and direction in life. With the help of an incredible support network and years of personal growth, I've discovered a new passion that fuels my return to education.

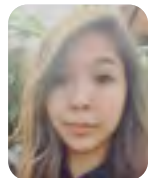
Although my path toward medical school changed, my experience with the stigma surrounding PTSD inspired me to take action. I am now pursuing my Bachelor of Business Administration, with the goal of continuing on to law school. My dream is to become a lawyer who advocates for people like me, those navigating invisible injuries, and to give back to the community that has supported and uplifted me through my journey.



Sydney Parnell
Old Masset Village Council

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
 Bachelor of Management - Accounting

I am currently entering my fourth year in the Bachelor of Management – Accounting program at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to enroll in the CPA Professional Education Program to achieve my goal of becoming a Chartered Professional Accountant. I am passionate about developing my skills in business and finance and look forward to using them to support Indigenous communities and future generations. I'm very excited to continue my educational journey toward a meaningful and rewarding career in accounting.



Tamara Andrew
Seabird Island Band

Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 Business Administration - Accounting

Éy swayel, Tamara tel skwix . Te litsel kwa Sqéwqel. | Hi, my name is Tamara. I am from Seabird Island First Nation. Through my recent work in First Nations governance and planning, I discovered my passion for community development and giving back to my community. My pursuit of a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting with a minor in Psychology has not been an easy path, but it has opened many doors and new opportunities. Continual learning and personal growth have always been important to me. After completing my undergraduate program, I plan to pursue a graduate degree that will further prepare me to support my community in a community development capacity. All my relations.



Isaac Hill
Skidegate Band Council

University of British Columbia
 Bachelor of Commerce

My name is Isaac Hill, and I am a proud member of the Haida Nation. I was raised in Skidegate, BC, one of two Indigenous communities on Haida Gwaii. Working with the Council of the Haida Nation during high school sparked my interest in business, particularly in finance and accounting. I am currently a fourth-year Bachelor of Commerce student at the UBC Sauder School of Business, specializing in Accounting and Real Estate. After completing my degree, I plan to obtain both my Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Business Valuator (CBV) designations. In the future, I hope to return to KPMG and continue encouraging the firm to expand its initiatives with Indigenous communities. Ultimately, my goal is to establish my own financial management firm that works exclusively with Indigenous communities and organizations.



Brittney Felix-Point
Sts'ailes Indian Band

University of The Fraser Valley
 Bachelor of Business Administration

I am proudly from the Sts'ailes First Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Integrated Studies program at the University of the Fraser Valley, with minors in Business and Adult Education. My goal is to apply the knowledge and skills I gain through my studies to make a meaningful contribution to my community — particularly in the area of business, where I hope to share valuable insights and foster growth and opportunity. Thank you, NRT, for your continued support!

“I've walked the path of addiction and recovery, and I believe true healing begins when we reconnect to who we are and where we come from. By weaving language, culture, and tradition back into our lives, we can rebuild strength and restore balance. My hope is to create spaces where Indigenous women can reclaim their roots, find belonging, and move forward in their healing with confidence and pride.

Cynthia Burke
FNHA Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 39



OUR PARTNERS | INDIGENOUS LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP



Technical Safety BC is an independent, self-funded organization that oversees the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment. We are a leader in technical expertise and safety education, with a vision of Safe technical systems. Everywhere. In addition to issuing permits, licenses and certificates, we work with industry to reduce safety risks through assessment, education and outreach, enforcement, and research. We strive to share knowledge and create partnerships across the province and with Indigenous Nations to build a robust safety system that serves all British Columbian's.

Indigenous Leaders | Scholarship



Hannah Jones

Lil'wat Nation

Capilano University

Indigenous Digital Filmmaking

My name is Hannah Jones, and I'm from the Lil'wat Nation in St'át'imc Territory. I am currently studying Indigenous Digital Filmmaking at Capilano University. My dream is to become an Indigenous storyteller for the big screen, to share our legends, stories, and voices within an industry that can often feel intimidating and inaccessible. Once I've gained more experience and knowledge, I hope to teach filmmaking to Indigenous youth, giving them the same creative outlet that film provided for me growing up. For me, filmmaking was an escape, a way to express myself and dream beyond the challenges of life on reserve. Now, I want to help others find that same sense of possibility and empowerment.

In the end, I'm just a rez kid with a dream — but it's a dream I'm determined to make real.



Tyrelle Braker

Tseshah First Nation

North Island College

Advanced Digital Design and Development Diploma

My name is hawílii?išim, and my given name is Tyrelle Braker. I am from Tseshah First Nation, located in Port Alberni, BC, with roots in Aishihik, Yukon. I am currently attending North Island College in the Comox Valley, pursuing my Advanced Digital Design & Development Diploma. From an early age, I was fascinated by technology and computers — I even built my first computer at the age of 12. What began as curiosity soon grew into a passion that continues to drive my educational journey. My love for video games inspired me to explore all aspects of game design, including 3D modeling, graphic design, marketing, and coding. My goal is to develop a diverse skill set that will allow me to pursue a career in the video game industry and give back to my community by offering my skills or teaching youth about technology. I am truly grateful for this award — without scholarships and bursaries like this, I would not be able to pursue my goals.

łeekoo, łeekoo.

“I am Nisg a’a from the Nass Valley and a lifelong carpenter. After my parents passed, I made it my goal to reclaim our language and one day teach it. When I began, I couldn’t form two words together — now I can read, write, and speak Nisg a’a, and understand our fluent Elders. Language and culture are inseparable, and I’m determined to pass this knowledge on to future generations.

Christopher Morven
FNHA Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 39



The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in British Columbia through capacity building.

NRT invests in the growth and self-determination of BC First Nations by supporting five key capacity development areas: Governance, Education, Language, Youth & Elders, and Economic Development.

Our 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—one that includes vibrant cultures and languages, effective and independent governments, social justice, and economic prosperity—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 this vision, our Guiding Principles include:

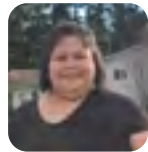
- Supporting First Nations in their capacity development efforts as they pursue individual and collective self-sufficiency
- Engaging in effective communication and collaboration with those we serve to strengthen and inform our activities
- Ensuring fair and equitable access to our services through transparent criteria focused on initiatives that create measurable change at the individual, community, and Nation levels
- Increasing the investment fund through responsible management, leveraging of assets, and pursuit of additional resources—without duplicating or replacing existing government or First Nations programs



Adrienne Michael
Ehattesah Chinehkint
First Nations

North Island College
 Education Assistant and Community Support Indigenous Focus

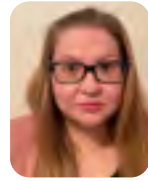
My name is Adrienne Michael. I come from the Ehattesah Chinehkint and Nuchatlaht Nations, both located in remote communities on northern Vancouver Island. My career goal is to work with children and youth as an Education Assistant for a few years. I also hope to obtain my Early Childhood Education Assistant certificate in the near future. In the long term, I plan to pursue a diploma in Social Work so that I can continue supporting children, youth, and families in meaningful ways within my community.



Alishia Benson-McCarthy
Gitwangak Band Council

Coast Mountain College
 Business Administration Diploma - Human Resources

Ama sa. My traditional Gitxsan name is Xpit'amonstoone from Wilp Gytem Maxmagii through Simoogit Hanamuuxw and Sigidim hana'k Gwa'amaats of the Giskaast pedeek from Gitsegukla, BC. I have over 15 years of leadership experience in community governance, non-profit societies, and federally funded organizations focused on education and training. I returned to school to pursue my lifelong dream in business and gain the credentials to be recognized as a leader. I plan to continue my studies in 2025 toward a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration. I'm grateful for the support as I begin this new chapter in my journey.



Alysha Quock
Tahltan Band Council

Vancouver College of Counsellor Training
 Addictions Worker Certificate

My name is Alysha Quock, and I am Tahltan from the Yukon. I am studying at the Vancouver College of Counsellor Training, working toward my Addictions Worker Certificate as part of my journey to becoming a mental health counsellor. My goal is to support others in rediscovering hope, purpose, and self-worth. I'm passionate about helping Indigenous communities access culturally informed mental health care and empowering people on their healing journeys.



Amber Wells
Gitanmaax Band Council

Langara College
 Arts And Science - Aboriginal Studies

My name is Amber Wells, and I am proudly Indigenous, from the Gitxsan and Tsimshian Nations. I grew up in the small community of Kitwanga, BC. Moving to the city was a challenge, but it has allowed me to pursue my education and continue my journey as an Indigenous athlete. I have always enjoyed working with kids, and my goal is to help Indigenous youth access better opportunities to play sports at higher levels. I want to provide them with the support they need to balance their school and athletic commitments while promoting mental health and overall well-being. This summer, I joined Nautsu' Mawt FC, the first Indigenous-owned semi-professional soccer team. After the season ended, I was invited to join the Langara College soccer team. My dream is to help create those same opportunities for future generations of Indigenous youth.



Arielle Alexander
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Health Care Assistant Certificate
 Indigenous Human Services Certificate

My name is Arielle Alexander, and I am of Okanagan and Dene ancestry. I am affiliated with the Upper Nicola Band and Sahtu Nation, and I have lived in Kamloops and Douglas Lake my entire life. I am currently attending NVIT to complete my Health Care Aide Certification and plan to work as a Home Health Care Aide in my community to support the Elders who helped build it. I'm excited to deepen my understanding of my culture while caring for those who need assistance. After gaining experience in this role, I plan to return to school to become a Nurse Practitioner and work with women and children in Merritt who lack access to medical care. I am optimistic about the future, and this scholarship motivates me to continue working hard toward achieving my goals.



Austin MacArthur
Hagwilget Village Council

Thompson Rivers University
 Automotive Service Technician

My name is Austin MacArthur, and I am from Kamloops, BC. My mother is Indigenous, and I had the privilege of living near my homeland in Hazelton, BC during high school. I now live in Kelowna, pursuing my dream of becoming a Red Seal Certified Automotive Mechanic with Electric Vehicle certification. I am starting Level 3 of my certification in January and will continue gaining experience until I complete all levels of the Automotive Service Technician program and take my Red Seal exam. Once certified, I plan to complete the Electric Vehicle course at Okanagan College. I've always enjoyed working on cars and learning how they function. After a year and a half in a tire shop, I appreciated every opportunity to learn from certified mechanics. I'm passionate about keeping vehicles safe and reliable on the road — that's why I chose this career.



Barb Louie
Stz'uminus First Nation

Simon Fraser University
 Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency (Hul'Q'Umi'Num')

My name is Barbara Louie, and I am very happy to be in this program. When I was growing up, I didn't have the opportunity to learn my language, so being here now makes me very excited. I worked at a job for four years, which was enough for me to realize I wanted to return to school. I'm having fun and learning a lot, and I feel comfortable and supported in class. I know this is exactly what I want to be doing — helping carry our language forward for future generations.

“Moving to the city was a challenge, but it pushed me to grow and believe in myself. My goal now is to help Indigenous youth access more opportunities in sport, education, and mental health — to show them that anything is possible when you're supported and determined. I want to create the kind of encouragement and guidance I wished I had when I was younger.”

— Amber Wells
 Bursary Recipient



Blaise Klein
Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Computer Systems Technology

My name is Blaise Klein. I'm from Burnaby, BC, and I am a member of Tk'emlups te Secwépemc. I'm currently pursuing Computer Systems Technology at BCIT, building a strong foundation in programming and software development. After completing my current program, I plan to continue my studies and specialize in cybersecurity.



Braelene Leo
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h'

Vancouver Island University
Baking and Pastry Arts Management

My name is Braelene Leo, and I am from the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' Nation. My goal is to graduate from my program with either a diploma or degree (both are offered). I plan to work toward earning my Red Seal certification and eventually open a bakery of my own. I also want to bring my skills back home and share my knowledge within my community by applying to work at my Nation's local lodge and offering baking classes for members interested in learning. I hope that younger generations see the goals we're striving for and feel inspired to pursue their own dreams. Anything is possible when you truly put your mind to it — find your passion.



Brenden Aylard
Esquimalt Nation

Camosun College
Civil Engineering Technology

My name is Brenden Aylard. I am Lekwungen, and my mother is a member of the Esquimalt Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Civil Engineering Technology program at Camosun College in Victoria. My goal is to gain hands-on experience in the field and eventually continue my studies to earn a degree in civil engineering. I hope to use my education to help strengthen and improve the communities around me while protecting the natural environment. I look forward to contributing to infrastructure projects that promote safety, sustainability, and positive change.

“My dream is to earn my Red Seal and open my own bakery. I want to share what I've learned with my community and inspire others to follow their passions.”
— **Braelene Leo**
Bursary Recipient



Candice Harvey
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Douglas College
Associate of Arts - Anthropology

My name is Candice, my family is from Upper Nicola. I am studying Anthropology and Archaeology focusing on Indigenous communities. My plan is to help respectfully rediscover and preserve our history. I have always been passionate about history and am excited for this opportunity to pursue my education in this field.



Carter Chanin
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University
Culinary Management Year 2

I have previously completed the PC1 and PC2 Vancouver Island Culinary Programs and spent several seasons working as a Prep Chef in a fine-dining restaurant in my home community. These experiences have strengthened my passion for cooking and inspired me to continue developing my culinary skills and creativity in the kitchen. Receiving financial support from the New Relationship Trust (NRT) has been invaluable in helping me pursue my educational goals and career aspirations. After completing my Red Seal Certification, my dream is to become the owner-operator of a mobile food truck serving my community of Skidegate. I also hope to inspire and mentor the next generation of Indigenous culinary chefs, sharing my journey and encouraging them to follow their passions.



Cheyenne McDonald
Laxgalts'ap

Thompson Rivers University
Human Services Diploma

My name is Cheyanne Bigcharles. I am Nisga'a and Métis from Laxgalt'sap. I grew up in foster care and once lived a high-risk lifestyle. Education once felt out of reach, but I worked hard to change my life for myself and my children. I began in outreach, shelter support, and group homes for high-risk youth, and earned a Human Service Diploma from Thompson Rivers University. I'm now completing a Diploma in Applied Psychology (Professional Counselling) while working at Secwepemc Child and Family Services. I plan to continue on the Youth Intensive Team, providing cultural and healing supports to help young people build stronger futures.



Christopher Morven
New Aiyansh

Wilp Wilxo'Oskwhl Nisga'a Institute
First Nations Studies - Nisga'A Fluency

I am of Nisga'a heritage from the Nass Valley and live in New Aiyansh (Gitlax t'aamiks). I worked as a carpenter most of my life and have spent the past four years earning a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies at UNBC. My parents never spoke our language due to their residential school experiences. After their passing, I made it my goal to reclaim and teach it. When I began, I could barely form two words, but today I can read, write, and speak Nisga'a and understand our fluent Elders. I attend cultural events knowing language and culture are inseparable. My dream is to pass on what I've learned to future generations.



Cynthia Burke
Fort Nelson First Nation

College of New Caledonia
Social Services Worker Applied Diploma

A mother of three from Fort Nelson First Nation with Dene ancestry from Northern BC and Alberta, she is in her second year of the Social Service Worker program, working toward a career in Mental Health, Wellness, and Addiction Recovery. As a survivor and person in recovery, she relates deeply to the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual traumas many Indigenous women have faced. She sees a vital need for Indigenous-led healing approaches that center language, culture, and tradition. Having completed Wellbriety facilitation training, she uses these tools to support Indigenous people in addiction recovery. Her goal is to help others rebuild strength and reconnect to their ancestral roots through culturally grounded programs and services.



Damaya Walkus
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw
First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Social Services Diploma Program

My name is Damaya Walkus, and I am a proud member of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations. I am passionate about helping Indigenous youth succeed on this path we all walk called life. I'm currently in my first year of the Social Services Diploma program and plan to apply what I've learned—both in school and through life experiences—to my future career. I'm still deciding whether to pursue a degree in Social Work or Counselling, but I trust that whichever path I choose will lead me where I'm meant to be.



Darci Nelson
Metlakatla Band

Coast Mountain College
Fine Arts

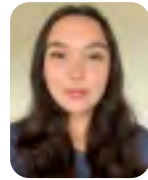
I am from the Tsm'syen territory. My mother is from Lax Kwa'alaams, and my father is from Metlakatla, BC. For the past 16 years, I have worked as a long-shoreperson and am honoured to have been the first full-time, paid, elected female business agent in ILWU Canada's history. This experience has fueled my passion for advocating equity and fair representation in the workplace. I've studied labour law to deepen my understanding of workers' rights and governance and am completing an Associate of Arts degree at Coast Mountain College. I plan to attend law school to specialize in Indigenous and labour law—fields where I can continue empowering others while creating meaningful change for Indigenous communities.



Derech Sill
Ulkatcho Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
General Studies

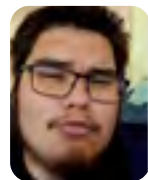
My name is Derech Sill, and I am an Aboriginal descendant from the Central Interior of British Columbia. I am completing my diploma at Thompson Rivers University and plan to continue working toward a Bachelor's degree. Education has always been my top priority, despite the challenges—especially with English being my second language.



Dora-Lynne Bedard
Old Masset Village Council

Coast Mountain College
Business Administration Diploma -
Human Resources

My name is Jaad Gulee. I am from the Ts'aahl Laanaas Eagle Clan and a proud member of the Haida Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma program at Coast Mountain College. After completing my diploma, I plan to continue my educational journey and pursue a bachelor's degree. Haaw'a.



Dylan George-James
Penelakut Indian Band

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Language Proficiency

I aspire to become a language teacher and help revitalize our language so our culture can continue to flourish. My goals and ambitions are within reach, and with this funding, I am one step closer to achieving them.



Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Gitwangak Band Council

Camosun College
HR Management and Leadership

Nox Gyes, Edith Loring-Kuhanga is a member of Wilp Gwininitxw of the Lax Gibuu Clan of the Gitxsan Nation. After retiring in May 2023, she returned to school to pursue a Post-Degree Diploma at Camosun College, working toward a professional designation in Human Resources. She has been married for 25 years to Julius Kuhanga from the Songea tribe of southern Tanzania. Together, they have two sons, four grandchildren, and have also raised two nieces and two nephews. Edith holds a Bachelor of Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership. Over the past forty years, she has held numerous roles in education and health, including teacher, principal, college instructor, curriculum developer, and Chief Executive Officer. For 22 years, she owned and operated a national training and consulting business. She has also served in leadership positions, including 10 years as a school trustee—four as Chair of the Greater Victoria School Board—and four years as an elected Band Councillor.



Elena Sutherland Tobin
Lake Babine Nation

College of New Caledonia
Licensed Practical Nursing

Hadih! My name is Elena Sutherland Tobin. I am Neduten from Lake Babine Nation on my mother's side and Métis from my grandfather's side. I am currently pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse at the College of New Caledonia. Through my studies, I've developed a deep interest in addressing the healthcare disparities faced by Indigenous communities and



Elizabeth Daniels
Cowichan Tribes

Simon Fraser University
Minor In Indigenous Language.
Bachelor of Arts

'Uy' skweyul si'am (Good day). My name is Lisa Elizabeth Marie Daniels, and my hwulmuhw sne (First Nation name) is Qwisimtunatiya. I am from S'amuna', within the Cowichan Territory. I am a Hul'q'umi'num' language learner and have been studying through Simon Fraser University since May 2021. My goal is to gain the confidence and ability to speak in Hul'q'umi'num'—whether to one person or a large crowd—introducing myself and sharing who I am and where I come from. I continue to strive toward fluency and confidence in public speaking. My grandparents and parents were strong believers in our cultural and traditional values, and their first language was fluent Hul'q'umi'num'. My grandmother, in particular, has always been my greatest inspiration. I remember being about six years old, sitting beside my mother in the longhouse, watching my grandmother speak powerfully on the floor in our language. Her voice was strong and clear, and in that moment, I knew I wanted to follow in her footsteps. She continues to inspire me to be a strong slheni' Hul'q'umi'num' (Hul'q'umi'num' woman).

am dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of my people. I'm excited for the opportunity to help improve these outcomes and make a meaningful difference in my community. I am deeply grateful for the support this award provides toward my education and future goals. Mesiyh Cho.



Isabelle Williams
Cowichan Tribes

Vancouver Island University
Criminology

My name is Isabelle, and I am from Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island. I am currently working toward completing my Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. I am the first generation in my family not to attend residential school. After overcoming addiction and choosing to walk the Red Road, I was inspired to help others caught in the revolving door of the Canadian correctional system. I'm grateful to now be working in my community, supporting those who face similar struggles with addiction and the justice system. I look forward to continuing my education and combining my lived experience with formal learning to create meaningful change.



Jacey Pollard
Skidegate Band Council

Camosun College
Community Family and Child Studies

My Haida name is Dang.gid, which translates to Smiles a Lot, and my English name is Jacey. I am from the Skidegate Reserve on Haida Gwaii and belong to the K'aadas Ga KiiGawaay Raven and Wolf Clan from Taanuu. My studies focus on support work and helping individuals, families, and communities access the resources they need to build a better future. My goal is to complete my diploma and work within the Victoria or Haida Gwaii communities. I have a deep passion for spreading positivity through my work, practicums, and volunteer experiences, and I hope to continue bringing that same energy and compassion throughout my career in the human services field.



Jack Palm
'Namgis First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Professional Development Program

Hi, my name is Jack Palm. I grew up on the Sunshine Coast and spent much of my time learning from my Indigenous family in Alert Bay. My main career goal is to become a secondary school social studies teacher, where I hope to inspire and support members of my community through education.



Jacqueline Brooks
Cowichan Tribes

Vancouver Island University
Early Childhood Education

My traditional name is Qualnahutamaat. I am from the Cowichan Tribes and currently studying Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) at Vancouver Island University. My goal is to obtain my full ECEC designation and one day operate a daycare that weaves Indigenous knowledge, values, and teachings into everyday learning.



Josie Louie
Stz'uminus First Nation

University of Victoria
Diploma Indigenous Language Revitalization

My name is Josephine Louie, and I am from Stz'uminus First Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization program at the University of Victoria. My goal is to continue on to complete a Bachelor of Education and obtain my teaching certification.



Kalea Matthew
Simpw First Nation

Blanche Macdonald
Global Makeup Program

My name is Kalea, and I am from Kamloops. I've wanted to be a makeup artist ever since I discovered it could be a career. Makeup has always been a true passion of mine, and now that I'm in school for it, I'm genuinely excited to learn every day. It's fun, creative, and fulfilling, and I can't wait to love it as a career just as much as I do now. My dream is to work in TV and film makeup or to create my own beauty brand, sharing my love of makeup with people everywhere.



Katrina Woodgate
Lake Babine Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Indigenous Human Service Program

My name is Katrina Woodgate, and I am from Burns Lake, BC, belonging to the Lake Babine Nation. I am extremely grateful to have been selected for the New Relationship Trust Student Award for 2023. I am currently beginning my first year in the Social Work program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, with the goal of completing my Bachelor of Social Work. I look forward to furthering my education and using my skills to serve local First Nations communities. I am passionate about supporting Indigenous peoples in overcoming barriers and building brighter futures. I want to thank the NRT Foundation for this award and their support, which allows me to focus on my studies and continue working toward my goals.



Kaylee Adams-Wilson
Metlakatla Band

Vancouver Island University
Social Services Diploma

My name is Kaylee Adams-Wilson, and I am from Prince Rupert, BC. I am Tsimshian and Nisga'a, and I am currently attending Vancouver Island University in the Social Services Diploma program. I hope to build a career in social services, working directly with Indigenous children, youth, and families. I look forward to beginning this journey—supporting, advocating for, and empowering individuals within my community.



Kelsa Carmen
Cape Mudge Band

Vancouver Island University
Licensed Practical Nursing Diploma

My name is Kelsa Carmen. I am originally from Vancouver Island and currently live in Nanaimo, British Columbia. I am attending Vancouver Island University, where I am completing my undergraduate degree in Practical Nursing with a major in Health Science.



Kiera Meunier
Katzie First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Language Proficiency Certificate

My name is Kiera Meunier, and I am from Katzie First Nation, where I live with my parents and siblings. This fall, I began the Language Proficiency Certificate program full-time at Simon Fraser University. I'm excited for the opportunity to continue learning and strengthening my language.



Kierra Tailleir
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

Camosun College
Arts and Science Studies

My name is Kierra Tailleir, and I am a member of the Lower Similkameen Band and the Syilx Nation. This fall, I will begin my educational journey at Camosun College, working toward my goal of becoming a Dental Hygienist. My ultimate aim is to complete a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at UBC. Motivated by a deep desire to help others and make a positive impact, I am pursuing post-secondary education to contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities. I am passionate about ensuring access to quality oral healthcare for all and advocating for Indigenous health and wellness through oral health. My values and knowledge continue to guide and inspire me on this path.



Kristy Pittman
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

University of British Columbia
Outdoor Environmental Education

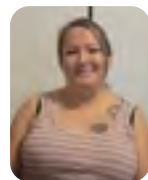
Nek' n-ew Kristy. I am Yurok, Karuk, Chetco, and St'át'imc. My goal is to continue my learning journey and expand my knowledge in environmental outdoor education. This will allow me to bring future classes outdoors and help students connect with our plant and animal relatives through an Indigenous worldview. Wokhlew for this opportunity to further my education with the support of your scholarship.



Lois Yeomans
Old Masset Village Council

University of British Columbia
Special Education Diploma

Hello, my name is Lois Yeomans, and I am a mother of two. I am Tsimshian and Haida from northern British Columbia. My career goal is to become a special education teacher in East Vancouver. I am passionate about learning and gaining the knowledge needed to support all of my students' diverse needs. My hope is to help students build positive relationships with learning and to provide them with the tools and confidence they need to succeed.



Maddy Seymour
Stz'uminus First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Language
Proficiency Program

My name is Madeline Seymour, and my Indian name is Squxiye'tunaat. I am from the Stz'uminus First Nation. My career goal is to earn my doctorate in Hul'q'umi'num' language and go on to teach it. I've finally found something I am truly passionate about — our language — and I'm dedicated to helping keep it alive for future generations.

“I want to bring learning outdoors and help students connect with our plant and animal relatives through an Indigenous worldview.

— Kristy Pittman
Bursary Recipient



Magdalene Korolyk
Takla Nation

Langara College
Associate of Arts - Aboriginal Studies

My name is Magdalene Korolyk, and I am from Takla Lake First Nation, a remote community in northern British Columbia. I am a young mother of two daughters, and my goal is to provide them with a life free from systemic barriers and generational trauma. As the daughter of a Residential School Survivor and the first generation in my family to pursue a Bachelor's degree, I am deeply committed to creating meaningful change in Indigenous communities. My career aspirations focus on policy reform, community development, and health and wellness. I am currently working to highlight the lack of supports and services available to youth who experience violence and other human rights violations, with the goal of advancing policy reform and increasing funding opportunities for Indigenous communities.



Malcolm Tait-Morgan
Gingolx

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
Category 'M'

My name is Malcolm Tait-Morgan, and I am from the village of Gingolx. I am currently studying Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Category 'M' at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). I am pursuing a career as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and am dedicated to gaining the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this field.



Mallory Gosnell
New Aiyansh

Vancouver Community College
Autobody Collision And Refinishing
Certificate

My name is Mallory Gosnell, and I am from New Aiyansh, currently living in Vancouver, BC. I am working in the automotive collision and refinishing trade, with the goal of becoming Red Seal certified. I plan to gain experience in the United States and, eventually, start my own business within the trade, where I can continue developing my skills, mentoring others, and inspiring more women to pursue careers in the trades.



Mary Henry
Cowichan Tribes

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Language Intermediate
Level Proficiency 2

My name is Mary Henry, and I am from the Rockhead Clan of the Cowichan Tribes First Nation, located in Duncan, B.C., where I live with my three children and three grandchildren. I have been passionately studying our Hul'q'umi'num' language for several years, and my educational goal is to complete the four-year Language Fluency degree at Simon Fraser University and eventually earn my PhD. I hope to share my knowledge, mentor future learners, and contribute to the ongoing revitalization of our Hul'q'umi'num' language with Nation members. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting my educational journey and encouraging me to continue this important and meaningful work. Huy ch q'u.



Myrna Bell
Old Masset Village Council

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Indigenous Human Service Program

I am a daughter, wife, mother, nonnie, and auntie. Saantuuwaas is my Haida name, and my given name is Myrna Bell. Like all nonnies (grandmothers), my grandchildren are my world. I chose to further my education because I believe children need strong role models. I want them to see me reading, writing, and even struggling to meet deadlines — to understand that learning never stops and perseverance matters at every stage of life.



Naomi Sam
Neskonlith Indian Band

Capilano University
University One for Indigenous Learners

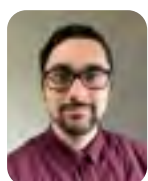
My name is Naomi-Gail Nanette Sam. On my grandmother's side, I am from the Neskonlith Indian Band, and on my grandfather's side, I am Blackfoot. I am currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree with a major in Psychology at Capilano University. My goal is to work in the medical field, supporting individuals who are struggling with addiction. I have dedicated many hours to volunteering and contributing within my school and community, offering whatever I can to help others. Being of service has always grounded me and helped me overcome my own challenges with anxiety. Through education and experience, I aim to become a compassionate, calm, and knowledgeable medical professional who brings healing and understanding to those in need.



Nashua Kruger
Penticton Indian Band

Okanagan College
Automotive Service Technician

Hello, my name is Nashua Kruger, and I am from and currently reside on the Penticton Indian Band, part of the Okanagan Nation. I recently graduated and began my apprenticeship program at a local mechanic shop on January 3, 2023. In September 2023, I started college full-time in the Automotive Service Technician Program at Okanagan College, driving back and forth from Penticton to the campus Monday through Friday. I am dedicated to doing my best and completing my Red Seal certification within four years. Becoming a mechanic has been a lifelong dream of mine, one I've had since high school. My ultimate goal is to one day open my own shop and continue building a future in this trade. I am very grateful to have been accepted into BC Trades and Okanagan College, and I am thankful for this award, which will help me continue pursuing my goals. I'm honoured to be chosen and will do my very best to make my community proud. Much respect, Nash Kruger.



Nicolas Fontaine
Neskonlith Indian Band

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Geographic Information Systems
Advanced Certificate

My name is Nicolas Fontaine, I am 28 years old, and I live in Kamloops, BC. My career goal is to complete my GIS certification and pursue a career that combines environmental science and programming. I hope to use these skills to support Indigenous communities with environmental management and mapping projects.



Nikita Leask
Lax Kw'alaams Band

MC College
Hairstyling Diploma

I am a mom to a two-year-old son and a current student in the Hairstyling program at MC College. I will be graduating in June 2024 and hope to begin working in an established salon to continue developing my skills and experience. My long-term goal is to open my own salon and build a career that reflects my passion for creativity and connection.



Norma Nahanee
Squamish First Nations

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
General Arts

Halh Skayal (Hello). Norma was raised in the village of Esla7han, within the Squamish Nation territories. Tsaweltsaliya (pronounced Saw-welt-sa-laya) is Norma's ancestral name, carried from her paternal great-great-great-grandmother's childhood name. It refers to the stream that flows down Chieftain Mountain in Stawmus. Norma began her healing journey in 2010 and returned to school as a mature student, setting goals to become a helper in the field of social work. She has volunteered at family camps and participated in the Bella Bella Tribal Canoe Journey in 2014. Norma recently completed the Family and Community Counselling Diploma program and has six years of direct experience working in youth and family services. Through this work, Norma has come to understand the importance of walking together with one heart and one mind — to heal from the past, live in the present, and care for one another while following the teachings of her elders. She is honoured to continue working toward her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, carrying forward her commitment to helping others and strengthening her community.



Rachael Franz
Haisla Nation

Pacific Rim College
Phytotherapy

Rachael is a Haisla Nation student with a deep passion for learning and sharing knowledge. She earned her undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Victoria in 2020 and has since returned to school to continue her education. She is currently enrolled in the Phytotherapy (Herbal Medicine) Diploma Program at Pacific Rim College, where she is expanding her understanding of plant-based healing. Rachael is inspired by the generations of Indigenous healers who have kept their communities healthy for millennia and dreams of helping make holistic health more accessible to everyone.



Tam Prince
Saik'uz First Nation

College of New Caledonia
Social Service Worker

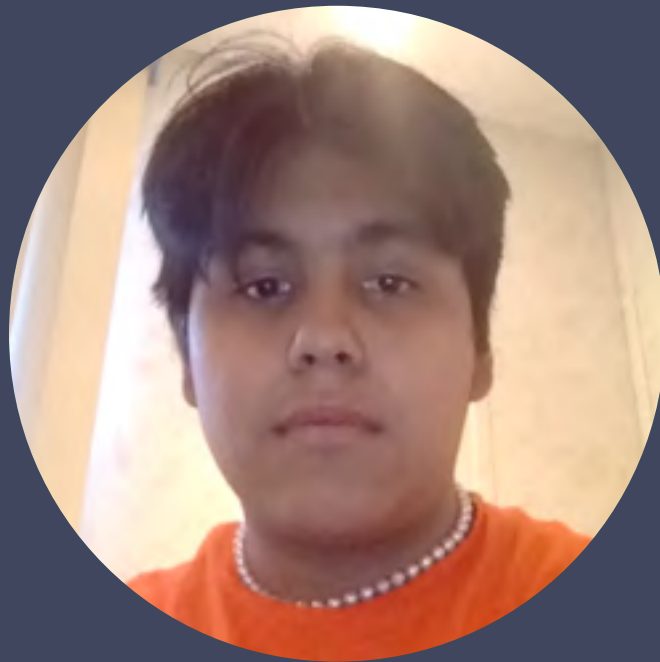
My name is Tam Prince, and I am from Prince George, BC. My career goal is to obtain my Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and discover where I can make the greatest impact in my work as a social worker.



Tamerra Duncan
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing Access

I live in East Vancouver and am currently a student at Sprott Shaw College, enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nursing Access Program. I look forward to graduating in March 2024 and continuing to build my career in healthcare. I am excited to help others and make a positive difference in my community through my work.



Quentin Chippeway-Thomas
Tseshaht First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Culinary Arts

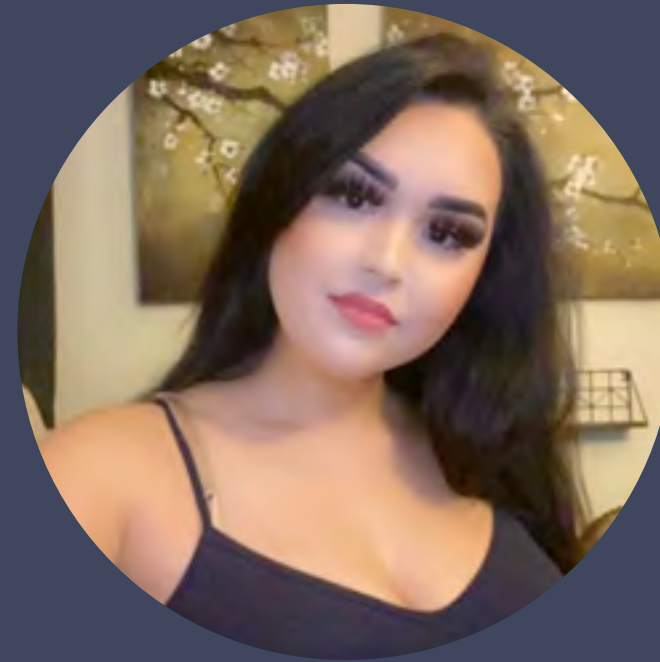
Hello, my name is Quentin Chippeway-Thomas, and I am a proud member of the Tseshaht First Nation. I am currently attending the Culinary Arts Professional Cook 1 program at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) from September 2023 to April 2024, the first step toward earning my Culinary Arts Certificate and Red Seal Apprenticeship. Having recently graduated from high school, I'm building on my restaurant experience and learning from professional chefs to develop essential kitchen and management skills. These achievements will allow me to travel, work in diverse kitchens, and learn from different cultures through food. One day, I hope to open my own restaurant or catering business and return home to Tseshaht to mentor others and share what I've learned.



Roberta Duncan
Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Community Support Worker - Social Services

Yáu (Hello), my name is Roberta Duncan, and my traditional name is Mxsáqv (Rainbow). I am from the Kitasoo Xai'xais First Nation. I am currently residing on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples as I continue to further my education. I am enrolled in the Community Support Worker – Social Services program at Sprott Shaw College. My post-secondary education journey has been both successful and transformative, allowing me to learn so much about myself and others along the way. My main goal is to return home to Klemtu, BC, to apply all that I have learned in order to better support my people and other First Nations communities along the Central Coast. Ğíáxsiǰa (Thank you) to my community and, most importantly, my family for being my greatest supporters — and a huge Ğíáxsiǰa to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for making this opportunity possible. Wálas Ğíáxsiǰa.



Taylor Duncan
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Associate of Arts

Hello, my name is Taylor Duncan, and I am a 30-year-old Indigenous woman living in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. I am completing my Associate of Arts degree in Psychology and plan to continue my education by pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. My goal is to one day start a practice with my siblings to support other Indigenous people in the Downtown Eastside community.

I am deeply grateful for this generous bursary, which will greatly assist me in achieving my educational goals. Thank you from the bottom of my heart — this opportunity means the world to me. Much love and many blessings.

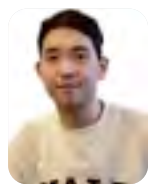


Trisha Johnny
Saik'uz First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Associates of Arts - Criminology

My name is Trisha Johnny, and I am from Saik'uz Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Criminology Degree program and continuing my studies toward a Bachelor of Social Work. My main goal is to work within my community as a clinical social worker, supporting the Indigenous population in Vancouver.

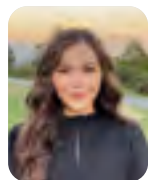
I am currently employed with the Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS) as a Cultural Worker, where I've seen firsthand the growing need for social and clinical support for our people. I hope to continue my journey by pursuing a career with VAHS, contributing to the health and well-being of the Indigenous community.



Aiden Antoine
Bonaparte First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Commerce

I am currently in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program at the UBC's Sauder School of Business, specializing in Business Technology Management. After graduating, I hope to work in Vancouver as a data or business intelligence analyst, creating insights that make a positive impact on my city and community. More importantly, I aspire to build a career that allows me to give back to First Nations communities across Canada and inspire other Indigenous students to reach their full potential. I truly believe that a strong foundation in commerce is the perfect path to help me achieve these goals.



Alexis Baldwin
Gitwangak Band Council

University of The Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Science

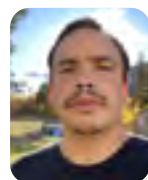
Tansi. I am from both Gitwangak and the Ojibwe Cree Nation, though I call Stó:lō Nation home. I'm pursuing a Bachelor of Science to create meaningful change for Indigenous Peoples and within the scientific community. I use my science background to inspire future generations through the Indigenization of Chemistry and as an Ambassador for my university's Science Department, showing other Indigenous students that we belong in STEM. My goal is to become an Indigenous Liaison and, eventually, a Deputy Minister, advocating for Indigenous leadership in science and government. Education is my opportunity to make a difference for my family and all my relations and to make my Papa proud — even from heaven.



Amber-Lyn May
Tahltan Band Council

Laurentian University
Bachelor of Forensic Science

My name is Amber May, and I am from Calgary, AB. I am a member of the Tahltan First Nation and currently in my third year of Forensic Science at Laurentian University, where I also play on the varsity basketball team and have been an Academic All-Canadian for the past two years. I come from a large family of 13 and am a proud auntie to seven nieces and nephews. I hope to specialize in forensic anthropology or serology, focusing on cases involving Indigenous people, and eventually attend medical school to become a medical examiner. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and aspire to help my people heal and rebuild trust with the justice system.



Andrew Dexel
Nooaitch Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Nłe?Kepmx Language Fluency

heńłe? (Greetings). I am Nłe?kepmx from Nweyc, where I live with my wife and our three children. I am honoured to be learning my language and grateful for the support of my friends, family, and relations. Learning Nłe?kepmxcn has deepened my understanding of who I am as an Indigenous person and strengthened my connection to our Elders. I am proud to be pursuing my Bachelor's degree, something I never imagined when I began this journey. It's shown me how far passion and purpose can carry us. Kʷukʷscemxʷ to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting my journey in language revitalization. huńeł (Farewell).



Angie Seeber
Simpcw First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

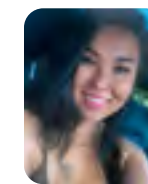
I am a proud member of the Simpcw First Nation and a first-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student at UBC Okanagan, while working in medical imaging at Vernon Jubilee Hospital. My mom inspired me to pursue nursing, believing that every role in health care makes a difference. After her passing in 2021, my dream was briefly put on hold, but I reapplied and was accepted in 2022. I'm grateful for the support of my family, friends, and Simpcw First Nation. My goal is to work as an RN and eventually become a nurse practitioner, giving back to Indigenous communities and improving the lives of those around me. Thank you to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting my journey.



April Pierre
Katzie First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Studies

My name is April Pierre, and I am Coast Salish from Katzie First Nation. I am majoring in Indigenous Studies and Resource Environmental Management. My passion lies in researching and writing about Indigenous issues, reclaiming our narratives from non-Indigenous perspectives that have long misrepresented us. Studying Resource and Environmental Management will help me advocate for Rights and Title, manage our lands responsibly, and bring this knowledge back to benefit my community and other Indigenous Nations.



Arlene Antrim
Ulkatcho Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Environment & Sustainability

My name is Arlene Antrim, and I am from the Ulkatcho'ten First Nation. I am currently completing my Bachelor's degree in Geography at the University of British Columbia, with plans to pursue a Master's program specializing in Indigenous Research Geographies. Through my studies, I aim to better understand and address the interconnected challenges facing Indigenous communities, from ecological degradation to the effects of climate change. My goal is to contribute to sustainable solutions that strengthen both the environment and our communities. My passion for creating meaningful change continues to inspire my education and guide my career path.



Ashton Irwin
Skin Tyee First Nation

Okanagan College
Bachelor of Computer Information Systems

My name is Ashton Irwin, and I am a member of Skin Tyee, though I was born and raised in Dawson Creek, BC. After high school, I began a career in industrial scaffolding, but I've since chosen a new path that allows me to grow while helping others through shared knowledge. After graduation, my goal is to develop the skills needed to help integrate emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, into communities that may be slower to adopt them—advancing accessibility and opportunity where it's needed most.



Brendan Eshom
Gitga'at Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science

My name is Brendan, and I am a proud member of the Gitga'at First Nation. My traditional name is Gaa Liip Liibm Laxha, and I belong to the Killer Whale Clan. I am currently pursuing my studies at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Science, where I am entering the fourth year of my bachelor's degree. My academic focus blends the fields of biology, chemistry, and environmental science, reflecting my passion for understanding and protecting the natural world.



Breya Ell
Cowichan Tribes

University of The Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Social Work

I am pursuing a career in Social Work at the University of the Fraser Valley and currently live in Chilliwack on Stó:lō territory. My goal is to complete my Bachelor of Social Work, gain field experience, and then pursue a Master's degree and Registered Clinical Social Worker designation. I'm especially interested in mental health and working from a trauma-informed lens. My heart is drawn to corrections, where I hope to support individuals who are incarcerated by helping them navigate systemic barriers and rediscover hope. In the long term, I aspire to open my own private practice and continue supporting Indigenous people in meaningful ways. I believe that feeling leads to healing and hope to help others heal through the power of talk therapy.



Brody Milne
Kispiox Band Council

University of The Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Brody Milne, and I live in Surrey, BC. I am a proud member of the Kispiox Band Council and currently in my second year of a Kinesiology degree at the University of the Fraser Valley. I plan to continue my studies with a Master's in Occupational Therapy and am deeply grateful for this award, which supports me on my journey toward achieving my dream of helping others.



Callison Foreman
Tahltan Band Council

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Aerospace Physiology

My name is Callison Foreman, and I am a Tahltan woman of the Wolf Clan. I am completing my final semester of a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Physiology at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. In January, I will begin a Master of Science in Data Science, with the goal of applying it to medical research. I plan to use this education, along with a future Medical Degree, to improve access to quality healthcare and research in underserved and rural communities across British Columbia. I am deeply passionate about ensuring that every community has equitable opportunities to be healthy, cared for, and prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead.



Camryn Parnell
Old Masset Village Council

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

My name is Camryn Parnell, and I am proudly from Haida Gwaii. I am currently working toward my Bachelor's degree in Psychology at UBC Okanagan and plan to pursue a Master's in Social Work in the future. My career goal is to work in community development, supporting meaningful change and well-being within Indigenous communities. I want to make a difference in my community.



Cherysh Perry
Gingolx

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Science in Biology

My name is Cherysh Perry, and I am a citizen of the Nisga'a Nation and member of the Nisga'a Ts'amiks community in Vancouver. I am completing my Bachelor of Science at Simon Fraser University and plan to attend medical school at UBC, where I can stay close to my community and continue learning from them. I volunteer at Orange Shirt Day and Hoobiyee and serve as a Student Ambassador at the SFU Indigenous Student Centre, helping organize cultural events for new students. I am also part of the Vancouver Nisga'a Dance Group and continue to learn the Nisga'a language, drum-making, and beading. Having witnessed systemic racism in health care, I am determined to bring an Indigenous perspective to medicine and help build a system that better serves our communities.



Cheyenne Toms
Tsal'alh First Nation

St. Francis Xavier University
Bachelor of Arts in Human Kinetics

I am currently studying Human Kinetics in Kinesiology with a minor in Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University. My long-term goal is to become a Special Education teacher so I can help children have the best school experience possible.



Chiara McCarthy
Ucluelet Indian Band

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Education

I am Chiara Alfaro McCarthy, a member of the Yuułu'it̓'ath̓ (Ucluelet) First Nation on Vancouver Island, BC. I am in my fourth year of a Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University and will graduate in 2025. After completing my degree, I plan to teach on Vancouver Island, integrating the First Peoples Principles of Learning into my classroom and contributing to the decolonization of Canada's education system. My goal is to create inclusive, safe spaces where students feel welcome, represented, and supported throughout their educational journey.

“Witnessing the racism my mother faced in health care inspired me to become part of the change our people deserve — to one day become a doctor who uplifts Indigenous voices and helps rebuild trust in the system.”

— Cherysh Perry
Bursary Recipient



Christie Perley
T'Sou-ke First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I live in Sooke with my husband and nine-year-old son. I am completing my Bachelor of Psychology and Master of Counselling at the University of Victoria, working toward becoming a Registered Clinical Counsellor. I am deeply motivated to support women, children, youth, and families in Indigenous communities, drawing from both personal experience and a strong passion for emotional healing. My goal is to help others create safe spaces where they can move from loss to peace—this is my gift to share.



Christina Harry
Homalco First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

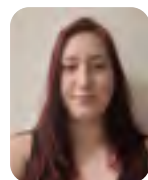
My name is Christina Harry, and I am a second-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student at Vancouver Island University. I was born and raised in Nanaimo, BC, and although I have left a few times, I always find my way home. Nursing wasn't my first choice—I explored several programs before realizing it was where I truly belong. I'm grateful for every experience that has led me here, especially those I've had throughout my nursing journey. My goal is to work in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, where I can make a positive impact by supporting patients as they wake from surgery and helping them feel safe and reassured. I'm deeply thankful for this award and for the New Relationship Trust Foundation's support. It will go a long way in helping me achieve my dream of becoming a registered nurse and giving back to my community.



Christina Tsuil-Menak
Bonaparte First Nation

Camosun College
Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing

My name is Christina Tsuil-menak, and I am of mixed ancestry—Secwepemc and settler on my mother's side, and Métis and settler on my father's side. I am a single mother of two and currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offered jointly by Camosun College and the University of Victoria. My goal is to pursue a PhD in Nursing and support Indigenous students at the university level through mentorship, advocacy, and education.



Claire Wright
Chawathil

University of Arts Plymouth
Bachelor of Fine Arts

I am a new artist from the Stó:lō people in Hope, BC, and a graduate of Seabird Island Community School. I have always been deeply connected to my family, culture, and community, and I am actively involved in community events and creative projects. This fall, I will be attending Arts University Plymouth in the United Kingdom to study Fine Arts. Pursuing my education abroad is a meaningful step for me—it represents the strength, resilience, and creativity of Indigenous youth everywhere. I want to show that with the right support, encouragement, and determination, we can achieve anything we set our minds to. Through my art and education, I hope to inspire others and be a role model for my sisters and younger cousins, encouraging them to believe in their dreams and embrace their unique gifts.



Cody Teichroeb
Westbank First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

way̓ ǰast sǰ lǰaʃlt, iskʷist nǰ iʔcn, iʔ suma? iskʷist Cody Teichroeb. kn ǰ l staqaʔkǰniwt. iskʷuy iʔ skʷist Llana Teichroeb inlʔiw iʔ skʷist Barry Teichroeb. ink ǰk waʔ iʔ skʷist George Fosbery, uʔ inǰat ǰpaʔ tǰi iʔ skʷist Agnes Lindley. Hello, how are you? My name is Wolf, and my English name is Cody Teichroeb. I am from Westbank, BC. My mother's name is Llana Teichroeb, my father's name is Barry Teichroeb, my grandfather is George Fosbery, and my great-grandmother is Agnes Lindley. I am completing my third year of a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in English. My goal is to become a psychologist, and I am honoured to work with the youth in my community while continuing my studies. I also work as a researcher in psychedelic medicines, exploring innovative approaches to healing and wellness. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting me with this scholarship—it has made a meaningful difference in helping me continue my education and pursue my dreams.



Connor Grant
Musqueam Indian Band

Queen's University
Bachelor of Arts - Political Studies

I am a member of the Musqueam First Nation, with family connections to Chehalis and Sliammon. I was born and raised on the Musqueam reserve, where I lived my entire life until graduating and moving to Kingston, Ontario, to attend Queen's University. I am now in my final year of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

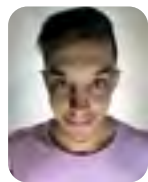
program, majoring in Political Studies. My time away from home has strengthened my appreciation for the teachings, culture, and values I grew up with in my community. After graduation, I plan to return home to continue my cultural and traditional education with my family and knowledge holders. I hope to build a career that allows me to apply what I've learned to support Musqueam and other Indigenous communities across Canada—whether through governance, advocacy, or policy development. In the future, I intend to pursue postgraduate studies to further expand my knowledge and continue contributing to meaningful change for Indigenous peoples.



Courtney Kneale
Westbank First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Courtney Fitzpatrick, and I am Syilx Okanagan, a descendant on my maternal side from Julia and Mickey Derrickson. I have lived in the Okanagan Valley my entire life and am currently completing a Bachelor of Arts in History at UBC Okanagan. My studies focus on Indigenous History and amplifying Indigenous voices in a discipline often dominated by colonial narratives. My goal is to become a professor, and my next step is to pursue a Master's and PhD outside my homeland. As a first-generation student, I feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to follow this path. I was raised by my Syilx great-grandmother, whose strength continues to guide me. Although she was denied the chance to explore her culture after Residential School, her resilience inspires me to reconnect with Syilx ways of life and carry that legacy forward.



Daniel Clark
Okanagan Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Health and Exercise Sciences

My name is Daniel Clark, and I am a member of the Okanagan Indian Band located in Vernon, B.C. I am in my fourth year of Health and Exercise Sciences at UBC Okanagan, with aspirations to pursue a career in physical therapy. My journey is guided by a passion to harness the healing power of movement, helping others regain their mobility, strength, and vitality. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their generous support, which has been instrumental in helping me pursue my educational and career goals.



Danika Shaw
Heiltsuk Nation

University of British Columbia
First Nations Endangered Languages

Yí'yáu hákq̓m hágva! Danikax̱anugva du Haítzaxvnugva. Hello everyone! My name is Danika, and I am Heiltsuk. I am currently enrolled in UBC's First Nations and Endangered Languages (FNEL) Program and will be graduating this upcoming year. I also work as my community's Urban Haítzaqv̱a Instructor, a role that allows me to share and strengthen our ancestral language. My goal is to continue in this role while expanding the program so more of our urban members can reconnect with and reclaim the language of our Ancestors. I am committed to supporting language revitalization in my community—not only through teaching but also by helping to decode and simplify our grammar, making Haítzaqv̱a more accessible for learners without a linguistics background.



Emmagin Richardson
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Trinity Western University
Bachelor of Education

My name is Emmagin Richardson, and I am enrolled in the post-degree education program at Trinity Western University to become an elementary school teacher. I am originally from Merritt, BC, but have called Langley home for the past four years. I am deeply grateful for the support I've received along my educational journey—it has made it possible for me to pursue my dream of teaching and inspiring future generations.



Erin Gustafson
Gitanmaax Band Council

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Erin, and I was born and raised in Kamloops. I am completing my final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Thompson Rivers University. This summer, I'm excited to begin working in home health as a registered nurse, where I'll have the opportunity to support and care for members of my community.



Francis Racy
Gitwangak Band Council

University of British Columbia
NITEP

My name is Francis (En Nut Ann Gaiwh), and I am Gitxsan, currently living on the unceded territory of the Tla'amin Nation. Becoming a teacher will not be easy, but I believe in myself and my abilities. I am determined to succeed and make a positive impact on the lives of my future students.



Frances Hans
Skidegate Band Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

My name is Frances "Francine" Hans, and I am from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. I am a member of the Ts'aahl Laanas (Eagle) Clan. My goal is to become a teacher in my community, and I hope to one day pursue a PhD in Education. After losing my sister, Penny, I considered deferring my studies for a year, but I knew she would want me to continue. She was so proud that her sister was going to university to become a teacher, and I carry her pride and encouragement with me on this journey.



Giulia Hajash
Da'naxda'xw First Nation

University of British Columbia
Media Design

My name is Giulia Hajash, and I'm from Vancouver, BC. My ultimate goal is to become a business owner in the health and wellness industry. I've always been passionate about sports — I swam competitively for nine years and also played volleyball and tennis. Since starting university, I've continued to live a fitness-oriented lifestyle, which keeps me grounded and motivated. I hope to combine the knowledge and skills I gain through my education with my creativity and passion to one day build my own company in the wellness field.

“Reconnecting with my roots and creating space for reconciliation drives everything I do. Education is how I help build understanding and change — Hyla Mcquaid, Bursary Recipient



Logan Grant
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia
First Nations and Endangered Languages

I am a member of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱áy̱əm (Musqueam) Nation. I am in my fourth year at the University of British Columbia, pursuing a degree in First Nations and Endangered Languages with a minor in Linguistics. I chose this path out of a passion for language and a commitment to revitalizing hə́łq̱əmiḥə́h. My goal is to create community-based tools and strategies that strengthen Indigenous language and culture. After completing my degree, I plan to pursue a Master's in Archival and Library Studies to help transform how Western institutions handle research and knowledge—centering Indigenous ways of knowing and being. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting me in continuing this important work.



Hyla Mcquaid
Kitsumkalum Band

Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts

My traditional name is Lugal Wilaaysm hanaa. I belong to the Laxgibuu (Wolf) Clan of Waap Waadi Waay and carry Tsimshian and Haisla bloodlines. I am dedicated to reconnecting with my culture and supporting reconciliation within my community. I am pursuing an Indigenous Studies degree, focusing on social justice and creating positive change. I plan to work in schools and community organizations, teaching Indigenous culture and helping to break down barriers for youth. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting my educational journey and goals.



Isabelle Pebernat
K'omoks First Nation

Dalhousie University
Bachelor of Arts - Environmental Science

My name is Isabelle Pebernat, and I am from the K'omoks First Nation in British Columbia. I am currently in my fourth year of Environmental Science at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After graduating, I hope to combine my degree with a helicopter pilot's license to pursue a career in forestry or bush piloting, contributing to environmental work in remote regions.



Jaci Gilbert
Canim Lake Indian Band

Justice Institute of British Columbia
Emergency and Security Management Studies

My name is Jaci Gilbert, and I am from Tsq'escen (Canim Lake Indian Band), BC. I have a range of career goals—from improving emergency safety in Indigenous communities to developing cultural burning programs—but my ultimate goal is to work for my home community. I am currently a first-year student at the Justice Institute of British Columbia, studying Emergency and Security Management Studies with the goal of earning my Bachelor's degree. Alongside my studies, I work full-time as an Emergency Management Assistant and hold four volunteer positions: Emergency Response Team Volunteer and Disaster Risk Reduction Volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross, member of the Canada Risks and Hazards Network's Emerging Professionals Committee, and volunteer fire recruit trainee beginning this fall.



Jacquelyn Gladstone
Heiltsuk Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

My name is Jacquelyn Gladstone, and I am a proud member of the Hałtzaqv Nation. I am currently in my fourth year at the University of British Columbia, completing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. After graduation, I plan to pursue a Juris Doctor degree specializing in Aboriginal Law. My goal is to advocate for Indigenous communities and inspire Indigenous youth to pursue their own paths to success.



Jade May
Tahltan Band Council

University of Calgary
Bachelor of Nursing

My name is Jade May, and I am a proud member of the Tahltan Nation. I currently live in Calgary, where I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing program at the University of Calgary. I feel incredibly grateful to have been accepted into such a competitive program and look forward to graduating and pursuing a career in pediatric nursing. In the future, I hope to continue my education at the graduate level and work in predominantly Indigenous communities, giving back to the people who have supported me most.



Jade Palmer
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts Degree

My name is Jade Palmer, and I am a member of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation. I am in my fourth year at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. My goal is to complete a PhD in Psychology and use my education to support Indigenous communities. A significant part of my journey has been identity discovery and reconnection, and being involved in the Indigenous community at UBCO has given me a strong sense of belonging. I hope to help others on their own paths of rediscovery, drawing from both my lived experience and academic knowledge.



Jarrett Young
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

Athabasca University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I am deeply honoured and grateful to be selected for this bursary opportunity. My passion for mental health and wellness stems from my personal experiences and the cultural values of my community. My goal is to become a mental health and wellness counsellor and establish a practice dedicated to serving Indigenous communities. This bursary will help me pursue that dream by supporting my education and future work in areas such as individual and group therapy, youth programs, outreach initiatives, and community projects—all grounded in community involvement and cultural connection. I am truly thankful for this support, which allows me to continue learning, growing, and giving back to my people through culturally rooted mental health services.



Jessica Campbell
Fort Nelson First Nation

University of British Columbia
Social Work

I am a third-year Social Work student at the University of British Columbia. I am Dene First Nations from Treaty 8 territory, currently living away from my community. I was living in Ontario before moving to British Columbia after receiving my acceptance to UBC. My long-term goal is to influence social policy that positively impacts Indigenous Peoples.

"I'm determined to shape social policy that uplifts Indigenous voices and creates lasting change for our communities."

— Jessica Campbell
Bursary Recipient



Jonathon Nolie
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

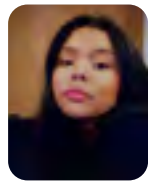
My family is from Ba'as (Blunden Harbor). My grandparents were Mable and Harry James, and my mother is Judy Duncan — we are 'Nakwaxda'xw people. I am the son of a Sixties Scoop Survivor and the grandson of Residential School Survivors. I grew up in East Vancouver, where I witnessed the growing hardships faced by people in the Downtown Eastside. I am now completing my Bachelor of Social Work so I can return to my community and help others build better lives through support, advocacy, and empowerment.



Kaia Haintz
General list

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of General Studies - Education

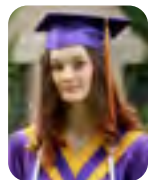
My name is Kaia Haintz, and I am Coast Salish from Hwlitsum First Nation. I am currently in my second year at Simon Fraser University, studying in the Faculty of Education with a double minor in Indigenous Studies and Early Learning. After I graduate, I hope to become an elementary school teacher and help shape the way Indigenous education is understood and valued.



Kailyn Swanson
Old Masset Village Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Kailyn Swanson, and I'm from Old Masset, Haida Gwaii. I am currently in my third year of the Kinesiology program and plan to continue my studies to become a physiotherapist.



Kaite Souch
Upper Similkameen
Indian Band

Mount Allison University
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

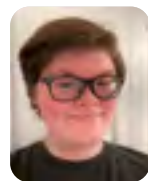
My name is Kaite Souch, and I am a member of the Upper Similkameen First Nation. I was born and raised in the beautiful Okanagan Valley and have since moved east to pursue my post-secondary education. Throughout my studies, I have had the honour of participating in many community-engaged learning projects, and after graduation, I hope to return home to help implement similar initiatives in my own community.



Keanna Pilkington
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Education - Teaching
Children Pathway

I grew up in Williams Lake, where I completed high school with a Double Dogwood Diploma in 2018. I later moved to Kamloops and earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Thompson Rivers University. I now live in Kelowna, completing the Bachelor of Education program at UBC Okanagan, where I'm currently in my final internship and will graduate in December. My goal is to become an elementary school teacher who integrates the First Peoples Principles of Learning into every aspect of education, fostering understanding and respect among future generations. In my free time, I enjoy kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, hiking, crocheting, snowshoeing, and spending quality time with friends and family.



Kelly Palm
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

Emily Carr University of Art And Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts

My name is Kelly Palm (though I prefer Kell) and I'm a proud member of the 'Namgis First Nation. I'm a 21-year-old illustration student at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, with plans to attend Vancouver Film School after completing my degree. I aspire to build a career in the animation industry, focusing on visual development. Storytelling and authentic representation are at the heart of my work — I'm passionate about collaborating with others to create stories that allow underrepresented communities to see themselves portrayed with honesty and care.



Kendra Schlamp
Saulteau First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
General Studies

Tansi (Hello), I am a proud Indigenous woman of Cree and Shuswap descent from Moberly Lake, BC, and a member of the Saulteau First Nation. I am currently studying General Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia, where I'm exploring my interests and building a foundation for my future career. After completing my studies, I hope to pursue a path in either the medical or education field—areas where I can make a meaningful difference in people's lives. I am passionate about helping others and inspired by the idea of giving back to my community. My goal is to use my education to create opportunities for growth, wellness, and connection, both within my Nation and beyond.



Khloe Lambert
Witset

University of Northern British Columbia
Baccalaureate Nursing Program

I began my undergraduate studies in Health Science, majoring in Biomedical Studies, but in my second year, I realized my true passion was in nursing. Fortunately, my university launched a new accelerated nursing program for students with the necessary prerequisites, and I was grateful to be accepted. As a future Registered Nurse, I believe it is my responsibility as an Indigenous woman to advocate for Indigenous patients and foster culturally safe health care environments. My goal is to ensure that Indigenous peoples receive the highest standard of care and feel seen, respected, and supported throughout their health journeys.



Kim Kosik
Westbank First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Nsyilxcen Language Fluency

way, isk'wíst Kimberlyn Kosik. kł stqatqñi- w't ki k'h mut. I am in my fourth year of the Bachelor of nsyilxcən Language Fluency program. Growing up, I didn't have the opportunity to learn my language or culture, so my goal after graduation is to give back to my community by supporting children and families and creating opportunities for connection and relationship-building. I hope to develop nsyilxcən resources that make language learning fun and meaningful for families. I'm raising my children to learn the language and connect to the land through the teachings of our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, creating new memories while honouring traditional knowledge. It's important to me that the next generation grows up immersed in language and culture, fostering belonging, wellness, and respect for all living things—the land, water, people, and animals. way' limləmt (thank you).



Laney Munroe
New Aiyansh

York University
Biomedical Science

I am from the Nisga'a Nation in New Aiyansh, British Columbia. I am currently attending York University in Toronto, Ontario, where I am studying Biomedical Science. My goal is to attend medical school and pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a surgeon—a passion I've had for as long as I can remember. I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement I've received from my family, community, and those who continue to believe in me as I work toward achieving my goals.



Lexus Pleasant
Okanagan Indian Band

University of Calgary
Bachelor of Education

I am a Syilx woman from the Okanagan region of British Columbia—a BIPOC individual, a mother of three, and an academic currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Education. In 2020, I completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in Theatre. My goal is to combine my passion for the dramatic arts with my dedication to working with children, creating safe and inclusive spaces within schools where students can explore creativity, self-expression, and confidence through the arts.

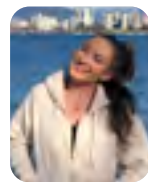
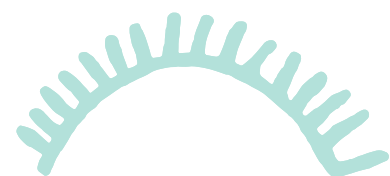
I am sincerely grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for this award and look forward to continuing my educational journey in the coming year.



Lyam Donetz
Skeetchestn Indian Band

University of British Columbia
NITEP

Yo Gilakas'la! My name is ᑭ usdidzas, and my borrowed name is Lyam Donetz. I am from the Kwagu'ł and Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw Nations. I am currently in my final year of the Bachelor of Education program, and my goal is to teach in my home community, where I can give back and help support future generations of learners.



Madison Kaminski
Simpcw First Nation

University of British Columbia
Dietetics

My name is Madison Kaminski, and I am a proud member of the Simpcw First Nation. I was born and currently live in Vancouver, where I attend the University of British Columbia. I am in my fourth year of the Dietetics program within the Faculty of Food, Nutrition, and Health. After graduation, I hope to work in healthcare, helping to educate others on the importance of nutrition and empowering them to make informed choices for their well-being. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their support in helping me pursue my education and career goals.



Mathilda Chillihitzia
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Education

Wa'y isk^wist t'usəlḵətk^wu. Hello, my name is t'usəlḵətk^wu, and my given name is Mathilda Michel. I come from Spaxmen, near Douglas Lake Ranch, also known as the Upper Nicola Band, part of the Okanagan Nation (Syilx People). I began my university journey in 2011, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 2017 before entering the workforce. In 2022, I returned to school to pursue a Bachelor of Education, which I am now completing. My goal is to teach at my band school, bringing culture and language into the classroom. I hope to continue my studies with a Master's degree, and possibly a PhD, to strengthen education in my community—supporting students, honouring traditions, and helping future generations grow up proud of who they are.



Michelle Paul
Okanagan Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Urban Forestry

I raised in the City of Vancouver. My goal is to become an Indigenous Land and Marine Steward, working to protect the trees, salmon, and All Our Relations from the ongoing impacts of overextraction. I am currently enrolled in the Urban Forestry program and am Indigenizing my degree by taking courses across several disciplines, including Applied Biology, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Forestry, and the Haida Gwaii Semesters. My studies focus on the science of land and marine ecosystems, as well as policy, governance, and resource management. I hope to bring Indigenous values and worldviews into environmental stewardship and advocate for sustainable practices that honour both the land and its people.



Molly Akerman
Cowichan Tribes

University of Victoria
Indigenous Studies

I belong to the Quw'utsun Tribes First Nation. My ancestral roots come from Xwaaqu'um, meaning "female merganser duck place" in Hul'q'umi'num'. I was born and raised on Salt Spring Island, the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples. I am in my second year of Indigenous Studies at the University of Victoria, on the lands of the Lekwungen, Songhees, and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. My goal is to create positive change by helping Indigenous youth reconnect with their culture—something I didn't have the chance to experience growing up. I am passionate about uplifting others and building meaningful relationships, where I know I will thrive.



Nadine Laity
Tla'amin Nation

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts

I am currently pursuing an undergraduate degree at Simon Fraser University, where I am working toward a double major in History and Philosophy. I believe that a key step toward reconciliation lies in ensuring the accurate representation of Indigenous histories and perspectives. Through my studies, I hope to become an advocate for truth in Indigenous history and help challenge ongoing misrepresentation in education and beyond.



Neleah Chillihitzia
Upper Nicola Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

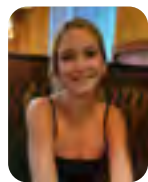
I am from the Upper Nicola Indian Band in British Columbia. I am graduating this year from Thompson Rivers University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After becoming a Registered Nurse, I plan to specialize in Labour and Delivery and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), pursuing further education at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.



Oliver Anderson
Tseshah First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Nitep

I am from the Tseshah First Nation in Port Alberni, BC. I'm studying in the NITEP program at UBC with the goal of becoming an Indigenous History teacher and returning to teach in my community. In my spare time, I enjoy skateboarding and snowboarding.



Olivia Michalsky
Blueberry River First Nation

Western University
Bachelor of Arts - Kinesiology

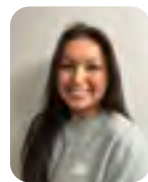
Hello, my name is Olivia Michalsky, and I am a proud member of the Blueberry River First Nation in northern British Columbia. I am currently studying Kinesiology at the University of Western Ontario, where I serve as the Vice President of Lessons for the Equestrian Club and work part-time as a Brand Activation Manager with Ace Beverage Group. Outside of academics, I play U22 Hockey for the London Devillettes, participate in Intramural Volleyball, and horseback ride with the Equestrian Club. I am also an active member of several student organizations, including the Exercise is Medicine Club, Women's Health Network, SPUR Club, Women in Fitness Club, and the Concussion Awareness Society. In my free time, I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with friends. My goal is to become a Physician Assistant at SickKids Hospital in the Oncology Unit, where I can make a meaningful impact by helping children and families through compassionate, specialized care.



Rachel Sampson
Snunemuxw First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Arts & Social Sciences

My traditional name is shiuqwtunaut, and my English name is Rachel Sampson. I am from Nanaimo and Shell Beach. My career goals are still taking shape, but I know I want to work within my community or at the school I attend now, where I can continue learning, growing, and giving back.



Rachel Stephens
Laxgalts'ap

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am excited and grateful to be entering my third and final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at BCIT. Having recently completed my second year, I am thrilled to continue working toward my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. I am deeply thankful to the New Relationship Trust (NRT) for the generous support they have provided to me and other students pursuing higher education.

After graduating high school and beginning my nursing journey, I had the opportunity to work with Indigenous Peoples and communities who face barriers within the healthcare system. This experience has truly shaped my vision for the future and strengthened my commitment to advocacy and equitable care. Over the past two years, I have also developed a strong interest in oncology nursing through my work with BC Cancer and my experience caring for acutely and chronically ill patients.

In the future, I hope to work in northern and rural communities, supporting both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations who face challenges accessing culturally safe oncology services. As an Indigenous student, I feel privileged to be able to connect with patients and communities on a deeper level, and I look forward to continuing this meaningful work throughout my nursing career.



Rachelle Foubert
Saik'uz First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Wildlife and Fisheries

My family is originally from Saik'uz First Nation. I am currently studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). I am passionate about the management and conservation of wildlife and their habitats, as well as promoting sustainable resource use. Over the past two summers, I have worked as a Wildlife Technician on caribou habitat restoration projects, gaining valuable hands-on experience and skills that will guide my future career as a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio). My goal is to work with Indigenous communities in natural resource management, with a focus on wildlife conservation and maintaining healthy ecosystems for future generations.



Riley Sutton
T'Sou-ke Nation

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science In Nursing

ÍY SŁÁĆEL (Good day). My name is Riley Sutton, and my traditional name is T'ALI-AIS, meaning "to be at the beach." I am a T'Sou-ke Nation member with Pacheedaht ancestry and a nursing student in the Camosun/UVic BSN program. My goal as a Registered Nurse is to create culturally safe healthcare for Indigenous patients by working in remote First Nations communities and within my own. In my free time, I enjoy surfing and cooking. I am grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their support and remain committed to giving back through my studies and future work. HÍSW ƘE (Thank you).



Robert Burns
Gitanmaax Band Council

University of British Columbia
First Nations and Indigenous Studies

My traditional name is Su Wil Laksa Galyax, meaning "learner of our history, knowledge of the Skeena River." My given name is Robert Burns, and I come from the Gitksan and Heiltsuk Nations. I was born in Hazelton, BC, and I'm completing my fourth year of a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations and Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia. Growing up outside my community shaped my understanding of the urban Indigenous experience, inspiring me to help Indigenous youth explore their identities and navigate life between traditional and Western worlds. My education is an important step toward continuing this work and strengthening future generations.



Sarah Humchitt
Heiltsuk Nation

Capilano University
Bachelor of Kinesiology

Yau, My name is Sarah Humchitt, and I am from the Heiltsuk Nation of Bella Bella, BC. My professional background is in rehabilitation, having worked in both urban acute care and rural community hospitals. I moved to Vancouver to pursue a Bachelor of Kinesiology with a Minor in Psychology. The Kinesiology program's focus on health promotion aligns deeply with my passion for improving health outcomes in Indigenous communities. Through my studies in exercise science, health promotion, and social sciences, I've strengthened my motivation to pursue a Master's in Occupational Therapy. I am deeply grateful for the support of my community, which has made this journey possible. W'álás ġiáxsiḵa.



Scarlett Sparrow-Felix
Musqueam Indian Band

Capilano University
Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts

I was born and raised by my single mother on Musqueam First Nation in Vancouver, BC. Growing up surrounded by my culture gave me a strong sense of pride and a passion for storytelling. My interest in film and visual arts began early and grew into a calling during high school, leading me to pursue Capilano University's MOPA program.

At Capilano, I've been supported by inspiring professors and peers who continue to fuel my love for film production. In the summer of 2023, I worked on several independent short films in the Lower Mainland, gaining hands-on experience and building relationships within the industry.

Through my filmmaking, I hope to share dynamic and authentic stories about Indigenous peoples, cultures, and histories—stories that reflect both resilience and truth.



Shania Chalifoux
Sekw'el'was

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts

I am Shania Chalifoux, a descendant of Bernice Chalifoux, the eldest child of Carol Frank from Sekw'el'was (St'át'imc Nation) and Lawrence Chalifoux from Treaty 6 Territory. On my paternal side, I am of mixed European ancestry.

I'm proud to be Indigenous and look forward to giving back to the lands my family comes from, using the knowledge I've gained through my university studies. I am a lifelong learner who believes deeply in the power of education. As an Indigenous woman, I recognize the colonial systems that work against us, but I am determined to use education as a tool to dismantle these barriers and create change.

My future goals include giving back to Indigenous communities, sharing knowledge, and advancing holistic health and climate action to improve the well-being of our people. I am committed to continuous growth and to honouring all my relations.

Tákem nsnek'wnúk w7a — All My Relations.



Serena Smith
Skidegate Band Council

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts -
International Studies Major

Thank you so much for supporting me in my final year of undergrad! My name is Serena Smith, and I'm from the Haida Nation. I'm currently studying International Relations and Sociology, and the support from NRT means so much as I work toward completing my first degree. After graduation, I plan to pursue graduate studies in Indigenous policy, rights, and title. Haaw'a — thank you!



Shanna Anderson
Cook's Ferry Indian Band

University of The Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

My name is Shanna Anderson, and I am from Cook's Ferry Indian Band within the Nlaka'pamux Nation in BC. I have had the privilege of growing up and residing on the traditional territory of the Stó:lō peoples.

I am currently majoring in Indigenous Studies with a minor in Criminology. After completing my degree, I plan to attend law school and specialize in Indigenous criminal law, with a focus on supporting Indigenous youth and women. My ultimate goal is to strengthen Indigenous representation within Canada's criminal justice system.

I am on track to graduate in the 2024-2025 academic year, and I am deeply motivated to continue learning and advocating for justice within Indigenous communities.



Shanyce Costain
T'Sou-ke First Nation

University of Victoria
Elementary Curriculum Bachelor
of Education

My name is Shanyce, and I live in Sooke, BC. I'm a student at the University of Victoria, currently studying in the Education program to become an elementary school teacher.



Shayla Allison
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

University of British Columbia
NITEP

in'ca? isk'wist n'xə'sitatk'. I am a Syilx Okanagan woman — a mother, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, sister, auntie, friend, student, and teacher. My journey in language and culture began in 1999. I completed the Native Studies Program and Native Artist Certification at the En'owkin Centre, which deepened my commitment to learning nsyilxčn. Since then, I've taken part in a 1,600-hour language immersion program and many intensive 4-6-week language camps.

From 2007 to 2023, I taught at Outma Sqilx' Cultural School on the Penticton Indian Reserve, sharing Syilx language, storytelling, drama, and song with students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. After several years of part-time study with UBC, I am now completing my Bachelor of Education through the NITEP Indigenous Teacher Education Program in Vancouver.

When I graduate, I plan to return to my Nation and teach at Outma Sqilx' Cultural School, integrating Syilx and Indigenous knowledge across all areas of learning.



Sherri Marino
Esk'etemc

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

I am currently in my third year at NVIT Burnaby, working toward my Bachelor's degree in Indigenous Social Work. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for supporting me throughout my educational journey. Their generosity has allowed me to stay focused on achieving my goals of working with Indigenous families and communities in the field of social work. I'm half-way to completing my degree and could not have made it this far without the continued support of scholarships and bursaries like this one. Kukwsts'etsemc — thank you so much!

“I'm deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for helping me stay focused on my goals of working with Indigenous families and communities. I couldn't have made it this far without their continued support. Kukwsts'etsemc — thank you!

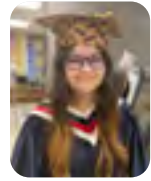
— Sherri Marino, Bursary Recipient



Sophia Bill
Tseshaht First Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

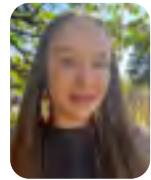
My name is Sophia Bill, and I am a member of the Tseshaht First Nation from Vancouver Island. I am a first-year student at the University of British Columbia, studying in the Faculty of Arts and working toward a Bachelor's degree in History. After completing my degree, I plan to become an elementary school teacher!



Sophia Orth
Kitsumkalum Band

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

I am majoring in Psychology at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, with the goal of becoming a psychiatrist. Having witnessed the impact of mental health struggles among my family, friends, and myself, I've developed a deep passion for helping others. Living with anxiety has made me more resilient and empathetic, strengthening my desire to support those facing similar challenges. I hope to deepen my understanding of the brain and mental health so I can contribute to creating a healthier, more compassionate future for today's youth.



Tara Rose
N'Quatqua First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of St'át'imcets Language Fluency

S7éntsas Angelina Hopkins Rose. N'quatqua méckan, St'át'imckan. Xwéyslhkan ta nqwal'úttentlhkhalha. My name is Angelina Hopkins Rose, and I am St'át'imc from N'quatqua First Nation. I began learning our language in 2021, and from my first class, I knew St'át'imcets would shape my future. I am now in my third year of the Bachelor of St'át'imc Language Fluency program at UBC Okanagan and plan to continue on to a Master's degree. Learning my language has allowed me to work closely with Elders and reconnect with my culture in a deeply meaningful way. I am profoundly grateful for these opportunities and look forward to contributing to the ongoing work of language revitalization.



Tarryn Gravelle
Tobacco Plains Indian Band

Salish Kootenai College
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am in my second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana—the first Native American college to offer a four-year BSN program. Alongside my studies, I work as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at St. Joseph Medical Center, where I've been inspired to further my education in healthcare. I'm grateful to have an employer who supports my academic goals and allows me to balance work and school. My long-term goal is to continue giving back to my community and helping others through compassionate, culturally grounded care.



Terence Lewis
Squamish First Nations

Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I am in my final semester at Simon Fraser University, completing a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. For the past two years, I have worked as a Program Coordinator for Yuustway Health and Wellness, where I developed a passion for promoting community wellness and public health. My goal is to pursue graduate studies in Forensic Psychology and become a Forensic Case Manager, supporting mental health through culturally informed approaches. My academic journey has given me valuable insight into intergroup relations, social structures, and mental health—knowledge I hope to share to benefit Indigenous communities. I'm deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their generous support in helping me continue this work.



Tiffany Jaeger
Gingolx

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Tiffany Jaeger (she/her), and I am from Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda – The House that is Never Empty. Maternally, I am Nisga'a, Frog Clan, from the Village of Gingolx, BC, and paternally, I am Irish and Ukrainian. I am a sister to six siblings, a daughter, niece, and proud auntie to many nieces and nephews. I am currently completing my Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Victoria while working as a Youth Support Worker at Foundry Penticton on sqilx^w/syilx territory. As I near graduation, I plan to continue my education by pursuing a Master of Social Work. My passion for this field is rooted in my own life experiences, and I aim to continue practicing in areas of youth support, substance use, harm reduction, and policy development.



Toryn Daniels
Gitanmaax Band Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Toryn Daniels, and I am a proud member of the Gitxsan Nation. I was born and raised on reserve in Gitanyow, BC, located in rural northwest British Columbia. My goal is to become a Registered Kinesiologist and later pursue a Master's degree in Physical Therapy. I plan to return to my community to help improve the health and wellness of our members. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust Foundation and its donors for this scholarship, which allows me to focus more on my studies and less on financial stress.



Veronica Surette
Kispiox Band Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - International Relations

My name is Veronica Surette, and I am of Nuu-chah-nulth, Gitxsan, and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry, with Ukrainian and French descent. I am completing a double major at the University of British Columbia in International Relations (IR) and Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice (GRSJ).

During my time at UBC's Vancouver campus, I have found a strong sense of belonging within the Indigenous community. As I enter my final year, I am deeply grateful to my brother, cousins, friends, and mentors for their continued support and healing presence. I look forward to combining my learnings in respect and inclusivity from GRSJ with my understanding of politics and economics from IR to pursue a career in government, where I can advocate for and support Indigenous communities across Canada and beyond.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their generous support in helping me complete my undergraduate degree. ʔeekoo.



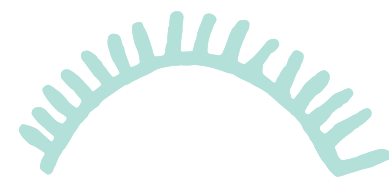
Violet Cross
Skidegate Band Council

Trinity Western University
Bachelor of Arts - Global Leadership

I'm Violet from the Staasta's Eagle/Frog Clan of Haida Gwaii. I am of Haida and Italian descent from Skidegate. My goal is to complete my Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Global Leadership by April 2024.

Recently, I was recruited as an Indigenous Coordinator with the Loblaws Group, in collaboration with the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund's Legacy Spaces Program. This role gives me the opportunity to serve First Nations people at a corporate level, creating spaces that encourage conversations and education about the true history of Canada and our collective journey. Each Legacy Space provides an opportunity to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together, building understanding while ensuring Indigenous perspectives are represented and celebrated in the workplace.

I look forward to applying my servant and transformational leadership style in this role, and to drawing on my experience as a BGEA Volunteer Prayer Coordinator to offer prayer and spiritual guidance. Shine Locally, Shine Globally.



Xiila Guujaaw
Skidegate Band Council

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology

My name is Xiila-T'aayii Guujaaw, and I am a Haida woman born and raised in Skidegate, surrounded by a supportive and encouraging community. My goal is to bring the education and knowledge I gain back to my Nation and contribute to the growth of my community. I hope to inspire other Indigenous youth to follow their dreams and support them in any way I can.



“Writing from an Indigenous perspective gives us our power back — it allows us to reclaim our stories after generations of being misunderstood. I want to use my education to fight for our Rights and Title and bring that knowledge home to my community.”

April Pierre
FNHA Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 51



Adina Williams
Squamish First Nations

University of British Columbia
Master of Arts - History

Ha7lh Skwayel! My name is Adina Williams. I am from the Squamish Nation and grew up in my home community of Xwemelch'stn—what is now more commonly known as West Vancouver. I am also Kwakwaka'wakw, descending from the 'Namgis community in Alert Bay, BC.

I am a third-year Master of Arts student in History at UBC, focusing on Skwxwú7mesh and local Indigenous histories, as well as Indigenous oral histories. I am deeply interested in community-based research with First Nations, and in exploring how oral history and place-based knowledge can support the advancement of First Nations rights and title initiatives across BC.

I am deeply grateful for the generous support of the New Relationship Trust Foundation throughout my post-secondary journey.

Huy chexw a. Gilakas'la.



Ashley-Anne Churchill
Simpchw First Nation

University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary
(Geography, Anthropology)

Weyt-kp xweweytep, Ashley Churchill ren skwest. Secwépemc-ken ri7, te Simpcw re st'7é7kwen. I hold an Associate's degree in Environmental Studies and a BA in Geography with a minor in Indigenous Studies.

My academic journey has included a five-year break to focus on healing, during which I worked as a land monitor, referrals coordinator, and Title & Rights researcher, and helped develop community-based Consultation training. I later returned to UVic while recovering from injuries and long-COVID and transitioned into graduate studies.

I'm now in an interdisciplinary MA program (Geography and Anthropology), focusing on (re)centering land- and kinship-based relationality in governance and Consultation. I'm grateful for the support from IACE at UVic and for this NRT award. After completing my degree, I plan to continue supporting Nations in their Title, Rights, and Interests work and return home to Secwepemcú'ecw.



Ayana Brown
Lower Nicola Indian Band

University of Utah
Masters of Accounting

My name is Ayana Brown, and I am from the Lower Nicola Indian Band in Merritt, British Columbia. I am currently pursuing my Master's in Accounting at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. My goal is to become an Indigenous business consultant and help Indigenous businesses thrive. I love art and hope to one day run my own art business. I enjoy sculpting, painting, beading, basket making, carving, glass blowing, and welding large metal pieces. I have embraced my culture and strive every day to make my family and community proud.



Bethany Robertson
'Namgis First Nation

Trinity Western University
Masters of Christian Studies In
Marriage And Family Therapy

My name is Bethany Robertson, and I am a member of the Namgis First Nation. I recently completed my Bachelor of Arts in Counseling and am now in my first year of the Master's program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Trinity Western University. My goal is to support individuals experiencing mental health challenges, with a focus on Indigenous youth and young adults. I've seen how racism and prejudice continue to impact our communities, and I hope to walk alongside people as they navigate their struggles and discover their strengths. I am deeply grateful for the support of the NRT Foundation, which has made this path possible.



Caleb Wale
Gitanmaax Band Council

Midwestern University - Arizona
College of Optometry
Doctor of Optometry

I am currently pursuing a career in Optometry, a path that has taken me to Arizona and challenged me in all the right ways. The journey to get here has been long, but I feel fulfilled, motivated, and committed to completing my program. I'm incredibly grateful for the support I've received along the way, which continues to encourage me as I work toward becoming an optometrist. My goal is to help people maintain their visual health in a welcoming and inclusive environment, and one day I hope to establish my own clinic—an approachable, culturally safe space for Indigenous people seeking clear vision and quality care. Thank you for supporting my journey. I look forward to returning to the BC landscapes I love and giving back to my community when I come home.



Colton Van Der Minne
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Science in Oceans and Fisheries

Colton is Tla-o-qui-aht from the David family. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia and is beginning his Master's in Oceans and Fisheries. He hopes to return to his Nation after completing his studies to support fisheries research, with a particular interest in salmon. In his spare time, Colton can usually be found by the ocean—surfing, tidepooling, or walking along the beach.



Darienne Russell
Tl'azt'en Nation

University of Toronto
 Master of Public Health -
 Indigenous Health

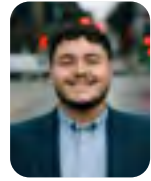
Hello, my name is Darienne Russell. I am Lusilyoo (Frog) Clan from Tl'azt'en Nation in Northern British Columbia. I am completing my Master of Public Health in Indigenous Health at the University of Toronto, with a commitment to advocating for Indigenous rights and community wellness. My research interests include women's health, gender-based violence, and language revitalization. I am honoured to receive the NRT Education Award. Thank you for your support.



Darryl Harsch
Skidegate Band Council

Simon Fraser University
 Indigenous Business Leadership
 Executive MBA

My name is Darryl Harsch. I am a member of the Staastas Eagle Clan of the Haida Nation, and I live on my traditional territory of Haida Gwaii. I previously worked as a community health nurse in remote First Nations communities, which inspired me to pursue a career in executive leadership. I am now in my final year at the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University. After completing my graduate program, I plan to design healthcare delivery models and business plans for Indigenous institutions. I believe frameworks grounded in Indigenous values and knowledge are essential for decolonizing and empowering our communities.



Darwin Biamonte
Cheam First Nation

Simon Fraser University
 Indigenous Business Leadership
 Executive MBA

I recently completed a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a minor in Operations Management/Management of Information Systems, as well as a certificate in Professional Communications. He is a Certified Associate Project Manager (CAPM) and is excited to pursue the IBL eMBA program at SFU. Darwin began working with Indigenous businesses in 2016 and moved into Indigenous economic development in 2020. His experience includes consulting, Enactus UFV, and his role as Manager of Retail & Marketing for the Sqewqel Development Corporation. He has managed community-owned businesses, supported startup development, led events, and overseen web design and marketing initiatives.



Gage Sippel
Seabird Island Band

Indiana University Bloomington
 Master of Music In Performance

My name is Gage Sippel, and I am from Seabird Island First Nation. I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Music Performance at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and previously completed my Bachelor's in Music Performance at the University of British Columbia. I plan to build a career as an orchestral musician while also teaching at the post-secondary level and beyond to help inspire the next generation of artists. My journey is still unfolding, but I feel encouraged by past experiences, including performing with the Canadian Forces Naden Band and participating in the National Academy Orchestra of Canada's 2023 season.



Hannah Johnson
Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band

York University
 Juris Doctor

Weyt-k, my name is Hannah Johnson, and I am a member of the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band. I am passionate about Criminal Law, Indigenous Rights, and Family Law. I work with the Indigenous Students Association to promote Truth and Reconciliation within the Osgoode community and to help create a space where Indigenous students can thrive, feel safe, and feel supported. I hope to use my degree to support Indigenous people navigating the Canadian legal system and to give back to my community in every way I can.



Hunter Lang
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

University of British Columbia
 Juris Doctor

My name is Hunter Lang, and I have lived on Coast Salish territory my entire life in Port Moody, BC. I am fifth-generation Chinese-Canadian on my mother's side and St'át'imc on my father's side, with roots in Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation and Lil'wat First Nation. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of British Columbia and am currently a Juris Doctor candidate (Class of 2026) at the Peter A. Allard School of Law.

I plan to pursue a career in Aboriginal law because I am passionate about protecting and advancing Indigenous rights. I am also committed to helping improve access to justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.



Jaden Welsh (Peters)
Sts'ailes Indian Band

North American Institute For
 Indigenous Theological Studies
 Masters in Indigenous Theology

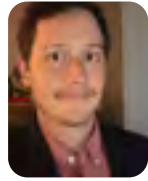
I work in language revitalization for Stz'uminus First Nation, recording and translating Hul'q'umi'num, developing learning resources, and managing our FirstVoices site. I am currently pursuing a Master's in Indigenous Theology through NAIITS, with plans to continue to a PhD. My goal is to strengthen the Coast Salish worldview and help preserve the stories and teachings of our elders. I am passionate about supporting youth in reconnecting with their spirituality and continuing the work my family has carried in Stó:lō territory.



Janell Jackson
Saulteau First Nation

University of Manitoba
 Juris Doctor

My spirit name is Buffalo Thunder Woman, and my English name is Janell Jackson. I am Anishinaabe, Cree, and Dene from the Loon Clan, with roots in Saulteau First Nations (Treaty 8) and Halfway River First Nation. I am the proud mother of two teenage sons, Nolan and Emerald, and our family also includes our dogs, Ginger and Sunny, and our cat, De Javu. I hold a BA in Indigenous Studies and Canadian History from the University of Winnipeg and am currently a full-time Juris Doctor student at the University of Manitoba. After graduation, I plan to practice corporate and tax litigation to advance the economic interests of Indigenous sovereigns and support the growth of Indigenous and Aboriginal law. My work is grounded in a commitment to the TRC, humanitarianism, and environmental sustainability.



Jaxxen Wylie
Stz'uminus First Nation

University of Victoria
Juris Doctor / Juris Indigenarum Doctor

My English name is Jaxxen Wylie, and my Hul'q'umi'num name is Sialhton. I am a member of Stz'uminus First Nation and grew up in our traditional territories in the Cedar district of Nanaimo and in Snuneymuxw territory in south Nanaimo. I hope to use my legal education to support the revitalization of Indigenous legal orders and help assert our legal authority as decision-makers on our lands and waters when engaging with the Canadian Crown.



Jeannie Leon
Tla'amin Nation

Yorkville University
Master of Arts - Counselling Psychology

čęęhaθęč, my traditional name is Cheenah and my English name is Jeannie-Lynn Leon. I am from Tla'amin Nation and have strong ties to Sts'ailes through my children and husband. I am a certified teacher and am currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology program at Yorkville University.

I am passionate about supporting youth and families, and my work is grounded in my culture and identity. I use these teachings to help students discover their own identity, beliefs, and strengths—often rooted in family, teachings, and belonging. In my future practice, I hope to bridge Western knowledge with Indigenous ways of knowing to best support First Nations individuals and families.



Jeremy Elliott
Cowichan Tribes

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Business Leadership
Executive MBA

Jeremy Elliott, with roots in the Cowichan and Snuneymuxw Nations, is committed to supporting the growth and self-determination of his community. A proud father of two and devoted husband, he has held several roles within Cowichan Tribes, including Budget & Reporting Manager, Property Tax Administrator, Finance Officer, and Asset and Procurement Specialist.

He is a certified Aboriginal Finance Officer through AFOA and completed Harvard Business School's "Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities" program. Jeremy believes education is essential to progress and is dedicated to continuous learning. His goal is to use his skills and training to help strengthen governance, build sustainable systems, and support his Nation's path toward self-governance.



Jeremy Laity
Tla'amin Nation

Trinity Western University
Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary
Humanities

Jeremy is a history student at Trinity Western University, currently completing the second and final year of his master's program. His research focuses on the Indigenous history of the Pacific Northwest and Indigenous-settler relationships in the nineteenth century.



Joshua Houghton
Squamish First Nations

University of Victoria
Master of Child, Youth, Families And
Community Studies

Hal7th Skawyal, my name is Joshua. I am a member of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and live in North Vancouver. I am a single parent to my son and the caregiver of my teenage sister after the passing of our dad. I am currently attending the University of Victoria, completing my Master's degree in Child, Youth, Family, and Community Studies. My work and studies focus on decolonizing programs and policies that impact our Squamish communities. Through my roles in community, I see how ongoing colonial barriers limit the ability of our Nation's departments to provide dignified, culturally safe services for our people. My goal is to help change these systems through research, advocacy, and community-driven practice. I raise my hands to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for their continued support. This award allows me to focus on my graduate research and to be a role model for higher education—showing that anything is possible when your community lifts you up. All My Relations.



Kalezafar Lawrence
Penelakut Indian Band

Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
Doctor of Chiropractic Degree

Hello, my name is Kalezafar Lawrence, and I am Coast Salish from the Penelakut Tribe. I was born and raised on the unceded territory of the Okanagan (Syilx) people. I am proud to have earned a BA in History - Education 6-12 from Tusculum University as an NCAA student-athlete in men's lacrosse. I am now in my sec-

ond year of the Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) program at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. I still have much to learn, but I believe chiropractic care will allow me to blend my interests in sports, education, and physical health. I also see strong connections between chiropractic practice and traditional Indigenous medicine—both emphasize caring for the whole person, a teaching our Elders have passed down for generations. My long-term goal is to return home to my community, help bring healing to our people, and work alongside our traditions. I hope to be part of a new chapter where education, understanding, and culturally grounded care improve how our people are treated.



Khamael Johnston Leach
T'it'q'et

University of Oxford
Master of Philosophy -
International Relations

Khamael is originally from Vancouver, British Columbia. She received an Honours Bachelor of Social Sciences in Conflict Studies and Human Rights from the University of Ottawa and is now in her first year of the Master of Philosophy in International Relations at the University of Oxford, where she plans to focus her research on decolonization. After completing her master's, Khamael intends to pursue a PhD before transitioning into work in human rights advocacy. She is deeply honoured to receive an NRT award, which will allow her to dedicate more time to her studies this academic year.



Kyley Pilkington
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

Queen's University
Master of Education

I recently moved back home to Kamloops. My Indigenous ancestry comes from my father's side, while my mother's side is Norwegian and British. I am still early in my journey of learning more about my family history. I chose the Indigenous Education concentration for my master's degree because I am passionate about teaching not only the traumatic histories Indigenous peoples have endured, but also our languages, cultures, traditions, and the many positive aspects of our stories. In the future, I hope to teach Indigenous-focused courses or work in a role that supports Indigenous youth academically and emotionally.



Levi Gordian
'Namgis First Nation

University of British Columbia
Juris Doctor

Levi is Kwakwaka'wakw from the 'Namgis First Nation. He grew up in Edmonton on Treaty 6 territory and completed a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies at the University of Alberta. In 2019, he moved to Vancouver to pursue a Master of Public Health at UBC, where he focused on addressing Indigenous health issues from an upstream perspective.

Building on this foundation, Levi saw how a law degree could complement his public health background and support his goal of making a meaningful impact in Indigenous communities through Aboriginal business law. He is now in his final year at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC.



Lyric Atchison
Squamish First Nations

University of British Columbia
Master of Arts in Gender, Race,
Sexuality and Social Justice

My name is Lyric Atchison and I am a proud member of the Squamish Nation from North Vancouver! I am currently in my second year of my masters degree in gender, race, sexuality and social justice at UBC. My thesis topic aims to explore the concept of childhood innocence and Indigenous relations to this term. I also completed my undergraduate degree at UBC and have been a varsity athlete on the women's rugby team for the past 7 years- I am passionate about making sport a more safe and inclusive space for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ athletes and have been working over the past few years to speak about decolonizing sport and issues more broadly and also specifically within my sport of rugby. After completing my masters degree I hope to continue on to medical school, my goal is to create a safe space for all patients and work with them in culturally safe and sensitive ways to ensure that everyone can get the healthcare they deserve.



Maureen Luggi
Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Business Leadership
Executive MBA

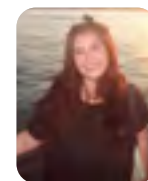
Maureen Luggi is Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en, and Stellat'en, and currently resides on the unceded traditional territories of the Wet'suwet'en people. She is in her second year of her Master of Business Administration and plans to use her education to support community development and eventually start her own company.



Melissa Watts
Squamish First Nations

University of British Columbia
Master of Social Work

My traditional name is tuupaatikwamaka, which means teacher, challenge, and activities. I am from Squamish Nation with roots in both Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth territories. I completed my Bachelor of Social Work at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (Burnaby) and am now enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at the University of British Columbia. I hope to gain more counselling experience so I can one day open an Indigenous-led counselling practice, both in person and online. I believe in strength-based, empowerment-focused, and person-centred approaches to therapy. I am very grateful to receive this NRT scholarship, especially as my family and I are in a time of need. My son has recently moved back home to continue his education, and this support will help us both tremendously. Huy chexw a! Klecko klecko!



Morgan Hill
Gitga'at Nation

University of British Columbia
Master of Education -
Social Studies Education

My name is Morgan Hill. I grew up in Hartley Bay and am now pursuing my Master of Education in Social Studies Education. I hope to be a changemaker in our education system by creating and maintaining space for Indigenous voices in our schools.



Nicola Terbasket
Lower Similkameen
Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Master of Health Administration

I grew up on reserve in Keremeos/Cawston, BC, and graduated from Vancouver Island University in 2018 with a BA in Sports Health and Physical Education. My studies in kinesiology, leadership, and healthy living strengthened my passion for Indigenous health and wellness. I have been accepted into the Master of Health Administration program at UBC, where I will deepen my knowledge of health systems and prepare for leadership roles that support First Nations communities. I am very grateful for the support from NRT, FNHA, and all sponsors. Lim'ləmt! Gilakasla, Kakasolas.



Samantha Allan
Neskonlith Indian Band

University of Victoria
Juris Doctor / Juris Indigenarum Doctor

Samantha Allan ren skwekwst. Te Sk'atsín te Secwepemc re st' 7é7kwen. Lekwungen ell W SÁNEĆ re mumt-wen. I recently relocated to the territories of the Lekwungen and W SÁNEĆ Peoples from Snuneymuxw territory, where I lived for the past ten years. I am a first-year student in the JD/JID program at the University of Victoria, studying both Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders. I completed my Bachelor of Business Administration (Management) at Vancouver Island University in 2023 and am also serving as the Coordinator for the S'TENISTOLW Post-Secondary Indigenous Education Conference through Camosun College. I am deeply grateful for the support of the NRT Foundation.



Sierra Lewis
Squamish First Nations

The University of Victoria
Master of Social Work

My name is Sierra Lewis, and I am a proud Indigenous woman from the Squamish Nation in British Columbia. I respectfully acknowledge that I live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the Lekwungan-speaking peoples. I am currently in the first year of my Master of Social Work program, with long-term goals of working in health care and eventually opening my own private practice. I would like to thank the New Relationship Trust for supporting me in my educational journey and allowing me to focus on my goals.



Stephanie Paul
Tsartlip First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Masters of Science - Environmental Economics and Management

My name is Stephanie Paul, and I am Coast Salish on my father's side and Secwepemc on my mother's side. I was raised on the Tsartlip Indian Reserve on Vancouver Island. As First Nations people, we have a responsibility to protect our lands and waters so our teachings and history can be passed on to future generations. I will continue my work in Title and Rights by combining Indigenous worldviews with Western science. The MScEEM program has strengthened my ability to balance economic development with environmental sustainability, and I remain committed to advocating for environmental justice. I am truly grateful for this scholarship support.



Tiana Lewis
Squamish First Nations

University of British Columbia
Master of Community And Regional Planning

Tiana (Seliliye) Lewis is a member of the Sk̓w̓x̓ wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and is based in Vancouver. She is an Indigenous community planner with over five years of consulting experience supporting Indigenous communities and non-profits across Canada in areas such as housing, health, transportation, and comprehensive community planning. She holds a BA in Geography from Simon Fraser University (2018) and is currently pursuing a Master of Community and Regional Planning at UBC, specializing in Indigenous Community Planning. Her research explores Community Land Trust (CLT) development within reconciliation and decolonization efforts in Canada.



Ty Bryant
We Wai Kai

Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Anthropology

After dropping out of high school, I returned to the education system and recently completed my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (First Class with Distinction) at Simon Fraser University. I am now in the Anthropology MA program at SFU. I aim to highlight the shared history and reciprocity between Indigenous peoples and the Asian diaspora in British Columbia. More broadly, I hope to expand research in settler colonial studies, transnational Indigenous movements, more-than-human studies, and Indigenous futurism. I want to thank NRT for helping me pursue these goals and advocate for a decolonized academy and world. Indigeneity is never an inconvenience. Gilakas'la.



Tsatassaya White
Snuneymuxw First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Linguistics of an Indigenous Language

Tracey tsatassaya White is a proud member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and carries the name Ten-iso from the Hupacasath Nation's Takiishtakamlthat (Earthquake House). She is a Hul'q'umi'num' language learner and a student in SFU's Master of Linguistics in an Indigenous Language program, holding a BA in Anthropology from UBC and a Diploma and Certificate in Indigenous Language Linguistics from SFU.

Tsatassaya previously served as a senior coordinator for the Aboriginal Participation team for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games and has continued to champion Indigenous culture through community arts. She was Artistic Lead for Messages on Doors and founded the Sumshathut (Sun) Festival and the Qwuy'ulush 'utl Swy-a-lana Indigenous dance festival in Nanaimo. She hopes to continue supporting her community through Hul'q'umi'num' language reclamation and revitalization.

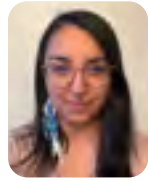


Whitney Evans
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia
Master of Social Work

I am from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation. After completing my MSW program, I intend to become a practicing clinical counsellor and registered social worker. My goal is to offer therapy that incorporates traditional healing practices, cultural preservation, and community-based approaches. I also plan to obtain a clinical designation and pursue a PhD.

This profession will allow me to address the specific needs and challenges faced by the people I am most passionate about serving. For me, pursuing a Master of Social Work is not just a career path—it is a lifelong commitment to social justice, empowerment, and advocacy. I am driven by the belief that every individual and community can thrive when given the right support and resources.



Ahmber Barbosa
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

My name is Apcin Hulth (Ahmber Barbosa), and I am from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, with strong ties to the Hesquiaht and Ahousaht First Nations. I am the oldest of seven children in a blended family. I witnessed the birth of my first sibling at age four, which inspired my lifelong dream of becoming a physician. I am now in my first year of medical school, and my goal is to return home after residency to open a wellness clinic for women and families, providing safe and accessible care for Indigenous people.



Amanda Bedard
Old Masset Village Council

Simon Fraser University
PhD in Individualized
Interdisciplinary Studies

I am Ts'msyen from Lax Kw'alaams, BC. I moved to Vancouver to study Social Work at Native Education College, where I am completing my second year of the Family and Community Counselling Diploma. I hope to continue on to the BSW program at NVIT in 2023. I chose this field after seeing the gap in accessing mental health support—especially Indigenous counselors. Culturally safe care is essential, and I hope to become a registered counsellor to help bridge that gap and inspire others to do the same. T'oyaxsut nuun to NRT and FNHA for awarding me this bursary. Your support—now for a second year—has eased the financial burden of studying in Vancouver, and I am truly grateful.



Caterina Marra
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

My name is Caterina Marra. My maternal family is from Musqueam, and my paternal family is from southern Italy. I am currently in my first year of medical school at UBC, and I am very grateful for the support of NRT and the donors who make these opportunities possible.
hay čxw qə



Chelsea Mitchell
Metlakatla Band

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
PhD in Economics

My name is Chelsea, and I'm from Prince Rupert, British Columbia. I completed my undergraduate studies in mathematics and economics at the University of Toronto, and I am now in my second year of a PhD in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. My goal is to become a professor and conduct research—a dream I've had since I was a teenager. I am deeply grateful for NRT's support, as well as the unwavering encouragement I've received from my loved ones and educators.

“Becoming a professor has been my dream since I was a teenager — and I want other Indigenous students to see that these paths are possible for them too.”
— Chelsea Mitchell
Bursary Recipient



Cheyenne Cunningham
Katzie First Nation

University of British Columbia
PhD in Language and Literacy Education

My name is Cheyenne Cunningham, and I currently reside on the Katzie First Nation reserve along the Fraser River in Pitt Meadows, BC. I am English on my mother's side and Coast Salish on my father's side. I am beginning my third year of my PhD in Language & Literacy Education at UBC, and I recently completed my Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency at SFU. My research focuses on Katzie place names recorded in Suttles' Katzie Ethnographic Notes (1955), exploring the knowledge embedded in these landscapes. I aim to examine how these place names can serve as an intervention for language revitalization.



Emily Salmon
Cowichan Tribes

University of Victoria
PhD in International Management

My PhD research examines how extractive projects and different agreement structures affect the well-being of Indigenous communities in both the short and long term. I hope this work supports community decision-making and movements toward self-determination. The NRT Scholarship has been invaluable in helping me meet my academic goals while maintaining balance with family and community. I will be joining SFU as an assistant professor in the Beedie School of Business after graduation, where I plan to integrate Indigenous voices into my teaching and continue community-based research. I hope Indigenous students will see themselves reflected in my classroom and feel that academia is a place where they belong and are valued.



Joshua Thomas
Snuneymuxw First Nation

Columbia University
PhD in Economics

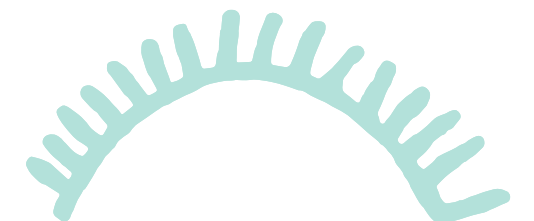
Joshua completed a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Economics at Mount Saint Vincent University and a Master's degree in Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. He is now in his first year of the Economics PhD program at Columbia University in New York City. His research focuses on applied labour economics, including education effects, family formation, and applied econometrics. He is particularly interested in how historical circumstances and economic policies shape the well-being of different groups—especially Indigenous peoples, other underrepresented racial groups, and communities across varying socio-economic status levels.

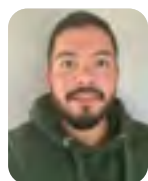


Justin Almazan
Squamish First Nations

McGill University
PhD in Music

I am a lifelong lover of learning. I am currently three years into my Doctor of Music degree at McGill, and this summer I decided to pursue something completely different—I attended a coding bootcamp and became a web developer. I feel tremendously lucky and privileged to have had these educational opportunities, and I hope to return to Vancouver to bring together everything I've learned in the arts and technology to give back to my community.





Justin Grenier
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

My name is Justin Grenier, and I am an active and motivated member of the Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation. I was born in Fort St. James and belong to the Lusilyoo (Frog) Clan on my mother's side. I'm a dad to two young boys and engaged to an amazing fiancée. I graduated from UNBC in 2016 with a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Biomedical Studies and spent 12 years with BC Wildfire Service, primarily in the northern Interior as an Initial Attack Crew Leader. I have trained in mixed martial arts since 2014, a passion that has taken me to Thailand twice for MMA and Muay Thai training camps. I am now a first-year medical student in UBC's Northern Medical Program in Prince George. I'm committed to inspiring and mentoring First Nations youth toward careers in medicine and hope to become a rural physician who provides continuous, accessible, and equitable care to First Nations communities and people in northern and rural B.C.

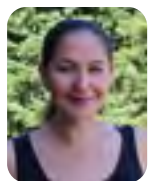


Krista-Lynn Joseph
Ditidaht First Nation

University of Victoria
PhD in Social Dimensions of Health

Hello! My traditional name is x̱uux-taḵu?uuḵx̱ and my given name is Krista-Lynn Joseph. I am a member of the Ditidaht First Nation, and my late maternal grandmother was Tla-o-qui-aht. I am in my first year of the Social Dimensions of Health PhD program at the University of Victoria, where my research is centred on Indigenous health. I hope to contribute to the much-needed transformation of B.C.'s health care system by focusing

on Indigenous-specific anti-racism and Indigenous cultural safety. Indigenous people have the right to access health and social services free of racism and discrimination, and this commitment motivates my academic and professional work every day. I am grateful for the opportunity to return to school, and I raise my hands to NRT for supporting First Nations learners. Klecko, Klecko!



Lucy Bell
Old Masset Village Council

Simon Fraser University
PhD in Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies

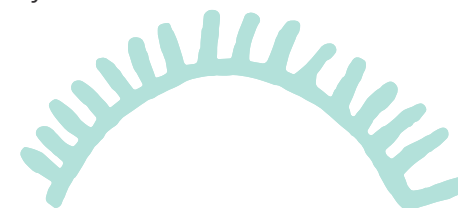
Lucy Bell, Sdahl K'awaas, is from the Tsiits G'itane Haida Eagle Clan and proudly calls herself a "Haida nerd," with a deep passion for Haida culture, language, and history. A Haida Nation-based scholar, she blends Haida knowledge with academic research. She holds a BA from UBC, a Certificate in Aboriginal Cultural Stewardship, a Haida Language Certificate from SFU, and both a Cultural Resource Management Certificate and an MA in Indigenous Language Revitalization from UVic, where she is a Distinguished Alumna. She is now pursuing her PhD at SFU, focusing on Haida museology as a pathway to Reconciliation. Lucy co-founded the Haida Repatriation Committee, helping return more than 500 Haida ancestral remains and belongings from museums worldwide. She is also part of the K'yuu research team studying repatriation in BC and a co-founder of Indigenous Museum Cousins, supporting Indigenous professionals in the heritage field. Her advocacy for repatriation, anti-racism, and cultural revitalization has earned recognition, including the Sterling Prize for Controversy and acknowledgement from the BC Museums Association.



Marion Erickson
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

University of Northern British Columbia
PhD in Health Sciences

My name is Marion Erickson, and I am from the Dakelh Nation. I hold a Certificate in Applied Business Technology, a Bachelor of Public Administration and Community Development, and a Master of Education. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Health Sciences. My career goals include becoming a professor and advancing perinatal wellness initiatives in Dakelh territory.



Melpatkwa Matthew
Adams Lake Band

University of British Columbia
PhD in Geography

Weytkp, my name is Melpatkwa Matthew. I am Secwépemc from Cstélen and Simpcw, and I am currently a second-year PhD student in the Geography department at UBC. I completed my Master of Arts in Geography at UBC in 2020, and my current research on Secwépemc health geographies builds on the Secwépemc value of k'wseltktnéws, exploring how language, culture, and the environment contribute to wellness and community empowerment.

My goal is to promote and facilitate Secwépemc research and scholarship so our nation can continue to thrive. Kukstsemc to the NRT Foundation for this scholarship and for supporting Indigenous researchers!



Morgan Towriss
Lax Kw'alaams Band

University of British Columbia
PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Morgan is Laxsgiik from the House of Skagwe'et in the Gitando tribe of Lax Kw'alaams and the Ts'msyen Nation. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of British Columbia and is excited about advancing health research and knowledge sharing. Morgan is also passionate about equity in education and works with students in remote Indigenous communities who are interested in pursuing STEM. She hopes to build a career as a research professor, continuing her work in health research while contributing to greater Indigenous representation and educational equity in STEM fields.

Increasing Indigenous representation in STEM isn't optional—it's essential. Our voices and perspectives strengthen every field we enter.

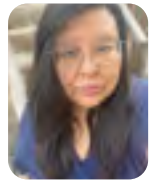
— Morgan Towriss, Bursary Recipient



Priscilla Lawson-Pires
Heiltsuk Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

I am Hałzaqv, Nisga'a, and Portuguese. I am currently in my third year of medical school at the University of British Columbia. I chose to pursue medicine because I want to help transform the healthcare system and address the inequities Indigenous peoples face when accessing primary care. I am grateful for the support and opportunities that have helped me reach this point.

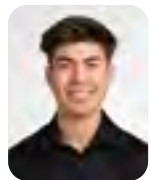


Shianna McAllister
Lytton First Nation

University of Victoria
PhD in Political Science

Shianna McAllister is a member of Lytton First Nation of the Nlaka’pamux Nation, whose home territory lies at the confluence of the Thompson and Fraser rivers in the Southern Interior of B.C. Their long-term goal is to complete a doctorate in political science and Indigenous Nationhood and pursue a career as a researcher and educator at the university level.

Shianna’s focus on history and politics is driven by a commitment to understanding the layered histories of Nlaka’pamux communities and their long-standing resistance to colonial occupation. Because Nlaka’pamux history and politics are significantly understudied, Shianna believes it is vital for a Nlaka’pamux scholar to take up this work.

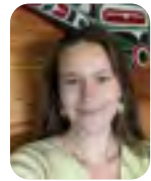


Todd Nelson
Spuzzum First Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

Heḥ te? Nskʷest Todd Nelson. Tuḥ he Spuzzum First Nation kn. Hello, my name is Todd Nelson, and I come from Spuzzum First Nation. After a long journey through different programs and schools, I am now a student in UBC’s Faculty of Medicine, where I have found my passion.

I aspire to become a physician who cares for our people and other Indigenous communities. While I am still exploring which area of med my hands to the organization and its sponsors for their support.



Sophia Speier
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation

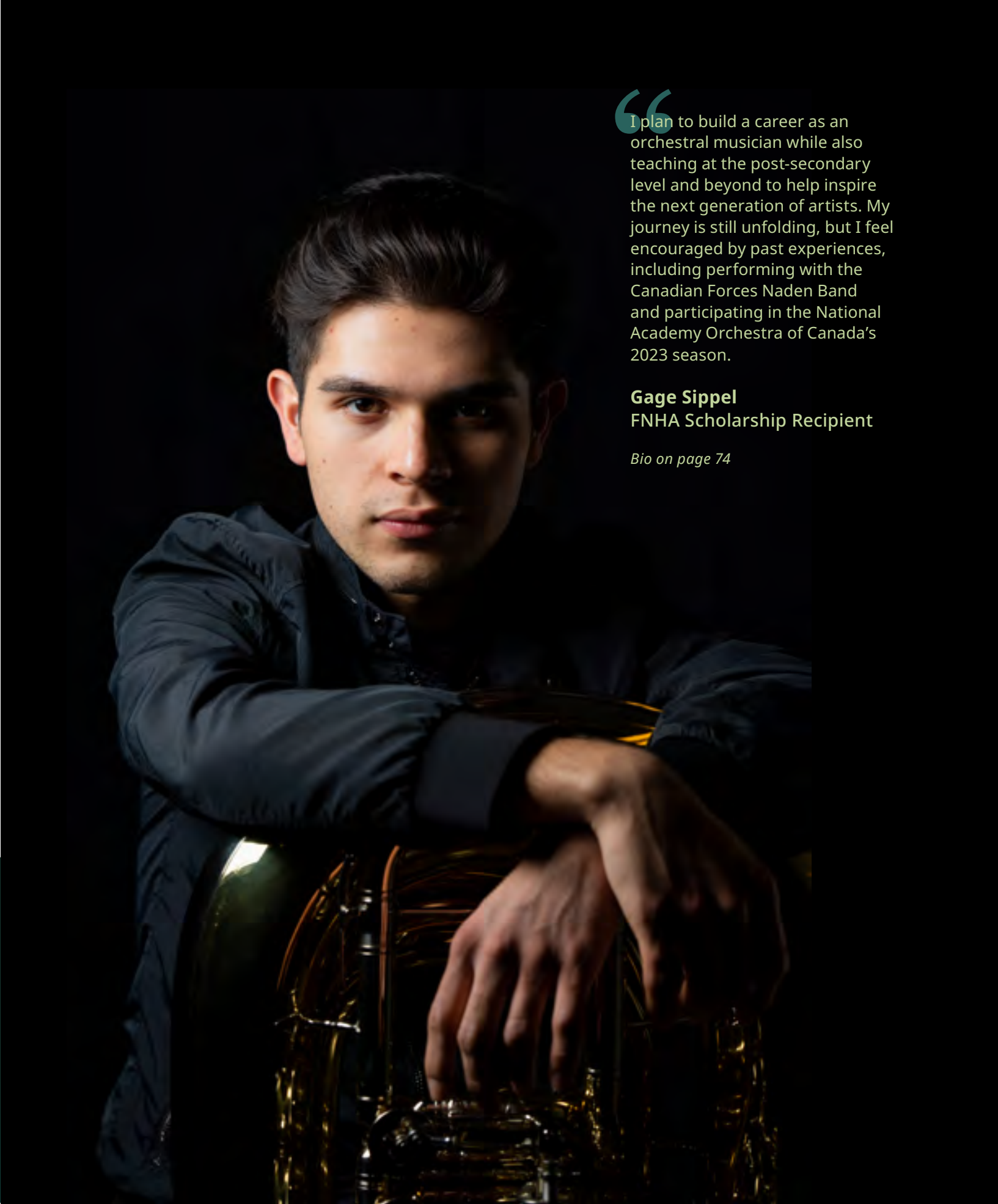
University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

My name is Sophia Nala Speier, my traditional name is Kik’sisalas, and I am Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw from Kingcome Inlet, part of the Kwakwaka’wakw Nation on northern Vancouver Island and the surrounding territories. I am a first-year medical student in the Island Medical Program at the University of British Columbia. My goal is to become a family doctor who provides patient-centered and trauma-informed care to rural and remote Indigenous communities in the region.

I am passionate about access to cultural activities and land as a form of healthcare, and I hope to incorporate these beliefs into both my studies and future practice. I also plan to be involved in research and advocacy to help shape healthcare policy, improve access to services, and support self-determination in healthcare for our communities. Gilakas’la, thank you!

“I became a medical student because I want to help create a healthcare system where Indigenous people are treated with dignity, safety, and respect. Cultural connection and the land itself are medicines, and I want to weave those teachings into my practice. Through advocacy, research, and community care, I hope to help shape better outcomes for our communities.

— **Sophia Speier**
Bursary Recipient



“I plan to build a career as an orchestral musician while also teaching at the post-secondary level and beyond to help inspire the next generation of artists. My journey is still unfolding, but I feel encouraged by past experiences, including performing with the Canadian Forces Naden Band and participating in the National Academy Orchestra of Canada’s 2023 season.

Gage Sippel
FNHA Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 74



“I’m so grateful for the support that helps me pursue my education and my goal of creating meaningful change through reconciliation and cultural education. I want to inspire others in my community to reconnect with their roots and continue the important work of preserving our culture for future generations.

Hyla Mcquaid
NRT Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 57

SEEKING INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Help us make a difference by supporting Indigenous education now!

Your support will help an Indigenous student in BC to complete a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree. In addition, it will help the NRT Foundation to build an endowment fund that support Indigenous scholarships and bursaries for generations to come.

The NRT Foundation offers partners the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to building the capacity of BC First Nations. By investing in Indigenous post-secondary education, every partner is realizing a student’s education goals, enhancing employment opportunities for graduates, and helping to create the skilled work force that will enable British Columbia to meet its future economic and social development needs. Each partnership is tailored to meet the needs of potential funding partners and BC 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 education attainment; investing in Indigenous education achieves a profound effect in addressing the following disparities:

28% gap in high school completion rates of Indigenous students compared to non-Indigenous Canadians.

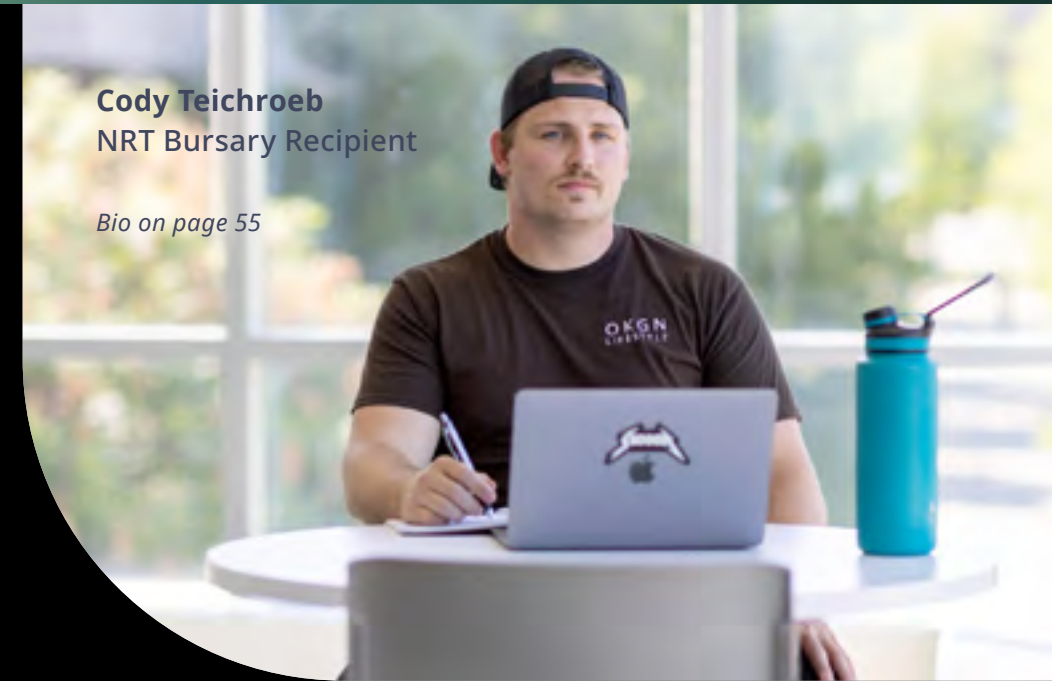
29% of Indigenous people have some form of post-secondary compared to 54% of non-Indigenous Canadians.

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.

Cody Teichroeb
NRT Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 55



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 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 ext. 107
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca



New Relationship Trust is a registered Canadian charity.

“I feel fulfilled and driven to complete my program, and I’m encouraged by all the support I’ve received in my education. My goal is to help people maintain their visual health in an inclusive environment wherever I go. One day, I hope to open a clinic that is truly approachable for Indigenous people who want to see the world clearly.

Caleb Wale
FNHA Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 73



This brochure was designed by
**Kirsten Whitney, a New Relationship Trust
Foundation Undergraduate Award Alumni.**

Kalhwa7alap Nsnekwnúkwa7 SKirsten nskwátsitsa T’ít’q’etmeckan. (Hello, friends/relatives/people, my name is Kirsten I grew up in the T’ít’q’et community which is adjacent to the town of Lillooet, BC. T’ít’q’et is one of 11 communities that is part of the St’át’imc Nation. My traditional name is Qwezqwazíʔken (blue bird). I am from the Scotchman/Leech family on my mom’s side and the Smith family on my dad’s side from Samahquam.

I graduated in 2017 from Emily Carr University of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Design (BDes), majoring in Communication Design and a minor in Curatorial Practices. I am a award recipient for the 2021 RGD In-House Design Awards of Distinction (Judge’s Picks).

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!



NRT

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