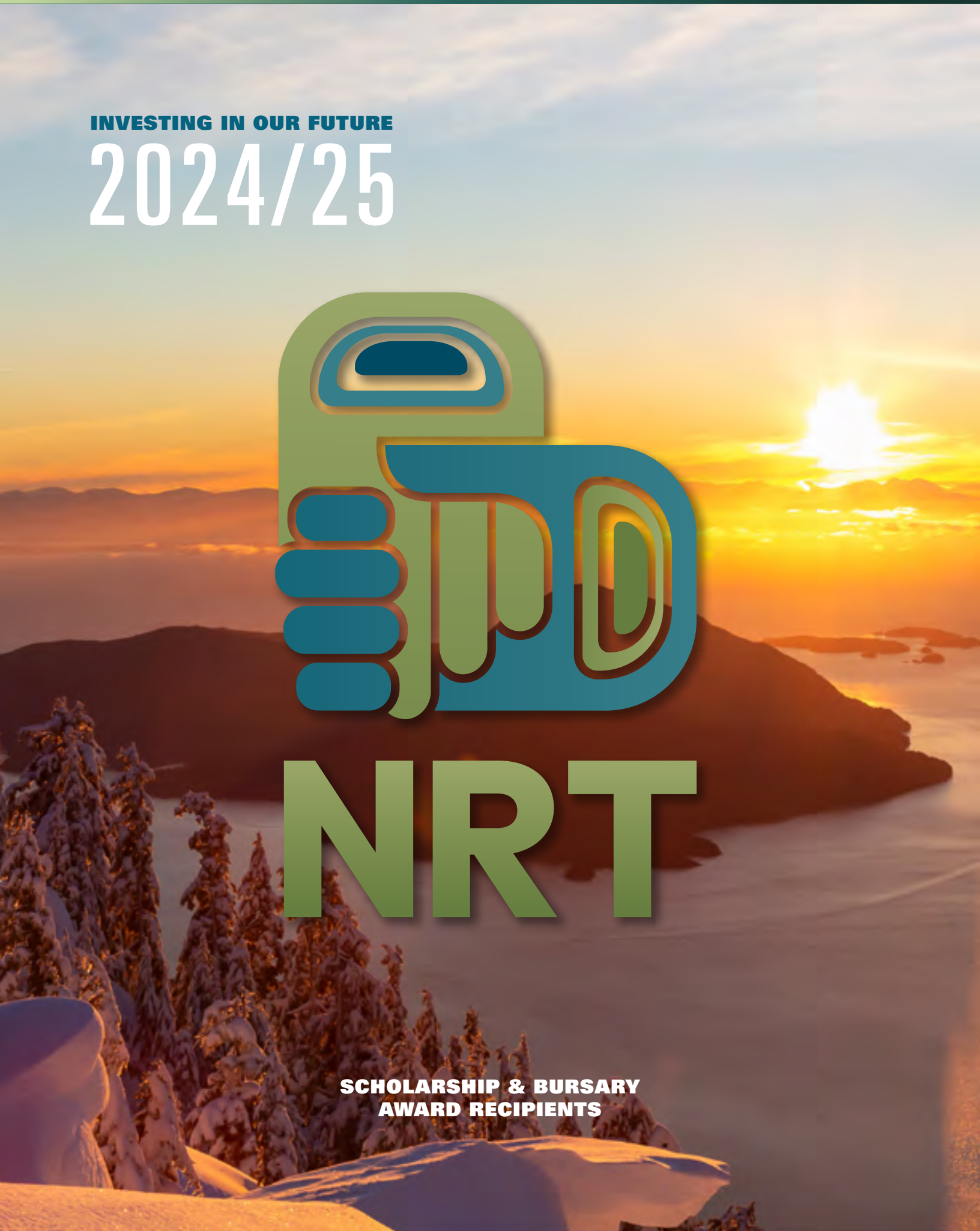


INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

2024/25

NRT

SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY AWARD RECIPIENTS

LETTER FROM THE CEO



On behalf of the New Relationship Trust and our partner organizations, we are pleased to present the 2024–25 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 2024-25, we provided funding support for 265 students. While most students are studying in 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: Barkley Enterprises, Canfor Good Things come from Trees Foundation, Coastal GasLink, Drillwell Enterprises, the Harry family, Indigenous Leaders, Indigenous Leaders in Climate and Health, the Land Title and Survey Authority, Mercer, the Ministry of Health, and Technical Safety British Columbia. The generous contributions of these partners allowed NRT to fund an additional 88 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 like to support the New Relationship Trust to continue to fund students, please reach out to become part of this critical initiative.

Respectfully,

Walter Schneider, CEO



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

Our Mission:

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

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.

4,143 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 2,254 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 1889 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
2024/25	98	118	35	14	-	265
TOTAL	**1889**	**1438**	**458**	**234**	**124**	**4,143**



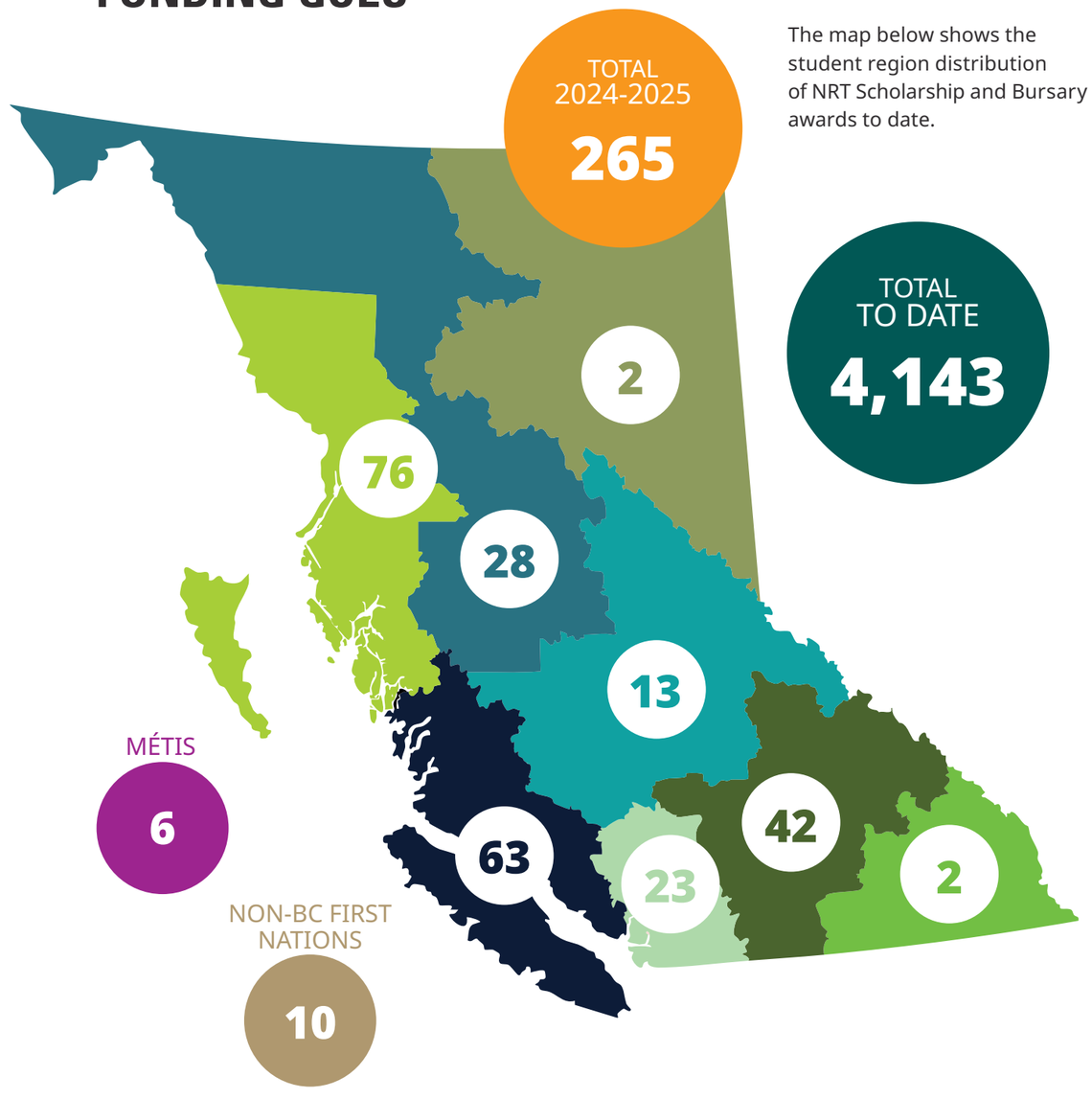
EDUCATION GRANTS DISBURSED

Since 2007, the NRT, NRT and Partners have distributed more than $19 million to support the post-secondary education of Indigenous people in BC.

EDUCATION LEVERAGED

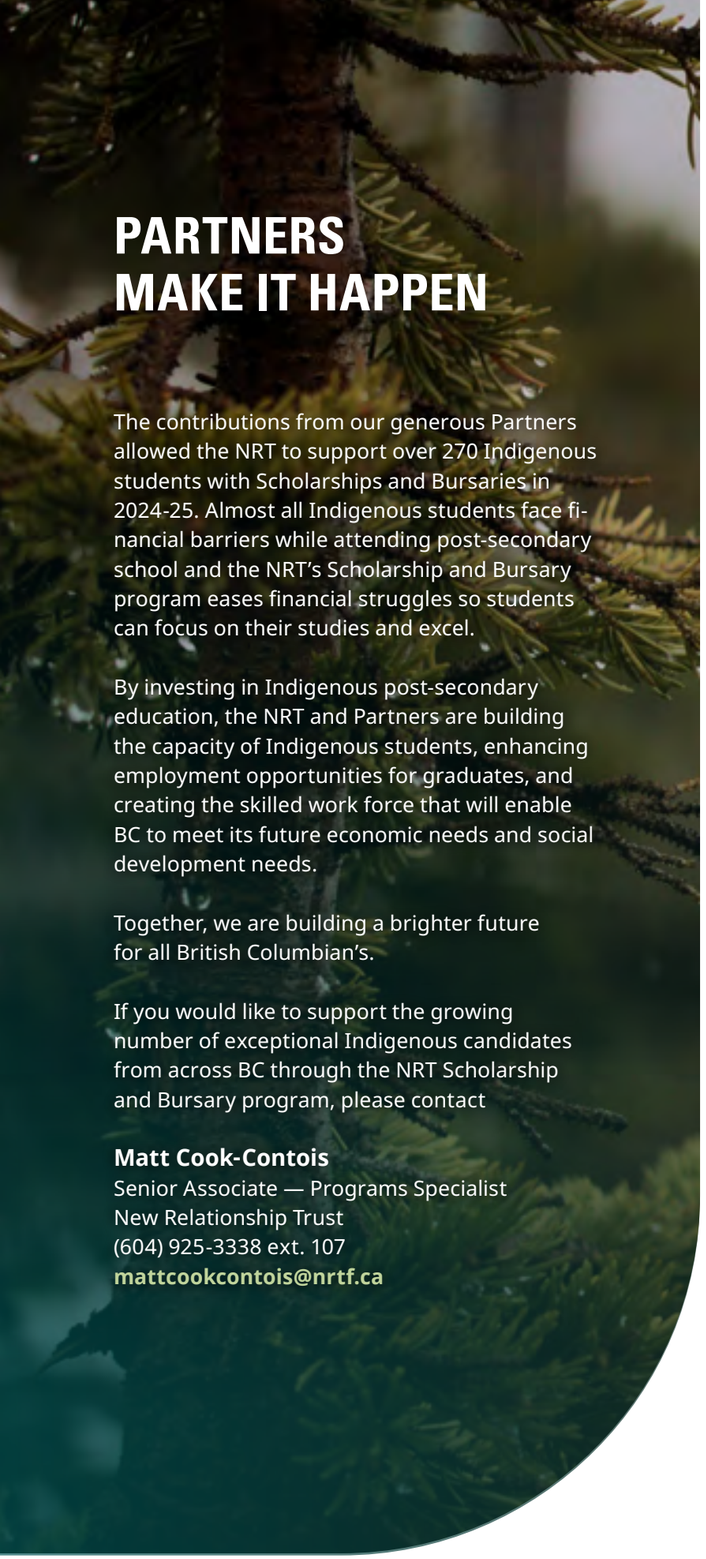
	NRT	PARTNERS	TOTAL
2007/08	$ 717,500	$ -	$ 717,500
2008/09	$ 763,000	$ -	$ 763,000
2009/10	$ 747,500	$ -	$ 747,500
2010/11	$ 743,000	$ -	$ 743,000
2011/12	$ 751,000	$ -	$ 751,000
2012/13	$ 581,500	$ 150,000	$ 731,500
2013/14	$ 404,000	$ 325,000	$ 729,000
2014/15	$ 495,500	$ 218,000	$ 713,500
2015/16	$ 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
2024/25	$ 808,000	$ 425,500	$ 1,233,500
TOTAL	**$ 11,631,495**	**$ 7,371,255**	**$ 19,002,750**

WHERE THE FUNDING GOES



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

TOTAL TO DATE
4,143



PARTNERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The contributions from our generous Partners allowed the NRT to support over 270 Indigenous students with Scholarships and Bursaries in 2024-25. 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 Columbian's.

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

Matt Cook-Contois
Senior Associate — Programs Specialist
New Relationship Trust
(604) 925-3338 ext. 107
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

Barkley Project Group are project managers specializing in renewable energy and community infrastructure for First Nations communities since 2003. Barkley Project Group acknowledges the historic and continued implications of colonial actions on Indigenous Peoples and their traditional lands and territories.

Barkley Project Group recipient bios begin on page 14.

At **Canfor**, we aspire to build strong, long-lasting relationships with Indigenous communities through meaningful dialogue and collaboration, respecting Indigenous traditions, cultures, values and beliefs and finding opportunities to work together for mutual benefit.

Canfor believes community outreach is an important step towards building trust and understanding. Since 2013, Canfor has been proud to support Indigenous communities in British Columbia by working with the New Relationship Trust to encourage First Nations people to explore career paths in the forest industry.

Canfor recipient bios begin on page 16.

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 18.

The **BC Council of Forest Industries** (COFI) is the voice of the B.C. forest industry. B.C.'s forest industry is adapting, evolving and innovating, and continues to be one of the most significant economic drivers in the province and the largest producer of softwood lumber in Canada.

COFI members produce lumber, pulp and paper, panels and engineered wood products at facilities across the province. All share a commitment to a future based on sustainable forestry and manufacturing practices, innovative product development and employee safety.

COFI awards are given out as three Bursaries to students from BC First Nations who are studying in Forestry related programs.

COFI recipient bios begin on page 22.

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 since 2016.

Drillwell recipient bios begin on page 24.

GWEN HARRY & FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The **Gwen Harry and Family Scholarship** honours the legacy of Chésha7 (Gwen Harry), Quest University's first-ever honorary degree recipient, and celebrates her family's ongoing commitment to education and leadership. Created under the vision of Hereditary Chief Dale Harry (Pekultn Siyam), this scholarship supports Indigenous students—including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners—pursuing trades programs or bachelor's degrees. Centered on empowerment and inclusivity, it aims to inspire and uplift Indigenous students on their academic journeys, reflecting the family's values of opportunity and community.

Gwen Harry & Family Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 26.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship

The Indigenous Leaders Scholarship is an award made possible through the donation of private individual who wished to honour their Parents and contribute to reconciliation. This individual has demonstrated a generous spirit and wishes their contribution to assist Indigenous youth with their studies.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship is given out to an Indigenous Medical Student who identifies as female and is in their second year of studies or further.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 30.

Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarship

Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarships is an award which is made possible through the donation of two private individuals who wish to honour and contribute to reconciliation. These individuals have demonstrated a generous spirit and wishes their contribution to assist Indigenous youth with their studies.

Indigenous Leaders Scholarship recipient bios begin on page 32.

bc Land Title & Survey

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 34.

TECHNICAL SAFETY BC

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 40.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost effective and timely health services are available for all people in B.C.

The Office of Indigenous Health (the Office) aims to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples in B.C. The Office provides an Indigenous lens to strategic priorities, legislation, policy and program development in the Ministry of Health, as well as other ministries where appropriate.

The B.C. Government Ministry of Health has partnered with New Relationship Trust to offer Nursing bursaries to Indigenous nursing students studying in B.C.

Ministry of Health recipient bios begin on page 94.

NRT

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

NRT recipient bios begin on page 43.

Mercer

Founded in Vancouver in 1945, Mercer has grown into a national firm with 12 offices and over 1,000 colleagues across Canada. We help clients realize their investment goals, shape the future of work, and improve health and retirement outcomes by combining data-driven insights with a human approach. For 80 years, we've been building confidence and creating healthier, more sustainable futures.

Mercer recipient bios begin on page 38.



OUR PARTNERS | BARKLEY PROJECT GROUP

WHO WE ARE

Barkley Project Group is a dedicated team of project managers and technical experts focused on Indigenous-led clean energy and sustainable infrastructure solutions.

ABOUT US

Based on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-naw-as First Nations, Barkley Project Group has supported communities and developers since 2003. We help clients move projects from early idea to full operation, offering the capacity and technical guidance needed at every stage.

Our grid-connected clients have developed award-winning renewable energy projects that advance Indigenous-owned economic development. Our off-grid clients have significantly reduced diesel reliance, resulting in major environmental, economic, and health benefits.

VISION

Indigenous communities thriving in their own capacity.

VALUES

- **Respect** – We listen carefully to communities.
- **Innovation** – We find creative ways to get it done.
- **Trust** – We build strong, long-term relationships.
- **Integrity** – We are honest in all aspects of our work.
- **Happiness & Humour** – We take pride in our work and find joy in our client interactions.

WHAT SETS US APART

We deliver comprehensive clean energy and infrastructure services tailored to First Nations communities. Our approach supports well-being, economic development, and long-term sustainability.

• We are one company that can deliver your entire project—building and leading teams across all phases of development.
• We prioritize strong relationships with First Nations and advocate for community ownership of energy and infrastructure projects.
• Our Reconciliation Action Plan guides respectful, culturally informed engagement.
• We build community capacity through ongoing collaboration, training, and local employment.
• We have deep expertise across the clean energy value chain—from planning and feasibility to construction, operations, and asset management.

OUR SERVICES

We provide the sustained capacity and technical expertise required to advance renewable energy and community infrastructure projects—from concept to operation.

Learn more about our work and team of experts, visit us at our website at barkley.ca.



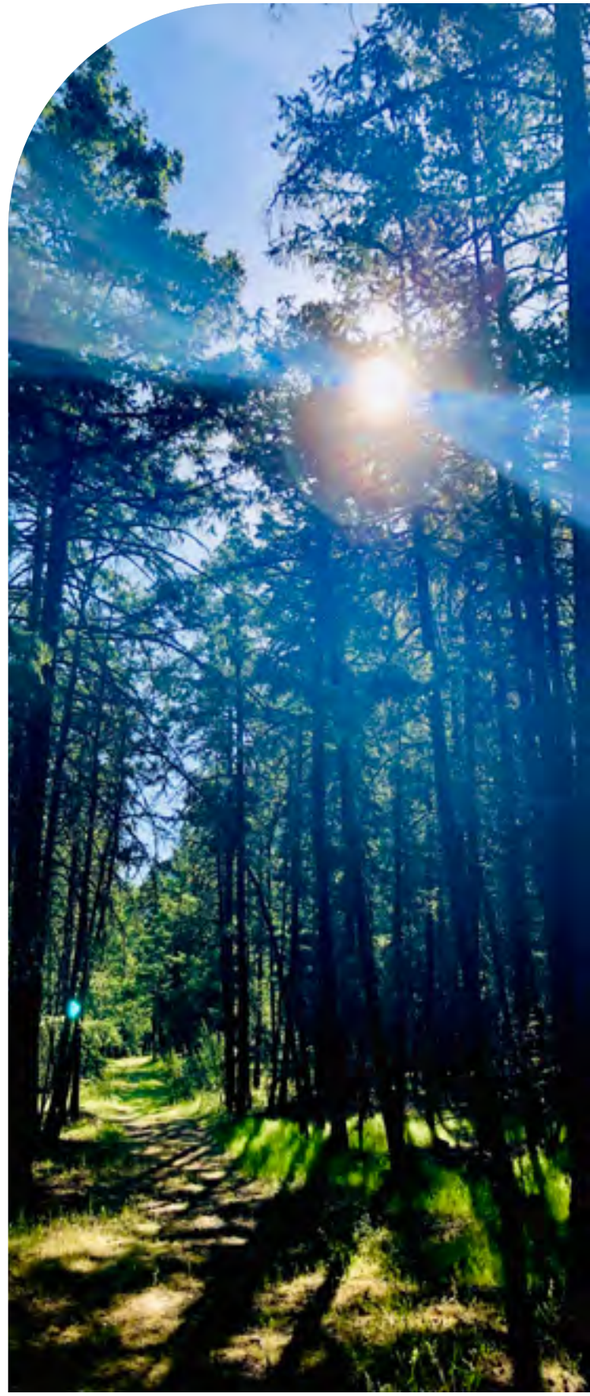
Ashley Douglas

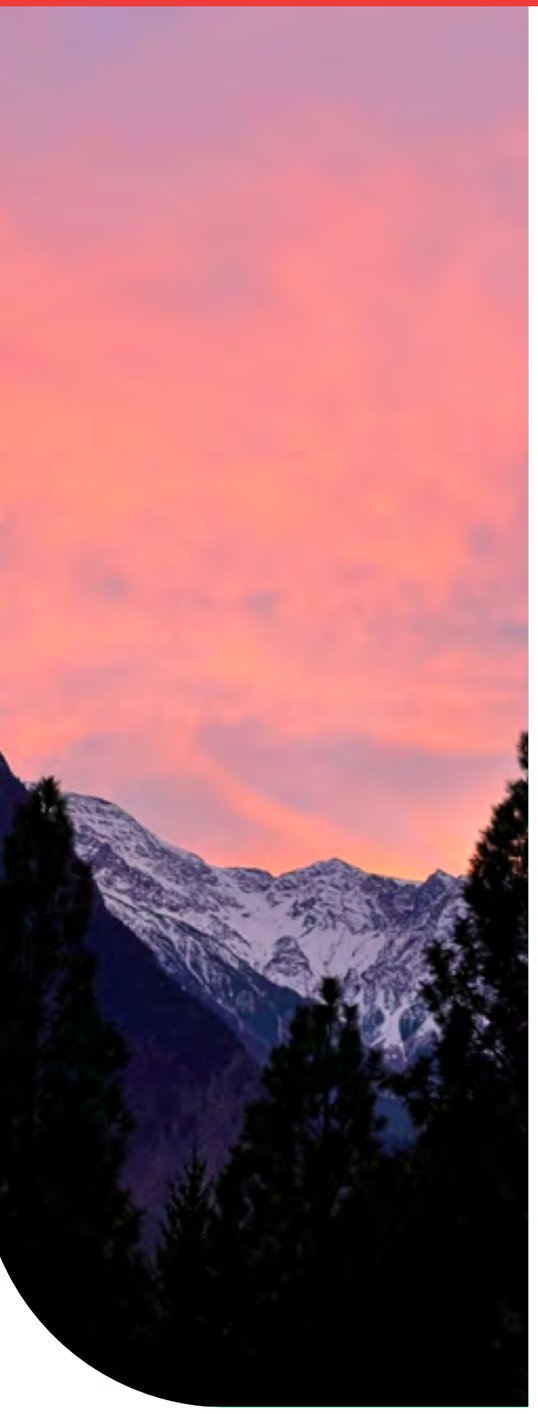
Cheam First Nation

Native Education College

Indigenous Land Stewardship Certificate

Hello, my name is Ashley Douglas, and I am from Cheam First Nation. I am currently taking an Indigenous Land Stewardship program with the goal of becoming a lands manager in my community. I believe strong land stewardship is essential to supporting cultural continuity, climate resilience, community well-being, and sustainable resource management. I plan to learn as much as I can and look forward to the opportunities ahead in my future endeavours.





At Canfor, we aspire to build strong, long-lasting relationships with Indigenous communities through meaningful dialogue and collaboration, respecting Indigenous traditions, cultures, values and beliefs and finding opportunities to work together for mutual benefit.

Canfor believes community outreach is an important step towards building trust and understanding. Since 2013, Canfor has been proud to support Indigenous communities in British Columbia by working with the New Relationship Trust to encourage First Nations people to explore career paths in the forest industry.



Holly West

Takla Nation

University of Northern British Columbia

Bachelors of Arts- First Nation Studies

I currently reside in Prince George, BC. I belong to the Likh Ts'a Mis (Beaver) Clan. This year, I will be graduating with my second Bachelor of Arts degree from UNBC, majoring in First Nations Studies with a minor in General Business. In addition to this work, I am completing a First Nations Public Administration Certificate from UNBC and an Associate of Arts in Aboriginal Studies from CNC. Education has always been an important part of my life, and each step of my academic journey has strengthened my commitment to serving my community.

I look forward to continuing my learning by pursuing a master's degree in education. Over time, I discovered a passion for supporting students and creating pathways for their success. This passion led me to my full-time role as the Director of Education, Employment, and Training for my Nation. Pursuing my second bachelor's degree has provided me with the knowledge and tools needed to open new doors, respond to community needs, and strengthen the work I do every day.

I am determined to be a strong voice for students—helping close the achievement gap, improving graduation rates, and creating a supportive, culturally grounded learning environment. I am grateful for the support I am receiving from NRT to further my education. This opportunity allows me to deepen my understanding of teaching and learning, meet diverse learning styles, implement practices that promote student success, and contribute to the long-term educational goals of my community. Snachailya (Thank you).



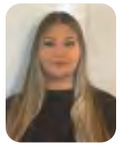
Clarence Williams Jr.

Lake Babine Nation

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Education

(ᓵᑭ+ᐅᐣᐧᐃᑭᑫᑦ ᑕᑐᐃ+) currently attends the University of British Columbia as a teacher candidate within NITEP (The Indigenous Teacher Education Program). Clarence works full-time with Lake Babine Nation as a Language Revitalization technician and works closely with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to develop the Nedut'en First Voices platform. Clarence spent years working on his tech resume until he joined a language proficiency program hosted by his nation, which led to his pursuing his teaching degree. Clarence's long-term goal is to bridge the technology gap within his nation and to help revitalize his language.



Magdalene Korolyk

Takla Nation

University of British Columbia

First Nation and Indigenous Studies

My name is Maggie, and I am a single mother from Takla Lake First Nation. I am currently pursuing a degree in Indigenous Studies with a minor in Political Science at UBC. My studies help me deepen my understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and worldviews while also learning how government systems and policies are shaped. By combining these fields, I hope to build the skills needed to advocate for meaningful policy changes and initiatives that support Indigenous communities through government or nonprofit work.



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.



Ashton Irwin

Skin Tyee Band

Okanagan College

Bachelor of Computer Information Systems

Hadih, My name is Ashton Irwin, and I am a second-year student in the Bachelor of Computer Information Systems program from northern British Columbia. Having grown up in a small working town, I was always surrounded by the expectation of pursuing a trade in the oil, gas, or forestry industries. Thankfully, my interest in technology opened a different path—one that allows me to turn my passion into a career while gaining the skills I need to support and uplift my community.

After graduation, I hope to help my community by developing or implementing new technologies that bring meaningful, long-term benefits—opportunities that may not have existed before. To prepare for this, I plan to gain professional experience in either cybersecurity or software development, depending on where I choose to specialize in the near future.

I am excited to see where this journey leads me and how I will be able to contribute to my community in the years ahead.



Darci Louie

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Western Community College

Community Support Worker

My name is Darci Louie. I come from the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. I am a mother to a young boy, and becoming a mom at a young age meant that my main focus was always on him. For a long time, I wasn't sure what path I wanted to take.

Through gaining work experience in different jobs, I've discovered that I want to become a social worker. I want to support people, make a difference in their lives, and be someone they can turn to.



Hika Pete

Witset

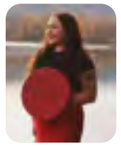
Native Education College

Family and Community Counselling

Hello, my name is Hika, and I am from Witset First Nation. My number one educational goal is to earn my degree in Social Work. Over the years, I've grown deeply passionate about giving back to my community and working in the helping field. I believe that, one step and one day at a time, I will achieve these goals.

> "My interest in technology allowed me to break away from the career paths that were always expected of me. It helped me discover a future where I can follow my passions while also supporting my community. One step at a time, I'm working toward creating opportunities that didn't exist before.
>
> — **Asthon Irwin**, Bursary Recipient

Coastal GasLink | Bursary/Scholarship



Kayla Mitchell
Witset

Simon Fraser University

Health Sciences

Kayla sits with the Laksilyu (Small Frog Clan), with her father's clan being Gilhse-hyu (Big Frog Clan). She lives on Laksilyu Territory near Smithers, BC, and her work focuses on reconciling relations, gender equity, harm reduction, and land-based healing grounded in Indigenous ways of being and knowing. She has built her career in the non-profit and Indige-nous governance sectors. Kayla currently serves as the Director of Youth Engage-ment at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, the Deputy Chief of Witset First Nation, and sits on several boards supporting community health and wellness.
She is committed to creating meaningful impact and believes collective healing and reclaiming traditional ways can build prosperous futures for all.



Louis Gregg
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

British Columbia Institute of Technologly

Bridge Watch Rating Enhanced - For Indigenous People and Woman Only

My Aboriginal name is Ni-Tl'ughus. I am from the Nak'azdli Nation outside of Prince George. A rough translation of Nak'azdli is "people who go by boat," and it's part of my legacy to be on the water and connected to our coast. I recently graduated from BCIT's Bridge Watch Rating Program, finishing at the top of my class. My favourite parts of the program were my MED (firefighting) training and charting. My long-term goal is to contin-ue gaining experience on the water and eventually become a SeaBus driver for the City of Vancouver. I feel privileged to have completed this training while also welcoming my first child into the world on June 7th of this year. Being in this program has opened the door to lifelong work in the boating industry, and I'm grateful for the opportunities ahead.



Madeline Kelson
Haisla Nation

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

I am from the Haisla Nation located in Kitimat, in so-called northern BC. I'm cur-rently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Political Science while working locally with the fisheries. I am particularly interested in Indigenous sovereignty and Natural Law, and I plan to pursue a law degree after completing my undergraduate studies.



Tessa Erickson
Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

Queen's University

Chemistry

I grew up in Prince George, and my com-munities are Takla and Nak'azdli Whut'en. With a background in Chemistry, I hope to support environmental conservation and stewardship. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to pursue graduate studies or enter a career that aligns with these goals. Driven by a pas-sion for science, the environment, and the preservation of Indigenous language and culture, I hope to use my skills to help my communities create meaningful, positive change. You can usually find me in the lab, studying in Mac-Corry, spending time at the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre and Yellow House, or cuddling with my cat, Puddles.

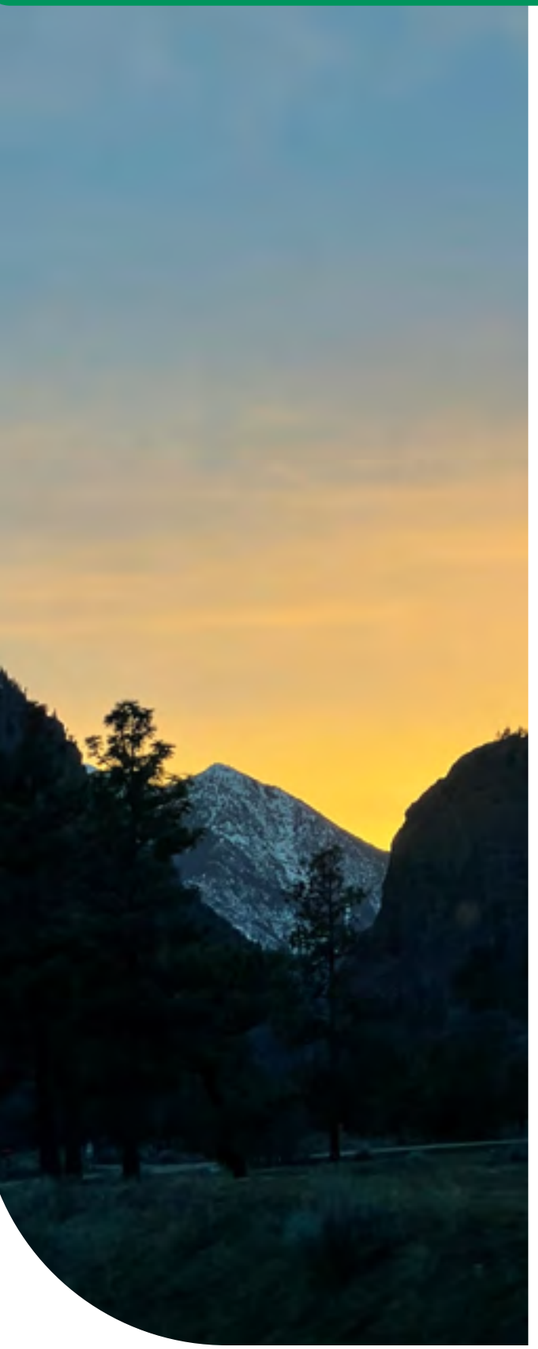


> Carpentry has always been more than a trade to me—it's a way to honour my father, my Nation, and the teachings I was raised with. As I continue to grow in this field, my hope is to pass on these skills to our youth so they can build strong futures for themselves and their communities.

Austin Preissl
COFI Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 23

OUR PARTNERS | BC COUNCIL OF FOREST INDUSTRIES



The **BC Council of Forest Industries** (COFI) is the voice of the B.C. forest industry. B.C.'s forest industry is adapting, evolving and innovating, and continues to be one of the most significant economic drivers in the province and the largest producer of softwood lumber in Canada.

COFI members produce lumber, pulp and paper, panels and engineered wood products at facilities across the province. All share a commitment to a future based on sustainable forestry and manufacturing practices, innovative product development and employee safety.

COFI awards are given out as three Bursaries to students from BC First Nations who are studying in Forestry related programs.

BC Council of Forest Industries | Bursary/Scholarship



Austin Preissl

Leq'a:mel First Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technologly
Carpentry

Ey swayel mekw wat. Austin tel skwix. Tèlì tsel kw'e Leq'á:mel First Nation. Good day everyone. My name is Austin, and I'm from Leq'á:mel First Nation. I write to you from the unceded territory of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.

I found my passion for carpentry by working alongside my father from a young age. Over the years, I gained experience in different trades, but none sparked the same commitment and excitement as carpentry. I have completed three levels of Carpentry and my goal is to finish all four and obtain my Red Seal Certificate.

Currently apprenticing with my father, I strive to learn as much as possible so that I can eventually take over his business. In the future, I hope to give back to my Nation by supporting youth who may want to explore carpentry—whether through job opportunities, training, or sponsorship—once I am fully certified and established in the field.



Marie Patrick

Xaxli'p

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Environmental Natural Resource Technician

Hello, my name is Marie. I come from the Xaxli'p First Nation in the St'át'imc Territory in the Interior of BC. I am currently working toward my Environmental Natural Resource Technician Diploma and previously received my Certificate through NVIT in April 2023.

I am always eager to learn new things and continue gaining certificates, knowledge, and experience that I can bring back to my community. My goal is to build a meaningful career that allows me to support and work for my Nation. I was born and raised in Lillooet, where I continue to live today.

> "Coming from a family deeply rooted in the Clinton area, I carry the values of hard work and resilience into everything I do. As I begin the electrical program at TRU, my goal is to earn my Red Seal and one day build my own residential electrical company here in the Interior.
>
> –
> **Rachel Miller,**
> Bursary Recipient



Rachel Miller

T'it'q'et

Thompson Rivers University
Electrical Foundations Program

My name is Rachel Miller, and I am from Clinton. My family has deep roots in the community and surrounding area—something I am very proud of. They have played a major role in my life, teaching me the value of hard work and resilience, qualities I will carry with me throughout my career.

I am beginning the electrical program at Thompson Rivers University with the goal of earning my Red Seal. After achieving this, I plan to start my own residential electrical company in the Interior of BC—one that I would proudly own as a First Nations woman.

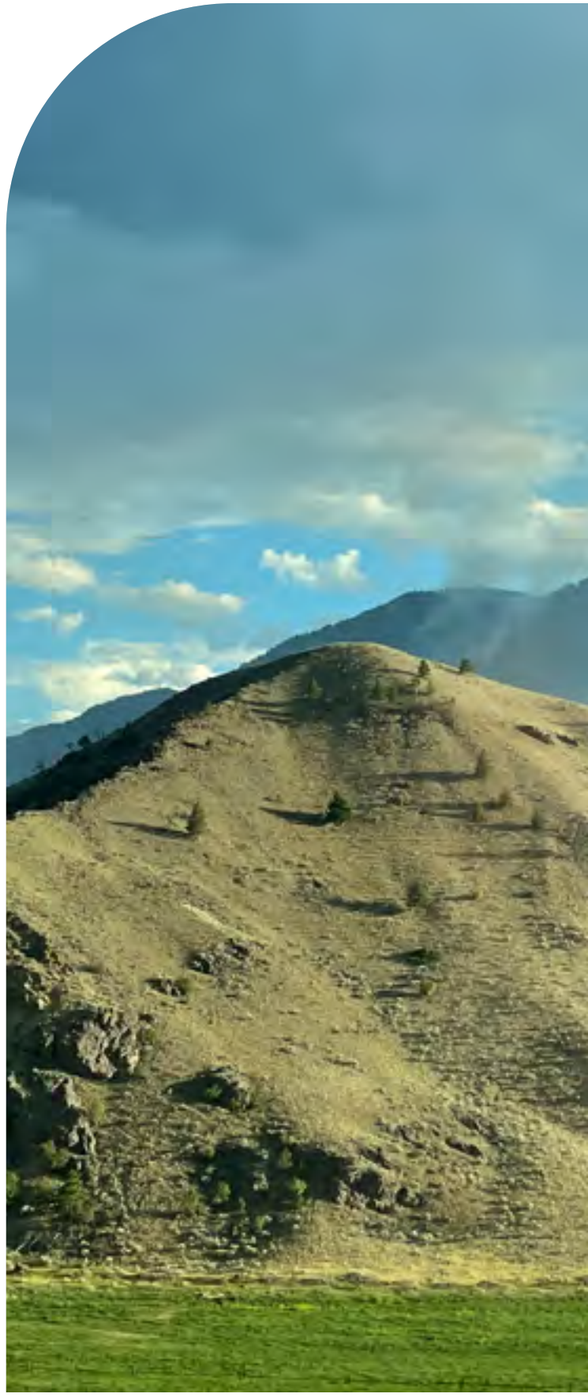


Drillwell Enterprises is one of Western Canada's largest and most experienced water well drilling contractors. Drillwell maintains a fleet of equipment of varying size and capability, specializing in Water Well Drilling, Hydro-fracturing, and Exploration ventures. Drillwell Enterprises has provided an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



Savannah Munro
Nooaitch First Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Nle?Kepmx Language Fluency Program

My name is Savannah Munro from Nooaitch Indian Band, and I am a mother of four beautiful children. My birth mother is Annette August, and I was raised with the support of my mothers Bernadette and Lorette. My late father is Casper Munro Jr. I am enrolled full-time in the Nle?kepmx Language Fluency Certificate program, with the goal of completing the Diploma and then pursuing the Nsyilxcen Language Fluency Diploma, as two of my children are Nle?kepmx and Syilx. I am passionate about learning both languages so I can help keep them alive and pass this knowledge to future generations. My children motivate me to learn as much as I can about their First Nations history, culture, and language. One of my proudest accomplishments is being a three-time graduate of the TULO Centre of Indigenous Economics, where I was honoured to serve as valedictorian and received a Community Award. I am grateful to receive this award from the NRT and Drillwell Enterprises. I applied on a whim and was astonished to be selected, and I know my father would be proud.



OUR PARTNERS | GWEN HARRY AND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP





The Gwen Harry and Family Scholarship honours the legacy of Chésha7 (Gwen Harry), Quest University's first-ever honorary degree recipient, and celebrates her family's ongoing commitment to education and leadership. Created under the vision of Hereditary Chief Dale Harry (Pekultn Siyam), this scholarship supports Indigenous students—including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners—pursuing trades programs or bachelor's degrees. Centered on empowerment and inclusivity, it aims to inspire and uplift Indigenous students on their academic journeys, reflecting the family's values of opportunity and community.



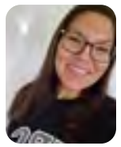
Diana James

Lyackson First Nation

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Education

My name is Diana James, and I am from Lyackson First Nation in BC. Family is very important to me, and my 17-year-old son motivates me to be the best version of myself. I enjoy spending time with my family, as well as reading, hiking, and swimming. I am a full-time student at Vancouver Island University (VIU) in the five-year elementary education program, currently in my fourth year. I have grown a lot as a person and a student, and my two-week practicum in a Grade 2/3 class was a valuable learning experience. I look forward to becoming a teacher and creating an inclusive classroom where students feel safe, valued, and supported. I am passionate about integrating social-emotional learning and believe that all students can grow and thrive in a positive learning environment.



Elena Kenworthy

Katzie First Nation

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Education

My name is Elena Kenworthy, and I am a proud single mother from the Katzie First Nation, driven by a passion to create a brighter future for my children and for the generations to come. As an educator, I am dedicated to inspiring and empowering the minds of my students, and I am deeply humbled to be recognized for my efforts. I am honoured to accept this award—not only as a personal achievement, but as a testament to the resilience and determination of Indigenous women everywhere who work tirelessly to build stronger, more compassionate communities.



Jeffrey Hernandez

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous University Preparation Pathway

Hello, I'm Jeffrey Hernandez, a proud member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (səl̓ilw̓ətaʔɬ), and I call the stunning North Vancouver, BC, my home. My journey back into academics has been long and deeply reflective. For years, I wondered what higher education could mean for my life—what opportunities a bachelor's degree might open and how attending Simon Fraser University (SFU) could shape my understanding of the world. There were setbacks along the way, and it took time to rebuild the confidence and motivation to return to school. I began by taking a few night courses to ease myself back into the academic environment, and through this gradual approach, I rediscovered my abilities and learned that I am neither a quitter nor lacking drive. Now, as I prepare to embark on the next phase of my educational journey, I feel a renewed sense of readiness and purpose, and I am grateful to the New Relationship Trust for supporting me on this path.



Jonah Gonzales

Squamish First Nations

Capilano University

Bachelor of Business Administration

My name is Jonah Gonzales. I am Coast Salish and Plains Cree—my family comes from up Squamish, and I was born and raised here on the Seymour Reserve. My career goals are rooted in bettering myself both educationally and spiritually each year. I strive to consistently grow as a person, and I hope to use that growth to support and help others in the future.

Gwen Harry and Family | Scholarship



Meah Marchand

Squamish First Nations

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Criminology

My name is Meah Marchand. I am from Kelowna, B.C., and I currently attend KPU in Surrey. After completing my studies, my goal is to become either a lawyer or a detective so I can help support and advocate for Indigenous people. I take great pride in learning about my Indigenous culture and sharing that knowledge with others.



Robyn Reginald

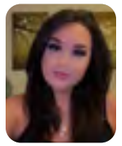
Squamish First Nations

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous Languages Program

My name is Robyn Rose Sandi Reginald, and I was born and raised in North Vancouver, Canada. I am currently working with the Squamish Nation as a Language Teacher, which has always been my dream career. I am incredibly proud and grateful to be in this position, doing work that is meaningful to me and my community. I am very thankful for this scholarship/bursary.

> Teaching our language is more than a job—it's a responsibility to my ancestors and to the generations who will follow. Every day in the classroom reminds me how important this work is for our community's identity, strength, and future.
>
> –
>
> **Robyn Reginald**,
> Bursary Recipient



Taylor Duncan

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Bachelors of Social Work

Hello, my name is Taylor Duncan, and I live on the east side of Vancouver. I am in my third year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, with the goal of working with Indigenous Elders in the health field. I recently lost my mother this past September, and I was her full-time caretaker. That experience strengthened my commitment to supporting Elders and working in helping professions.

I cannot express enough the immense appreciation I feel for being the recipient of the Gwen Harry and Family Scholarship. I raise my hands in gratitude—this support could not have come at a more difficult and needed time in my life.



Wilfred Marks

Old Massett Village Council

Coast Mountain College

Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 3

Hi, my name is Wilfred Marks. I am currently working as a carpenter, and I have just completed my third year of carpentry school while preparing for my fourth year. I live in Old Masset, where I volunteer as a basketball coach for both the youth and the ladies' teams. My goal is to become a Red Seal carpenter and continue building homes here in Masset to support my community.

> As a mother of three and a midwifery student, I've learned that balance isn't about having time—it's about holding purpose. My children, my Secwépemc roots, and my community motivate every part of this journey. Every step I take in midwifery is guided by our teachings and the generations I am raising, and I hope to help restore trust in birth and care for our people.
>
> **Sage Thomas**
> FNHA Bursary Recipient
>
> *Bio on page 33*



OUR PARTNERS | INDIGENOUS LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP



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.



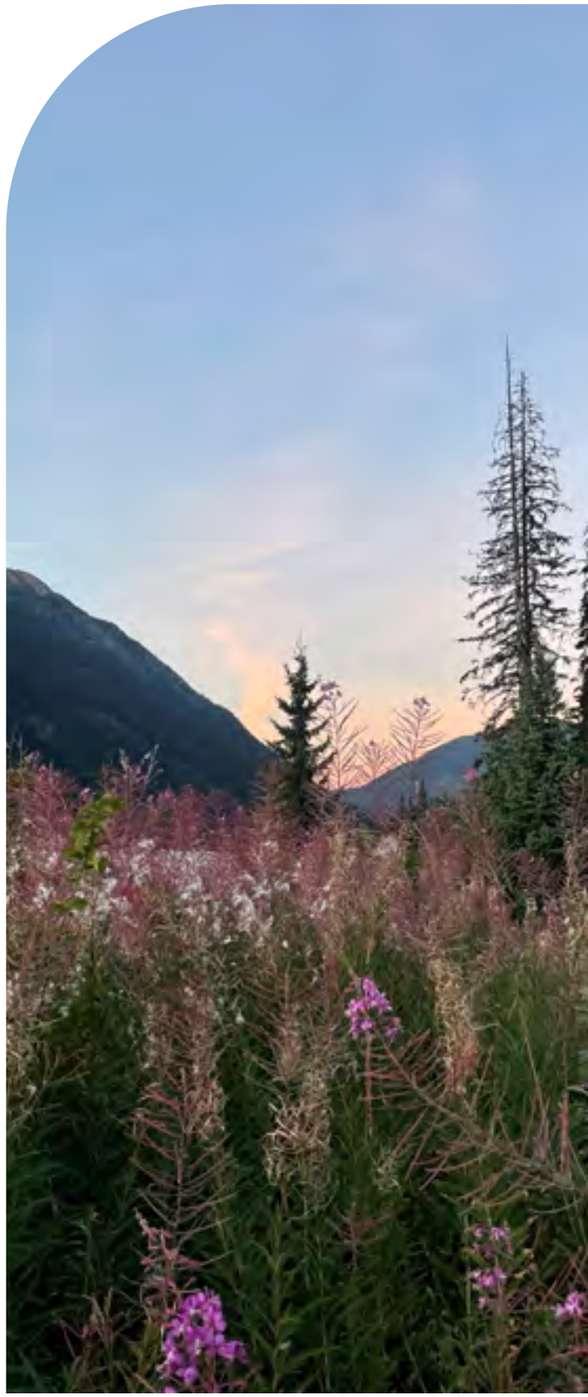
Madison Kaminski

Simpcw First Nation

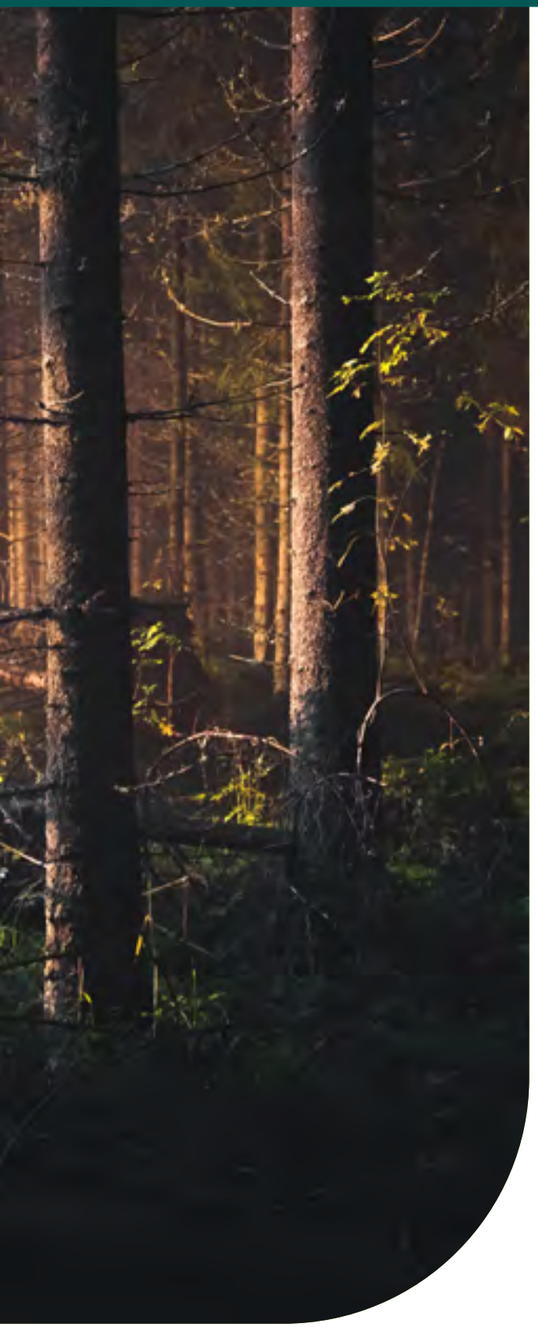
University of British Columbia

Dietetics

My name is Madison Kaminski, and I am a member of Simpcw First Nation. I am currently in my fifth and final year of the UBC Dietetics program, where I am studying to become an expert in food, nutrition, and health. After graduation, I hope to work in a hospital setting.



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



Brendan Eshom
Gitga'at Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science

My name is Brendan Eshom, and I carry the traditional name Galipliibm Laxha, which means Rolling Thunder. I was born and raised in Prince Rupert and am a member of the Gitga'at (Hartley Bay) First Nation, belonging to the killer whale house Wah-moodmx. I am currently entering the final year of my Bachelor of Science degree at the University of British Columbia, where I am studying a combination of biology, chemistry, and environmental sciences. After completing my degree, I aspire to pursue a career in the healthcare field.



Kadence Goertzen
We Wai Kai
McGill University
Bachelor of Science - Kinesiology

My name is Kadence Goertzen, and I come from the Kwakwaka'wakw and Haida Nations. I have lived most of my life on the Musqueam reserve, where I was raised by a single mother and grounded in the traditions of the potlatch. From a young age, I was taught to be a force for change and to stand firmly for what I believe in. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at McGill University. After completing my studies, I hope to work in the global health field, with a focus on advancing health equity and supporting the decolonization of the healthcare system in Canada.



Cherysh Perry
Gingolx
Simon Fraser University
Bachelors of Environment

ḿ it, Cheryshhl waý. Nisg̱ a'a ḿ iiý. Gingolx wil ẃ itgwiý. I am a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation from the village of Gingolx, and I am a dancer with the Vancouver Nisga'a Ts'amiks Dancers. I grew up on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Stó:lō, Matsqui, Sumas, and Kwantlen First Nations, as well as the Nooksack Indian Tribe. Today, I live on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the lands of the xʷməθkwəý əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx-w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. I am currently in my fourth year of my degree, completing a double minor in biology and resource and environmental management. My goal is to attend medical school, where I hope to help rebuild trust in healthcare and provide care that is grounded in cultural understanding, safety, and compassion.



Sage Thomas (She/Her)
Tkemlups Te Secwepemc
University of British Columbia
Midwifery

Weyt-kp (Hello to all), I am a mother of three, ranging from 2–14 years old. I am a member of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and live on the unceded territory of my home community. I have served on several boards and initiatives, including the Doula Association of BC, Interior Health's Baby Friendly Initiative, PSBC's Honouring Indigenous Maternity Ceremony, the BC Indigenous Nursing Health Research Initiative, and the Okanagan Breastfeeding Coalition. I also contributed to the pilot project that launched Kamloops' early pregnancy triage clinic. With academic studies in Fine Arts, Anthropology, and Sociology, I am deeply committed to Indigenous advocacy, reproductive justice, the arts, and revitalizing Secwépemc birthing knowledge, culture, and language.

OUR PARTNERS | LAND TITLE AND SURVEY AUTHORITY (LTSA)



bc Land Title & Survey

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.



Aiden Antoine
Bonaparte First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Commerce

My name is Aiden Antoine, and I am a member of the Bonaparte First Nation based in Cache Creek, BC. I currently live in Vancouver, where I attend the UBC Sauder School of Business. This September, I entered my fifth and final year of the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program, specializing in Business Technology Management.

I am deeply grateful for the financial support from the New Relationship Trust and the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia as I complete my undergraduate journey. With their support, I am confident I will finish this final year strong.



Arlene Antrim
Ulkatcho Indian Band
University of British Columbia
Bachelor or Arts - Environment and Sustainability

My name is Arlene Antrim, and I proudly identify as Dakelh from the Ulkatcho'ten First Nation in the heart of British Columbia. Growing up in this region has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the environment and the rich heritage of our ancestral lands. After completing my bachelor's degree in Geography, I plan to pursue further studies in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) with the goal of working in conservation and resource protection.

Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA)| Scholarship



Chrissy Guichon

Tŝideldel First Nation

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Bachelors of Business Administration

My name is Chrissy Guichon, and I am Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) from Tsideldel First Nation (Redstone). I am currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration – Accounting at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, with the goal of becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). I am excited about the opportunity to bring my skills back to my community.



Jackson Campo

Squamish First Nations

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Commerce

My name is Jackson Campo, and I am from Kelowna, British Columbia. I am a member of the Squamish Nation and plan to pursue a career in Indigenous corporate law. I am currently a second-year Bachelor of Commerce student at the University of British Columbia, where I plan to major in finance.



Mikayla Phillips

Xats'ull First Nation

Thompson Rivers University

Bachelor of Arts - Geography and Environmental Studies

Hello, my name is Mikayla Phillips, and I am from Xats'ull First Nation, located near Williams Lake, BC. I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Arts program at Thompson Rivers University. During the summer, I work for the Scwexmx Tribal Council in the Title and Rights Stewardship Department as a Title and Rights Analyst. After completing my degree, I intend to pursue law school to strengthen my ability to advocate for Indigenous rights, particularly in securing proper governance, jurisdiction, and authority over our lands and resources.



Lando Ball

Tahltan Band Council

University of Victoria

Bachelor Of Commerce

My name is Lando Ball, or Kenetl in my Tahltan language, and I proudly belong to the Tahltan Nation, specifically the Etzenlee family of the Chiyone (Wolf) Clan. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce at the Gustavson School of Business at the University of Victoria.

My passion for entrepreneurship began in high school, when I started buying items at wholesale prices to resell for profit. I am inspired by my grandmother, Marge Fraser, who owns and operates a successful mining business. Following her legacy, I hope to create meaningful job opportunities for Tahltan youth.

As an athlete, I have represented both the Tahltan Nation and Canada at the World Karate Championships, earning bronze medals in 2019 and 2022, and I received the Premier's Award for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport in 2019. I enjoy sharing my experiences to inspire others, especially youth navigating ADHD. I have also volunteered with the Galore Creek and Tahltan Nation fish program to support our Elders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

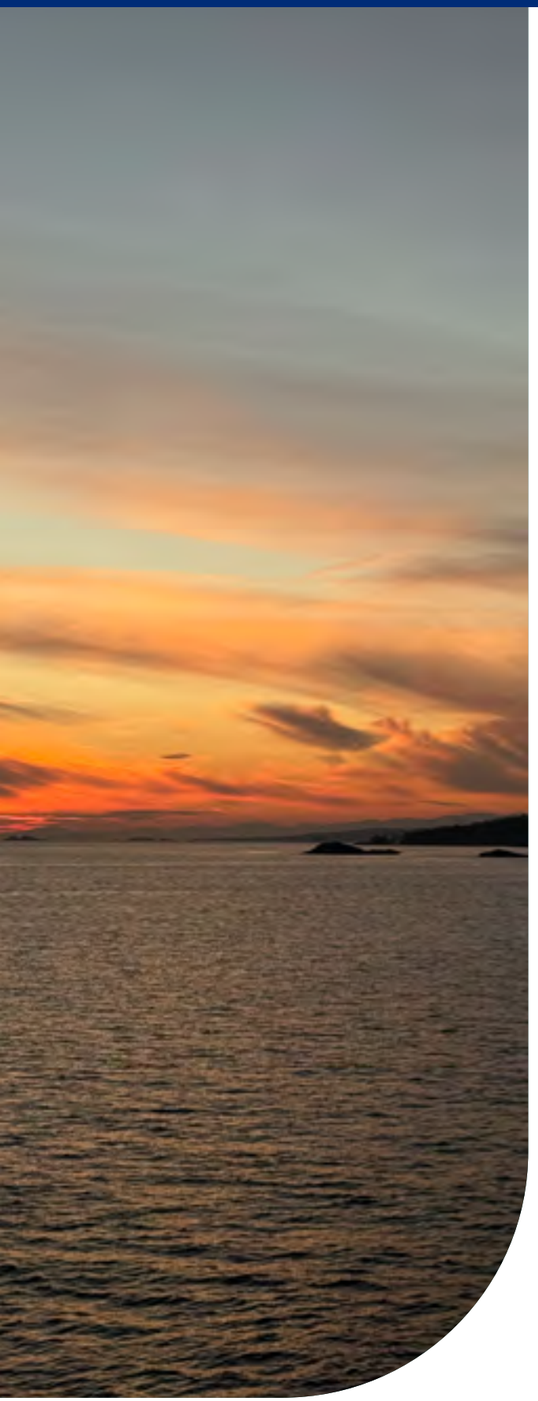
My goal is to use my education to strengthen my career path and give back to my community, helping create opportunities for future generations of Tahltan youth.



"ýe tk siʔɑ́q̓t. My name is Kimberly Mike, and I come from the unceded territory of the Scw̓éxmx (People of the Creeks, Nicola Valley). My goal is to pursue a Master's in Environmental Science with a focus on aquatic life.

Kimberly Mike
NRT Bursary Recipient

Bio on page 54



Mercer

Founded in Vancouver, British Columbia, Mercer has deep roots in Canada that stretch back to 1945. With a rich history of empowering Canadian businesses and communities, we proudly operate from coast to coast with 12 national offices and a dedicated workforce of over 1,000 colleagues, including a strong Canadian-based leadership team.

Together, we're helping our clients realize their investment objectives, shape the future of work, and enhance health and retirement outcomes for their people. We do this by meeting the needs of today and tomorrow. By understanding the data and applying it with a human touch. And by turning ideas into action to spark positive change.

For 80 years, we've been helping our clients, colleagues and communities build the confidence to thrive, creating healthier and more sustainable futures.



Nathan Mackill

Toosey Indian Band

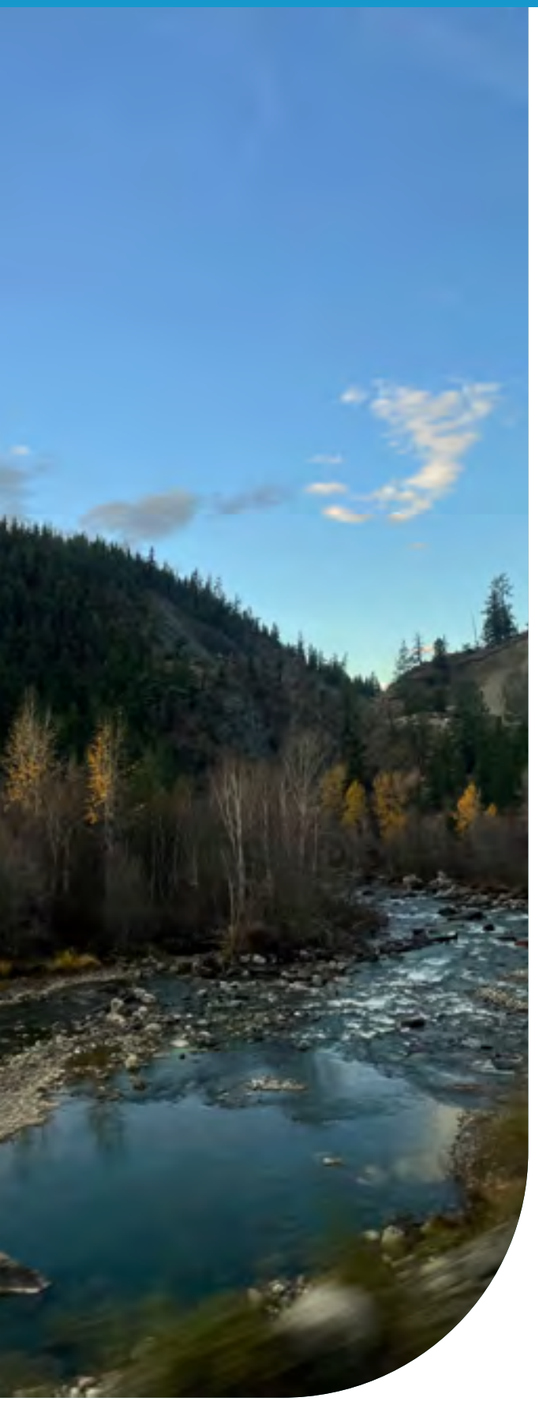
University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Commerce

I am a member of Tl'esqox First Nation, located in Riske Creek, BC, though I grew up in both Sechelt and Langley, BC. I am currently in my second year at the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business, working toward a Bachelor of Commerce. My primary goal is to gain work experience in the financial services industry, where I hope to better understand my strengths and where I can make the greatest impact. Attending university is a tremendous privilege, and I am deeply grateful for the support of the New Relationship Trust and its partners.



OUR PARTNERS | 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.



Blaise Klein

Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

British Columbia Institute of Technologly

Computer Systems Technology

I am a Computer Systems Technology student at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Burnaby. I look forward to completing my program and advancing into the Bachelor of Applied Computer Science, where I plan to begin focusing on cybersecurity.



Caleb Campbell

Lake Babine Nation

British Columbia Institute of Technologly

Computer Information Technology

I have loved computers since I was a kid growing up in Prince George. I was always curious about how they worked and what happened behind the screen. At first, I dreamed of becoming a robotics engineer, but after moving to Vancouver and volunteering at a local e-waste recycler throughout high school, my goals shifted.

I enrolled in the Computer Information Technology program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, where I've found exactly what I was looking for—hands-on experience, practical learning, and opportunities to connect with future employers. After completing my diploma, I plan to continue my studies in BCIT's Bachelor of Forensic Investigation program and pursue a career in cybersecurity.



> Indigenous Peoples deserve systems that reflect our values, honour our sovereignty, and create space for us to lead—not structures we must adapt ourselves to. Real change begins when institutions recognize that our ways of knowing and governing are not alternatives, but essential foundations.

Samantha Allan
NRT Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 84

OUR PARTNERS | NRT

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

NRT invests in BC First Nations by supporting them in five key capacity development areas: Governance capacity, Education, Language, Youth & Elders, and Economic development.

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

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

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

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



Aiden Adams

Tsawout First Nation

Camosun College

Business Administration

I am Dutch and W̱ SÁNEĆ from SṮÁUTW̱ First Nation. My mother is Magie-Mae Quee-i-sook Thul-la-me-eh Adams, who is W̱ SÁNEĆ, and my other parent is Penny White, who belongs to the Gispudwada Clan of the Gispaxlo'ots Tribe in the House of T'amks. After completing my diploma at Camosun College, I plan to continue my education in business administration toward a degree at SFU or UBC.



Alishia McCarthy

Gitwangak Band Council

Coast Mountain College

Business Administration

Ama Sa, I'm Alishia Benson-McCarthy (Gitxsan name: Xpit'amonstoone) from Wilp Gytem Maxmagii through Simoget Hanamuxw and Sigdim Hanak Gwa'amaats of the Gitsegukla Fireweed House. I am a wife and mother of four. After more than 15 years as an employment counsellor and program officer, I returned to school and am now in my second year of the Business Administration Diploma (HR Concentration) at Coast Mountain College. I plan to continue into a Bachelor of Commerce with University of Victoria in 2025/26. My long-term goal is to complete an MBA and become an effective business leader in Northwest BC, supporting sustainable, self-sufficient communities. I also hope to teach Human Resource courses at the college level in the future.



Allison Peters

Seabird Island Band

University of The Fraser Valley

Social Services

I am from Seabird Island, and I am Stó:lō. I am currently in my final year of the Social Services diploma program, and I have already enrolled at NVIT Merritt to begin working toward my Bachelor of Social Work. Once I complete my degree, I plan to return to my community and contribute through my work. I have been sober from alcohol for almost seven years and am continuing my healing journey. Living with purpose is important to me, and I believe that obtaining the proper education will allow me to better support others in their healing process.



Amber Wells

Gitwangak Band Council

Langara College

General Arts and Science Diploma

I am from the Gitxsan and Tsimshian Nations, and I am an Indigenous athlete working toward my goals both on the pitch and in the classroom. I am in my second year at Langara College and play on the Langara Women's Soccer Team. In my first season, I earned two Player of the Game awards and was named Freshman Athlete of the Year. This season, I have received another Player of the Game and a PACWEST Player of the Week. My goal is to complete my Social Work diploma and eventually return to Hazelton or Gitwangak to support my community and be a role model for youth. Coming from a small community with limited opportunities, these achievements mean a great deal to me, and I hope to show young Indigenous athletes that we can compete at high levels while succeeding in post-secondary education.



Andrea Wilkerson

Laxgalts'ap

Avant Media Institute of Audio Engineering

Audio Engineering

My name is Andrea, and I am very grateful to the New Relationship Trust for this scholarship opportunity. My career goal is to become an audio engineer and create music that inspires others while helping to revitalize my First Nation language. I am truly grateful for the gift of learning.



Angela Johnson

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous Language Proficiency

Gilakas'la. My name is Angela Johnson, and I am a mother of three. I am a caring, loving, and kind person from two forcibly relocated First Nations tribes, now amalgamated into one: the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation. My passion—and my whole heart—is in the work needed for our children, youth, and Elders. I have always taken every opportunity to learn; my mind is constantly hungry for knowledge. For the past decade, I worked at my Nation's elementary school and also supported youth groups in the evenings. I recently stepped away from the school to enter the Language Proficiency Certificate Program at Simon Fraser University so I can learn as much of our language as possible and bring that knowledge back to our children and youth. Our language is a vital part of who we are—rooted in every part of our identity. With our remaining fluent speakers now in their eighties and above, I am doing my best to help preserve and revitalize our language for future generations.



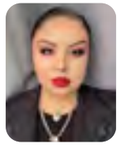
Anita Azak

Gitwinksihlkw

Vancouver Island University

Community Mental Health Worker Program

My name is Anita Azak, and I am furthering my education through the Community Mental Health Certificate program at Vancouver Island University. I hope to provide culturally safe and trauma-informed care as a mental health worker. I aim to work in a healthcare setting, particularly in the areas of mental health and addictions. I see the gaps that exist for people trying to access support, and I know many experience stigma when seeking services. By completing this certificate, I hope to be better equipped to support the individuals I work with and to make a positive impact in my community.



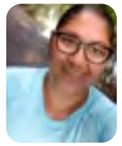
Ashley Newman

Laxgalts'ap

British Columbia Funeral Association

Funeral Director and Embalmer Foundations Program

My name is Ashley Newman-Smythe, and I am from the Nisga'a Nation (Nass Valley, BC) and the Heiltsuk Nation (Bella Bella, BC). My career goal is to open my own funeral home in the Nass Valley. I am committed to learning everything I can to become a skilled and compassionate Funeral Service Professional so that I can support families during their most difficult losses. I am determined to make this my lifelong career. It is work I truly feel called to do, and I am excited to have started my journey toward this dream.



Audrey Munroe

New Aiyansh

Career City College

Human Resources

My name is Audrey Munroe, and I am a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation from the Laxgibuu (Wolf) tribe. As a mother, wife, daughter, sister, and grandmother, my family and community are central to who I am. I have recently shifted my career focus while remaining deeply rooted in the education field. My goal is to help transform the educational landscape for Indigenous people, ensuring that our curriculum and languages reflect our lived experiences and truths. I am committed to guiding and supporting our people as we navigate the unique challenges we face every day.



Beatrice Bright

Laxgalts'ap

Coast Mountain College

Associate's of Arts - General

I am in the final year of my Associate Degree program and have applied to UNBC for next September to pursue my Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). As a single mother and a home support worker with Northern Health, I am dedicated to providing care and support to my clients. However, due to previous work injuries, it has become increasingly challenging to continue in this physically demanding role. My goal is to transition into a position where I can support clients from an office setting, allowing me to use my experience in a more sustainable and long-term way. Receiving the NRT Scholarship and Bursary would greatly support my educational and career goals, enabling me to make a meaningful impact in social work while balancing my responsibilities as a single parent.



Brandy Rice-Lafortune

Musqueam Indian Band

Vancouver Island University

Early Childhood Education and Care

My traditional name is Xwelolteniya. I am Coast Salish and a descendant of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and SḴÁUT-W̱ (Tsawout) territories. I am currently pursuing my Early Childhood Education Diploma at Vancouver Island University, a goal I have long dreamed of. I have always enjoyed working with children under six, and this program will open meaningful opportunities for me. I chose this field because I find early childhood development truly fascinating. Balancing school with being a mother of three—ages 10, 8, and 3—has been challenging but rewarding. My spouse and children are my greatest support system, always encouraging me to pursue my goals. I am grateful for the chance to follow this dream.



Brenden Aylard

Esquimalt Nation

Camosun College

Civil Engineering Technology

My name is Brenden Aylard, and I am a member of the Esquimalt Nation on Vancouver Island. I am currently enrolled in the Civil Engineering Technology program at Camosun College in Victoria, BC. After completing my diploma, I plan to continue my studies and bridge into the Civil Engineering degree program at University of Victoria. I hope to use my education to help strengthen the community around me while protecting the natural environment. I look forward to working on infrastructure projects and ensuring public safety across the various projects I will be part of.



Brian Smith

Old Massett Village Council

Coast Mountain College

Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 3

My name is Brian Smith, and I am First Nations. I am currently taking the carpentry program to work toward earning my Red Seal certification. I love what I do, especially because it allows me to help improve and build within my community. I have lived on Haida Gwaii for 27 years and love it every day. My goal is to complete my Red Seal and eventually open my own carpentry business here on the island.



Camellia Brennan

Old Massett Village Council

Native Education College

Family and Community Counselling

My name is Ildagwaay Camellia Brennan. I am from Haida Gwaii and belong to the Gaa K'yaals Kiigawaay Raven Clan. I am currently in my second year of the Family and Community Counselling Diploma program at Native Education College. After completing my program, I plan to transfer into a Bachelor of Social Work. I look forward to completing my educational journey and contributing to the helping field. With the knowledge and skills I have gained so far, I hope to make a meaningful impact, empower individuals, and create positive change. My goal is not only to give back, but to inspire others to believe in their full potential, creating a ripple effect of hope and transformation within the community I care for deeply. I am committed to advocating for culturally safe and accessible support services and to uplifting the strength and resilience of Indigenous communities.



Cheyenne Hope

Klahoose First Nation

College of New Caledonia

Nursing Unit Assistant

My name is Cheyenne Hope, and I am from Klahoose First Nation on Cortes Island. I have worked as a Health Care Aide for about six years, and I truly love healthcare and helping people. I am now excited to move into my new career as a Nursing Unit Assistant (NUA).



Claire Heit

Kispiox Band Council

JCI Institute

Medical Spa Diploma

My name is Xism his Anukxs, and I am proud to belong to the House of Geel, Fireweed Clan, Killer Whale Crest of the Gitxsan Nation. I grew up in Terrace and spent many summer days and holidays in the Kispiox Valley with my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and extended relatives. I was given my Indigenous name by my grandmother and her sister, and in their words, its translation is "sparkly, fizzy, with a quiet confidence."

I vividly remember the feast where I received this name—passed down through generations—and how much it has meant to me. It has given my life meaning and purpose, reminding me to work hard and honour the gifts life has given me.

This fall, I will be beginning the Medical Esthetics Diploma program. I enjoy helping people find both their inner and outer beauty, and I look forward to everything this field has to offer. I am excited to expand my knowledge and provide passionate, caring services to the people in my community. Thank you.



Colin Auckland

Metlakatla Band

Electrical Joint Training Committee
Electrician Common Core Level 3

My name is Colin, and I am from the Metlakatla Band. I was born and raised in Vancouver. My goal is to earn my Red Seal in electrical so I can start a residential electrician company that hires Indigenous electricians and supports Indigenous apprentices entering the trade.



Dalena Gosnell

Gitlaxtaamiks

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Associates of Arts- Criminology

My name is Dalena Gosnell, and I am from the Nisga'a and St'at'imc Nations. I am currently in my second year at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, working toward my Associate of Arts degree in Criminology. After completing my undergraduate studies, I plan to attend the University of Victoria to enter the joint Law program.



Darian Claxton

Tsawout First Nation

University of Victoria
Indigenous Lanugage Proficiency

ÍY̓ SȻÁĆEL HÁLE. Darian Claxton TŦE NE SNÁ, ĆSE LÁ̓E SEN EṮ SṮÁUTW̱ I, Bella Bella. Good day, everyone. My name is Darian Claxton, and I am from Tsawout and Bella Bella. I am currently enrolled in the W̱ SENĆOŦEN̓ISTW̱ program at UVic to learn my traditional language, SENĆOŦEN. Through this program, I hope to sharpen my language skills so I can become a language teacher in my home community once I complete my degree.



Darius Commodore

Soowahlie First Nation

University of The Fraser Valley
Business Administration Diploma

My name is Darius Commodore, and my traditional name is Black Standing Bear. I come from Soowahlie First Nation and Lummi Nation, and I am a father of three. I am the youngest of my siblings and a traditional man who loves spending time with my family. I am currently studying business. For as long as I can remember, I have dreamed of running my own businesses on my family land. At first, this dream was rooted in wanting to be my own boss, but it has grown into something much deeper. Now, I want to build businesses that support my family and help my community become more self-sustaining for generations to come. I am motivated to help my community, our youth, adults, and Elders, access meaningful job opportunities that bring not only stability, but purpose. My goal is to create opportunities that uplift our people and strengthen our Nation's future.



Denii Sampare

Gitwangak Band Council

Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts
Baking and Pastry Arts

My name is Denii Sampare, and I'm from Gitwangak. I am currently studying Baking and Pastry Arts at the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts, where I'm gaining the skills and experience I need to pursue my dream. In the future, I hope to open my own bakery or café and bring my passion for baking back to my community.



Dawn George

Takla Nation

Douglas College
Health Information Management

As a single mother of two young adults, I am committed to my community and passionate about improving health care. I graduated from UNBC in 2017 with a Health Science degree and a minor in Aboriginal and Rural Health. After six years of experience in the field, I am now pursuing a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Health Information Management at Douglas College. Once completed, I will be eligible to write the National Exam for the CHIM designation, which will allow me to support continuity of care through professional roles in Health Information Management.

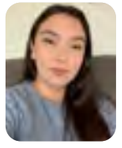


Denise Bobb

Spuzzum First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Nle?Kepmx Language Fluency Program

I am an Nlaka'pamux descendant from Spôzem First Nation but have lived off reserve. I began my journey learning nłe?kepmxcín in early September 2020, and I am now in my second year of the Nłe?kepmxcín Diploma Program, set to graduate in late Spring 2025. I am applying to UBC's Nłe?kepmxcín Degree Program for Fall 2025 to continue my studies. My goal is to become fluent in my language and eventually teach it to the Spôzem people, as our language is nearing extinction with only a small number of fluent speakers remaining. I am committed to helping revitalize, strengthen, and preserve our language for future generations.



Dora-Lynne Bedard

Old Massett Village Council

Coast Mountain College
Business Administration - Human Resources

I am a proud member of the Haida Nation. I am currently completing my final semester of the Business Administration Diploma program, specializing in Human Resources, and will graduate in December 2024. My experience in this program has strengthened my interest in supporting workplace wellness and organizational development. After graduating, I plan to continue my education and work toward earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, with the goal of contributing my skills to my community and beyond.



Edith Loring-Kuhanga

Gitwangak Band Council

Camosun College
Post Degree Diploma in Human Resource Management & Leadership

My name is Nox Gyes, and I am a member of Wilp Gwininitxw, Lax Gibuu Clan of the Gitxsan Nation. I have been married to Julius for 26 years, and together we raised two sons, two nieces, and two nephews, and now enjoy four grandchildren. I hold a Master's in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Education and will complete a Post-Degree Diploma in Human Resources and Leadership in 2024. I have over 40 years of experience in health and education. I once hoped to become an employment lawyer, but financial barriers prevented this path. I am now pursuing my HR designation to help our Nations strengthen HR practices, reduce wrongful dismissal disputes, and build fair, culturally grounded workplaces.



Eleanor Abbott (Paul)

Skwah First Nation

Sprott Shaw College

Practical Nursing

I am registered with and live in my community of Skwah First Nation in Chilliwack, BC. For many years, I put my own goals and dreams on hold to support my family. This year, and moving forward, I am finally able to focus on my own path—pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse. My goal is to return home after I graduate and work within my community.



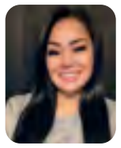
Faye Payne

Gitsegukla Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Indigenous Early Childhood Education Certificate

I have two young boys, a two-year-old and an eight-month-old, who mean the world to me and are the reason I am furthering my career. My goal is to complete my Early Childhood Education certificate and gain experience working in a daycare or early years centre. Eventually, I hope to earn my ECE diploma and purchase a home where I can open my own daycare.



Francine Kelly

Sts'ailes Indian Band

Sprott Shaw College

Early Childhood Education

I am from Sts'ailes and Soowahlie Nation. I am 32 years old and a proud mother of a 16-year-old daughter. We love sports and are committed to living a healthy, educated life. I am currently studying to become an Early Childhood Educator, and I truly love teaching children and continuing to learn so I can better support them. You can never stop learning!



Gina Sorochinski

Okanagan Indian Band

Bow Valley College

Adult Addiction Studies

I am 41 years old, born in Vernon and originally from the Okanagan. I now live in Calgary, Alberta, which has been my home for the past 28 years. I recently began the first year of the two-year Addictions Studies diploma program at Bow Valley College.My motivation comes from a deep desire to support people who are struggling with addiction and to be a positive, steady presence for those who need it most. I hope to make a meaningful impact within my community and help others find their way to healing. As a proud mother of three, I want to show my children that they can pursue their dreams no matter what challenges they face. By achieving my educational goals, I not only become a role model for them, but also for others who might doubt their ability to succeed. I am determined to overcome obstacles, push past self-doubt, and earn my diploma. I truly believe success is possible at any stage in life, and that what feels impossible can be achieved with perseverance. Your generosity has brought me one step closer to reaching my goals. Thank you for helping make dreams possible for so many.



Grace Sutherland

Lax Kw'alaams Band

College of New Caledonia

Dental Assistant

My name is Grace Sutherland, and I am from Lax Kw'alaams. I have a strong interest in the dental field, and my career goal is to become a dental assistant. Ideally, I hope to find a position in or near my hometown so I can contribute to my community while doing what I love.



Hunter Gladstone

Heiltsuk Nation

Capilano University

Outdoor Recreation Management

My is Hunter Gladstone, I am from the Heiltsuk Nation. I am currently studying at Capilano University in the Outdoor Recreation Management program. I have always loved what nature has to offer so this program has been very fitting to my interests.



Jacob Austinson

Xaxli'p

Thompson Rivers University

Piping Trades: Plumber, Steamfitter, Pipefitter

My name is Jacob Austinson. I am 19 years old and from Lillooet, BC. I am currently pursuing a career in plumbing at Thompson Rivers University. One of my goals is to return to my community and start my own business, giving back to the town that has been my home my whole life.



Jacob Tallio

Squamish First Nations

Vancouver Film School

Programming For Games, Web and Mobile

Hello, my name is Jacob Tallio. I am from the Squamish Nation and the Heiltsuk Nation. I have recently begun studying Computer Programming, as I have always enjoyed working with computers and am excited to build a career in a field I'm passionate about. I hope to use my skills to support First Nations groups and organizations by helping them expand their online presence and possibly creating programs or apps that can benefit our people in the future.



Jacob Williams

'Namgis First Nation

Capilano University

Indigenous Digital Filmmaking

Jacob Williams is a proud member of the 'Namgis and Lil'wat First Nations with a deep passion for sharing traditional Indigenous stories through film. Focused on representing Indigenous lived experiences, Jacob hopes to create impactful documentary films that highlight the beauty and richness of his cultures for a global audience. Through his work, he aims to support the revitalization and celebration of the 'Namgis and Lil'wat Nations and help shape how these stories are told and understood.



Jalen Haldane

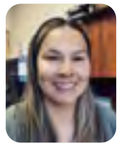
Gitxaala Nation

Native Education College

Family and Community Counselling

My name is Jalen Haldane. I was born and raised in Prince Rupert, BC, and I am from the Gitxaała and Nisga'a Nations, Lạ xsgyiik Tribe. I am currently a full-time student at the Native Education College in the Family and Community Counselling Diploma Program. After completing my studies, I hope to support my people and community in any way I can.

> "I'm studying computer programming to help First Nations communities grow their online presence and create tools that support our people.
>
> **— Jacob Tallio, Bursary Recipient**



Jennifer Narcisse

Xaxli'p

Vancouver Art Therapy Institute
Art Therapy Diploma

I am from Xaxli'p of the St'át'imc Nation and am completing my post-graduate Diploma in Art Therapy. I've begun my practicum hours in schools and with adult clients, and I can already see the impact—one child simply said, "This is helping me." Art therapy aligns with our traditional ways of healing through craft, art, hide tanning, and other hands-on practices. Creating with our hands helps us bring our goodness and intention into the work. My goal is to become an art therapist and eventually teach it so more Indigenous practitioners can serve our communities. I come from a long line of cowboys, matriarchs, hunters, fishers, basket makers, Indian doctors, hereditary leaders, and hide tanners. Our people have always found ways to heal and carry forward our ways of life, and I hope to continue that legacy through my work.



Jordan Bob

Tahltan Band

Coast Mountain College
Hairstylist

My name is Jordan Bob, and I'm 24 years old. I'm from a small town in northern BC called Telegraph Creek. I developed an interest in the beauty industry in high school after spending years surrounded by it. I love making people feel beautiful inside and out. Once I'm certified, I'm excited to offer hair services to my community back home. I look forward to what the future holds as I work toward my career goals.



Jo-Anne Isaac

Lytton First Nation

Portage College
Native Arts & Culture Artisan Entrepreneur Diploma

Jada is an Indigenous educator and artist from the Nlaka'pamux Nation on her father's side, with Welsh ancestry on her mother's side. After 12 years of teaching, she is preparing to return to her homelands in Lytton, BC, to combine her education background with traditional arts such as hide tanning, Indigenous footwear, quill work, sewing, and painting. Jada believes creativity is medicine, with the power to build community, support healing, and advance Truth and Reconciliation.



Joshua Wesley

Gitsegukla Indian Band

Vancouver Island University
Resource Management Officer Technology

Hello, my name is Joshua Wesley. I am Gitxsan on my father's side and Tsimshian on my mother's side. I am from the small community of Gitsegukla, BC, within the Gitxsan Nation. My career goal is to become a Conservation Officer. I grew up traditionally and know the land well through hunting, gathering firewood, berry picking, and mushroom picking. I want to help protect wildlife populations for future generations, so they can live off the land the same way I did. I also hope to become a role model for Indigenous youth and inspire more young people to follow their dreams and consider this field.



Katelyn Norris

Halalt First Nation

Vancouver Island University - Cowichan
Hairstylist

I am a full-time student—strong-minded, blunt, ambitious—and most importantly, a mother of children. I come from a strong family lineage. My career goal is to complete the Hairstylist Foundation Program. This is not only a career goal but also a personal one, and it aligns with my cultural values as a Cowichan person. In our culture, hair is sacred and holds deep significance.

By becoming a skilled hairstylist, I hope to help boost the self-confidence of people in my community by enhancing their natural beauty. Completing this program is an important step toward my dream of helping others feel confident, beautiful, and empowered. I am excited to continue this journey and make a meaningful impact.



Katrina Woodgate

Lake Babine Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Indigenous Human Service

My name is Katrina Woodgate, and I belong to the Lake Babine Nation Band. I am currently in my second year of the Indigenous Human Service Program, and my educational goal is to complete my Bachelor of Social Work. My career goal is to return home and work as a social worker in my community. I am grateful for this bursary, as it will support me financially during my studies. Mesiy!



Kelly Palm

'Namgis First Nation

Vancouver Film School
Animation Concept Art

My name is Kelly Palm. I am 22 years old, non-binary, and a First Nations artist. I grew up in Roberts Creek on the Sunshine Coast and graduated in 2020. I recently completed my Illustration degree at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and am now studying in the Animation Concept Art program at Vancouver Film School.

My studies have helped me strengthen my artistic voice and deepen my passion for meaningful, culturally grounded storytelling. After graduating, I plan to work in the entertainment industry—film, television, or games—creating concept art and contributing to visual development. I'm especially focused on authentic representation and hope to both share my own stories and support others in telling theirs. I believe the animation industry, especially film, is the perfect place for me to do that.



Kenneth Jolliffe

Da'naxda'xw First Nation

Vancouver Island University
Aborignal University Bridging Certificate Program

My name is Kenneth Jolliffe, and I am entering my first year at VIU this September. I am from the Da'naxda'xw First Nation on my father's side and the Dzawada'enuxw First Nation on my mother's side. I am pursuing a career as an electrician, and while in school, I will also be playing for the VIU Men's Soccer team, as soccer is a major passion in my life.



Kieran Moraes

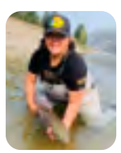
Skidegate Band Council

Vancouver Island University

Culinary Arts Certificate Program

Kieran Moraes, Haida name “Gaaysi-igang,” was raised in Haida Gwaii and is currently enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program at Vancouver Island University. Passionate about cooking and his cultural roots, he is already gaining valuable experience working as a cook while attending school. Kieran is eager to expand his skills and will be travelling to France as part of his coursework in the coming months. He hopes to continue exploring new places and culinary traditions after completing the next phase of his program.

> “My experiences in Ministry Care motivate me to build a career that supports Indigenous children and youth. I want to help ensure the next generation feels seen, valued, and protected.
>
> **— Kyla Macdonald, Bursary Recipient**



Kimberly Mike

Lower Nicola Indian Band

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Environmental Resources Technology

ýe tk siX̌q̓t. My name is Kimberly Mike, and I come from the unceded territory of the Scw̓éxmx (People of the Creeks, Nicola Valley). My career goal is to pursue a master’s degree in Environmental Science with a focus on aquatic life.



Kody Olson

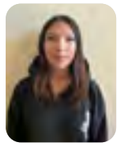
Laxgalt’sap

Thompson Rivers University

Electrician Level 3

My name is Kody Olson, and I am a third-year electrical apprentice from Vanderhoof, BC. I have been in the trade since 2020 and am working toward earning my Red Seal. I am also a new father to a son born at the end of July, just before my classes began.

This bursary has helped me return to the schooling I’ve been needing, and it will support me as I continue working toward my goals while providing for my growing family. I plan to complete my Red Seal by March 2025.



Kyla Macdonald

Squamish First Nations

Capilano University

University One For Indigenous Learners Program

My name is Kyla Macdonald, and I am from the Squamish Nation as well as the Mosakahiken Cree Nation. My career goal is to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Social Sciences. I hope to work within my Indigenous community—or the broader community—in a career that is meaningful, well-paying, and something I feel truly passionate about.

My motivation is personal. I spent much of my life in Ministry Care and experienced many negative and racist situations. I want to help create better experiences for kids like me, so they don’t have to go through what I did. I value my life experiences and want to turn them into positive contributions that support the future of children and youth in care.



Kylie Gladstone

Heiltsuk Nation

Thompson River University

Human Services

My name is Kylie Gladstone, and I am from Heiltsuk Territory in Bella Bella, B.C. I have had the opportunity to work alongside my grandmother researching Heiltsuk Gvilas—our local constitution of laws that guide the wellbeing of children, families, individuals, and communities. Together, we worked on a project created as a resource for the Pathway to Jurisdiction initiative, supporting the development of laws that allow Heiltsuk people to have authority over our children within the child and family welfare systems. This experience has been a major source of inspiration for me. I want to continue learning so I can help Heiltsuk children in care remain connected to our culture and be supported within our territory. I also hope to broaden my knowledge by working in other Indigenous communities as a human service worker.



Lakeisha Henry

Laxgalts’ap

Coast Mountain College

Electrical Foundations Level 1

My name is Lakeisha Henry, and my ancestry comes from the Nisga’a, Tsimshian, Tahltan, and Gitxsan Nations. I am a highly motivated Electrical Apprentice who is passionate about learning and developing my skills in the trade, and I look forward to beginning my second year in 2025.



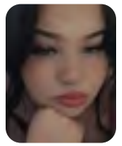
Lana Arnold

Upper Nicola Indian Band

Native Education College

Family and Community Counselling

My name is Lana Arnold, and I am Syilx from Upper Nicola. My goal is to complete my Family and Community Counseling diploma at Native Education College, then transfer to NVIT to earn my Bachelor of Social Work. I want to be a source of support and positive change in my community, especially after seeing the impacts of colonization and intergenerational trauma within my own family. I am resilient, and I hope to help create the positive change we need as we move forward together.



Liberty Warren Jack

Penticton Indian Band

Okanagan College

Heavy Mechanical Foundations

Hello, my name is Liberty. I am from the Penticton Indian Band here in BC. My goal is to become a Red Seal Heavy Duty Mechanic, and I am excited for the journey ahead.

> “Working alongside my grandmother on Heiltsuk Gvilas inspired me to help our children stay connected to culture and community. I want to support Heiltsuk families and continue learning so I can make a meaningful impact in Indigenous child and family wellness
>
> **— Kylie Gladstone, Bursary Recipient**



Lloyd Cunningham
Katzie First Nation

Simon Fraser University
Indigenous Language Proficiency Diploma

ʔəy̓ sweyəl — Good day. This will be my third semester in a row funded on my own, and I have absolutely loved learning our language. With the support of my siblings and daughters, I've made massive progress in a short time. I can see myself completing my Bachelor's within the next two years, and then moving on to a Master's degree and beyond.

I want to be an example for students of all ages, showing that it's never too late to pursue something new. My own path has taken me from stunt doubling for some of the biggest actors in the world, to stepping away to care for my wife, to discovering a new dream through learning a new dialect and language. I started in the film industry as a $10 background extra with three young daughters, and every lesson along the way has shaped who I am today.

I hope to show that with the right mindset, anything is possible—even without mentors, as was the case for me. Now, I would love the opportunity to be a mentor for others as they pursue their own goals.



Mahatta Price
K'omoks First Nation

North Island College
Metal Jewellery Design Certificate

I am in my first year of post-secondary studies at North Island College in the Metal Jewellery Design Certificate program. This program is giving me the opportunity to express my creativity through jewellery making. I am learning a wide range of techniques, including engraving, casting, stone setting, drawing, photography, and business entrepreneurship skills. After completing the program, I plan to work as an independent artist. I will incorporate Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish designs into the jewellery I create. For the past eight years, I have also been cedar weaving, and I hope to combine my cedar weaving skills with my jewellery practice while working with silver and semi-precious stones.



Malcolm Tait-Morgan
Gingolx

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

I recently graduated from the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering program at BCIT's Richmond campus on October 18, 2024. I am now focused on completing my apprenticeship to earn my Aircraft Maintenance Engineering license within the next two years. During my studies, I learned that I was one of the few First Nations students to pursue this path—and the only First Nations student at the Richmond campus. I hope that by completing my education and training, I can inspire more First Nations individuals to explore careers in aircraft maintenance engineering.



Mathew Salewski
Lytton First Nation

Lasalle College Vancouver
Bachelor of Game Programming

I'm Mathew Salewski I live in the lower mainland and have my whole life, but still haven't seen most of the tourist spots that everyone else has visited. Maybe one day I'll make my way up to Whistler. Anyways, I've always thought of changing careers, and this year I decided enough thinking and more doing. So, I signed up for a game design and programing diploma and my plans are to get into a career that I can help make some really cool video games. Ultimately, when I envision a perfect future for myself, it would be myself and a small indie studio turning out some unqiue video games. Ideally, all this happens with my dog Frank still sitting shotgun next to me with his perfect side eye face, like he normally does now.



Marcus Evans
Hagwilget Village Council

Vancouver Island University
Engineering Transfer Diploma

Marcus Evans is the grandson of Alan Sebastian from the Hagwilget Village First Nation and, as a recent high school graduate, aspires to become an engineer. Engineering has been a goal of his since a very young age, and beginning university this year is an important first step toward achieving that dream. Throughout his childhood, Marcus played competitive sports, including hockey and baseball. Growing up with three sisters and a large extended family, he has learned the values of patience, perseverance, and cooperation, and he looks forward to everything the future holds.



Meghan Parnell
Old Massett Village Council

College of New Caledonia
Associate of Arts - Aboriginal Studies

Hello! I am Xuuya Gadaas Jaada Parnell, which means White Raven Woman, and my English name is Meghan Parnell. I am from the Haida Nation, specifically Gaw Tlagee (Old Massett), and I belong to the Yahgu'laanaas Raven Clan. After years of searching for my identity, I am now exploring who I am as a mother, student, and professional. I am beginning the Associate of Arts – Indigenous Studies program at the College of New Caledonia this semester, building on my 2022 Applied Business Technology diploma. I'm excited to continue my educational journey and work toward my bachelor's degree.



Nashua Kruger

Penticton Indian Band

Okanagan College

Automotive Service Technician

Hello, I am Nash Kruger, and I am 19 years old. I live in Penticton on the Penticton Indian Band, part of the Okanagan Nation. I have completed my first year of the Apprentice Automotive Service Technician program through Skilled Trades hours and schooling. I am currently working on Level 2 and will finish the college portion in November 2024.

My career goals are to complete Level 4 and work in a licensed mechanic shop, with the long-term dream of opening my own shop one day. I would like to thank NRT for this bursary—I am truly grateful for the support. Thank you for your time.



Nevaeh Rufus

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous Language Proficiency

Nugwa'am Adutla (Auda — a noble, high-ranking woman who is humble, steady, and always learning) dłu Nawalakwbidu (small supernatural one). Gukẃalan lax Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw. Gayutlan lax Namgis dłu Kwakiutl dłu Quatsino dłu more. (I am Adutla and Nawalakwbidu — Nevaeh Rufus. My goal is to learn as much as I can and use that knowledge to strengthen my nation and myself. Knowledge is a powerful tool, and I hope to earn certificates and diplomas that help me support my community to the best of my ability.



Nikeisha Clayton

New Aiyansh

Coast Mountain College

University Studies and Career and College Prep Program

I go by Keish. I'm originally from New Aiyansh in the Nass Valley, though I grew up in Prince George, and I always find my way back home. I now live in Smithers and attend Coast Mountain College, where I'm enrolled in both the College and Career Preparation program and University Credit courses. Thanks to support from New Relationship Trust, my dream of becoming a teacher is finally becoming a reality. My goal is to one day teach at the same school I graduated from—Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School—where my late grandmother once taught Nisga'a language. If you're thinking about going back to school, do it. I returned after eight years, and it's never too late—with support from NRT, you just have to ask.



Paul Tait

New Aiyansh

British Columbia Institute of Technologly

Millwright (Industrial Mechanic) Level 3

I am Paul Tait from Gitlaxt'aamiks in the Nass Valley. I am from the house of Gwisgayin, and my tribe is Laxgibuu. My goal is to become the best Red Seal millwright I can be and gain experience in all areas of millwright work. I love this trade because the work is always changing. I also want to give my son and my family the best life possible.

NRT | Bursary



Raenelle Alec

Xaxli'p

Academy of Learning

Accounting Bookkeeper

My name is Raenelle Alec, and I am from Xaxli'p First Nation in the St'at'imc Territory. My career goal is to open a sports store on the reserve, focusing on hockey and baseball equipment, with plans to expand into more sports as the business grows. I want to give back to the community by supporting families and youth who may not be able to afford sports programs. Sports help build focus, motivation, fitness, and support mental health. I want to help our kids have healthy, successful futures.



Raven Rorick

Skidegate Band Council

Western Maritime Institute

Master 150T

I am a proud Haida person with a deep connection to the ocean. Having spent my entire life on the water, I've developed a strong appreciation for the marine environment and its importance to my culture and community. I am currently pursuing my studies with the goal of becoming a Master Mariner 150, a dream I have held for many years. This journey represents not only a personal ambition, but also a commitment to living and working on the ocean, where I feel most at home. I am incredibly grateful for the support of the New Relationship Trust bursary, which has allowed me to focus on my education and take meaningful steps toward my goal. This opportunity motivates me to work even harder and to give back to my community in the future. Thank you for your generosity and belief in my potential.



Robert Stierle

Union Bar First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency

I am a 63-year-old man returning to university now that I am a semi-retired stagehand, record producer, and performance artist. I speak around 15 languages with varying degrees of proficiency, and I feel it is time to focus on my ancestral heritage and become more involved in my community and culture. I want to contribute to our renaissance and language revitalization efforts. This journey is both historic and healing for me and my people, and I am grateful and honoured to be part of it.

> At 63, I'm focusing my life on community, culture, and our language renaissance. I'm honoured to be part of this healing work for future generations.
>
> **— Robert Stierle, Bursary Recipient**



Robyn Yow

Little Shuswap Indian Band

North Island College

Early Childhood Education

I am from Skwlāx te Secwepemcúl̓ecw (Little Shuswap Lake Band). I currently live in Campbell River and am enrolled in the Early Childhood Care and Education program. My goal is to open a childcare facility—with after-school care—that supports families who value the outdoors, music, and creativity.

NRT | Bursary



Rose Patterson

Laxgalts'ap

University of Victoria

Indigenous Language Revitalization

I am the granddaughter of Dorothy Smart Clark and the late Frank Calder of the Nisga'a Nation. My mother was the late Wilma Moore of the Killer Whale House in Laxgalts'ap. I returned to Canada in 2015 to reconnect with my culture and learn how to use my BS in Psychology and MS in Legal Studies to support others on their healing journeys. Since then, I've completed certifications at VIU in Mental Health Work and Community Health Promotions for Aboriginal Communities, and I have now finished my Social Work degree. My goal is to walk alongside First Nations people, learning from their teachings while sharing my own knowledge. I'm honoured to do this work and plan to continue growing in language and advocacy as our nations return to their roots.



Scott Massingale

Gingolx

British Columbia Institute of Technologly

Enhanced Bridge Watch Rating Program

My traditional name is Laxildahl Gibuu, which in Nisga'a means ocean wolf. For as long as I can remember, I've been drawn to the water, so beginning a career on the ocean feels like a dream come true. I've spent many summers on a gillnetter fishing salmon from Gingolx, and now that I've completed my schooling, I've already been offered an internship with my dream company. They say the sky is the limit, but I'm excited to see just how far these waters will take me.



Stanley Swanson

Old Massett Village Council

Capilano University

Adult Basic Eduction

I am a basketball player, and my career goals are to become a successful, well-respected member of my community and to work as a diver or with BC Hydro. Basketball and playing in tournaments are a big part of my life and something I will always enjoy. I come from a large family with eight siblings, the youngest being 6 and the oldest 28.



Taylor Lantin

Old Massett Village Council

Camosun College

Hospitality Management

My traditional name is Gin Xahlsingee ing ga, meaning "the sparkle on the ocean," and my English name is Taylor Lantin. I am from the T'siits Gitanee Eagle Clan of Old Massett on Haida Gwaii and am currently in my first year of the Hospitality Management Diploma program. After working in tourism on Haida Gwaii for three years, I've seen how little Indigenous representation exists in this field. With support from Old Massett Village and the New Relationship Trust Fund, I'm completing my studies at Camosun College. My goal is to bring more First Nations and Haida presence into the tourism and hospitality industry.

NRT | Undergraduate



Abigail Speck

Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia

The Indigenous Teacher Education Program

I come from the Point family in Musqueam and the Speck family from Alert Bay. I have gained valuable experience working with youth in my Musqueam community, where I discovered how much I enjoy creating after-school programs. This led me to join the Education team at Ocean Wise, where I learned how to run programs and engage with children and youth. This year, I was grateful for the opportunity to begin post-secondary studies in an Indigenous educational space through the Indigenous Teacher Education Program at UBC. After graduating, I hope to bring what I've learned back to my community by creating educational resources and programs for Musqueam children and youth. I also hope to spend time in the classroom, taking space as an Indigenous educator and showing Indigenous youth that anything is possible when you commit to your goals.

> I come from the Point family in Musqueam and the Speck family from Alert Bay. Working with youth taught me how much I care about creating safe, engaging spaces. Through the Indigenous Teacher Education Program at UBC, I hope to show Indigenous youth that anything is possible.
>
> **— Abigail Speck, Bursary Recipient**



Aedan Crocker

Penelakut Indian Band

University of Calgary

Engineering

My name is Aedan Crocker, and my Coast Salish name is hwy'laynu'hw, which means "the spirits awaken to me." I am involved with Indigenous Student Leadership at the University of Calgary, where I am a Mechanical Engineering student. My career goals are to complete my Bachelor of Engineering and work in the field of mechanical engineering, where I can make a meaningful difference for my Indigenous community, support sustainability, and continue being a steward of the land.



Alexis Thompson

Cape Mudge Band

Capilano University

General Sciences

My name is Alexis Thompson, and I am a disabled Indigenous student pursuing a double major in physics and chemistry. I am currently attending Capilano University with the intention of transferring to UBC. After completing my undergraduate studies, I hope to pursue a Master's and PhD in Physics, focusing on atomic fusion. My career goal is to contribute to the development of atomic fusion as a renewable energy source, helping move the world toward a more sustainable future. I also hope to pursue writing on the side, with a focus on telling Indigenous stories.



Alexis Langille

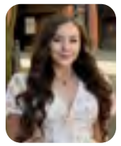
Ktunaxa Nation

University of Calgary

Biological Sciences

My name is Alexis, and I am a member of the Ktunaxa Nation in the Southeast Kootenays. I am currently studying Biology and hope to continue on to a master's degree in the future.

NRT | Undergraduate



Alexis Baldwin

Gitwangak Band Council

University of The Fraser Valley

Bachelors of Science

Tansi, my name is Alexis Baldwin. I am from both Gitwangak and the Ojibwe Cree Nation, though the Stó:lō Nation is where I call home. I am pursuing my Bachelor of Science so I can use my education to make a meaningful difference for both Indigenous communities and the scientific world. I am passionate about advocating for Indigenous Peoples—my family, Elders, and community as a whole. I currently lead research at my university focused on the medicinal plants of the Stó:lō Peoples, with the goal of bringing greater acknowledgment to Indigenous knowledge within the field of chemistry. My work supports the Indigenization of Chemistry and aims to show other Indigenous students that we belong in STEM. After completing my degree, I hope to become an Indigenous Liaison and eventually a Deputy Minister, continuing to create change at a systemic level. Education is my opportunity to make a difference not only for my family but for all my relations. I work toward finishing my degree so that my Papa may see me graduate—if not in person, then from heaven—because he is, and always will be, my biggest supporter.

> My work supports the Indigenization of chemistry and shows other Indigenous students that we belong in STEM.
>
> **— Alexis Baldwin, Scholarship Recipient**



Amber Lyn May

Tahltan Band Council

Laurentian University

Bachelors of Forensic Science

I am from Calgary, AB, and I am currently in my fourth year of the Forensic Science program at Laurentian University in Sudbury, ON. I also play on the women's varsity basketball team. I am applying to the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine with hopes of becoming a forensic pathologist. There is currently only one Indigenous forensic pathologist in Canada, and I have big goals of becoming the second. I am extremely grateful for the support the New Relationship Trust has provided toward my education and career aspirations.



Andrew Peaker

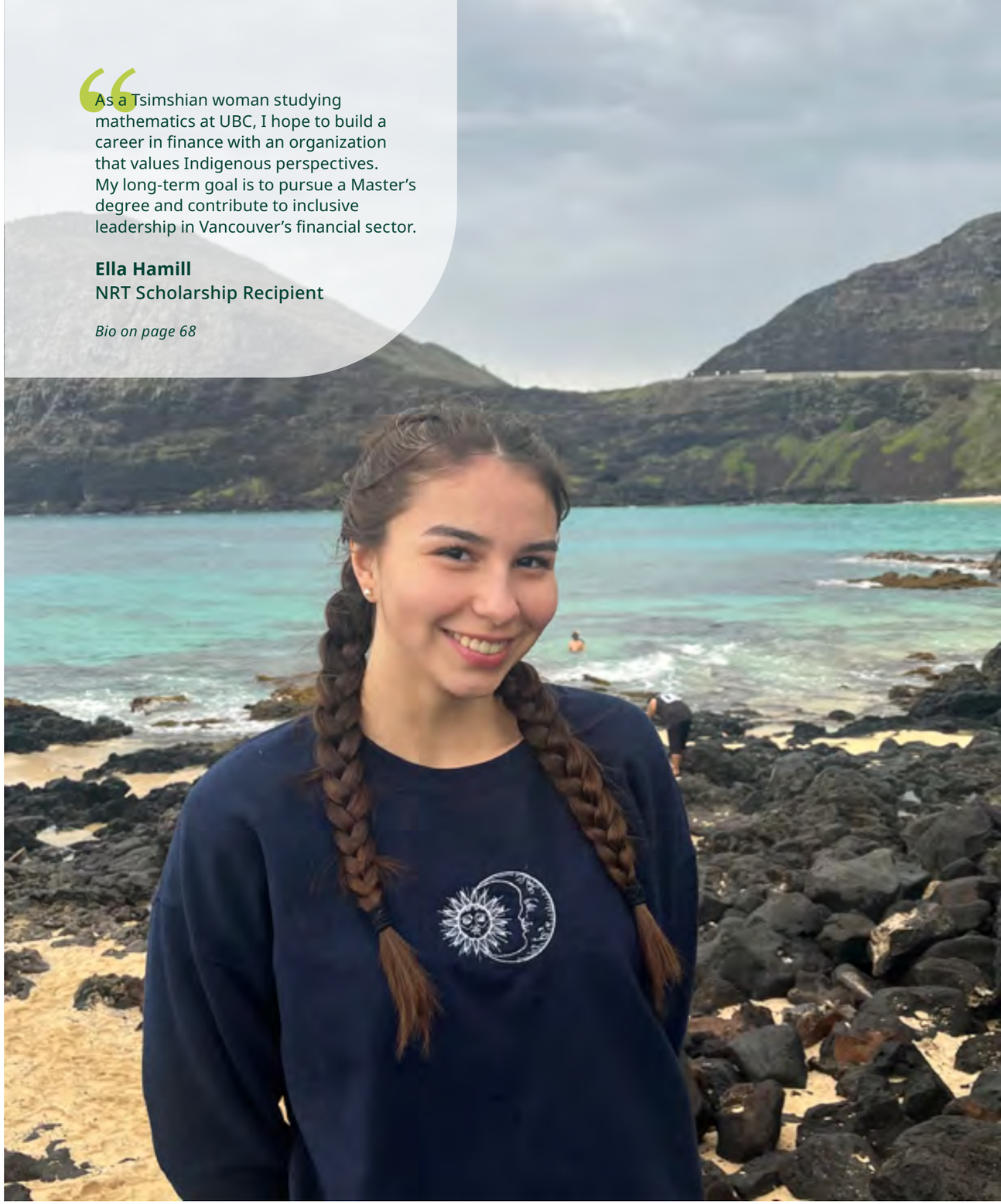
Spuzzum First Nation

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Engineering

My name is Andrew Peaker, and I was born and raised in Lillooet, B.C. I spent many years working in the local timber industry, as well as in roles that involved working with BC Hydro, which gave me valuable hands-on experience with infrastructure and power systems. These experiences inspired me to continue my education and pursue a career in electrical engineering. I am now in my second year of the Electrical Engineering program at the University of Victoria. Once I complete my degree, I hope to work on power projects that support and strengthen small communities, helping improve reliability, sustainability, and access to essential services.

> As a Tsimshian woman studying mathematics at UBC, I hope to build a career in finance with an organization that values Indigenous perspectives. My long-term goal is to pursue a Master's degree and contribute to inclusive leadership in Vancouver's financial sector.
>
> **Ella Hamill**
> **NRT Scholarship Recipient**
>
> *Bio on page 68*





April Pierre

Katzie First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

I started school later in life, and I want others to know it is never too late to begin a new path. I once doubted I could succeed in university, but I proved myself wrong, and I hope other Indigenous people feel inspired to pursue their passions too. Studying Indigenous Studies and Resource and Environmental Management has been a healing experience, helping me learn our histories and imagine better futures for the next generations. I believe resource management can greatly benefit from Indigenous perspectives in caring for the land as our ancestors did, and there are many ways this work can support our communities.



Ashton Ashley

Williams Lake Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University

Bachelor of Science Degree

Weyt-k, Ashton ren skwekwst. I am T'exelc of the Secwépemc Nation on my xpe7e's (grandfather's) side, and Cherokee and Choctaw on my kye7e's (grandmother's) side. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to apply to the University of British Columbia's medical program, with the goal of becoming a physician. My aspiration is to provide healthcare in rural communities, where access to consistent and sufficient support is often limited. While studying, I have had the opportunity to work closely with eight Secwépemc communities through Qwelmínte Secwépemc. Through this work, I have deepened my connection to Secwépemctsin (Secwépemc language), yecwminúlecw (stewardship), and my role in advancing reconciliation.



Ashtynn Gurnsey

Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia

Nitep - Bachelor's of Education

I am currently enrolled in NITEP (the Indigenous Teacher Education Program) at the University of British Columbia. I am extremely grateful for the funding I have received from the New Relationship Trust, as attending this program—offered only at UBC—comes with both tuition and significant living costs. NITEP gives me the opportunity to become a teacher while immersing myself in my culture and learning about Canada's history with Indigenous Peoples on a much deeper level. I am excited to spend the next five years here in Vancouver, continuing to learn about my ancestors and growing as an educator.



Braeden Fowler

Xaxli'p

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Applied Science

My name is Braeden Fowler, and I am a member of the Xaxli'p First Nation near Lillooet, BC. I was born and raised in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, where I am now beginning my studies at the University of British Columbia to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science. I am excited to build a strong foundation in engineering and develop the technical and problem-solving skills needed to support meaningful change. Once I graduate, my goal is to apply what I've learned to sustainable development projects that benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada. I hope to contribute to work that strengthens our communities, respects the land, and supports future generations.



Camryn Parnell

Old Massett Village Council

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Bachelor of Arts- Psychology

My name is Camryn Parnell, and I am from Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I am currently studying at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, where I am in my third year of a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology. After completing my degree, I hope to pursue a Master of Social Work on the same campus.



Cheyenne Toms

Tsal'alh First Nation

St. Francis Xavier University

Bachelors of Arts - Human Kinetics

Hi! I'm Cheyenne Toms. I am St'át'imc from Shalalth First Nation, and I grew up on the east coast in Nova Scotia. I am in my final year of Human Kinetics at St. Francis Xavier University, and I'm very excited to see what comes next!

For the upcoming school year, I plan to apply for the Pathy Fellowship through the Coady Institute. After that—either following the fellowship (if I'm successful) or immediately after completing my undergraduate degree—I will be applying to a Master of Physiotherapy program.

At StFX, I'm involved in several volunteer programs. I am the Co-President of Best Buddies for the second year in a row, and I serve as the treasurer on the Indigenous Society executive team. This year, I also have the opportunity to be a student athletic therapist for the cross-country and track team, which I'm really looking forward to!



Chiara Alfaro Mccarthy

Ucluelet Indian Band

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Education

I am Yuułu?ił?ath (Ucluelet First Nations) on my mother's side and Peruvian on my father's side. I was born and raised in Campbell River, BC, and feel grateful to live, learn, and work on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples. I will be graduating from the Bachelor of Education program at VIU this year and becoming a certified BC teacher. My post-secondary journey has been incredibly meaningful, and I'm grateful for the friends and mentors who have supported me. I'm passionate about decolonizing the classroom and fostering reconciliation in my teaching practice, and I'm excited for this next chapter.



Christie Perley

T'Sou-ke Nation

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

I grew up on Vancouver Island near my ancestral territory of T'Sou-ke Nation, and I am proud to come from a long line of strong Coast Salish women. I am in my third year at the University of Victoria pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology and consistently achieving high marks. My studies are challenging but rewarding as I work toward becoming a clinical counsellor. After completing my bachelor's and then a master's degree in counselling, I plan to become a Registered Clinical Counsellor with the BCACC and support women, teens, and children—possibly within First Nations communities or through my own private practice.



Ciara Eizadirad

Chawathil First Nation

York University
Bachelor of Science - Global Health

O:siyam. I am Stó:lō from Chawathil First Nation in Hope, B.C., and I am also Cree and Ojibway from Treaty 3 in Red Lake, Ontario. I plan to work in Indigenous health, focusing on research and policy. I am grateful for my diverse cultures and traditions, which empower me to challenge the status quo in education and health for Indigenous peoples.

I was raised by a strong single mother who instilled important values and goals in me and my three brothers. She went back to school while I was in high school and has been my greatest role model, along with my sesela. Being part of many community circles has shaped me and supported me throughout my journey, and I truly understand how much community means to me.



Cody Teichroeb

Westbank First Nation

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

way̓ x̌ast sx̌ l̓x̌aʔlt, iskʷist nć iʔcn, iʔ sumaʔ iskʷist Cody Teichroeb. kn t̓ l staqaʔkɬniwt. isḱʷuy iʔ skʷist Llana Teichroeb inlʔiw iʔ skʷist Barry Teichroeb. inḱ íḱ waʔ iʔ skʷist George Fosbery, uɬ int̓at̓ úpaʔ túi iʔ skʷist Agnes Lindley.

Hello, my name is nć iʔcn (Wolf), and my western name is Cody Teichroeb. I am a proud Syilx man from Westbank First Nation. I am taking a full-time course load, which leaves little room for work without sacrificing my grades or long-term goals. This scholarship eases my financial stress and allows me to stay focused on my studies as I work toward becoming a clinical psychologist. I am truly grateful for the support.



Claire Bruce

Skeetchestn Indian Band

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

My name is Claire Bruce, and I am a second-year student pursuing a degree in Indigenous Studies. I grew up in the Kamloops and Shuswap Lake area, and I have always wanted to help people in any way I can. After university, I hope to pursue a career in archiving, working with Indigenous communities to preserve and document our histories, which remain deeply underrepresented today. I believe Indigenous people deserve to be recognized, remembered, and celebrated, and I want to help make that a reality.



Coleman Walters

ʻNamgis First Nation

University of Victoria
Bachelor of Engineering - Civil Engineering

My name is Coleman Walters, and I am currently finishing my third year of civil engineering at the University of Victoria. I am originally from Vancouver, BC, but have lived on the island for the past five years to pursue my studies. Engineering is a passion of mine because it allows me to apply problem-solving skills to real-world projects. When I graduate, I hope to gain industry experience while also giving back to communities in need across the province.



Dakoda Morrison

Gingolx

Simon Fraser University
Professional Development Program - Elementary Teacher, Indigenous Perspectives)

I am proud to be Nisga'a and Gitxsan, and I come from the Ksim Xsaan wilp. I am part of the Ganada clan from the village of Gingolx. Growing up close to my family and immersed in my culture has always inspired me with the strength and wisdom of my community.

I am currently enrolled in the Professional Development Program at Simon Fraser University, working toward K–12 teaching certification and completing a second bachelor's degree. My goal is to teach middle school, honouring my Indigenous identity and providing a holistic, inclusive education that supports the well-being of all students.



Dallas Edwards

Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Business Administration

Hello! My name is Dallas Edwards, and my traditional name is T'losh. I was born and raised in Kamloops and come from the Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nations. I now live in Westbank with my wife and our two youngest children. After ten years working as a forklift operator, I am ready to begin a new chapter in my life. My goal is to earn a degree in Accounting and become a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), using my qualifications to support and contribute to my First Nations community.



David George

Skidegate Band Council

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Communications and Digital Journalism

David George (Gitsga) is from Haida Gwaii and is passionate about languages and teaching. He returned to university to pursue a career in education and hopes to eventually take his skills back home to support the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (SHIP).



Dawn Dionne

Lil'wat Nation

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Dawn Dionne. I am an Interior Salish woman and mother from the Lil'wat Nation, with my home territory in beautiful Mount Currie, BC. We are Sḵát̓ emc People. I have spent most of my life on the ancestral lands of the Syilx Okanagan Peoples.

I became a mom at 16 and faced many challenges navigating young motherhood alongside the education system available to me. I left college two years into my studies, and now—15 years later—I am returning to complete what I once set out to do. My goal is to finish my Bachelor of Arts within the next two years, then apply for a Bachelor of Education teaching certification, followed by a Master's in Indigenous Education.

I want to pursue a path that allows me to support Indigenous youth and families, using education as a tool for decolonization and a way to bring our families and communities back together as we grow and heal.



Devin Williams

‘Namgis First Nation

University of British Columbia

NITEP - Bachelor’s of Education

I am grateful to the New Relationship Trust (NRT) for supporting my educational journey. I have been awarded a bursary to help with my studies in the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) at the University of British Columbia. This support is instrumental in helping me achieve my academic goals and contribute to my community. Gilakasla (thank you) for your generosity and support.

Echo Sulin

Ulkatcho Indian Band

University of British Columbia

Bachelor’s of Midwifery

Hello, my name is Echo Sulin, and I am of mixed Ulkatcho First Nation and European heritage. I grew up in Lethbridge, Alberta, and now live in Vancouver on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. I am a first-year Midwifery student at UBC, and my goal is to become a practicing midwife serving rural communities across British Columbia. I am honoured to be entering this profession, where I can bring together my love of science and traditional practices. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, skiing, crocheting, and reading.



Edric Antoine

Bonaparte First Nation

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Science

I am an Indigenous fourth-year computer science student at the University of British Columbia, expecting to graduate in May 2025. I am from Kamloops, BC, and have greatly enjoyed living in Vancouver and experiencing the UBC campus. My primary career goal is to work in software development for an organization where I can make a positive impact and give back to my community through my work. I would not be where I am today without the support of my family, friends, and community, and giving back to them remains one of my highest priorities. After gaining industry experience with organizations that align with my values, I hope to return to UBC to pursue a master’s degree, potentially focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence. I am excited for what the future holds and hope to make the most of every opportunity I have been given.



Ella Hamill

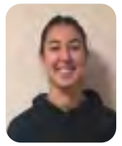
Lax Kw’alaams Band

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Science - Mathematics

My name is Ella Hamill, and I am a proud member of the Tsimshian Nation. I am a second-year science student majoring in mathematics at the University of British Columbia. Upon graduation, I hope to work for a financial company that values Indigenous representation and perspectives. After gaining experience in the field, my goal is to return to UBC to complete a master’s degree. Ultimately, I aspire to work at a leading financial firm in Vancouver where Indigenous perspectives are respected and uplifted.

NRT | Undergraduate



Ella Poole

New Aiyansh

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Education

My name is Ella Poole, and I am a citizen of the Nisga’a Nation. I am in my first year of the Bachelor of Education program at the University of Victoria, and I look forward to a future career in teaching.



Ellie Dickens

Laxgalt’sap

Dalhousie University

Bachelor of Art - Social Science

My name is Ellie Dickens, and I am a member of the Nisga’a Village of Laxgalts’ap. I grew up in Prince Rupert and spend my summers working on my father’s commercial fishing boat, where I’ve learned firsthand the importance of community, hard work, and traditional livelihoods. I am currently in my first year at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and I plan to complete an honours degree in journalism at the University of King’s College, specializing in broadcast journalism.

As the grandchild of a residential school survivor, I feel a strong responsibility to engage with stories of colonialism, resilience, and reconciliation. Coming from a fishing family, I am equally committed to covering issues that affect rural and coastal communities, especially those tied to traditional ways of life. Through my work, I hope to amplify voices that are often overlooked and highlight the strength, knowledge, and contributions of community members who deserve to be heard and seen.



Everett Poole

New Aiyansh

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

Hi, my name is Everett, and I am a citizen of the Nisga’a Nation. I was raised in Terrace, BC, and I am currently pursuing a BSc with Honours in Biochemistry at UVic. I am conducting my honours project at BC Cancer Victoria, where I am genetically engineering T-cells to improve their efficacy and survival in the tumour microenvironment. Looking ahead, I am considering continuing my research at BC Cancer as a graduate student.



Francis Racy

Gitwangak Band Council

University of British Columbia

BEEM - Bachelor Of Education - NITEP

My traditional name is En nuu Ann Gaiwh, and my family is from Gitanyow, making us part of the larger Gitxsan Nation. I have been on an ongoing educational journey, refining my academic goals each year. Over the last year, I explored becoming an elementary teacher, but through learning from Indigenous educators, I recognized a deep need for Indigenous representation at the university level. Their wisdom and guidance have inspired me to pursue teaching in higher education.

My current path includes completing my Bachelor of Education and teaching at the elementary level while I work toward my Master of Education. I am truly grateful for this scholarship, as it will ease financial barriers and allow me to focus more fully on my studies.



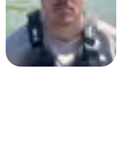
Frazer Dodd

Lax Kw'alaams Band

Alvernia University

Bachelor of Biology

My name is Frazer Dodd, and I am a proud member of the Lax Kw'alaams Band who grew up in Hazelton, BC. I am committed to my education, and my passion for the natural world has inspired me to pursue a degree in biology. This program allows me to explore these connections in greater depth and expand my understanding. I am motivated to educate future generations and encourage them to contribute to conservation efforts and sustainable practices within their local communities. My favourite part of my studies is the hands-on learning, as I thrive in environments where I can actively engage with the material. Once I become a teacher, I look forward to incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum and prioritizing experiential learning. I am extremely grateful for the financial support from the New Relationship Trust Awards Program.



Hanna Bryant

Lax Kw'alaams Band

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Education-

Indigenous Education Post Degree

Professional Program

I am Ts'msyen and Haida from the communities of Lax Kw'alaams and Skidegate. As a single mother, I am striving to create a better life for myself and my son by pursuing my Bachelor of Education, with the goal of returning home to give back as an educator. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust for supporting me in achieving this goal.



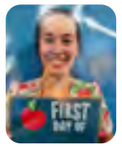
Logan Grant

Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia

First Nations and Endangered Languages

My name is Logan Grant, and I am from the Musqueam Nation. I am in my final year at UBC, majoring in First Nations and Endangered Languages with a minor in Linguistics. I chose this path because of my passion for languages and my commitment to furthering my knowledge of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ language. My goal is to contribute to the continued revitalization of our language within my community. Thank you to the NRT for their support.



Heather Storkan

Bonaparte Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University

Bachelor of Education

Weytk, I am from the St'uxwtews Nation. I am a mother of three young children and currently in my final year of the Bachelor of Education program. My passion is to work within our traditional territories, focusing on education in our community. I am dedicated to becoming a strong advocate for Indigenous youth and supporting them as they navigate the education system. My goal is to integrate our rich cultural heritage into teaching, ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are represented, valued, and woven into daily learning. I believe that by fostering a supportive and culturally responsive environment, we can empower our young people to achieve their full potential while staying connected to their roots. As I near the completion of my studies, I am excited for the opportunity to make a meaningful impact and contribute to the success and growth of our learners.

NRT | Undergraduate



Jade Palmer

Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Arts

Hello, my name is Jade Palmer. I come from Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc in the Shuswap region, though I was born and raised on the beautiful, unceded territories of the Okanagan Syilx Peoples. I am currently in my final year of a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, with plans to apply for a master's in counselling and eventually pursue a Ph.D. Becoming a psychologist will allow me to support at-risk individuals and promote mental wellness through a holistic, culturally informed approach. I hope to use my education to work closely with Indigenous communities, facilitating healing and uplifting the lives of my people and others.



Jade May

Tahltan Band Council

University of Calgary

Bachelor of Nursing

Hi! My name is Jade May, and I am a proud member of the Tahltan First Nation. I am currently completing my second year of nursing at the University of Calgary. With this degree, I hope to work in Indigenous rural communities and eventually further my education by pursuing a medical degree focused on Indigenous women's health. I aspire to be a source of inspiration for my community, just as others have inspired and shaped my own hopes and dreams.



Jade Hobenshield

Tla'amin Nation

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Education

My name is Jade Hobenshield. I reside on the Tla'amin Nation and am in my fifth year of studies to become a fully certified teacher. Support from programs such as the New Relationship Trust Education Award has allowed me to care for my family while completing the lengthy certification process. I raise my hands to you—thank you, NRT!



James Dawson

Dzawada'enuxw

University of Victoria

Indigenous Studies Degree

Hello, my name is James Dawson, and I am Kwagu'l and Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw of the Kwakwaka'wakw peoples. I currently live in Victoria while attending the University of Victoria, and I remain an active member of my community through both sport and culture. I am working toward my Bachelor of Education so I can return home to teach our cultural ways. In the summers, I work as a language apprentice with Nawalakw, based out of Bond Sound, where I teach Kwakwaka'wakw cultural practices and support the revitalization of the Kwak̓wala language. I am also proud to be a North American Indigenous Games gold medalist, having played in net for the Team BC U19 men's soccer team at the 2023 NAIG in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Jamieson Coukell

Gitwangak Band Council

The University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Kinesiology

My name is Jamie Coukell, and I am Gitxsan with mixed settler ancestry. I grew up on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snaw'naw'as First Nation, and I have since moved to Musqueam territory to complete my undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia. I am now in my fourth and final year of the Bachelor of Kinesiology program and will be applying to Physical Therapy schools this fall. My goal is to become a registered Physical Therapist who provides culturally safe and sensitive care while strengthening Indigenous advocacy within the healthcare system.



K'Sana Wood Lynes-Ford

'Namgis First Nation

University of Victoria

Chemistry For the Medical Sciences

My name is K'sana, and I am from the 'Namgis, Gitxsan, and Tsimshian First Nations. I am named after the Skeena River—the 'Ksan River—and my name loosely translates to "Woman of the River." I am majoring in Chemistry for Medical Sciences at the University of Victoria, inspired by my own health experiences and a desire to help others. Through undergraduate research, I've worked toward narrowing the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and this year I co-authored my first publication, "The multigenerational impact of long QT syndrome: A Gitxsan perspective." I hope to continue in research, pursue a career in medicine, and support Indigenous representation in STEM and health sciences.



Jessica Scott

Cowichan Tribes

University of Saskatchewan

Bachelors of Science in Dental Therapy

My name is Jessica, and I hail from Cowichan Bay on Vancouver Island, where I am a proud member of the Cowichan Tribes. I am currently a registered dental hygienist pursuing further education to become a dental therapist. My goal is to work closely with Indigenous communities, particularly in rural British Columbia, to help reduce barriers to accessible, culturally safe oral healthcare. I am deeply grateful to the New Relationship Trust for helping make this possible.



Kaia Haintz

Hwlitsum First Nation

Simon Fraser University

Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences

My name is Kaia Haintz. I am Coast Salish from Hwlitsum First Nation on my mother's side and of European descent on my father's side. I am in my third year at Simon Fraser University, majoring in Indigenous Studies and minoring in Early Learning, with the goal of becoming a teacher after graduation. I've seen firsthand the harm that misinformation about Indigenous peoples can cause in the school system, and I hope to help change that. Outside of school, I work for the Indigenous Student Centre at SFU as an Indigenous Student Ambassador, where I support incoming and current Indigenous students through the programs we offer.

NRT | Undergraduate



Kaleb Lounsbury

'Namgis First Nation

Trinity Western University

Human Kinetics

I am from the Kwakwak'awakw people of Alert Bay, BC, and I was raised in Surrey, BC. I have a passion for outdoor education and believe strongly in its benefits for both mental and physical well-being. I am now studying Human Kinetics and hope to pursue a career in physiotherapy or occupational therapy. My goal is to develop a business model that supports the well-being of Indigenous communities through sport, athletics, and injury recovery. During my studies at Trinity Western University, I hope to gain the knowledge and skills needed to bring this vision to life. I envision creating a mobile clinic that can serve multiple regional Indigenous communities, and I hope that by achieving this, others will be inspired to follow a similar path to improve community health and wellness.



Kayla Christensen

We Wai Kai

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous Studies

My English name is Kayla Christensen, and my traditional Indigenous name is yage?sała, which means "one who holds great power" and "one who is unbothered by what others say." I am from the We Wai Kai Nation and grew up on the Quinsam Reserve in Campbell River, BC. I am currently a fourth-year student at Simon Fraser University, majoring in Indigenous Studies with a minor in Geography. After I graduate, I hope to work in government or with my Nation. Ultimately, I want to contribute positively to Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world.

> "I strive to use my voice and education to support and strengthen Indigenous Peoples across Canada.
>
> **— Kayla Christensen, Bursary Recipient**



Katie Coyne

Upper Similkameen Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Bachelor of Science

My name is Katie Coyne, and I am 18 years old. I am a member of the Upper Similkameen Indian Band and grew up in Princeton, BC. I enjoy spending time with family and friends and playing sports. My career goal is to become a dental hygienist and help others. I am very honoured to receive this award and want to give my biggest thank you to NRT.



Keegan Stephens

Laxgalts'ap

Simon Fraser University

Bachelor of Science - Chemistry

My name is Keegan Stephens, and I am from Port Coquitlam, B.C. My career goals are to pursue research in pharmaceuticals or cancer treatment, as both fields are deeply meaningful to me—cancer has impacted my family and people close to me. I am also interested in medical care, as helping others and ensuring they receive the right treatment is something I am passionate about.



Kelaya Allison-Squakin

Lower Similkameen Indian Band

University of British Columbia

Bachelors of Education - Nitep

My name is Kelaya Allison, and I am from the Okanagan. I am currently completing my Bachelor of Education with an Indigenous Specialization. As a Syilx Okanagan woman, I have always felt a deep connection to my culture, and this passion led me to pursue cultural and language teaching. I strive to create spaces where our children can learn their language and embrace their identity. Understanding the importance of cultural revitalization, I want to instill pride and a strong sense of belonging in our youth. My journey into parenthood has strengthened this commitment, as I hope to raise my son to be a strong and empowered Syilx man. I am dedicated to carrying forward the legacy of strong Syilx Okanagan women and ensuring our culture and language continue to thrive for generations to come.



Kianna Richardson

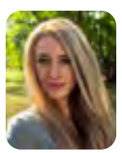
Skidegate Band Council

The University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

My Haida name is Kil U'uwans, meaning "a great voice demanding attention." I am originally from Haida Gwaii but grew up in the West Kootenays. I am a 21-year-old political science major and sociology minor at UBC Okanagan, and I previously completed a Law and Justice Liberal Arts Diploma at Selkirk College, where I discovered my passion for law.

Growing up, I volunteered often with my grandmother, mainly at the food bank, which showed me how meaningful it is to make a positive impact in people's lives. This led me to pursue a career devoted to helping others and creating change. Through my studies, I realized that law is the path where I can best do that. After completing my bachelor's degree, I plan to attend the Indigenous Law Program at UVic and begin my career as an Indigenous lawyer, using my voice to empower and support my community.



Kelsa Carmen

We Wai Kai

Vancouver Island University

Exploratory Studies

My name is Kelsa Carmen, and I am a member of the We Wai Kai Nation in British Columbia. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Health Science with a focus on Indigenous and community health. My goal is to help strengthen healthcare practices and resources for Indigenous communities.



Kierra Tailleur

Lower Similkameen Indian Band

University of British Columbia

Bachelor's Degree in Dental Science

My name is Kierra Tailleur, and I am a proud member of the Lower Similkameen Band from the Smalqmix of the Sukwnaqin-x First Nations and the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation. Motivated by a deep desire to help others and support the well-being of both individuals and Indigenous communities, I have chosen to pursue a career in dental hygiene.



Kynan Haintz

General List

Simon Fraser University

Criminology

I am a full-time Criminology student at Simon Fraser University. I've recently begun my university journey and am truly enjoying my courses. After completing my degree, I hope to pursue a career in law enforcement. As an Indigenous man, I am committed to helping create a safer and more equitable system for all people, especially Indigenous communities.



Liam Stevens

Laxgalt'sap

Langara College

Bachelor of Business Administration

My name is Liam Stevens, and I am from Laxgalts'ap, BC. My career goal is to one day own an accounting firm or an investment banking firm. I aspire to build a successful career in the finance field and eventually own or manage businesses in this sector. I am grateful to be a recipient of this award, as it will support me in continuing my college studies.
Thank you!



Madison Brown

Old Massett Village Council

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Arts

My Haida name is Xaaya Jaad, and my English name is Madison Brown. I am from the Haida Nation and grew up on Haida Gwaii. My goal is to become a lawyer and help improve the justice system for Indigenous people in Canada.



Mary Henry

Cowichan Tribes

Simon Fraser University

Indigenous Language Proficiency

My name is Mary Henry, and I was born and raised in Duncan, BC, on Vancouver Island. I am a member of the Cowichan Tribes and belong to the Rock Head Clan. I have four sisters and one brother, and I am a proud mother of three children—Devon, Zachary, and Jenna—as well as a grandmother to six. Initially unsure of my academic path in high school, my interest in the Hul'q'umi'num' language was sparked through the UCEP program at Vancouver Island University. This passion led me to Simon Fraser University's Hul'q'umi'num' Language Proficiency Program, where I completed both the certificate and diploma programs. I am now pursuing my Bachelor's degree and plan to continue on to a PhD in Hul'q'umi'num'. I am passionate about learning, teaching, and speaking my Hul'q'umi'num' language fluently, and I am committed to passing it on to future generations. I am excited to continue this journey and to collaborate with you along the way.



Mayumi Hinatsu-Willie

Dzawada'enuxw

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Arts - Social Sciences

My name is T'łat'łałą lisila'ogwa, and I am Musg̱ amak̲w-Dzawadą 'enux̲ w. I come from the small village of Gwa'yi in Kingcome Inlet. I am beginning my post-secondary education and have a strong interest in how the mind works, cultural differences, and learning languages. I am grateful for the support I am receiving, as it allows me to focus on my studies and continue gaining new skills.



Matthew Eckert

Katzie First Nation

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Education

My ancestry is Danish and Indigenous, from the Katzie Nation. I currently reside in what is now Surrey. I am studying to become an elementary school teacher at UBC. I want to use my future career to educate children as they are the key to creating a bright future. I am passionate about outdoor education and want to foster an understanding, respect, and love for the land that we live upon.



Molly Akerman

Cowichan Tribes

University of Victoria

Indigenous Studies

My name is Molly Akerman and I come from settler/Quw'utsun lineage. I am from Salt Spring Island, and now reside in Victoria where I further my education at the University of Victoria. I am pursuing an education in Indigenous Studies, with a minor in Enviromental Studies. I hope to work in social justice, maybe enviromental justice. All I want is to create postive, meaningful change in the world, and I will work hard everyday to achieve that goal.



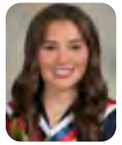
Nadine Laity

Tla'amin Nation

Simon Fraser University

Bachelor of Arts

My name is Nadine Laity, and I am from the Tla'amin Nation. I am currently studying at Simon Fraser University, working toward a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in History and Philosophy, with the goal of becoming a high school teacher.



Olivia Janela

Toosey Indian Band

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Dental Science

My name is Olivia Heather Lopes Janela. My father is Portuguese, and my mother is First Nations from British Columbia. In June 2024, I graduated with honours from Yale Secondary School. During my time at Yale, I was a student athlete in girls' volleyball and a proud member of the student leadership team.

After I graduate from UBC with a degree in Dental Science, I hope to gain as much experience in the field as I can. I am interested in oral health research and education, and I am also considering pursuing a Doctorate in Dentistry. Ultimately, I aspire to bring my skills and expertise to communities through service and entrepreneurship.

I am very thankful to everyone who has supported me along my journey, and I am excited to help create beautiful, healthy smiles for the people I will serve as a future dental health professional. Believe you can achieve!

> "After earning my Dental Science degree, I hope to gain experience, pursue advanced studies, and eventually serve others through my skills and entrepreneurship
>
> **— Olivia Heather Lopes Janela**
> **Scholarship Recipient**

NRT | Undergraduate



Preston Forgie

Squamish First Nations

University of Calgary

Global Development Studies

Hello, my name is Preston Forgie, and I am currently in my second year at the University of Calgary studying Global Development. I am Squamish Nation and was born in North Vancouver, BC. My great-grandparents were the late Chief Khot-La-Cha and Emily Rivers. I am an active, healthy, and committed student with high expectations for myself. I am family-oriented and continue to learn about my heritage as an Indigenous person.

My career goals include working in roles that help design, implement, and manage sustainable practices and construction within community projects. My degree will equip me with practical skills to understand the issues, policies, and practices related to sustainable global and community development. I hope to bring my passion for sports and healthy living to underdeveloped countries or communities and contribute to improving living conditions.



Scarlett Sparrow-Felix

Musqueam Indian Band

Capilano University

Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts

As I begin my journey in the Motion Picture Arts program at Capilano University, I am committed to exploring and celebrating my Musqueam heritage. Raised with traditions and stories passed down through my family, I hope to infuse these teachings into my filmmaking.

I aspire to amplify Indigenous voices and use film as a medium for cultural preservation and empowerment. My approach is rooted in authenticity and respect for my Musqueam lineage, and I aim to create films that educate, inspire, and spark meaningful conversations about Indigenous identity and resilience.

By building on the skills I gain at Capilano, I hope to produce work that resonates with diverse audiences while staying true to my cultural foundations. Ultimately, I plan to pursue a career that strengthens Indigenous representation in the media industry and honours the legacy of my ancestors.



Shannon Campbell

Musqueam Indian Band

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Education

My ancestral name is Tsatsomatiya. I am Stó:lō, Pelolhxw, and Nuxwsá7aq on my mother's side, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh on my father's side. I currently live in Courtenay on Vancouver Island. This year, I am finishing Year 5 of the Bachelor of Education Program at Vancouver Island University. My goal is to teach elementary education while weaving in Indigenous ways of knowing and being into the curriculum as often as possible. I am inspired to share Indigenous knowledge, histories and cultures with students in a meaningful and authentic way. I also look forward to being a part of helping many children look at their time in school as a positive experience. My journey of post-secondary education has been years in the making and I am proud of the progress I have made so far! I am motivated to contribute to my family's path of healing and to create a beautiful life for my two children. They inspire me every day to do my best and to persevere through any of life's challenges.



Shanyce Costain

T'Sou-ke Nation

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Education

My name is Shanyce Costain. I am from Sooke, BC, and I am in my second year of the BEd program at UVic. I am currently in school full-time and student teaching in Victoria, and my goal upon graduating is to become a teacher. I am extremely grateful to receive this scholarship, as it is a significant help in supporting my education.



Sherri Marino

Esk'etemc

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Sherri Marino, and I am a member of the Esk'etemc Nation. I grew up in Williams Lake and am currently in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). My goal is to practice social work through an Indigenous lens, applying the skills and teachings I have gained over the past four years. I began my educational journey at the Native Education College (NEC), where I first discovered the importance of community-based learning. Since then, I have continued to build on those foundations at NVIT, deepening my connection to my roots and strengthening my commitment to giving back to my Nation and the communities I serve. Reconnecting with my culture has shaped my approach to social work, emphasizing holistic care, cultural identity, and land-based healing. I look forward to using my lived experience and education to foster connection, support healing, and empower others. My career will focus on creating spaces that promote growth, resilience, and cultural pride, with the goal of contributing to the well-being and strength of Indigenous communities.





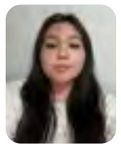
Taanggunaay Grinder

Skidegate Band Council

Capilano Univerity

Bachelor of Communication Studies

My name is Taangunaay Grinder, and I was born and raised on Haida Gwaii within the Haida Nation. I am currently in my third year of studies at Capilano University, working toward my Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. I hope to pursue a career in broadcasting once I graduate. My goal has always been to help advance accurate Indigenous representation in film and media. I strongly believe it is vital for Indigenous youth to see themselves represented in ways that are respectful, truthful, and empowering, and I am inspired by the positive impact that representation can create. I am grateful to New Relationship Trust for supporting me on this journey. Haawa.



Taise Shintah

Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Social Work

Hello, my name is Taise Shintah. I am currently attending the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, working toward my Bachelor of Social Work degree. My goal is to become a social worker in my community.





Tehya Jaeger

Metlakatla Band

Thompson Rivers University

Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

Metlakatla Village, located 5 km north of Prince Rupert, is an ancient site long home to the Metlakatla people. In Sm'algyax, Metlakatla means "saltwater pass." My career goal is to work with Victim Services in Prince Rupert to help reduce Indigenous victimization and support healing in our community.



Tessa Moore

Tahltan Band Council

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Bachelor of Science Major in Psychology

I am currently in my final year of a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at UBC, and I hope to pursue a Master of Social Work next year. My career goal is to specialize in Indigenous Social Work, where I can give back to my community in a positive and meaningful way. I am grateful for the support provided by the New Relationship Trust Education Award program. Meduh.



Zoey Collinson

Skidegate Band Council

University of British Columbia

Nitep - Bachelor's of Education

I grew up on Haida Gwaii. After completing my Education degree at the University of British Columbia, I aspire to become an elementary educator. As I continue my learning journey, my commitment to preserving and celebrating my culture will guide me toward becoming a teacher who empowers and inspires the next generation of Haida learners in my community.



Arielle Koenig

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

University of British Columbia

Master of Science in Forestry

I am currently pursuing an MSc in the Pacific Salmon Ecology and Conservation Laboratory at UBC, where my research focuses on the growth and survival of overwintering coho in floodplain habitats. Growing up in northern BC, my love for fish began at a young age while spending countless hours fishing on rivers and lakes with my father. Wanting to give back to the environment that helped raise me, I chose to study conservation and graduated from UBC in 2023 with a BSc in Natural Resources Conservation. I then began working as a Junior Fish Biologist in the Fraser Valley, where I had the opportunity to collaborate with several local First Nations. My long-term goal is to work for my own Nation, bringing together Indigenous knowledge and western science to protect and conserve wild salmon populations for future generations.



Bethany Rempel

'Namgis First Nation

Trinity Western University

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

Gilakas'la! My name is Bethany Rempel, and I am 'Namgis First Nation from Alert Bay. I am currently completing my final year of my Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. My goal upon completing my education is to support and help individuals who are experiencing mental health challenges. Although mental health and mental illness can affect anyone, I am especially passionate about working within Indigenous communities, particularly with youth, children, and families. I believe in supporting people through a holistic, community-based lens and in providing a safe space where individuals can express all parts of themselves. It is important to me that every part of a person is treated with sacredness, warmth, and acceptance.
from FNHA. Gilakasla, Kakasolas.



Brenna Brown

Old Massett Village Council

University of British Columbia

Juris Doctorate

My name is Brenna Rae Brown, and my given Haida name is Sgaan Skil Jaad, meaning "smart killer whale woman." I grew up in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island and now live in Burnaby while attending the Allard School of Law at UBC. I aspire to become a criminal lawyer, and I am currently exploring whether my path will lead me to prosecution or defence. My goal is to help address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples within the criminal justice system, challenge the ways it over-criminalizes Indigenous individuals, and advocate for a system that better understands and supports our communities.

> "As a 'Namgis woman, I believe deeply in supporting my community through a holistic, culturally grounded approach. Every individual deserves a space where they are seen, accepted, and treated with sacredness.
>
> **— Bethany Rempel, Scholarship Recipient**



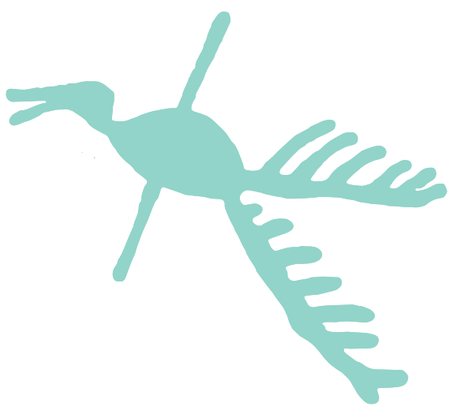
Caleb Wale

Gitanmaax Band Council

Midwestern University - Arizona

Doctor of Optometry

My name is Caleb Wale, and I am from Vanderhoof, British Columbia. I belong to the Gitxsan Nation, and although I did not grow up on reserve, I feel a deep connection to the land where my father was raised through many summers spent with family and fishing in the Hazeltons area. I've always loved the outdoors, shaped by years of working in wildfire management and spending winters skiing on and off the resort whenever I can. I am currently living in Arizona, studying in the Optometry program at Midwestern University, where I am in my third year. This program has pushed me further than ever before—expanding my understanding of human biology and helping me develop clinical skills that I look forward to bringing home to future patients in BC. I am excited to begin my clinical rotations this coming June and apply everything I've learned in real-world settings during my final year. In my career, I hope to gain experience working with complex patient cases and eventually open my own practice in British Columbia, where I can provide high-quality, culturally informed care in my community.





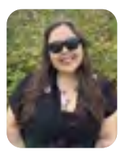
Callison Foreman

Tahltan Band Council

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Masters of Science - Data Science

I am a Tahltan woman currently attending university in Florida on a partial athletic scholarship for field lacrosse. I am in my fifth year of post-secondary studies. I completed my undergraduate degree in Aerospace Physiology last year, graduating one semester early, and I am now working toward my Master's degree in Data Science, which I expect to complete at the end of next year. I am a co-captain of my lacrosse team and have competed in world lacrosse championships, representing the Haudenosaunee Women's Team against Team USA and Team Canada. I was born in British Columbia and grew up on the West Coast, spending much of my life hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and enjoying the wilderness. I have always loved the outdoors and feel grounded when I am able to spend time in Nature. My long-term goal, once I finish my Master's degree, is to apply to medical school in British Columbia and eventually become a physician working with Indigenous youth, especially young women.



Dakota Nelson

Wei Wai Kum

University of Victoria

Joint Degree Program In Canadian Common Law And Indigenous Legal Orders (Jd/Jid)

My name is Dakota Nelson, and I am Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw from Kingcome Inlet and Tahltan from Telegraph Creek. I am grateful to receive this funding, as it will support me on my journey through the Indigenous Law program at the University of Victoria.



Desiree Louis

Stellat'en First Nation

The University of British Columbia
Master of Community and Regional Planning - ICP

I am a researcher in applied sciences specializing in Community and Regional Planning. As both an academic and someone deeply committed to community service, I ground my work in resilience and in cultivating grace while walking in two worlds. I am First Nations and Métis—Dakelh from Northern British Columbia on my mother's side, and Cree-Métis from Northern Alberta on my father's side. As an urban, away-from-home Indigenous person and an intergenerational survivor of the ongoing legacies of residential schools and the Sixties Scoop, I was raised and nurtured on the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.



Hannah Johnson

Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band

York University
Juris Doctor

Weyt-kp xwexwéytep. Hannah ren skwekwst. I am currently in my third year of the Juris Doctor program at Osgoode Hall Law School. After completing my degree, I will be articling in criminal and family law, with a focus on improving Indigenous services within Ontario. Following my articling year, I plan to return to British Columbia to work with the BC First Nations Justice Council or focus solely on criminal defence. The focus of my career—and the reason I pursued law—is to be a strong advocate for Indigenous peoples within the Canadian legal system.



Heather Harris

Stz'uminus First Nation

University of Victoria
Indigenous Governance

Hello everyone, my name is Heather Harris, and I am Coast Salish from Stz'uminus First Nation. I am currently beginning the Indigenous Governance program at the University of Victoria. I plan to use my learning and life experience to support Indigenous Nations and help create a stronger path forward for future generations. I hope that my journey in pursuing higher education will inspire others and encourage them to see the possibilities that education can offer.



Jeremiah Hyslop

Xaxli'p

University of Waterloo
Doctor Of Optometry

My name is Jeremiah Hyslop, and I am a member of the Xaxli'p Band and St'át'imc Nation. I grew up in West Kelowna, BC, and I am currently studying for my Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree at the University of Waterloo. I recently began my third year of studies and performed my first full eye exam on a real patient last week—a milestone that reinforced my excitement for this profession.

By the end of my degree, my goal is to confidently provide comprehensive eye care to every patient who walks into my future clinic. Alongside becoming an optometrist, I am committed to helping make healthcare a safer and more inclusive space for Indigenous peoples, particularly within the field of vision care.

I would like to sincerely thank NRT and all of their donors for this generous award.

NRT | Masters



Janell Jackson

Saulteau First Nation

University of Manitoba
Faculty of Law

Tansi, Boozhoo, Janhunijay. My English name is Janell Jackson, and I am the oldest daughter of Bernadine Gauthier and Bobby Jackson from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Northeastern British Columbia, within the Traditional Territory of Treaty 8. I am a registered member of Saulteau First Nations on my mother's side and a non-registered member of Halfway River First Nation on my father's side. I am also a proud mother to Emerald (17) and Nolan (15).

I aspire to obtain my law degree and become licensed to practice Corporate Law with a specialization in Aboriginal Law, using my education and lived experience to help bridge systemic gaps and strengthen relationships between Indigenous communities and legal institutions. As the first in my immediate family to earn a post-secondary degree and attend law school, and as a former teen mother and foster care child, it is a profound honour to pursue this path and work toward serving communities, contributing to the justice system, and advocating for vulnerable peoples.



Jillian Swank

Laxgalt'sap

Yorkville University
Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology

Hlgu K'aa Kw'adikskw ahl lax uhl ńeekhl, ńeekhl wam Nisga'ay. My government name is Jillian Swank, and I am a Nisga'a woman of the wolf clan from Wilp Duuk in Laxgalts'ap. I currently live in Gitlaxdax with my husband, Doug, and our mini schnauzer, Floyd. I enjoy spending time with family, watching movies and concerts, reading Archie comics, and harvesting wa'ums (devil's club) to share with loved ones.

I aspire to become a registered clinical counsellor and mental health provider. Through years of working in community, I have witnessed the lack of culturally appropriate mental health resources and BIPOC providers. Listening to stories of struggle and resilience—alongside my own journey through academia and relationships—has inspired me to help decolonize mental health care, offer empathy and allyship, and strengthen community practices. I am honoured to stand as my ancestors have, upholding my ayuuḵ, healing, and safety for generations to come. G̱ abiihl hiý!



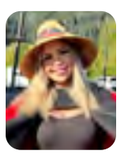
Joshua Houghton

Squamish First Nations

University of Victoria

Child, Youth, Families and Community Studies

I am a part of the Nahanee, Antone, and Cordecedo families. I am currently completing my Master's degree in Child, Youth, Families, and Community Studies at the University of Victoria while living on our beautiful territories in North Vancouver. My thesis explores the intergenerational harms caused by residential institutions, child welfare systems, and assimilation policies—harms that have contributed to the disconnect and displacement of Indigenous people from their communities. My goal is to work with the Squamish Nation Child Welfare team as a social worker or with the Membership Department to support community-driven services and meaningful community connection. Thanks to Indigenous organizations like the New Relationship Trust, I am able to continue my studies and deepen my understanding of culturally grounded frameworks and Indigenous approaches that support healing, reconnection, and the growth of the Squamish People.



Kaisha Woods

New Aiyansh

Yorkville University

Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology

My English name is Kaisha Woods, and my Nisga'a name is Ayeem-Goddim-Ganaak, meaning "kind, helping frog." I come from the House of Niisjoohl within the Nisga'a Nation. After graduating from Caledonia Senior Secondary in Terrace, I completed my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at UBC Okanagan in 2019. I have worked in the mental health and addictions field since then, which strengthened my passion for helping others. I am now completing my Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology at Yorkville University, graduating in 2025, and my goal is to open my own counselling practice starting with my Indigenous community. I am deeply grateful for this award, as it has eased financial stress and allowed me to focus on my studies while working full-time.



Kelly Tizya

Lake Babine Nation

University of Northern British Columbia

Master of Education in Counselling

My name is Kelly Tizya. I am part Nedut'en, Vuntut Gwich'in, and Scottish, and I am a registered member of the Lake Babine Nation. I currently reside in Prince George, BC, where I can access services, resources, and post-secondary education that are not available in my home community of Burns Lake. My career goal is to use my lived experiences, alongside my post-secondary education, to become a clinical counsellor. I am working toward my Master of Education in Counselling, and it is an exciting time in my life as I take concrete steps toward making my goals a reality. This journey has required me to develop a strong belief in myself while overcoming barriers and challenges that have also fostered self-awareness, healing, and clarity around the many changes needed in a society that continues to negatively impact Indigenous peoples. Formalizing my lived experiences and building the skills required to support and guide healing and wellness is how I hope to contribute to meaningful accountability-to-action within my community and beyond.

Kyley MacArthur

Tkemlups Te Secwepemc

Queen's University

Professional Master of Education

My name is Kyley MacArthur (formerly Kyley Pilkington). I am from Williams Lake, BC, and I currently live in my Indigenous community, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, in Kamloops. My career goal is to become a full-time teacher with a Master's degree in Indigenous Education. I am in my second year of the Master of Education – Indigenous Concentration program at Queen's University.

Once I complete my degree, I hope to obtain a teaching contract in the Tk'emlúps area, focusing on English First Peoples and/or Indigenous Leadership. Although our district does not currently offer an "Indigenous Academy" program, establishing one is a long-term goal of mine. I would love to collaborate with other Indigenous educators to develop programming that supports Indigenous students and enriches the learning experience for all students in our schools.



Maya Swift

?Esdilagh First Nation

University of Victoria

Masters of Indigenous Governance

My name is Maya Swift, and I am T'silqotin from the Esdilagh First Nation. I grew up in Comox on Vancouver Island and have been living in Victoria since beginning my bachelor's degree at the University of Victoria. I recently returned to school to pursue my Master's in Indigenous Governance, and I am excited to continue my learning and work with my community toward our shared governance goals.



Mike Vegh

Heiltsuk Nation

University of Victoria

MBA - Sustainable Innovation

My name is Q̓áḥístis̓a — Michael Vegh, and I am from the Heiltsuk Nation. I am a negotiator with the Heiltsuk Tribal Council, working alongside our elected and hereditary leadership to advance a self-government agreement that protects our rights, jurisdiction, and authority. I also serve as an advisor with Indigenous Clean Energy's Social Enterprise, supporting the Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative. By completing my MBA in Sustainable Innovation, I hope to gain the skills needed for future management roles that strengthen First Nations sovereignty and stewardship.



Morgan Hill

Gitga'at Nation

University of British Columbia

Masters of Education in Social Studies Education

My name is Morgan Hill, and I am a member of the Gitga'at First Nation. I am in my second year of the Master of Education in Social Studies Education program at UBC and am working toward becoming a full-time primary school teacher. This program is meaningful to me both professionally and personally. My Ya'as completed his graduate studies at UBC and dedicated his life to education and community, helping make academic spaces safer and more inclusive for Indigenous youth. I am proud to follow in his footsteps, carrying forward his commitment to uplifting future generations.



Samantha Allan

Neskonlith Indian Band

University of Victoria

Juris Doctor / Juris Indigenarum Doctor

Samantha Allan is a JD/JID student in the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Vancouver Island University and has extensive experience in project management, event coordination, and community engagement. Her research focuses on the intersection of executive leadership, sustainable finance, and Indigenous economic development. Samantha works as a Project Assistant in the Office of the President at UVic and as a Research Assistant in the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous, supporting Indigenization projects, policy development, and capital planning. She is Secwépemc te Neskonlith and British-Canadian, and has called Vancouver Island home since 2009, living with gratitude in the territories of Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.



Sonya Howard

Tsawwassen First Nation

University of Ottawa

English Juris Doctor

I am a member of Tsawwassen First Nation in British Columbia. I was born in Winnipeg, grew up in northwestern Ontario, and now live in Ottawa. My family has been impacted by the Sixties Scoop and its intergenerational effects, grounding my commitment to bringing my hands, head, and heart to the legal field and to serving Indigenous people within the criminal legal system. During my 1L year, I volunteer as a facilitator with a community-based Indigenous restorative justice and criminal diversion program, and I hope to help expand culturally safe restorative justice across the legal system. I have also worked for my First Nation on modern treaty implementation, for national Indigenous organizations on legislative development, and for a Member of Parliament—experiences that continue to shape my interest in supporting First Nations' self-determination. I trust that if I continue moving forward in a good way—and help make space for Indigenous students who follow—my path will unfold as it should.



Tarah Samuels

Old Massett Village Council

Simon Fraser University

Masters of Indigenous Leadership and Business Administration

Kalaagaa Jaad hinuu dii kyaang (my name is ambitious woman). My English name is Tarah Samuels, and I am a member of the Haida Nation from the community of Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I belong to the Kyaan.uusalii Raven clan and am a proud mother. I am enrolled in the Indigenous Leadership MBA Program at SFU and am grateful for the opportunity to pursue graduate studies while representing my family, clan, community, and nation. Alongside serving as an elected representative for my nation, I aspire to build a career in human resources and organizational development for Indigenous organizations and communities. I aim to create positive change in workplaces and continue striving for both personal professionalism and greater equity for Indigenous people. I believe deeply in setting meaningful goals and following through, not only for personal growth but for the collective good. I am very grateful for NRT's support in my education journey.



Tarra Tipton

Skidegate Band Council

University of Toronto

Master of Social Work - Indigenous Trauma And Resiliency

My name is gid'yuwans, and my English name is Tarra Tipton. I am a proud citizen of Skidegate, Haida Nation, and I am currently pursuing a Master of Social Work at the University of Toronto with a focus on Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency. My studies are shaped by my cultural heritage and my commitment to supporting healing and wellness within Indigenous communities.

Professionally, I work as an Education Manager for the Tla'amin Nation, where I help advance educational initiatives, community development, and culturally grounded programming. I also volunteer with Special Olympics as a coach, supporting athletes with diverse needs and contributing to inclusive, empowering spaces.

In my free time, I enjoy beading, reading, and spending time outdoors with my dog, Lola—activities that bring balance, creativity, and connection into my life. Through my work, studies, and community involvement, I strive to make a meaningful impact and help create pathways for strength and resiliency within Indigenous communities.



Torrie Nicholas

Splatsin First Nation

Thompson Rivers Univerisity

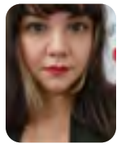
Masters of Environmental Science

My name is Torrie Nicholas, and I am a member of the Splatsin community within the Secwepemc Nation. I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Science at Thompson Rivers University, where my research examines how aquatic invasive species—such as Smallmouth Bass—affect juvenile Chinook salmon in the Okanagan. My love for salmon began at a young age and led to my first job at 13 as a salmon hatchery interpreter at the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre, a non-profit hatchery that raises Chinook and teaches youth about salmon stewardship.

After completing my Natural Resource Science degree, I worked as a Junior Fisheries Biologist for three years and then as a Stock Assessment Technician with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for another three. These roles allowed me to gain hands-on experience in fieldwork, monitoring, and data collection, and they deepened my understanding of the complex challenges salmon populations face. These experiences strengthened my passion for salmon conservation and motivated me to pursue graduate studies to further contribute to this field.

My career goal is to support sustainable fisheries management and the long-term preservation of salmon populations, ensuring that Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are centered in conservation decisions. I am committed to bringing together my scientific training and cultural teachings to help protect these vital ecosystems for future generations.

NRT | Masters



Tracy Ridler

Kitsumkalum Band

Simon Fraser University

Masters of Business Adminstration

As a proud Tsimshian from the Kitsumkalum First Nation, I am dedicated to uplifting Indigenous communities through economic reconciliation, strategic planning, and entrepreneurship. My work focuses on First Nations engagement and advocating for approaches that honour traditional ways of knowing and being, moving away from colonial models that have not served our communities. My goal is to build meaningful, respectful relationships between First Nations and our partners, ensuring Indigenous voices lead the decisions that impact our lands and Peoples.

My career aspirations include developing and implementing frameworks that advance Indigenous economic empowerment and create pathways for future generations to thrive. I am particularly committed to strengthening the capacity of Indigenous Nations to engage in true nation-to-nation relationships and to prepare for meaningful dialogue with governments and other partners. I believe deeply in the power of storytelling and cultural authenticity in all aspects of business and governance.

Through my work, I strive to challenge the status quo, advocate for transformative change, and support Indigenous entrepreneurship on a global scale. I am grateful for the support of the NRT Scholarship and Bursary programs, which help me pursue my vision of a future where Indigenous Peoples lead the way in shaping their own economic and governance systems.



Zoe Leech

T’it’q’et Administration

University of Victoria

Environmental Studies

My maternal grandmother is Inga Balogh, who was born in Hannover, Germany. My paternal grandmother is the late Donna Dickenson, born in the T’it’q’et community of the St’át’imc Nation. Due to residential school and the Sixties Scoop, I grew up outside of my community and often felt robbed of a connection to my culture, language, and family. This longing to relearn what was taken from our family is what guides and inspires my research.

I began my Master’s project in the Marine Ethnoecology Lab at UVic, where I am working with the Kitasoo Xai’xais Nation to support the development of a more holistic monitoring plan for their Marine Protected Areas. Through this work, I hope to contribute to stewardship approaches rooted in Indigenous knowledge, values, and relationships. I truly believe that Indigenous ways of interacting with the world hold immense healing potential—for our communities, our lands, and for future generations.

> “Growing up outside my community meant growing up distant from my culture, language, and family, and that absence has shaped who I am. My work is driven by a deep desire to relearn what was taken from us and reconnect with the teachings my grandparents never had the chance to pass down. Through my research, I am reclaiming that connection while supporting stewardship grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing.
>
> **— Zoe Leech, Scholarship Recipient**

NRT | Doctorate



Dustin Louis

Lower Similkameen Indian Band

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Indigenous Politics Program - Political Science Department

way̓ isk^wist skayu kn tl smaqlqmix. I am a member of the Syilx Nation from the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. I grew up in the Okanagan Valley in sn̓pinktn. Before beginning my academic journey, I held many roles across the environmental sector, working between Western institutions and revitalizing our ancestral ways of caring for the land. Some of my favourite roles involved land-based education and habitat restoration.

I am now a PhD student at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa in the Indigenous Politics program within the Department of Political Science. My work focuses on Indigenous-led conservation—from how we imagine and design research to how protected areas are recognized, experienced, and embodied. I am also interested in Indigenous sound studies and its potential to reshape how we approach bioacoustics research.



Dylan Whitney

Xaxli’p

University of Alberta

Doctor of Medicine

Dylan Whitney is a medical student in his final year at the University of Alberta, born and raised in Vancouver with roots and strong ties to the Xaxli’p First Nation. He has authored multiple research publications with the generous support of Stanford University and is an active member of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. Dylan is eager to pursue a career in family medicine and hopes to provide culturally grounded care within Indigenous communities.



Janessa Toye

Stz'uminus First Nation

Queen's University

School of Medicine MD Program

I completed my undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at the University of British Columbia in 2023. While living in Vancouver, I volunteered at BC Children's Hospital and the Canucks Children's Hospice, and I also worked in restaurant management and game entertainment for the Vancouver Canucks. I am now a first-year medical student at Queen's University. I have always known I wanted to pursue medicine, and I would not be here without the support of my parents and three siblings. I am excited to apply everything I have learned through my academic, volunteer, and work experiences to this field, and I hope to give back to the communities that helped me reach this point.



Jocelyn Benji

Tl'etinqox Government

University of British Columbia

Doctor of Medicine

My Name is Jocelyn Benji, (she/her/hers). Born and raised in the Cowichan Valley, who I am today is rooted in community values and the strength my parents instilled in me. As a member of Tl'etinqox, my journey with my Indigeneity has continued to evolve through reconnecting with cultural relationships and navigating the colonial barriers I have faced throughout my life. In deepening my ties to my community and values, I developed a strong interest in supporting Indigenous health and well-being.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science as a Combined Major in 2021, and with diligence, motivation, and the support of my family and community, I am carving a path toward improving Indigenous health as a Tl'etinqox woman. I am currently in my first year of the University of British Columbia's MD Undergraduate Program. My professional goal is to become a First Nations family physician in the Cowichan Valley, where I can meet the specific needs of my Indigenous community and provide care rooted in cultural understanding and respect.



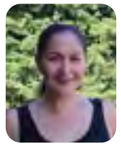
Joshua Thomas

Snuneymuxw First Nation

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics

Joshua hails from Snuneymuxw First Nation of the Coast Salish People. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Economics and a Master's degree in Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, he is now in his second year of an Economics Ph.D. at Columbia University in New York City, where he continues to deepen his academic and research experience. His research interests lie in applied labour economics, including education outcomes, family formation, and applied econometrics, with a growing focus on how these areas reflect broader social and structural inequities. Joshua hopes to become an economics professor, researching how historically influenced circumstances and economic policies shape the well-being of different groups—particularly Indigenous Peoples, other underrepresented racial groups, and those across socioeconomic status (SES) levels—and contributing knowledge that supports more equitable outcomes.



Lucy Bell

Old Masset Village Council

Simon Fraser University

Independent Interdisciplinary Studies

Lucy Bell, Sdahl K̲'awaas, is a self-proclaimed Haida nerd and a proud repatriator. With over 20 years of heritage management experience, she serves as a lead repatriation negotiator for the Haida Nation. Lucy is also a PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University, where she is researching Haida museology as an act of reconciliation. She loves learning about her kuniisii (Ancestors), bringing their teachings into today's world, and sharing her knowledge with other Haida nerds. Lucy is a proud Bill Reid Centre and Smithsonian Fellow, and her accolades include the BC Community Achievement Award, the Sterling Prize for Controversy, and the BC Museums Association's Distinguished Service Award. After Lucy becomes Dr. Bell, she plans to continue supporting Haida repatriation and cultural revitalization, while contributing to Indigenous museology training across British Columbia.



Marion Erickson

Nak'azdli Whut'en Band

University of Northern British Columbia

Ph.D. in Health Sciences

My name is Marion Erickson, and I am a Dakelh woman from Nak'azdli. My work is deeply rooted in my culture and community, where I am leading efforts to revitalize Dakelh midwifery practices. My career goals center on restoring traditional midwifery knowledge, empowering Indigenous women, and improving maternal health services in rural and Indigenous communities. I am committed to ensuring that future generations receive culturally safe, holistic, and community-driven care. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the New Relationship Trust and its sponsors for their generous support. Your contributions are vital to strengthening Indigenous communities, preserving cultural knowledge, and supporting meaningful, long-term change. Snachaliya.

> "Revitalizing Dakelh midwifery is not just about reclaiming knowledge—it's about restoring our strength as Indigenous women and ensuring future generations receive the culturally grounded care our ancestors intended.
>
> **— Marion Erickson, Scholarship Recipient**



Nicole Nohr Dawydiuk

Spuzzum First Nation

University of British Columbia

Ph.D. in Sociology

My name is Nicole Dawydiuk, and I am a member of Spuzzum First Nation. I am currently in my first year of my PhD in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. My passion and research interests focus on Indigenous Peoples' health and access to healthcare. My career goal is to continue conducting research that addresses the health priorities of Indigenous communities, centers Indigenous knowledge, and supports culturally safe approaches to care.

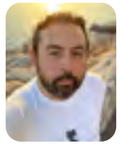
NRT | Doctorate



Sophia Speier
Dzawada'enuxw

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

Gilakas'la. My traditional name is Kik'si-salas, and I am Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw from Kingcome Inlet, part of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation. I am a second-year student in the Island Medical Program through UBC's Doctor of Medicine. My long-term goal is to become a family physician serving remote Indigenous communities across northern Vancouver Island, while also engaging in community-based research and advocacy that supports Indigenous self-determination in healthcare. My dream is to help ensure that Indigenous people can access excellent, culturally safe care that honours traditional healing practices—whether through direct patient care, connecting community members with resources, or advocating for systemic change within the healthcare system.



Troy Sebastian
ʔaq̓am

University of Victoria
Department Of Writing

Troy Sebastian | nupqu ʔak·ɬam is a writer from the Ktunaxa community of ʔaq̓am. He is a doctoral candidate and Vanier Scholar in the Department of Writing at the University of Victoria. Troy previously worked for the Ktunaxa Nation in their successful efforts to protect Qat'muk, a sacred grizzly bear habitat. His short fiction, memoir, poetry, and essays have been published widely in Canada, including in Brick, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, The Walrus, The Malahat Review, Event, Prairie Fire, Quill & Quire, and The New Quarterly. He is represented by Rachel Letofsky at CookeMcDermid. His debut collection of short stories, Fine Particulate Matter, will be published by McClelland & Stewart in Canada and Pantheon in the United States.



Todd Nelson
Spuzzum First Nation

University of British Columbia
Doctor of Medicine

My name is Todd Nelson, and I am Nlaka'pamux from Spuzzum First Nation. I am currently in my second year of medical school at UBC, working toward becoming a physician who can provide care for our people and communities. I also hope to support the next generation of Indigenous physicians as part of my future work. I am deeply grateful for this award and will use it to help pursue my hopes and dreams. I raise my hands to NRT for their continued support.



Zandria Sarrazin
Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Ph.D. in English

I am a first-year PhD student at the University of British Columbia. I am from Vancouver, BC, and I am a xʷməθkwəy̓əm woman working to (re)connect with my community and culture. My research focuses on surfacing the neglected Indigenous archive and examining contemporary Indigenous writers who imagine decolonial futures. My long-term goal is to become a researcher and professor, using my education to give back to my community now and in the years to come.

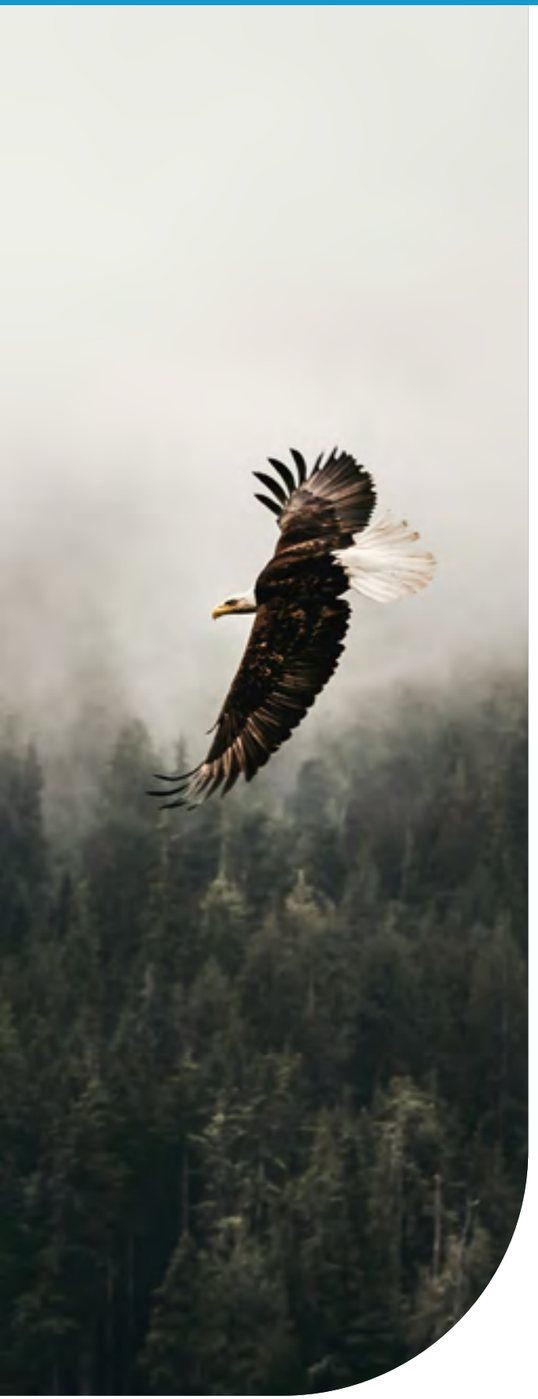


"I am a researcher in applied sciences specializing in Community and Regional Planning. As an academic dedicated to community service, my life and work are shaped by resilience and by walking in two worlds.

Desiree Louis
NRT Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 82

OUR PARTNERS | MINISTRY OF HEALTH | NURSING



The Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost effective and timely health services are available for all people in B.C.

The Office of Indigenous Health (the Office) aims to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples in B.C. The Office provides an Indigenous lens to strategic priorities, legislation, policy and program development in the Ministry of Health, as well as other ministries where appropriate.

The B.C. Government Ministry of Health has partnered with New Relationship Trust to offer Nursing bursaries to Indigenous nursing students studying in B.C.

Ministry of Health | Nursing Scholarship and Bursary



Alexander Bridgeman
Métis Nation of BC

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Hi everyone, my name is Alexander Julien Bridgeman. I was born and raised in Surrey, BC, where my family settled in the late 1960s and where I still reside today. I hope to work on a palliative care unit and, afterward, find the area where I am most needed and valued as a unique member of the nursing team.



Angie Seeber
Simpcw First Nations

University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Angie Seeber, and I am a proud member of the Simpcw First Nation. I grew up in Lumby, BC, where I enjoy hiking and long-distance running, and in my free time I love exploring the beautiful mountains and lakes of the Okanagan Valley. I am currently in my second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

After completing my degree, I hope to work in acute care and eventually pursue a master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. My goal is to help reduce the health inequities faced by many Indigenous people and to open a practice that supports at-risk and Indigenous clients. I am very grateful to the NRT for their generous contribution to my education and future career in health care.



Ashley Stephenson
Carry the kettle Nakoda Nation

University of British Colombia
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My English name is Ashley. I am from Cega'kin First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory, Saskatchewan. I grew up in Regina and spent most of my life there before moving to BC at 25. I have always had a passion for health and wellness and love being able to help people.

I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Nursing Science program. After I graduate, I plan to work in the emergency department for a few years and then bring my experience to remote First Nation communities. I am grateful for the opportunity to help bridge the gap between Indigenous people and the healthcare system by supporting our people in feeling safe and comfortable when accessing care.



Cailean Switzer
Métis Nation of BC

Camosun College
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Cailean Switzer, and I am a Métis/Cree nursing student attending Camosun College. I am from Prince George, BC, and my goal is to become an emergency room nurse and eventually a travel nurse to support at-risk and Indigenous communities, which often overlap. Growing up very underprivileged brought many challenges for me and my family, and pursuing post-secondary education has not always felt accessible. With the support of organizations like NRT, this journey toward becoming a healthcare professional is possible for me, and I am deeply grateful.



Chanelle Meeres

Kwakiutl First Nation

North Island College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am a second-year nursing student at NIC with two more years before I become a registered nurse. I was born and raised in Courtenay, and although I now live in Campbell River, I commute to Courtenay five days a week—about a 40-minute drive each way—for my classes. After finishing school, I hope to work with children and babies, either in maternity care at the hospital or in community health. With such a demanding school schedule, I don't have much free time and am unable to work as much, so receiving a bursary helps tremendously in getting through the school year. It also allows me to continue curling twice a week, which helps me stay active and gives me a healthy break from school. I am very grateful for this bursary and for all the donors who make it possible.



Chelcie Bagan

Flying Dust First Nation

Northern Lights College

Access To Practical Nursing

My name is Chelcie Bagan, and I am currently studying in the Access to Practical Nursing program. My passion lies in community advocacy, especially in the mental health and addictions sector, and I plan to continue working in this field after completing my nursing program.

My dedication comes from personal experience and from working with vulnerable populations in both healthcare and outreach settings. I hope to combine my nursing education with my advocacy work to make a meaningful difference in the community—supporting those who often go unheard and advocating for accessible, compassionate healthcare.



Charlie Ray Christie

Sucker Creek First Nation

University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Charlie, and I am a member of Sucker Creek First Nation, currently living in the Okanagan. I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to become a Registered Nurse. As a current LPN, I realized there is so much more to learn and many more opportunities to support people as an RN. My goal is to use this education to work in rural communities and help improve access to community health care closer to home. I don't expect to change the world, but I hope I can make it a little better for the people I serve.



Cheyenne Russ

Old Masset Village Council

Vancouver Island University

Practical Nursing Diploma

My name is Cheyenne Russ, and I'm from Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I am currently pursuing a nursing career through Vancouver Island University. Coming from a remarkable and remote community that has produced many inspirational individuals, my goal is to follow in their footsteps and become a source of inspiration for future generations pursuing higher education.

Ministry of Health| Nursing Scholarship and Bursary



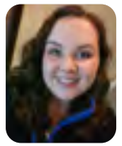
Christina Tsuil-Menak

Bonaparte First Nation

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Christina Tsuil-menak. I am of mixed ancestry. Maternally, I am of Secwepemc (St'uxwtéws) and settler heritage and paternally, I am of Metis and settler heritage. I am a single mother of two children, and our family includes two cats. I am currently in my fourth year of the nursing program at the University of Victoria, and have a passion for working with and building relationships with families and communities. I am grateful for the generosity and support of the New Relationship Trust (NRT) Nursing Awards as I would not be successful without it!



Christina Harry

Homalco First Nation

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Christina Harry, and I am from the Homalco First Nation in Campbell River. I currently live in Nanaimo, where I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Vancouver Island University. Once I become a registered nurse, I hope to specialize in perinatal nursing. My passion for this area began during a clinical placement on the perinatal unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital—after my first day, I knew this was where I wanted to work. The bursary I am receiving from NRT will allow me to focus more fully on my studies by easing financial stress, giving me more time to excel both in class and in my clinical placements. I am deeply grateful to NRT for this support and for helping me continue to thrive in my nursing journey.



Cindy Fletcher

Métis Nation of BC

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Cindy Fletcher, and I am a 48-year-old mother of four, born and raised in Duncan, BC. I am Métis on my paternal side, with ancestral ties to the Red River Settlement in Manitoba, and my maternal ancestry is English and German. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing, with future plans to become a Nurse Practitioner and work with rural Indigenous communities, focusing on pediatrics.



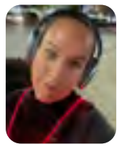
Crystal Point

Musqueam Indian Band

University of British Columbia

Master of Nursing

My name is Crystal, and I am Coast Salish from the Point family of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam). I have worked in health care for nearly 20 years in various roles and have been a Registered Nurse for 10 years. I am currently completing my Master of Nursing and was recently accepted into the first cohort of the Indigenous Graduate Education in Nursing Pathway, which I am honoured to join. My goal is to move into a leadership role where I can influence policy and advocate for Indigenous health across the province. I am passionate about Cultural Safety and Humility and hope to help strengthen health care education for future providers. I also want to support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous professionals in health care, as I believe this is key to improving trust, equity, and long-term health outcomes for Indigenous communities.



Crystal Isaac

Okanagan Indian Band

University of Victoria

Master of Public Health

My name is Crystal Isaac, I currently reside in Vancouver with my husband, but my ancestral homeland is in the Okanagan. I'm a full time student at the University of Victoria where I'm working towards a Masters degree in Public Health. My goal is to write policy's that provide better and unbiased access to healthcare for Indigenous communities.



Desiree Bowes

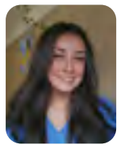
Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation

Northern Lights College

Access To Practical Nursing

My name is Desiree, and I'm from Northern BC. After nine years of experience as a Health Care Assistant, I am now pursuing my goal of becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse. My dedication to improving health care in my community drives me, and I am especially passionate about supporting mental health. I hope to contribute to meaningful change within our health care system.

> Caring for others comes naturally to me, and becoming a nurse feels like the path my Ada set in motion long ago. I hope to advocate for my community and bring compassionate care to healthcare facilities across Vancouver Island.
>
> **— Elissa Fred-Cranmer, Bursary Recipient**



Elena Sutherland Tobin

Lake Babine Nation

College of New Caledonia

Licensed Practical Nursing

My name is Elena Sutherland Tobin, and I am a second-year nursing student from Prince George, BC, and an Indigenous woman committed to advancing in the healthcare field. I am currently in my final year at CNC and plan to pursue a Master's in Nursing to further my knowledge and impact. I look forward to improving patient care by contributing both my cultural perspective and professional expertise to the nursing profession. I am deeply grateful for the support I have received along the way, including the financial assistance from organizations like this one. Your generosity has been instrumental in helping me reach my goals, and I truly could not have done it without you.



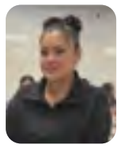
Elissa Fred-Cranmer

Tseshaht First Nation

North Island College

Practical Nursing Diploma

My name is Elissa Fred-Cranmer. I am a Nuu-Chah-Nulth woman from the Tseshaht First Nation, with strong paternal ties to the Kwakwaka'wakw people. I have worked in the healthcare field as a Health Care Assistant since 2018 and am excited to advance my career by completing my Practical Nursing diploma. As a nurse, I hope to advocate for people in my community and in healthcare facilities across Vancouver Island. I have always felt that caregiving would lead me to nursing—my Ada (Grandmother) Lily inspired me to pursue this path long ago. Caring for others comes naturally to me, and I am grateful and eager to continue this journey.



Gene Sagalon

Nakazdli Whuten Band

College of New Caledonia

Licensed Practical Nursing

My name is Gene Sagalon, and I am Dakelh from Nak'azdli in Fort St. James. I am currently taking the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Diploma program at CNC in Prince George. I hope to use my training to work in the mental health and addictions field. I also have a beautiful daughter named Haven, who inspired my educational journey toward becoming a nurse.



Haley Leech

T'it'q'et

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Haley Leech. I am from the T'it'q'et Tribe and part of the St'át'imc Nation. I currently live in Nanaimo, B.C., where I attend Vancouver Island University. I am taking my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and am now in my fourth and final year. My long-term goals are to become a nurse practitioner and work with Indigenous communities, focusing on improving access to safe and culturally informed care. I lost my father at the end of my second year in the program, and during that time I almost dropped out. Through grief and adversity, I pushed through and chose to continue this journey for him. He lost his battle to generational trauma and did not seek the care he needed because of how the healthcare system treated him. His experience is a major part of why I am so committed to this profession. I plan to make a difference where it is most needed and help ensure that other Indigenous people feel safe, respected, and supported when accessing care.



Ivy-Rose Fowler

Gitsegukla Indian Band

Coast Mountain College

Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program

My name is Ivy-Rose Fowler. I am from Gitsegukla and currently living in Terrace, B.C. I was an addict for much of my life, but I got clean and sober in 2020, and I have been upgrading my education ever since. I earned my Grade 12/Adult Dogwood diploma and am now in my first year of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

I have three children, I am raising my niece, and I am also pregnant. My goal is to lead by example and show that people can change their lives for the better, just as I have. I want to support my community and surrounding areas with care, compassion, and understanding. I hope that becoming a nurse will inspire others to pursue healing, education, and new opportunities.



Jasmine Montgomery Reid

Heiltsuk Nation

Okanagan College

LPN Orthopaedic Certificate

My name is Jasmine Montgomery Reid, and I am proud to be part of both the Syilx Nation and the Heiltsuk Nation. I carry the traditional Syilx name White Feather Woman and the Heiltsuk name Wikv. I am currently working as an LPN and have been accepted into an emergency nursing program.



Jessica Kapalka

Nadleh Whut'en Band

Camosun College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Jessica Kapalka, and I am from Victoria, BC. I am a third-year nursing student at Camosun College. I have always wanted to be part of the medical field, and I am very grateful for this opportunity and for the chance to help others in any way I can.



Jordan Kapalka

Nadleh Whut'en Band

Camosun College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Jordan Kapalka, and I am a proud member of the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. I am currently in my third year of nursing at Camosun College and the University of Victoria. I plan to pursue a career as a registered nurse with hopes of specializing in perinatal or pediatric nursing.

I am deeply grateful for the support I have received from my family and community throughout my post-secondary journey. I am also incredibly thankful for the generosity of the NRT, as this award will greatly help me continue working toward my goal of becoming a registered nurse. I aspire to play a positive role in the healing and well-being of my community.



Kathleen Lounsbury

Namgis First Nation

Trinity Western University

Ph.D. in Nursing

Gilakas'la. My traditional name is 'Tsa'tsagila, from the Kwakwak'awakw traditions, and my English name is Kathleen Lounsbury. I am from the 'Namgis First Nation, located in 'Yalis (Alert Bay, BC). I am currently a PhD student in the Philosophy of Nursing program at Trinity Western University, where my research focuses on Indigenous Birthing Sovereignty.

I am passionate about being with my people—learning our language, traditions, and customs, especially those surrounding birthing. I believe Indigenous birthing families deserve culturally grounded support and the freedom to choose their own birthing environments. Living in the Lower Mainland, I have heard many stories from Indigenous birthing families, and I hope to one day turn this work into a film to amplify their voices.

I graduated from my BScN program in 2002 and spent many years nursing within Indigenous communities, where I witnessed significant issues in Indigenous health that need urgent attention. This inspired me to pursue graduate education, and along the way I have met many like-minded people who fill me with hope for culturally informed, equitable care for Indigenous Peoples. I envision meaningful change not only in BC and Canada, but across the world—because so much is possible when Indigenous knowledge leads the way.



Katelyn Korpan

Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Hello, my name is Katelyn Korpan. I am from the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, and I am currently entering my third year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Thompson Rivers University. After completing my degree, I hope to pursue a career working with higher-acuity patients, ideally in an intensive care unit (ICU) setting.



Katie Creyke

Tahltan Band Council

University of Northern British Columbia

Northern Baccalaureate Nursing

I am from the Tahltan and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations. This scholarship is making it possible for me to continue my studies in rural nursing specialty education. Once I complete my program, I will have the training needed to work in rural First Nation communities as a remote certified RN. I am very excited about this career path and grateful for the opportunity to continue my studies.



Kayla Plows

We Wai Kai Nation

University of Victoria

Therapeutic Recreation

I am a 29-year-old Master of Family Nurse Practitioner student at the University of Victoria. I completed my BScN in 2020 and have since gained valuable experience in acute pediatric, surgical, and virtual clinic settings. These roles strengthened my clinical foundation and confirmed my passion for providing accessible, patient-centered care. As a lifelong member of the We Wai Kai First Nations community, I am deeply committed to improving healthcare access and reducing health disparities in Indigenous communities. The UVic program, which aligns with the BCCNM's rigorous standards, is preparing me to assess, diagnose, inform, treat, and support patients effectively. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop advanced skills that will allow me to serve my community with compassion and cultural competency. After graduation, I hope to work with the First Nations Health Authority and/or the We Wai Kai First Nation to better understand how to care for Indigenous communities and apply my clinical skills to make a meaningful impact. As a lifelong resident of Prince George, I have learned about the histories of many First Nations communities and witnessed their ongoing efforts toward a brighter future—experiences that continue to inspire my goals as a healthcare provider. I am excited to explore the diverse opportunities that await me as a nurse practitioner and to contribute to the well-being of the communities I will have the honor to serve.



Kelsey Brown

Old Masset Village Council

Coast Mountain College

Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program

Hello! My name is Kelsey Brown. I am a first-year nursing student at Coast Mountain College. My family is from Old Massett, and I grew up in Prince Rupert. My goal is to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and give back to my community and surrounding communities. Ultimately, I hope to become a nurse specializing in mental health and addictions.



Khloe Lambert

Witset First Nation

University of Northern British Columbia
Northern Baccalaureate Nursing Program

I am Wet'suwet'en and belong to the Laksilyu clan of Tsee K'al K'e Yex; however, I was born and raised in Prince George by my single mother and older sister. In my second year of my BHSc, I realized I wanted a career aligned with my values and one that allowed me to support others meaningfully. Nursing offered exactly that, and pursuing it has been one of the best decisions I've made. I am entering my final year, and after graduation I plan to work in acute or emergency care in both rural and urban areas of Northern BC. Because the region has a large Indigenous population, I hope to stay to advocate for Indigenous health and promote cultural safety. I am committed to supporting Indigenous patients and contributing to more equitable, culturally informed care.

Kyla Elliott

Tsartlip First Nation

University of Victoria
Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing

My name is Kyla Elliott, and I am a proud member of the Tsartlip First Nation and a fourth-year nursing student at the University of Victoria. My long-term goal is to become a nurse practitioner. After graduation, I plan to specialize in foot care to support the elders in my community while also gaining experience as an emergency or ICU nurse. Ultimately, I hope to serve and improve Indigenous health through my work in healthcare, making a meaningful impact in my community and beyond.



Lauren Odobas

Métis Nation of BC

University of Victoria
Master of Nursing - Indigenous Wellness

I am grateful for opportunities that empower me to continue my MN. I belong to the Métis Nation of BC, and I was raised by matriarchs on my mother's side from Treaty 1 Territory. I hope that becoming a researcher will allow me to contribute to stronger public health policies for Indigenous peoples.



Lyanne Gaspard

Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation

Thompson Rivers University
Master of Nursing

Weyt-kp (Hello), my name is Lyanne Gaspard. My father is from Stswecem'c Xget'tem (Canoe Creek), and my mother is Cree from Treaty 8 Territory. I was born and raised on the Traditional Unceded Territory of the Lheidli T'enneh people, also known as Prince George, BC. I completed my BScN at UNBC in 2007 and spent the next 18 years raising my son and working on the front lines in mental health and substance use nursing care.

In 2022–2023, I completed Indigenous Public Health courses at UBC's Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, where I learned about data sovereignty and self-governance. This experience ignited a deep passion for supporting my people's goals of self-determination. Kukwste'c-kucw (Thank you).

Ministry of Health| Nursing Scholarship and Bursary



Lyndy Frieson

Ulkatcho Indian Band

Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Ms. Lyndy Frieson, and I am a proud member of Ulkatcho Band from Anahim Lake, British Columbia. Since graduating in 2017 with my LPN, I have worked as both a Homecare Nurse and a Health Director, focusing on improving health services for First Nations communities. Currently, I am a full-time student pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) and an Indigenous Health Leadership Diploma. My long-term goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner, where I can continue to advocate for better access and culturally sensitive care. I am passionate about incorporating traditional values, community-based solutions, and Lateral Kindness practices into the work I do, helping to improve the social determinants of health for our people. Outside of persuring a higher eduaction, my hobbies include family time, riding horses, gardening, hiking, and enjoying my home. Receiving this bursary will support my journey to further my education and achieve my goal of delivering higher-quality care to Indigenous communities in need.



Mariah Gaebel

Tla'amin Nation

Vancouver Island University
Practical Nursing

My name is Mariah, and I'm from Powell River, BC, where I have lived all my life. My career goal is to become a great nurse and to continue learning throughout my career.



Michelle Carlin

Métis Nation of BC

Stenberg College
Psychiatric Nursing Diploma

Wetyk (Hello). I acknowledge that I live on the territory of the Secwepemc Nation, specifically the territories of the Adams Lake, Neskonlith, and Little Shuswap Lake Peoples. I am of Cree descent, with ancestors from the Michel First Nation. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse and have witnessed firsthand the urgent need for mental health nurses in our healthcare system.

I have raised four wonderful children and live in the community of Chase, where I have seen significant suffering and loss in our village and surrounding First Nations. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to providing compassionate, culturally informed mental health care. I am now studying to become a Registered Psychiatric Nurse, with a focus on addiction medicine. This bursary is deeply appreciated and will help me move toward my goals, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies. I plan to work for one of the local First Nations communities once I complete my program.

Kukstemc (Thank you).



Monisha Bigfoot

Prophet River First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

My name is Monisha Bigfoot, and I am a Dane Tsaa woman from Prophet River First Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurse program in Kamloops as I work toward my goal of building a meaningful career in healthcare.



Nadine Shaw

Wuikinuxv First Nation

University of Victoria
Master of Nursing

My name is Nadine Shaw, and I come from the Wuikinuxv Nation and Kla-hoose Nation. My mother is Jeannie Hanuse, and my father is Richard Shaw. I am a proud Abukv to my 10-month-old daughter, Wanai. As a first-time mother, I feel deep gratitude for the opportunity to raise a beautiful being and to honour each stage of her unique development. Becoming a mother has brought me so much joy.

I am a registered nurse, and for over six years my work has focused on community care within remote First Nations. I am most passionate about health equity, as well as the importance of human connection and relationships in care. My experiences in community nursing have shown me how deeply systemic change is needed, especially in rural and remote Nations. These lessons continue to guide my purpose and strengthen my commitment to this work. I am honoured to receive this award, which will ease the financial pressures of graduate school and support me in continuing my education.

After completing graduate school, my goal is to contribute to the Indigenization and decolonization of health care policies and systems in ways that are meaningful, impactful, and practical for First Nations—both in my own community and across Turtle Island. This educational path will positively shape both my life and my daughter's, and I look forward to the journey and all it will bring.

Wualas Gianakaci — Thank you very much!



Natasha Green

Kispiox Band Council

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Access To Practical Nursing

I am from the Gitxsan Nation in the Hazelton area. I have lived in Kamloops since 2007. I've worked as a care aide since 2014 and always wanted to become a nurse, but as a single mom with limited support, it felt overwhelming. In October 2023, I finally found the courage to pursue this goal. The support I've received through bursaries has eased financial stress, helping me focus on school without overworking or going into debt. I'm grateful to provide for my 13-year-old son and myself while working toward this dream.

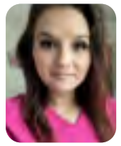


Nicole Jules

Adams Lake Indian Band

University of British Columbia
Master of Public Health

Weyktp, I am Secwepemc and Nla-ka'pamux, and I grew up in Cstelnec (Adams Lake). I completed my Bachelor of Human Kinetics in 2022 and began my public health career at the First Nations Health Authority, working on cultural safety, humility, and women's health projects. I now work with the BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer on the Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Indigenous-Specific Racism Project, helping create safer, more trustworthy health systems for Indigenous peoples. I recently began my Master of Public Health at UBC and hope to become a Medical Health Officer. My goal is to create meaningful change in Indigenous public health—for my family, my community, and to show the next generation anything is possible. I am grateful for this scholarship, which allows me to focus more fully on my studies.



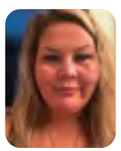
Nikkia Rideout-Olsen

Oromocto First Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

I am a 30-year-old Indigenous mother of three studying practical nursing. My goal is to work in outreach and harm reduction, supporting underserved populations—including Indigenous communities and people facing substance use challenges. I am passionate about making healthcare accessible, compassionate, and non-judgmental for those who need it most. I aim to provide mobile harm reduction services, offering education on chronic illness management, overdose prevention, and safer drug use. I also hope to assist with medication management, minor wound care, transportation to medical services, and specialized meal support for those with dietary needs.

This bursary will help me move forward in becoming a nurse who serves the community with empathy and respect. As a dedicated student with a strong academic record, I am committed to excelling in my studies and giving back through meaningful work in harm reduction and outreach. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.



Opal Collingridge

Tsuut'ina Nation

Sprott Shaw College
Practical Nursing

My name is Opal Collingridge, and I am the oldest of seven siblings. As the eldest, I often stepped into a caregiving role, supporting and caring for my younger siblings when my mother was unable to do so. I later became a single mother to four children of my own and also raised my three youngest sisters. With seven children in my care, I had to put my career goals on hold and work multiple jobs to support my family.

Now that my children are older and only my 11- and 13-year-olds are still at home, I am finally able to focus on my longtime goal of becoming a nurse. I plan to begin my career as an LPN and then continue on to become a Registered Nurse—something I have dreamed of since I was a little girl. I currently live in Maple Ridge, BC, and despite experiencing trauma and loss throughout my life, I have never let it hold me back.



Rebekah Mcleod

Métis Nation of BC

British Columbia Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am from North Delta, British Columbia. I am currently in my first year of nursing school and I am dedicated to pursuing a career in this field. My strong sense of compassion and empathy towards others has fueled my passion for nursing. I aspire to become a strong advocate for change within the health-care system, especially in addressing the challenges Indigenous people face when seeking care. I believe that through travel nursing, I can connect with people on a personal level, listen to their stories, and bring awareness to the systemic issues that still exist, all while helping to create a more equitable future. Receiving this grant allows me to continue pursuing my dreams and focus on my studies without the financial burden, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. This support brings me one step closer to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



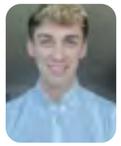
Riley Sutton

T'sou-ke Nation

Camosun College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Hello, I am TA'LIAIS Riley Sutton, and I am from T'Sou-ke Nation. I am a third-year nursing student and will be transferring to UVic in January, where I plan to graduate in 2026 as a Registered Nurse. After completing my degree, I hope to become a travel nurse and specialize in Indigenous health and pediatrics.



Russell Ripper

Tahltan Band Council

Langara College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am a proud Tahltan student from Terrace, BC. I am currently in my third year of university, working toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) after completing my first-year pre-nursing courses. My passion for healthcare began at a young age, and my interest in nursing grew as I learned more about the importance of trauma-informed care and the vital role nurses play in supporting patients. A major inspiration in my journey is my grandmother, who was born and raised in Telegraph Creek. She trained at St. Paul's Hospital and worked as a nurse at Miller Bay Indian Hospital, dedicating her life to caring for others. Her commitment to the health and well-being of our community has deeply shaped my own goals. My career aspiration is to become a registered nurse, following in her footsteps. I hope to help close the gaps in healthcare that Indigenous people continue to face and to advocate for trauma-informed care that respects and honors the cultural and historical experiences of every client.



Sandy Wright

Gitanmaax Band Council

Stenberg College

Psychiatric Nursing Diploma

My ancestral name is Bi Niks, from the house of Skii Km Lax Ha, and my government name is Sandy Wright. I am a member of the Tsetsaut Gitxsan Nation. My dream is to work for our people, providing connection, support, and culturally grounded care for their mental health needs.



Sarah Mittelsteadt

Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation

Vancouver Island University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am the middle child of three from Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation in Manitoba. I grew up across the prairies and in Minnesota, and was fortunate to spend my youth near Tla'amin Nation on the BC Sunshine Coast. I am a first-generation learner, and I'm proud to be supported by my family and community as I pursue a career in nursing. It has been challenging to be the first to take these steps, but with courage and strength, my future feels bright and filled with hope.

> My grandmother's work as a nurse has always guided me. I hope to follow in her footsteps by helping close the healthcare gaps our people face and advocating for trauma-informed, culturally respectful care.
>
> **— Russell Ripper, Bursary Recipient**

Ministry of Health| Nursing Scholarship and Bursary



Sean Lattie

Gitanmaax Band Council

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

My name is Sean Lattie, and my Gitxsan name is Maxhla Didaat, which is the name of one of our traditional territories. I am a member of the Lax Gibuu (Wolf) clan and belong to Wilp (House) Gwininitxw. My mother is Chrystal Lattie, Hanak'm galii aks; my grandmother is Yvonne Lattie, Gwininitxw; and my grandfather is Donald Lattie Sr. My father is Newton Ekhorutomwen, and my paternal grandparents are Anne Ekhorutomwen and Chief David Ada Ekhorutomwen of the Benin Kingdom in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to become a Cardiothoracic Surgeon, inspired by witnessing family members struggle with heart health. I am currently in my first year at UBCO, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to gain experience in the healthcare field while continuing my academic journey. I enjoy spending time on our traditional territory and learning from my grandma and ye'e (grandpa), volunteer coaching when I can, and playing rugby for the UBCO Heat rugby team.



Shyanna Sawyer

Skidegate Band Council

University of Victoria

Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner

Naa Nang GidGa han.nuu dii kiiGa ga. My name is Shyanna Sawyer. Xaayda Gwaay.yaay sda uu hll íijii—I am from Haida Gwaii. Naa 'Yuuwans XaaydaGa Gidins sda ah hll íijii—I come from the Naa 'Yuuwans Xaayda-Ga (Big House People) Eagle Clan. Id Gan Nang K'uulas uu Wiiganads han kiiGa ga—my Chief is Sidney Gordon Crosby. I am a registered nurse (RN) currently studying in the University of Victoria's Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner program. For the past three years, I have been living and working on Haida Gwaii, and I am now pursuing this advanced training with the hope of returning home to serve my community of Skidegate as a Nurse Practitioner. I am incredibly grateful for the support of the New Relationship Trust, the Ministry of Health, and the Province of British Columbia. Opportunities like this make it possible for Indigenous students to focus, thrive, and shine in academic spaces. I look forward to the next two years of studying, learning, and growing my practice. Háw'aa, háw'aa, háw'aa.

Ministry of Health | Nursing Scholarship and Bursary



Sophia Chillihitzia

Upper Nicola Indian Band

University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am from Merritt, BC, proudly belonging to the Upper Nicola Indian Band. I embrace my Syilx Okanagan heritage from my father's side and my Nlaka'pamux (Thompson) ancestry from my mother's side. I am currently in my third year of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and after gaining experience, I plan to pursue a Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner program.My goal is to work within my community, especially for my band, and to provide care for those who may feel hesitant to seek treatment in hospital settings due to past trauma. I hope to help create a safe, trusted, and culturally grounded healthcare experience for our people.

Treanna Delorme

Cowessess First Nation

University of Victoria

Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner

My name is Treanna Delorme, and my spirit name is Red Flower Woman, given to me by a Lakota medicine man on my territory at Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. I have been a registered nurse for 11 years, working in cardiac care and now as a community health nurse for Westbank First Nation. I have recently begun my journey toward becoming a nurse practitioner through the University of Victoria. My dream is to open a family-centered treatment centre that weaves together traditional medicine and Western medicine, creating a holistic and culturally grounded healing space for our people.



Victoria Dick

Tseshaht First Nation

University of Victoria

Ph.D. in Nursing

I am a ć išaaʔatḥ First Nation woman, mother, and nurse. I currently work in community health and have also been involved in research. Throughout my career, I have been guided by incredible nurse matriarchs whose mentorship continues to shape my path in Indigenous health, equity, research, and education.

With my PhD, I hope to advance Indigenous sovereignty in healthcare, address anti-Indigenous racism, and integrate Nuu-chah-nulth knowledge into nursing curricula to support culturally relevant and safe care. I am passionate about helping grow our own nurses within Indigenous communities. It is essential to work with Nations in a relational way—building community capacity, supporting mentorship, and ensuring long-term sustainability.



Violeta Paz-Greenland

Gwich'in Tribal Council

Camosun College

Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing

My name is Violeta Paz-Greenland, and I was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. I feel humbled and grateful to be receiving this generous grant. My nursing goals include working in acute care and the ICU, with the long-term aspiration of becoming a nurse practitioner. I am particularly interested in specializing in Indigenous health and well-being, with a focus on increasing healthcare capacity within Indigenous communities. Mahsi Cho!



> My goal is to help strengthen healthcare for Indigenous communities by leading with cultural sensitivity, traditional values, and Lateral Kindness. This bursary supports my journey to provide the high-quality care our people deserve.
>
> **Lyndy Frieson**
> NRT Nursing Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 91



(ᔦᑫ+ᐅᐣᐢᓭᑫᑕᑦ ᗧᑫᐃ+) currently attends the University of British Columbia as a teacher candidate within NITEP (The Indigenous Teacher Education Program). Clarence works full-time with Lake Babine Nation as a Language Revitalization technician and works closely with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to develop the Nedut'en First Voices platform. Clarence spent years working on his tech resume until he joined a language proficiency program hosted by his nation, which led to his pursuing his teaching degree. Clarence's long-term goal is to bridge the technology gap within his nation and to help revitalize his language.

Clarence Donald Williams Jr.
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 17

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 to build an endowment fund that support Indigenous scholarships and bursaries for generations to come.

The NRT 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 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; and $2,000 less per capita is spent on First Nations primary and secondary education than the rest of BC.

BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE



British Columbia is facing a growing skilled labour shortage; investing in First Nations education builds a workforce that guarantees BC's future economic prosperity.



With nearly half of the Indigenous population under the age of 25, it is estimated by the federal government that over 600,000 Indigenous youth will enter the labour market in the next 25 years; Higher education for



Indigenous people leads to better chances of employment. Indigenous communities are in close proximity to an overwhelming majority of urban centres, towns, and rural work sites; and Indigenous people



are looking to organizations as a partner to improve education and employment outcomes in their communities.

Find out what you can do to help make a difference today.
The NRT 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

NRT

New Relationship Trust is a registered Canadian charity.



I am from the Kwakwaka'wakw people of Alert Bay, BC, and I am studying Human Kinetics with a strong passion for outdoor education and its benefits for both mental and physical well-being. My goal is to support Indigenous community wellness through sport, athletics, and injury recovery.

Kaleb Lounsbury
NRT Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 73





This brochure was designed by Kirsten Whitney, a New Relationship Trust 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 Qwezqwazízken (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 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's commitment towards Indigenous resurgence and we thank her for sharing her talents with us!



3188 Alder Court
North Vancouver, BC V7H 2V6

Tel: (604) 925-3338
Toll-free: (877) 922-3338
Fax: (604) 925-3348

newrelationshiptrust.ca