2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY AWARD RECIPIENTS
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS AND CEO

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

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

In 2019–20, we provided funding support for a record 410 students. This is up from 346 awards in 2018–19. This is the fourth year in which we have supported Métis students along with First Nations students who are from communities outside of BC and now live in the province. While most students are studying in BC, some students are completing their studies at institutions as far away as New York University and The European Graduate School in Switzerland.

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

With the increasing Indigenous population the demand for scholarships and bursaries increases each year. Though we have been able to expand our support due to the generous support of our donors, we continue to seek more partnerships. This year, we welcomed new partners with the Business Council of British Columbia & the BC Federation of Labour as our Partners. This partnership supported the Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders award as two new bursaries and a new scholarship for well deserving students.

We are grateful for our returning partners: The Province of B.C. – Early Years and Indigenous Early Years Policy and Programs, First Nations Health Authority, Canfor, Drillwell Enterprises Ltd., and Peace Hills Trust. Together, we are closing the gap and investing in the future.

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

Respectfully,

Mike Bonshor
Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

Kory Wilson
Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

Clifford White
Director, New Relationship Trust Foundation

Kory Wilson
New Relationship Trust Foundation

Clifford White
New Relationship Trust Foundation

Michael Bonshor
New Relationship Trust Foundation

"we are making a difference and that difference, in turn, will positively influence the future for us all.”
Our Mission:
To assist Indigenous peoples in BC separately and collectively to meet their education goals.

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST FOUNDATION

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

ABOUT NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

BURSARIES

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

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

RECIPIENT DATABASE

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES AWARDED TO DATE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BURSARIES</th>
<th>UNDERGRAD</th>
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EDUCATION GRANTS DISBURSED

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

EDUCATION LEVERAGED

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WHERE THE FUNDING GOES

The map below shows the student region distribution of NRT Foundation Scholarship and Bursary awards for 2019–2020.

EDUCATION LEVERAGED

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

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

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

If you would like to support the growing number of exceptional Indigenous candidates from across BC through the NRT Foundation Scholarship & Bursary program, please contact Matt Cook-Contois, Partnerships & Marketing Manager, NRT Foundation, at (604) 925-3338 ext. 107, mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca.

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

FNHA recipient bios begin on page 14.

KEEGAN COMBES MEMORIAL AWARD

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

Keegan recipient bios begin on page 44.

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

IEY recipient bios begin on page 46.

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders Scholarship & Bursary Program

Presented in partnership by:

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

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

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

More information and Recipient bios begin on page 85.
The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building. NRT invests in BC First Nations by supporting them in five key capacity development areas: Governance Capacity, Education, Language, Youth & Elders, and Economic Development.

NRT recipient bios begin on page 95.

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

PHT recipient bios begin on page 92.

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

Canfor recipient bios begin on page 88.

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

Drillwell recipient bios begin on page 90.
The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is a health service delivery organization, created and mandated to support and elevate BC First Nations health outcomes through the creation of an effective health care system. One of FNHA’s directives is to develop human and economic capacity; our vision is for healthy, self-determining and vibrant children, families and communities. FNHA has partnered with the New Relationship Trust Foundation to encourage First Nations people to explore exciting career opportunities in the health and wellness field.

There are a multitude of career opportunities in health and wellness, and many programs can be completed in under a year. Working in health care can bring a sense of satisfaction in helping others on their path to wellness. It is a dynamic, ever-changing environment, and there is a growing demand for jobs. By investing in First Nation students, FNHA aims to train those with a passion for working in First Nations communities in BC, who have an interest in supporting community health and wellness by providing culturally safe services.

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

fnha.ca/about/work-with-us

Alyssa Schneider  
Bonaparte First Nation  
Rhodes Wellness College  
Professional Counselling

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

Amanda Dixon  
Shíshálh Nation  
University of British Columbia  
Aboriginal Health and Community Administration

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

Tul-nu-msh-chalap, thank-you to the New Relationship Trust Foundation and First Nations Health Authority for this bursary opportunity.
Anaysa Stevens
Gitiłx̱aat'samiks
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
Social Service Worker

My name is Anaysa Stevens, I am currently working towards a degree in Social Work and I plan to return to my First Nation community to assist with the communities unfortunate situations. I believe that I can make a difference within my community. My goal is to ensure children and other children within my community are educated on their own language and culture because it is an important part of their identity.

Angeliqe Edgar
Ditidaht First Nation

Native Education College
Health Care Assistant

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

Anita Azak
Village of Gitwinksihlkw

Coast Mountain College
Social Service Worker

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

Ashley Bitz
Little Shuswap Lake
Indian Band

Vancouver Community College
Access to Practical Nursing

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

Cynthia Gonu
Gitiłx̱aat'samiks
Village Government

Rhodes Wellness College
Life Skills Coach

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

Dallas Sam
Nak’azdli Whut’en

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Indigenous Human Service

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

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

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

Haley Prince  
Nak’a zdli Whut’en  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service  
Hi my name is Haley and I am studying an Indigenous Human Services Diploma at NVIT.

Jaden Stefanyk  
Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc  
Thompson Rivers University  
Human Service Diploma  
My name is Jaden Stefanyk, I am a mother to Isabella who is 10 years old and am a proud Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc member. I believe in advocating for and empowering individuals by encouraging them to reach their true potential and by facilitating hope.

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

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

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

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

I would like to thank the NRT Foundation for helping and supporting me to achieve my career goals. The financial relief that the bursary provides, will help me focus better on my studies. I feel that the added focus will help me to excel scholastically.  
— Jeremy Weiss
**Katie Habsburg**  
Stellat’ en First Nation  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service  

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

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

**Kayla Davis**  
Old Massett Village Council  
Langara College  
Kinesiology  

My name is Kayla, and I am from Haida Gwaii. I am currently enrolled in the Kinesiology diploma program at Langara College in my second semester. Next Fall 2020 I plan on transferring to UBC to finish my Bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology. Going up in a small town that had no services available to the community always made me want to be able to bring services to the community. I decided to take my human services diploma and then further schooling to be able to bring mental health services and addictions services to my small town.

**Keisha Fletcher**  
High Bar First Nation  
Thompson Rivers University  
Human Service Diploma  

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

**Latishia Blackwater-Russell**  
Gitsegukla First Nation  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Human Services Diploma  

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

**Louis Gagnon**  
Witset First Nation  
College of New Caledonia  
Kinesiology  

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

**Marcia Vickers**  
Laxgalts’ap Village Government  
Native Education College  
Family & Community Counselling  

Hi my name is Marci and I am studying a Family & Community Counseling Diploma at Native Education College. My name is Marci and I am from Gitsegukla First Nation. I am 28 years old, and from the community of Gitsegukla. I have two beautiful children and have worked very hard on making them succeed in life. It is now my time to show them that it is never too late to go back to school to succeed and have a career. I look forward to the day that I have my masters in BSW, I am always encouraging my children’s friends to never give up. I love to be an advocate for children in care as I have 3 in my care. This is what pushes me to get my BSW to be there for them, and many other children in care.

**Maureen Morven**  
Gitlax’taamiks Village Government  
Rhodes Wellness College  
Life Coach  

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

**Maria Kruger**  
Penticton Indian Band  
Vancouver Community College  
Dental Reception Coordinator  

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

**Michelle Morgan**  
Gitwangak Band  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Indigenous Human Service  

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

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

Nicolette Moore  
**Laxgalts'ap Village Government**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Chemical Addictions Worker

Hi my name is Nicolette and I am a single mom from the Nisga’a Nation. I have worked really hard to reach for my dreams of helping out people and changing my own ways for myself and my 8 children. The last few years have not been easy and I have had many trials, with the help of my community, family, NVIT and NRTF and FNHA, I’ve had the support and encouragement to get through and come out on top successful in all my paths to a good life in education and setting a good example for others. Thank you.

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

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

Ryan Elliott  
**Nuxalk Nation**  
Family & Community Counselling

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

Savanna Sandy  
**Williams Lake Indian Band**  
Associate of Arts

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

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

Rachel Stephens  
Laxgalts’ap Village Government  
Douglas College  
Associate of Science  

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

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

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

Selina Child  
Kwakiutl Band Council  
Camosun College  
Associate of Arts - Social Work  

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

Shianna Davis  
Skeetchestn Indian Band  
British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Medical Radiography  

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

Stephinee Martell  
Tl’etsqox  
Sprott Shaw College  
Practical Nursing Access  

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

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

Theresa Harris  
Squiala First Nation  
Vancouver Career College  
Practical Nursing  

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

Tracey Frank  
Squiala First Nation  
Vancouver Career College  
Practical Nursing  

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

Valerie Lindley  
Ahousaht First Nation  
Discovery Community College  
Health Care Assistant  

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

Victoria Robinson  
Gitlax’taamiks Village Government  
University Transfer  

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

Whitney Blackwater  
Kispiox Band Council  
Access to Practical Nursing  

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

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

— Whitney Blackwater
Aimee Tresierra  
**Whispering Pines/ Clinton Indian Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

Caterina Marra  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science – Global Resource Systems

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

Bret Watts  
**Tseshaht First Nation**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Kinesiology

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

Colton Van Der Minne  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Biology

My name is Colton Van Der Minne. I am from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, who are from the west coast of Vancouver Island. I am a second-year student working on a Bachelor of Science with a major in biology from the University of British Columbia. After completing my degree, I plan to continue to medical school. My interests in medicine include family practice and public health. I was drawn to medicine because of my passion for social justice. My hope is that through a medical career I can help bring about equal access to health care both in Canada and abroad.

Courtney Taylor  
**Gitwangak Band**  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

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**Gitwangak Band**  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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Daniel Finney  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts - Health Sciences

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

Danielle Harkey  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

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

Emily Matthew
Simpcc First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science

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

Emily Olson
Bonaparte First Nation
University of Minnesota, Morris
Bachelor of Science - Biology

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

Erica Joe
Lower Nicola Indian Band
Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

Isabella
Van Somer Landry
Kwadacha Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science

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

Geraldine
Russ
Old Massett Village Council
Athabasca University
Bachelor of Arts

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

Helena
Nemanishen
Nak’azdli Whut’en
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

Jordan
Hunt
Kwakiutl Band Council
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts

My name is Jordan Hunt, and I’m attending Vancouver Island University at the age of 36 and father of three beautiful children with my partner of 15 years. We are both of Kwakwakawakw decent and I have decided to enter into the world of Social Work to help those that are in need near my home territory in which Port Hardy is located. My personal lived experience growing up in a First Nations community, combined with proper training and education, I feel I would be an asset to any organizations that work within or near First Nations communities. I would like to offer services in an attempt to help others in need, as the help I required was provided by bringing together traditional and western medicines and practices.
**Kathryn Xyemетkwe Ignace**  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**  
Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

**Katie Creyke**  
**Tahltan Central Government**  
College of New Caledonia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

**Kayla Thorell**  
**We Wai Kai First Nation**  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

**Kristen Clair**  
**Quatsino First Nation**  
Camosun College  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

**Kristina Bray**  
**Stellat’en First Nation**  
University of Saskatchewan  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

**Logan Grant**  
**We Wai Kai First Nation**  
University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts

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

**Mari Davis**  
**Saulteau First Nations**  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Mari Davis, I am from Saulteau First Nations. I am going into my 3rd year of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Helping people has always been a huge passion of mine. My goal is to go on and further my education and become a Nurse Practitioner. I hope to eventually go back to my community to work and to be a role model for the youth.
Mary Angus  
Laxgalslap Village Government  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Nursing  
My name is Mary Angus and my tribe is Laxgalslap. I am 17 years old and come from the First Nations community of Gitwe’kshs. I am a first year Nursing student at the University of British Columbia in Okanagan. My goal is to get my Bachelor’s degree and become a Registered Nurse and later go back to school to get a Master’s Degree.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My name is Shyanna Sawyer. I am from the Naa’Yuuwans ۶ aaydaga eagle clan of Skidegate Haida Gwaii. I am entering my third year in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program and am eager to broaden my spectrum of learning. My goals are fairly simple. I hope to become a registered nurse and move back to my home town to work with and for the people of my community. One day I would also love to become a nurse practitioner and once again move back to serve my community.

Vanessa Miller
Saik’uz First Nation
University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

Hadih, my name is Vanessa Vandelaar (Miller). I am a proud member of Saik’uz First Nation located in central British Columbia. I am also a proud mother of my beautiful daughter Chloe, whom is the light of my life. Since I was a young girl, I have always felt the need to help and care for people. I believe that my calling is to be a Registered Nurse to share my caring spirit with the people around me. I am currently in my third year of the Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. In my past work experience for my community I have gained insight of the importance of health care for our people. It is my hope that I can work within Indigenous communities and my education can positively impact the communities I work within.

Selena Blake
Skidegate Band Council
Camosun College
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

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

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

Sydney Parnell
Old Massett Village Council
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Science

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

Morgan Richards
Nak’azdli Whut’en
Vancouver Community College
Bachelor of Science - Nursing

My name is Morgan Richards and I am currently in my fourth year in the Bachelor of Science program. I expect to graduate in June 2020 and begin my career as a registered nurse. I was born and raised Vancouver, BC and have a close relationship with family/community members in Fort St. James. I continue to visit yearly and update them on my progress in this program.

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

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

— Morgan Richards
Tatyana Daniels  
Gitanmaax Band  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Science - Food, Nutrition, and Health

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

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

Shannon Vickers-King  
Laxglat'sap Village Government  
Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts - Cognitive Science

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

Brittany Mullin  
Upper Similkameen Indian Band  
University of Victoria  
Master of Public Health

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

Brittany Mullin  
Upper Similkameen Indian Band  
University of Victoria  
Master of Public Health

Chantal Bouchard  
Stz’uminus First Nation  
University of British Columbia  
Master of Occupational Therapy

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

Chantal Bouchard  
Stz’uminus First Nation  
University of British Columbia  
Master of Occupational Therapy

Chrystal Sparrow  
Musqueam Indian Band  
The European Graduate School  
Master of Arts - Expressive Arts Therapy

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

Chrystal Sparrow  
Musqueam Indian Band  
The European Graduate School  
Master of Arts - Expressive Arts Therapy

Erin Wiltse  
Cook’s Ferry Band  
McGill University  
Master of Management - International Masters for Health Leadership

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

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

Kathryn Robinson
Tzeachten First Nation
Simon Fraser University
Master of Science

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

Jessica Key
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation
University of British Columbia
Master of Science - Nursing

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

Nicole Nohr Dawydiuk
Spuzzum First Nation
University of British Columbia
Master of Science - Population and Public Health

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

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

Dylan Whitney  
**Xaxli’p**  
University of Alberta  
Doctor of Medicine

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

Amy Beevor-Potts  
**St’sailes**  
University of British Columbia  
Doctor of Medicine

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

Gezina Baehr  
**Songhees Nation**  
University of Alberta  
Doctor of Pharmacy

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

Joshua Nash  
**Tahltan Central Government**  
University of Calgary  
Doctor of Medicine

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

Joseph Ledo  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
McMaster University  
Doctor of Medicine

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

Ryan Danroth  
**Lax Kw‘alaams Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Doctor of Medicine

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

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

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

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

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

Keegan Combes Memorial Award

Janice Thompson
Boothroyd Band
Native Education College
Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts

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

Keisha Charnley
Katzie First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Midwifery

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

Jarrod Thompson
Seabird Island Band
University of the Fraser Valley
Heavy Mechanical Trades Foundation

My name is Jarrod Thompson. I’m from Seabird Island Band. I finished my Dogwood in three months so that I could get into the Heavy Duty Mechanic program at the University of the Fraser Valley. I chose the career of being a Heavy Duty Mechanic to be able to help people when their equipment or trucks are broken down, either on side of the highway or on the job site. I love being able to fix problems with the proper tools and knowledge, as I love problem solving and working with my hands. This is a great opportunity in my life for a change and to have a career. I’m very thankful for the bursary. It will help out will I’m going to school. Every thing helps especially For me and my family.
— Jarrod Thompson
The Ministry of Children and Family Development

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

Alicia Dominick
Splatsin
Okanagan College
Early Childhood Education

I am a Splatsin First Nation community member. I have lived in this area on and off all my life. I have 3 children of my own: my youngest is 6 1/2 months old, a 6 year old, and a 9 year old. I have a very supportive family. I plan to work in my own community and bring my knowledge that I have learned to the daycare I will be working at.

Allison Peters
Seabird Island Band
Seabird College
Education Assistant & Aboriginal Liaison Worker

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

Angel Smith
Gitga’at First Nation
Native Education College
Early Childhood Education

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

Alysha Antoine
Saik’uz First Nation
Native Education College
Early Childhood Education

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

Allison Peters— Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary

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

The Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development, through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement is pleased to announce the second year of the $1 million Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary program. The Indigenous Early Years Scholarship and Bursary Program will ensure that more Indigenous students living in BC will be able to access post-secondary funding. The NRT Foundation is offering scholarships to Indigenous students who currently reside in British Columbia and are enrolled in Early Years related programs. Professions supported in this stream include Early Childhood Educators (ECE), Infant Toddler and Special Needs ECE, Early Intervention Therapies (Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists), Occupational and Physio Therapists, Applied Behavioural Analysts), Child and Youth Care, Human Service Development, Educational Psychology, and Community, Child and Family Support.
La Vallee hopes to work with Indigenous children and young adults, teaching language and culture. She is passionate about food sovereignty and hopes to incorporate land-based learning values into her philosophy of teaching.

— Jaymyn La Vallee
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 65
Chanel George West  
Takla Lake First Nation  
College of New Caledonia  
Early Childhood Education  

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

Charly Defouw  
Métis Nation British Columbia  
Selkirk College  
Associate of Arts - Early Childhood Education  

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

Christine Derrick  
Witset First Nation  
Northern Lights College  
Early Childhood Education and Care  

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

Colby Eagle Plume  
Kainai Nation  
Sprott Shaw College  
Early Childhood Education  

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

Cindy Huppie  
Sucker Creek First Nation  
Sprott Shaw College  
Early Childhood Education  

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

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

Danielle Gagne  
Métis Nation British Columbia  
University of the Fraser Valley  
Early Childhood Education  

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

Doris Johnny  
Adams Lake Indian Band  
Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education  

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

Darrian Pollard  
Skidegate Band Council  
Northern Lights College  
Early Childhood Education and Care  

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

Dorothy Jones
Pacheedant First Nation
Vancouver Career College
Early Childhood Education

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

Elvira Benson
Gitlaxt’aamiks Village Government
College of New Caledonia
Early Childhood Education

I am both a mom of five and a grandma to a little girl. I come from the Wolf Clan (Laxgibuu). I am in my first year of Early Childhood Care and Learning and then I plan on moving onto the Infant and Toddler course to pursue my teaching in Special Needs Education. I would like to thank New Relationship Trust foundation for awarding me with this bursary, as it will help my family in many ways. Thank you.

Emily Quiring
Spuzzum First Nation
Camosun College
Indigenous Early Learning and Care

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

Erica Seymour
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
Okanagan College
Early Childhood Education

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

Francis Pierre
Katzie First Nation
Ridge Meadows College
Early Childhood Education

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

Francis Racy
Gitwangak Band
Northern Lights College
Early Childhood Education and Care

I grew up in Prince George and moved to Vancouver until I decided to go to school at Pacific Rim to study Early Childhood Education. I was born raised primarily in Prince Rupert. Moving was a constant thing while growing up and I spent time in many different communities. Being a survivor of trauma I never really had the opportunity to go after my dreams until now. The example I am making for my children is priceless and I could ask for nothing more than to show them that no matter what you can chase your dreams. My dream is to finish my diploma and work in my WSÁNEĆ community. I have always enjoyed working with children and am now blessed that I have the chance to complete my schooling and make my goals a reality.

Hailey Meerdink
Witset First Nation
Northern Lights College
Early Childhood Education and Care

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

Jacquelyn Gladstone
Heiltsuk Nation
Capilano University
Early Childhood Care & Education

I am currently in my final semester at Capilano University, upon completion I plan on attending UBC taking the special education diploma program and then apply to the 12 month professional development program to become an elementary teacher. I have always enjoyed working with children and it is within the school system that I hope to one day work in. In the last few years I have done some volunteer work in an elementary classroom and thoroughly enjoyed it and have learned a lot within the setting.
Thank you for this opportunity in helping me achieve my goals in completing this certificate program. This bursary has been a great help financially towards my schooling.

— Janean Hunt

Jade Brass
The Key First Nation
Native Education College
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

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

Jade-lynn Jensen
Tseshaht First Nation
North Island College
Early Childhood Care & Education

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

Janean Hunt
Kwakiutl Band Council
North Island College
Early Childhood Care & Education

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

Jennifer Reandy
Heiltsuk Nation
Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute Inc.
Early Childhood Education

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

Jennifer Sharp
Metis Nation British Columbia
Okanagan College
Early Childhood Education

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

Jerry-Lyn Sampson
Tsartlip First Nation
Camosun College
Early Childhood Education

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

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

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

Jodie Smith
Gitlaxt’aamiks Village Government
Social Service Worker

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

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

Kirsten Adrian  
**Seton Lake Band (Ts'a�lth)**  
Native Education College  
Aboriginal Early Childhood Education

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

Leo Linklater  
**Mathias Colomb Cree Nation**  
Vancouver Career College  
Early Childhood Education

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

Lisa Becker  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
Vancouver Community College  
Early Childhood Care & Education

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

Lynai Quatell  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**  
Camosun College  
Early Childhood Education

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

Mary Ouillette  
**Métis Nation British Columbia**  
Okanagan College  
Early Childhood Education

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

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

I am so grateful to NRT for supporting me as I learn and grow. The opportunities they have given me mean so much.
Meagan Martin
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Early Childhood Education
I attended the Pathways Early Childhood Education Program at the Port Alberni Friendship Center partnered with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. My goal is to gain employment at a childcare center working as an ECE, as I have always loved being with children, because they bring so much joy, happiness and laughter. Also, as they are learning, you are also learning alongside them. My culture is very important to me and throughout the Pathways ECE course I made a drum, drumstick, and some paintings.

Nicole Newcombe
Nuxalk Nation
Okanagan College
Early Childhood Education
I am from Bella Coola, BC and moved to the Okanagan about 3 years ago. I was lucky enough to find the Early Childhood Education course and get into it. I have a four-year-old daughter who was my biggest inspiration to go back to school and do something that I love, and working with children is something I love. I can’t wait to get into the field and start my career. I will be continuing my education doing night class in January twice a week to receive my Infant Toddler certification. I feel so blessed these past five years of my life, meeting my best friend who I will marry this summer, having my daughter and going back to school. Thank you so much!

Nicole Louie
Lower Kootenay Band
Columbia Bible College
Educational Assistant
I am 30 years old and proud to be a Lower Kootenay band member from the Ktunaxa nation. The culture is rich in history and I know there aren’t many of us left. I knew I had to do something more. I sobered up & got myself to church and started exploring my options for a brighter future. I’ve always loved helping people. I came upon Columbia Bible College that offers me courses I can take to fuel my passions & also get my Education Assistant certificate. I look forward to pursuing my career & building my faith.

Pennylane Gastro
Westbank First Nation
Native Education College
Early Childhood Education
I currently work as a security guard; however, I have recently been accepted at the Native Education College in their Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Certificate program because I have always been interested in working with children and youth. This will give me the opportunity to be a role model for my nieces, nephews and youth alike and to show them that education is the key to success and a better future. I look forward to returning to my community when I graduate. Thank you.

Rona Sylvester
Tsawout First Nation
Camosun College
Indigenous Early Learning and Care
My name is Rona Sylvester and I am from Tsawout First Nation. My personal goals are to be a First Nations fully licensed Early Childhood Education Languages Nest caregiver. I want to give back our language and culture to the children. I want to be a big part in their early learning years, and give children the best start to life by knowing who they are and where they come from. It took me many years to realize where I wanted to be in life.
Samantha Tremblay
Métis Nation British Columbia
Sprott Shaw College
Early Childhood Education

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

Sandra Siah
Squamish Nation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Education Assistants

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

Savanna White
Métis Nation British Columbia
Camosun College
Indigenous Early Learning and Care

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

Shanice Parr
Nuxalk Nation
Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute Inc.
Early Childhood Education

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

Shayla Anderson
Métis Nation British Columbia
Sprott Shaw College
Early Childhood Education

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

Shiann Gilpin
Tsilhqot’inn First Nation
Sprott Shaw College
Early Childhood Education

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

Tammy Harper
Onion Lake Cree Nation
Native Education College
Early Childhood Education

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

Vanessa Labreche
Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation
Douglas College
Early Childhood Education

My name is Vanessa, I’m 19 years old and I’m from Aldergrove, BC. I always had a passion for working with kids since I was in high school. I knew I wanted to do something in the field of work, but I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted. After high school I started to work in a day care and realized I loved it and knew that this was the career path I wanted to pursue. My goal for the future is to complete my schooling to the highest level of degree and open up my own daycare center.
Ang Smith
Gitanmaax Band
University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Social Work
My name is Ang Smith, I am Gitxsan and I am from Gitamnaax. I am enjoying my schooling and I look forward to getting my degree and working in the social work field. I have a son in grade eleven and he is also a good student, along with Sea Cadets and ‘Ksan Performing Arts Dance Group. Student life is not easy but the forward movement is sure getting me places.

Angela Adams
Splatsin
Thompson Rivers University
Bachelor of Social Work
I am a proud Secwepemc woman raised in Enderby on the Splatsin reserve. I am a mother of three beautiful daughters. Growing up I was told the importance of my education and how it has played a part in the society we live in. I am teaching English as a second language. I chose this career path because I was inspired by some of the teachers back home and I love learning new things.

Anna-Marie Horn
Big River First Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work
Hi, my name is Anna, I am from Big River First Nation, and I am studying a Bachelor of Social Work at NVIT.

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

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

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

Bailey Johnson
Métis Nation British Columbia
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program
I’m attending Vancouver Island University in the education system and to be able to teach in a setting that honors culture. I would like to move forward in a positive way allowing my dreams to become reality!

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

Caroline Thompson
Tseshaht First Nation
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Arts - Child and Youth Care

IEY | Scholarship – Undergraduate

IEY | Scholarship – Undergraduate
IEY | Scholarship – Undergraduate

Dianne Natrall  
Squamish Nation  
Capilano University  
Bachelor of Early Childhood Care & Education

My personal goal is to work with children with special rights to ensure they both have a voice and success within our centre. I have been previously a Foster Parent for our Ayas Men Men Social Development for 17 years to a special rights child. He was medically diagnosed with Fetal Spectrum Disorder (FASD) since the age of three. Needless to say he had experienced being stigmatized both within the school system and within our community. At the age of three his grade one teacher did not accept him for who was all she saw was his disability. I became his voice once I realized what was happening to him within our educational system.He informed me that I could share my future classrooms for the benefit ceremonies and ways of knowing into Columbia in Terrace B.C. I am excited to currently finishing my teaching crudentials I make my home in Skidegate, and am a Mother of two children, an and my Father is from Lax Kw'alaams. My mother is from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii (Eagle Woman) and my English name is Erica Ryan. I am a Haida and Tsimshian woman. My Haida name is Gidin Jaad (Eagle from Skidegate). My mother's name is David Crosby and he is Haida My name is Fallon Crosby, my father's name is David Crosby and he is Haida Eagle from Skidegate. My mother's name is Trudy Crosby and she is Kwagu'l from Cape Mudge and Kingsome Inlet. I have a 9 year old daughter and have been sober for over 11 years! I grew up on Haida Gwaii and have been previously a Foster Parent for our Ayas Men Men Social Development for 17 years to a special rights child. He was medically diagnosed with Fetal Spectrum Disorder (FASD) since the age of three. Needless to say he had experienced being stigmatized both within the school system and within our community. At the age of three his grade one teacher did not accept him for who was all she saw was his disability. I became his voice once I realized what was happening to him within our educational system.He informed me that I could share his educational journey.

Estelle Carmona  
Shíshálh Nation  
University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

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

Fallon Crosby  
Skidegate Band Council  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

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

Georgia Walkus  
Gwa’sala-Nakwaxda’xw Nations  
University of Lethbridge  
Bachelor of Arts - Education

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

Janessa Redwood-Henry  
Cowessess First Nation  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Jaymyn La Valle  
Squamish Nation  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

Jaymym La Valle (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, Kwíkw̓otsuí’mun and ‘Namgis) grew up in North Vancouver, BC on the Capilano Reservation. She is currently learning her Indigenous language, Kwakwala, and is completing her Bachelor of Education through the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) at the University of British Columbia. La Valle hopes to work with Indigenous children and young adults, teaching language and culture. She is passionate about food sovereignty and hopes to incorporate land-based learning values into her philosophy of teaching.
IEY | Scholarship – Undergraduate

Jessica Creyke
Witset First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

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

Joshua Houghton
Squamish Nation
Capilano University
Bachelor of Early Childhood Care & Education

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

Jessica Naziel
Witset First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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

Jessica Naziel
Witset First Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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

Jennifer Anderson
Métis Nation British Columbia
University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Julian Lowley
Lake Babine Nation
University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Kevin Tyson
Métis Nation British Columbia
University of the Fraser Valley
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

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

Katia Olsen
Tsartlip First Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science

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

Katia Olsen
Tsartlip First Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science

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

Keyshon Nelson
Gingolx Village Government
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Science

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

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

Leon Erickson
Nak’azdli Whut’en
University of Northern British Columbia
Bachelor of Education

My name is Leon Erickson, son of Art and Bertha Erickson (inle). I am of the Lhoh Ja Bou (Bear) clan of Nak’azdli Whut’en in Fort St. James, BC. I am attending the University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George, BC. I returned to post-secondary in 2017 and flourished as a student. My life experiences gave me access to incredible amounts of knowledge that assisted my academic career. I am in my second (and final year) of the Bachelor of Education program at UNBC in Prince George. I wish to provide for my family as a father and husband. I wish to extend my learning to include a Masters degree and give back to my community. The historical and continual pain and injustices Indigenous peoples endure inspired me to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work Degree with an Indigenous Specialization. I will graduate in June and enter the workforce in hopes of generating meaningful change.

Kianna Everson
K’omoks First Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Larissa Mowatt
Skowkale First Nation
Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

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

Lorianne Alphonse
Yunesit’in Government
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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

Luke Thomas
Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Lyam Donetz  
**Skeetchestn Indian Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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

Maria Martin  
**Heiltsuk Nation**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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

Lynzee West  
**Haisla Nation**  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education

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

Marcus Reid  
**Heiltsuk Nation**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts

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

Meagan Wilson  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Megan Egan  
**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**  
Douglas College  
Bachelor of Arts - Child and Youth Care

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

Melissa Watts  
**Squamish Nation**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Melvin Reid  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

I am currently working towards my goal of becoming an elementary school teacher, and I hope to work in the local community filter school where a large number of our Musqueam students attend. Additionally, I am building credits towards a Diploma in Special Education, which I feel will be beneficial not only to my career as an educator, but especially for my students. I want to walk beside my fellow Indigenous students to thrive and be able to give back to my community. I want to walk beside my fellow Indigenous students to help others.

Megan Harkey

I am so grateful for the New Relationship Trust, without these scholarships I would not have been able to complete my schooling on a full-time basis and still manage to provide for my two young boys! — Megan Harkey
Merissa McNeil  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Michaela Stanley  
**Gingolx Village Government**  
Columbia Bible College  
Youth Work

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

Nathan Chenoweth  
**Upper Nicola Band**  
Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Education

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

Nicki Wolfenden  
**Gitelmanax Band**  
Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

Paulette Nyce  
**Village of Gitwinksihlkw**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Social Work

My name is Paulette Nyce and I come from the Nisga’a Nation. I am currently in my 4th year of Bachelor of Social Work. My education journey has been challenging and rewarding. I am happy to achieve this part of my journey and continue to pursue my passion within my chosen career. I would like to thank my parents, my mentors, and my sisters for the continuous support. Tooyaks’i n’im.

Nina Ney  
**Liard First Nation**  
University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Education - Elementary

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

Saige Werstuik  
**Westbank First Nation**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts

Way’Isxwist Saige Werstuik, I am a Tahltan Indigenous woman in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Arts program at the University of British Columbia. I am currently attending the Indigenous Community Development program, I am the niece to Frank Calder of the Nisga’a First Nations. I am a 60’s scoop survivor. My family was Caucasian, the only mission statement we followed was, “it takes a village to raise a family.” My parents were of Quaker religion and my siblings and I were rased off the land without electricity and with positive family values. My goal is to walk with all First Nation’s and through their teachings and stories learn more about myself as well as share knowledge as Nisga’a.

Rose Patterson  
**Laxgalts’ap Village Government**  
University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Social Work

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

T’ooyaksiy’ n’iin.

I am so grateful to have been selected for this scholarship. Living on a student budget in a city as expensive as Vancouver is not easy at times. Tooyaks’i n’im.  
— Merissa McNeil
The page contains biographies of individuals who have received scholarships or bursaries. Each biography includes the individual's name, their ethnic background, their educational achievements, and a personal statement about their goals and motivations for pursuing their education. The text describes the challenges faced by indigenous students in the education system, the importance of connecting with and understanding Indigenous youth, and the desire to help all children thrive.

**Samantha Desautels**
Gingolx Village Government
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Education

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

**Sierra Lewis**
Squamish Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

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

**Serena Yatkowsky**
Métis Nation British Columbia
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

**Stanley Daniels**
Canim Lake Band
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work


**Stephanie Holmes**
Tl’azt’en Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

**Sierra Lewis**
Squamish Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

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

**Serena Yatkowsky**
Métis Nation British Columbia
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

**Stanley Daniels**
Canim Lake Band
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work


**Stephanie Holmes**
Tl’azt’en Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

**Tammy Price**
Heiltsuk Nation
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Social Work

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

**Terris Purkiss-Elkins**
Nuxalk Nation
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program

I am a Nuxalk woman from the Nuxalk Nation Territory on the central coast of British Columbia. I am 33 years old and have two children. I joined the NITEP program for Education in 2018 and I have been with my cohort for two years now and we are loving the comradery and support we have with each other. In 2014, I made the decision to come home after a lot of thought. The community is where my heart was and I knew that if I could help out the community I should give it a try. Upon completion, our community will be well equipped with teachers who have a strong pedagogy in indigenous education. In the near future, I am planning on getting a Master’s Degree in Mathematics and Science.
The IEY Summer Scholarship came at the perfect time as I am currently completing the last elective credits I need to be eligible for UBC’s teacher education program. The support I have and continue to receive from New Relationship Trust has been incredible and I am endlessly grateful.— Tianna Grosse

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

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

Yvonne Hill
Gitga’at First Nation
Simon Fraser University
Bachelor of Arts - Education and Psychology
I have been at Simon Fraser University for over a year now, and look forward to completing my undergraduate degree before pursuing a Master’s Degree in Education. After competing my Master’s Degree, I look forward to moving home and working as an Elementary school teacher in our local school.

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

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

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

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

Darryl Gray
Lax Kw’alaams Band
University of British Columbia
Master of Social Work - Advanced

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

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

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

Jilleun Tenning
Stz’uminus First Nation
University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

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

Justin Duncan
Métis Nation British Columbia
University of British Columbia
Master of Physical Therapy

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

Karla Joseph
Xwísten
University of Toronto
Master of Social Work - Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency

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

Uu-klah-îm Ismsca hîstûuk-shîlh
Ahousaht hîstûuk-shîlh nuučaanul
(Nuu-chah-nulth) Isak camîs Chuu –
Ɂxwksá̱l ḷ’xwksa. My traditional name is
Ismsca. I come from the people of
Ahousaht of the nuučaanul Nation.
I want to follow in my parent’s footsteps
who have fostered over 100 Indigenous
children and youth and adopted four of
my siblings. I feel that my education will
help me in my plans of opening a group
home designed specifically for Indigenous
children and youth who are in foster care.
I will support these youth in a culturally
grounded way as a Registered Clinical
Counsellor.

Norissa Mongrain
Antoine First Nation
University of Waterloo
Master of Social Work

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

Shezell-Rae Sam
Ahousaht First Nation
University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Child and Youth Care

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

Susan Soloman
Gitanmaax Band
University of Toronto
Master on Social Work - Indigenous
Trauma and Resiliency

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

Tania Prince
Nak’azdli Whut’en
University of Northern British Columbia
Master of Social Work

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

Lorna Fraser
Kitasoo Band
Vancouver Island University
Master of Education - Educational Leadership

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

Stephanie Erickson
Tl’azt’en Nation
University of Northern British Columbia
Master of Education - Counselling

Hadih! My name is Stephanie Erickson,
and I am Dakelh/Sekani from Tl’az’t’en
Nation and a member of the lusilyoo
(Frog) clan. My project is grounded in
revitalizing Indigenous ways of being
and healing while incorporating global
therapeutic techniques to transcend
intergenerational trauma. My motivation
comes from creating a better tomorrow
for my children, family, and nation. As
a practicing clinician, I envision myself
working a “Two-Eyed Seeing” model of
incorporating the best of this western
world (biopsychosocial) and the best of
indigenous practices (mind, body, spirit).
I aspire to assist my clients in transcending
trauma and creating an unshakeable core
of resiliency.

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

Shawn Bob
Coldwater Indian Band
University of the Fraser Valley
Master of Social Work - Indigenous Focus

Nlaka’pamux Nation. My parents are William Leonard Bob and Beverly Bob(Oppenheim).

I have been serving my home community, the Nicola Valley, since I completed my Bachelors Degree in Social Work through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in 2005. I worked 9 years with the Conayt Friendship Society that helped me build a solid foundation for practice and program delivery. Working for an Indigenous Non Profit society helped me learn to facilitate programs and ensure it fit the needs of the community. Since 2014, I have been working in a very diversified role as the Social development coordinator for the Coldwater Indian Band, my own people, and it has been an honor to serve them and be witness to their growth. I am also very proud of my daughter Victoria Mahringer, who continues to raise the bar for both of us.

Treena Decker
Skidegate Band Council
University of Victoria
Master of Social Work

My name is Treena Decker and I am a student in the Master of Social Work (Indigenous Specialization) at the University of Victoria. I was adopted at birth and raised away from Haida culture so a large part of my education within the Indigenous Specialization has included learning about who I am and how to walk gently in my healing. I have two grown children, Elisha and Evan, who have inspired me to pursue post-secondary education and I have been blessed to have great role models in my adoptive, biological and extended community families who have encouraged me in different ways along my journey. I feel very fortunate to receive this scholarship as it allows me to continue my journey of learning and healing so that I can walk with people on their journeys. I am filled with gratitude. Hawa’a!

IEY | Scholarship – Doctorate

Amanda Jaskwaan Bedard
Old Massett Village Council
Simon Fraser University
Doctor of Philosophy - Interdisciplinary Studies

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

Christopher Reid
Gingolx Village Government
McGill University
Doctor of Philosophy - Educational Studies

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

Ferrin Yola Willie
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation
University of Victoria
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous Language Revitalization

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

Billy (William) Rowluck
Lytton First Nation
University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy - Language and Literacy

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

Amanda Jaskwaan Bedard
Old Massett Village Council
Simon Fraser University
Doctor of Philosophy - Interdisciplinary Studies

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Christopher Reid
Gingolx Village Government
McGill University
Doctor of Philosophy - Educational Studies

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

Ferrin Yola Willie
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation
University of Victoria
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous Language Revitalization

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

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

Suzanne Sterling-Bur
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation
University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy - Interdisciplinary Studies
My father is from the Nlaka’pamux Nation and my mother is from the Sto:lo Nation. I am an advocate for breaking down barriers, addressing colonization and promoting healthy and positive change within Indigenous communities for children and their families. I am currently a student in the PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Studies - Indigenous Studies Theme. My Doctoral research will be focused on gaining a better understanding of an Indigenous perspective on the belief of giftedness. My purpose will be to learn more about the belief of giftedness for Indigenous peoples in BC and the sharing of family stories of raising a gifted child/youth and supporting them to be successful with their innate abilities. k’euk’scemux’/Thank you

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

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph Reconciliation Leaders Scholarship & Bursary Program

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C., O.C., is a true peacebuilder whose life and work are examples of his personal commitment. A Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation, Chief Joseph has dedicated his life to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding and racism at home and abroad. His insights into the destructive impacts these forces can have on peoples’ lives, families and cultures were shaped by his experience with the Canadian Indian Residential School system.

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

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

The awards are provided to students who demonstrate a leadership role in reconciliation and that are completing their last year of education toward trades, technical or post-secondary undergraduate degree or designation are eligible to apply.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Business Council’s membership consists of 250 member companies from all of BC’s major economic sectors. Collectively, they are responsible for roughly a quarter of all jobs in BC.

The Business Council's mission is to be a venue where informed, pertinent insight and advice to BC's top decision makers, with the objective to create a prosperous and sustainable economy for all British Columbians.

Our goal is to create a prosperous and sustainable economy for all British Columbians.

This award is presented in partnership by:

The BC Federation of Labour

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

Kashtin Apsassin  
Blueberry River First Nations  
University of Victoria  
Master of Global Business

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

Michelle Walsh  
Nadleh Whut’en First Nation  
Thompson Rivers University  
Master of Science - Environmental Science

Hadih! Michelle Walsh s’tsutnee. I am from the Dakelh Nation in the Central Interior of BC, specifically from the Nadleh Whut’en First Nation - Lhtseh yoo Clan (Frog), on the banks of the Nadleh River that drains Nadleh Bunk’ut (Fraser Lake). I am currently enrolled in the Thompson Rivers University Environmental Science Master’s Program. I have always had a passion for working with talook (salmon) and I want to complete my schooling to help improve the state of salmon and their habitat in BC and to also inspire my 2 young daughters to chase down their dreams, work hard, and never give up. Snachailya (Thank you)!
Drillwell Enterprises is one of Western Canada’s largest and most experienced water well drilling contractors. Drillwell maintains a fleet of equipment of varying size and capability, specializing in Water Well Drilling, Hydro-fracturing, and Exploration ventures. Drillwell Enterprises has provided an annual bursary to the New Relationship Trust Foundation since 2016.

Cole Shackelly  
Nooaitch First Nation  
British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Electrical Foundations

My name is Cole Shackelly and I was born and raised in Merritt British Columbia. I grew up on a small family ranch where I would help look after a small variety of animals such as horses, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and dogs. I have gained knowledge and skills doing electrical, carpentry, mechanics, hunting, fishing, gathering berries, cultural events, traveling, cooking and baking. I have traveled to the city of Burnaby to pursue a Red Seal Electrical Certificate and eventually hold a business of my own.
Peace Hills Trust (PHT) is Canada’s largest and oldest First Nations owned federally regulated financial institution and is also Canada’s only independent Trust Company. Driven by a vision to satisfy the unique financial needs of the Native community, the Samson Cree Nation embarked on an ambitious project in 1972 which culminated with the incorporation of Peace Hills Trust on November 19, 1980. Nearly 40 years has passed since that historic day when Peace Hills Trust first opened its doors. We were founded with the objective of providing financial and trust services on a national basis to First Nations and their communities. The company has a primary market in First Nations’ administrations, their businesses and in their members. Peace Hills Trust has a regional branch concept to position itself, on or off reserve, to serve the largest number of First Nations’ customers in a given area. In addition to First Nations’ business, we have many opportunities with non-First Nations customers. We’re proud that we are fulfilling the predictions of the founding members who worked hard to get our Company set in motion.

Sabrina Stevens
Gitlax’taamiks Village Government
Canadian Vocational Training Centre
Computerized Accounting and Automated Office

Hi there, My name is Sabrina Stevens and I come from the village of Gitlax’taamiks but currently living in Terrace BC to attend the program I am enrolled in. I’d like to say I consider myself a reliable, hardworking, and well-respected person. These two months into this program has been such a good change for my life and I like that I chose this path in going back to school. My goal is to complete these certificate courses and look into accounting to further my education.
I am so incredibly grateful for this bursary and the opportunity it provides for me to follow my passion of counselling. I’ve already learned so much within the first 7 months of my program - about myself, about helping others, and the industry.

— Alyssa Schneider
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 15
Education can be very expensive, and NRTF’s generosity brings me and many others one step closer to achieving our dreams. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

— Alexis Thompson

My name is Akimi Okabe. I come from the House of Kwa’ka’ans in the Nisga’a Nation. I am currently pursuing my education in Accounting at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. I plan on continuing my counselling on to a Master’s Degree and helping our people heal from our past and hopefully encouraging our people to continue on with helping others on their healing journeys.

— Akimi Okabe

My name is Allison Barton. I am from the Kitasoo Nation, I currently live in Vancouver, BC. I am in my second year of Criminology at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. I plan on continuing to hold homeless haircutting events and giving free haircuts to our community and elders. I am excited to what this journey will bring me as I have had a passion for hair since I was very young.

— Allison Barton

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

— Ayana Brown

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

— Barry Schmitz

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

— Alexis Thompson

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

— Aaron Mitchell

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

— Amanda Delorme

I am currently attending my second diploma program at BMC. My Career goal is to use my creativity and learned skills to help people feel their best through hairstyling and makeup.

— Ashley Newman

I am currently working to heal from my traumas. My goal is to become an Indigenous counselor, working to heal from my traumas. My Nisga’a name is “Ksiwogum Xsgaak” (Dreaming Eagle). I proudly hail from the Nisga’a & Heiltsuk Nations. I am currently attending my second diploma program at BMC. My Career goal is to use my creativity and learned skills to help people feel their best through hairstyling and makeup.

— Ashley Newman

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— Aaron Mitchell

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

— Ashley Newman

My name is Allison Barton. I am from the Kitasoo Nation, I currently live in Vancouver, BC. I am in my second year of Criminology at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. I plan on continuing to hold homeless haircutting events and giving free haircuts to our community and elders. I am excited to what this journey will bring me as I have had a passion for hair since I was very young.

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— Ashley Newman
Bernice Wilson
Kwakwaka'wakw Band Council
Camosun College
Aboriginal Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Hospitality Management

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

Brittney Moore
Laxgals’ap Village Government
Northwest Community College
Associate of Arts

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

Brendon Etzerza
Tahltan Central Government
Blanche MacDonald Centre
Global Fashion Marketing

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

Candace West
Lake Babine Nation
Vancouver Community College
Office Administration

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

Carrigan Tallio
Nuxalk Nation
Camosun College
Carpentry Foundation

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

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Cary Lee Bugge
Nanoose First Nation
Brighton College
Business Administration

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

Carter Eaton
Heiltsuk Nation
College of New Caledonia
Apprentice Industrial Mechanic

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

Charles Heit
Gitsxan Nation
Vancouver Community College
Jewellery Art and Design

I am born into the great Gitsxan Nation, Kispiox Village, FireWeed clan. My real name is Sisemoyt Xyadiit. When I was 15 I went to live with my grandparents and to carve with my late uncle Walter Harris. We drew and painted and carved and hunted and fished eight days a week, a great Gitsxan life we shared together. Years later I started to teach myself about “repousse’ jewelry” and became good at that. Next I got into the Native Education Collage and then the Vancouver Community Collage to learn many other jewelry making techniques.
Charlotte Krulicki
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Vancouver Community College
Graphic Design
Charlotte is a graduate of Vancouver Film School’s Classical Animation program and in her second year of Vancouver Community College’s Graphic Design Diploma program. Her illustration work has been featured in Exclaim! Magazine and Hot Art Wet City Gallery. Her inspirations include children’s storybooks and the natural beauty of the Pacific North West. In her near future, she is excited to find employment in Vancouver as a UI/UX designer and be freelancing as a motion graphic artist and illustrator. She would like to thank New Relationship Trust for their generous bursary award that will help her continue her education.

Christie Robbins
‘Namgis First Nation
Native Education College
Aboriginal Justice Studies
Being a survivor of domestic violence I have come to realize how bad the justice system is especially four our people and the gaps in the services I know how hard it can be to move past violence but I want to be able to help our people I hope transfer to SFU to complete a Bachelor in Criminology and go on to either help offenders in the justice system or women fleeing abuse.

Colby Manuel
Neskonlith Indian Band
Thompson Rivers University
Carpentry/Joinery Level 1
My long-term goal is to build my own house and help my family with theirs on our family land. Carpentry is what I have wanted to do for a since my first experience with it. Becoming a Red Seal Carpenter is my long-term goal starting with this course. Another goal is to assist my band, who want youth to help repair some local houses and build new housing.

Colby Stephens
Gingolx Village Government
Coast Mountain College
Business Administration
I am from the Nisg̱a’a Nation & Gitga’aat First Nation. I am from the Eagle Tribe and I currently reside in Prince Rupert. I am enrolled in Business Administration, and my future goal is to complete my diploma and move forward in an Manger position to gain experience. Eventually I would like to open my own business.

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

Crystal Barton
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Native Education College
Aboriginal Justice Studies
I had no idea that there was this type of help out there to help succeed in education goals. I am very Honored and Grateful to be one of the students chosen. — Crystal Barton

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

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

Dakota Ferguson-Hall
Nuxalk Nation
British Columbia Institute of Technology
Millwright Foundation
Hello, my name is Dakota I am apart of the Nuxalk Nation from Bella Coola and the Qayqayt Nation from New Westminster. I am going to BCIT to be a millwright and to obtain my redseal ticket. I got my first year ticket through ACCESS and they ran a First Nations program at BCIT. If it wasn’t for them, it would have made life more difficult for me to go back to school and start my apprenticeship. Also, I enjoy the outdoors.
Darlene Tommy
Skawah First Nation
Seabird College
Social Service Worker

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

Dawn Tom
Nak'azdli Whut'en
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Office Administration

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

Dennis Nyce
Village of Gitwinksihlkw
Coast Mountain College
First Nations Fine Arts

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

Dion Clark
Laxgalts'ap
Village Government
Divers Institute of Technology
Commercial Diver

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

Dustin McGladrey
Gitlax’taams
Village Government
Capilano University
Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking

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

Dustin Newcombe
Nuxalk Nation
Camosun College
Carpentry Level 3

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

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

Enya Graham-Shewish  
Tseshaht First Nation  
Vancouver Institute Of Media Arts  
Broadcasting & Online Media

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

Gavin Hunt  
Kwakiutl Band Council  
Vancouver Island University  
Carpentry Level 4

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

Hannah Robinson  
Gitlax’taamiks Village Government  
Canadian Vocational Training Centre  
Computerized Accounting and Automated Office Certification

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

Ian Pease  
Lytton First Nation  
British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Technical Arts

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

Isaac Benjamin Watts Jr.  
Native Education College  
Business Management Diploma

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

Isabelle Williams  
Cowichan Tribes  
Vancouver Island University  
Criminology

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

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

Jade Collison
Old Massett Village Council
Coast Mountain College Business Administration

My name is Jade Collison. I am from Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. I am currently in my first year Business Administration at Coast Mountain. My goal is to complete my degree in business administration with a concentration on human resource management before moving forward on to my bachelors in business administration.

Jasmine Russ
Old Massett Village Council
Eastern College Massage Therapy

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

Joshua Sawchuk
Lax K’w’alaams Band
Vancouver Island University Foundation Electrician

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

Justin McIvor-Tighe
Kitasoo Band
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

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

Kaitlyn Nyce
Village of Gitwinksihlkw
Wilp Y̓ilx̱oskw̓il Nisg̱a’a First Nations Studies

My name is Kaitlyn Nyce and I’m from the village of Gitwinksihlkw, B.C. My Nisg’a’a name is “Sagɪk’ now k’o” which translates to “Sharp Island Rainbow.” I am Nisg’a’a and Haida. My traditional clan is Raven and Frog. I graduated high school at 16, and decided to attend Wilp Y̓ilx̱oskw̓il Nisg̱a’a Institute. I’m in my first year of my studies. My career goal is to become a social worker.

Kara Cardinal
Tahltan Central Government
College of New Caledonia Social Service Worker

My dad is Cree and mom is Tahltan so I refer to myself as a Cree-Tan, however I am registered under Tahltan Band which is located in northern BC. After graduating grade twelve I decided to work for High Road Service Society as it is a company that provides full support for individuals with disabilities that struggle with daily living. It is a rather large and ever-growing company and after working for them for a year I knew I wanted to go back to school to pursue my Social Work Diploma or possibly one day my degree.
2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kayla Fisher-Boyd
Gitxaała Nation

Capilano University
Indigenous Independent
Digital Filmmaking

My name is Kayla Fisher-Boyd, and I am from Gitxaała Nation. I am a member of the Gitxaała Nation. I am currently enrolled in Digital Filmmaking at Capilano University. I have been awarded the 2019–2020 Bursary by Capilano University. This bursary is a significant support to me as it will enable me to continue my studies and pursue my career aspirations in Digital Filmmaking.

Lavren Gunu
Gitlax’aamiks
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
English

My name is Lavren Gunu, and I am from Gitlax’aamiks. I am currently enrolled at Coast Mountain College in English. I am very grateful for this bursary award, as it will help me to pursue my studies and continue on my path to become a successful professional.

Leah Angus
Laxgalts’ap
Village Government

Coast Mountain College
Hairdressing Foundation

My name is Leah Angus, and I am from Laxgalts’ap. I am currently enrolled at Coast Mountain College in Hairdressing Foundation. This bursary will help me to continue my studies and pursue my career aspirations in Hairdressing.

Leonard Gaze
Adams Lake Indian Band

Carpentry/Joinery Level 1

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

Linda James
Kwikwasut’inuxw
Haxwa’ms First Nation

Native Education College
Business Start Up

My name is Linda James, and I am from Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’ms First Nation. I am currently enrolled in Business Start Up at Native Education College. This bursary will help me to continue my studies and pursue my career aspirations in Business.

Lindsay Pierre
Katzie First Nation

Douglas College
Associate of Arts - Criminology

My name is Lindsay Pierre and I am a member of Katzie First Nation. I am majoring in Criminology at Douglas College! I come from a close knit family that supports my dreams wholeheartedly. I hope to find employment in victim services working with women and children or working in the court system helping First Nation People involved in the court process. This bursary I have been awarded will help me immensely during my studies! I am very greatful for this gift and will use the money towards my studies well!
Hi my name is Marcella Commodore. I am from Soowahlie First Nation located in Cultus Lake, BC. I am currently working towards receiving my Social Work degree at the University of the Fraser Valley. I work with individuals with disabilities and would like to continue after once I receive my degree. I love how rewarding the helping profession is and it is what continues to push me to reach my goals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Myles Neufeld
Skeetchsten Indian Band
Langara College
Creative Writing

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

Norma Louie
Mamalilikulla First Nation
Vancouver Career College
Accounting & Payroll Administrator

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

Ntsetswek Henry
Lil’wat Nation
University of the Fraser Valley
Agriculture Technology

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

Paul Tait
Gitlaxt’aamiks
Village Government
Agriculture Technology

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

Riley Brown
Kitsumkalum First Nation
Northern Lights College
Heavy Mechanical Technician

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

Roberta Gosnell
Gitlaxt’aamiks
Village Government
College of New Caledonia
Applied Business Technology - Office Assistant

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

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

Russell Elie Jacobs  
Squamish Nation  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Aboriginal Governance & Leadership

My name is Russell Elie Jacobs. I am from the Squamish Nation. My goal is to receive a Certificate in Office Administration. My main goal is to work in the administrative roles in Indigenous communities around the Lower Mainland. I have worked in the construction sector for many years and enjoy learning about. Thank you NRTF!

Rose-Maria Wasnick  
Okanagan Indian Band  
Langara College  
Arts and Science

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

Samuel LeCamp  
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc  
Thompson Rivers University  
Carpentry/Journey Level 1

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

Sarah Bright  
Laxgalts’ap Village Government  
John Casablancas Institute  
Makeup Artistry

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

Shane Gurney  
Gingolx Village Government  
Vancouver Island University  
First Nations Stewardship Technicians

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

Sara Thomas  
Halalt First Nation  
Camosun College  
Office Administration

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

Shannon Green  
Gitlax’taamiks Village Government  
Canadian Vocational Training Centre  
Automated Office

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

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

Shyanne Batt
Tseil-Waututh Nation
University of the Fraser Valley
Geographic Information Systems

I am Sto:lo and part of the Tseil-Waututh Nation, I currently live in Langley. I am the first person in my family to get an university degree with not only one, but two. I am working on getting a third university degree, because someone told me I wouldn’t be able to finish high school, let alone university. I am still working on what I “want to be when I grow up.” All I know is I want to make change. Walt Disney got me through University; “If you can dream it, you can do it.” Without this quote and the support and tribute not only to my own photography skills, experience and education back to my community. I’m hoping my education will help contribute not only to my own photography business but as well as my communities.

Sheldon Dawson-Samuel
‘Namgis First Nation
Camosun College
Plumbing & Pipe Trades Foundation

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

Simone Paul
Tk'emlúps te Secwépmc
Thompson Rivers University
Executive Assistant Diploma

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

Stefani Beverly
Capilano University
Associate of Arts

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

Starnita Nyce
Village of Gitwinksihlkw
Wilp Wilx'oskwhl Nisga'a
Nisga’a Studies and First Nations Language

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

Taylor Ross
Lax Kw’alaams Band
College of the Rockies Carpenter

I am Taylor Ross, I grew up in a reservation called Lax Kw’alaams. I recently finished my first and second year of carpentry. My personal goals are to become a journeyman and to start my own company in the future. I believe this is a great opportunity for myself to make a great career out of and some day give back to my community.
The elders call me, “Deleez” and my English name is Theresa Morris. I was born and raised in Witset, however, I am a registered member of Binche Whut’en where I also sit on Chief & Council as the off-reserve Councillor. I work for the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology as well as attend Langara College accounting program. Whether you are an employee, serve on a board of directors or plan on running your own business, financial literacy is absolutely crucial. It can also bring in a second income which is necessary living in the lower mainland. Being financially competent makes you an automatic asset to any organization even if you are not employed in the finance department or sector.

Tina Etzerza
Iskut Band Council
Coast Mountain College
Business Administration

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

Tian Lord
Skidegate Band Council
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Foundations in Innovation & Technology

My name is Tian Alexander Warren Lord, I am from the archipelago of Haida Gwaii, and education opportunities. Being isolated off the west coast of Canada, I try to learn something new everyday from Science and Politics. I like the idea of having an occupation that can be used anywhere in the world and having a variety of transferable skills that can be used from one job to another. Something that interested me is water treatment and electricity, two staples of society that are needed everywhere.

Todd Naknakim
We Wai Kai First Nation
New Image College
Film Acting Conservatory

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

William Mark
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation
Vancouver Island University
Motorcycle Mechanic and Marine Technician

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

Victor Cooper
Lax Kw’alaams Band
Camosun College
Professional Cook 1

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

Zachary Munroe
Gitlaxt’aamiks Village Government
Canada Soccer Association
Coach Youth License Level B

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

Bachelor of Arts  

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

Blaine Lindstrom  
**Tahltan Central Government**  
*British Columbia Institute of Technology*  

Bachelor of Science - Ecological Restoration  

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

Annah Setter  
**Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band**  
*Mount Royal University*  

Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice  

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

Austin Whitney  
**Xaxli’p**  
*Simon Fraser University*  

Bachelor of Computing Science  

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

Brandon McReynolds  
**Squamish Nation**  
*University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point*  

Bachelor of Business Management & Marketing  

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

Chelsea Mitchell  
**Metlakatla First Nation**  
*University of Toronto*  

Bachelor of Arts - Economics and Mathematics  

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

Connor Louis  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
*Queen’s University*  

Bachelor of Arts (Hon)  

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

Dakota Nelson  
**Wei Wai Kum First Nation**  
*University of Victoria*  

Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology and Indigenous Studies  

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

Aiyana Twigg  
**Tobacco Plains Indian Band**  
*University of British Columbia*

Bachelor of Arts  

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gina Mae Schubert
Old Massett Village Council
Emily Carr University of Art and Design
Bachelor of Design

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

Jaiden George
Ahousat First Nation
Emily Carr University of Art and Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts

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

Jeffrey Sutherland
Tł̓ax̣am
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Commerce

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

Jennifer Elliott
Stz’uminus First Nation
University of Victoria
Bachelor of Commerce

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

Kara Ross
Okanagan Indian Band
University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies

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

Karlee Drake
Wei Wai Kum First Nation
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Education - Post Baccalaureate

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

Krista Truscott
Gingolx Village Government
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Business Administration

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

Katelyn Cooper
Lax Kw’alaams Band
Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection

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

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

Madelyn Brown  
Gingolx Village Government  
Eastern Washington University  
Bachelor of Arts - History  

Madelyn Brown is a member of the Nisga’a nation and a student at Eastern Washington University studying history with an emphasis in 19th-century Indigenous studies. She is currently conducting undergraduate research with her university’s American Indian Studies program and the Coeur d’Alene tribe. Her research interests focus on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its historical influence on environmental-care techniques utilized by Pacific Northwest tribal communities. Madelyn will be graduating with her Bachelor of Arts degree this June with the goal of continuing her education and gaining admittance into a master’s or PhD program in history.

Natasha Jones  
Pacheedaht First Nation  
Camosun College  
Bachelor of Business Administration  

My name is Natasha Jones, from Pacheedaht First Nation. My goal is to be graduated in June 2021, and to work in my community as the Band Administrator. I plan to further my education after I complete my current program, and will take a Indigenous governance Master’s program. I am a new mom, and that pushes me to do more for my daughter.

Neil Louie  
Nadleh Whut’en First Nation  
University of the Fraser Valley  
Bachelor of Arts - Philosophy  

My name is Neil Louie, I am a 40 year old father of four from the Nadleh Whut’en Indian Band near Fraser Lake BC. I am entering the third year of the Bachelor of Arts program at the University of the Fraser Valley and I am aiming to graduate in the spring of 2021, at which point I plan to go on to attend law school with the ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer.

Noelle Young  
Tzeachten First Nation  
Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Bachelor of Fine Arts  

My name is Noelle Young and I was born in Chilliwack, BC. I have continually found a path in the arts from a young age beginning in dance. I graduated from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre in 2016 where I began a career as a professional dancer in contemporary/modern dance. As life takes us down many different avenues, I am now in my second year at Emily Carr University of Art + Design for Visual Arts. With a focus in sculpture, I am currently working in the metal, wood, and mould-making shops and I am excited to dive further into working with these materials in my future at Emily Carr. In the bigger picture, I have a passion for teaching children and plan to intertwine that with my love of art to develop and nurture the creative minds of future generations to come.

Noah Chenoweth  
Upper Nicola Band  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies  

Hello, I am Noah Chenoweth and I am a member of the Okanagan Nation and the Upper Nicola Indian Band. I am studying Indigenous Studies at UBCO and learning a great deal about our Indigenous history and my responsibility to my community moving forward. I wish to continue serving my community and when completed my university studies I will seek a profession that allows me to continue to serve our people.

Neekiki  
Líl̓wat Nation  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
Bachelor of Business Management  

My name is Neekiki. My goal is to become an Economic Development Manager to advise Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Over this summer I have been working with the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association in the Industry Development Department, helping Indigenous people in this region learn the values of and earn a profit from tourism. I plan to complete my degree by April 2022. Thanks to the New Relationship Trust Foundation, I have been able to make the best of my time in post-secondary. With financial support I’ve been granted the favourable option of studying stress-free. I have so much appreciation for the financial support I’ve received. Kukwstumkaw.

Reiley Terbasket  
Lower Similkameen Indian Band  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
Bachelor of Science  

I am studying my 3rd year of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan, I have always had a strong interest in the sciences and in the environment and attending post secondary allows me to build valuable knowledge which will allow me to work in my Nation. I aspire to be employed in a field that continues the important work of managing and protecting our land and natural resources for our future generations. I am grateful to my community and to New Relationship Trust for supporting me to continue my post secondary education.

Pala Kovacs  
Líl̓wat Nation  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
Bachelor of Management  

My name is Pala Kovacs. My goal is to be employed in a field that continues the important work of managing and protecting our land and natural resources for our future generations. I am grateful to my community and to New Relationship Trust for supporting me to continue my post secondary education.
Ruth Speck  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Teacher Education Program  

My goal is to become a h̓ən̓ q̓əmin̓əm̓ and English teacher. Over the past couple years I’ve come to realize the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and using my own language. Studying the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and passing on the knowledge. I now have a desire to learn my father’s language, Kwik̓wala. With the help of NRT, I will gain the necessary skills to effectively teach my future students. ḥəyətalə cən ʔə wə nə skʷix, tə niʔ cən ʔəƛ̓ xʷməθkʷəy̓əm. My goal is to become a h̓ən̓ q̓əmin̓əm̓ and English teacher. Over the past couple years I’ve come to realize the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and using my own language. Studying the importance of knowing, revitalizing, and passing on the knowledge. I now have a desire to learn my father’s language, Kwik̓wala. With the help of NRT, I will gain the necessary skills to effectively teach my future students. ḥəyətalə cən ʔə wə nə skʷix, tə niʔ cən ʔəƛ̓ xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

Sheri Ptolemy  
**Samahquam**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts - Creative Writing  

Sheri Ptolemy started songwriting at the age of 14 after teaching herself to play guitar. She released and EP of original songs in 2013 and now studies Creative Writing at UBCO with a focus on poetry and screenplay. She believes that being a writer is a great platform and wants to use it not only to entertain and create great songs and movies, but to give a voice to people who have important stories to share, stories that have the possibility to bridge the gap of misunderstanding and share the truth with the world.

Taiden Galway  
**Squamish Nation**  
Simon Fraser University  
Bachelor of Arts  

I graduated with honours from Fraser Heights Secondary in June 2019, I was on the honour roll every year since Grade 8. I received a Special Recognition Award and also a Culinary Arts 12 Award. I have a diploma for NVIT’s Law Enforcement Preparatory Program and a Food Safe certificate. I am now attending Simon Fraser University full time wanting to receive a Bachelor of Arts in English, followed by the Professional Development Program. In the future I would like to have a career as an English or Social Studies high school teacher.

Veronica Surette  
**Kispiox Band Council**  
University of British Columbia  
Bachelor of Arts  

My name is Veronica Surette and I am a member of the Kispiox First Nation band. I am excited to be starting classes at the University of British Columbia. I am from Richmond, BC and I am looking forward to moving onto the UBC campus for my first year. I plan to complete four years of classes at UBC, and finish with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. I feel extremely grateful to be receiving the NRTF scholarship, as it will help fund my future studies.

Troy Thomas  
**Neskonlith Indian Band**  
Thompson Rivers University  
Bachelor of Arts - English Literature  

After a number of wayward years, I was fortunate to have an opportunity to return to university to complete my formally abandoned degree. I had always dreamt of being part of the first generation in my family to attain a university degree, but was unprepared in my youth for the difficulties life presents to the naive. After years struggling with ill health and injury, moving from job to job, having this opportunity means the world to me. I am thankful to my family, community, nation, as well as to the Tqeltkúkwpi7 for without the support of many, I would have been lost long ago. I am also thankful to the New Relationship Trust for this award.

Wilson Mearns  
**Musqueam Indian Band**  
University of Victoria  
Bachelor of Arts - Slavic Studies  

My name is Wilson Mearns and I am a proud member of the Musqueam Indian Band, Vancouver BC. I graduated In June, 2019 with Honours from Elphinstone Secondary located on the Sunshine Coast. I am heading to the University of Victoria to complete a Humanities degree in Linguistics, with a focus on Slavic Studies. I will have the opportunity to learn some of my own native language while attending UVic. This will be my first year and I am excited to start on my new educational path. I hope to be a great role model for younger members of my band and can encourage them to do well in school. I look forward to meeting with other Indigenous students and learn from the elders at the university.
Aaron Grant  
Lax Kw’alaams Band  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Master of Arts - First Nations Studies

Jahl Xiyaayda’ Gas – “Hello! Wonderful People!” Yahlnaaw has begun her Master’s Degree at the University of Northern British Columbia in First Nations Studies studying Indigenous language revitalization via traditional storytelling and community building. After completion of her Master’s, Yahlnaaw aims to enroll in the University of Victoria’s Indigenous Language Revitalization PhD program. Yahlnaaw is aware of what it is like to be an Indigenous person growing up in a colonized education system and wants to aid in creating a pathway for upcoming Indigenous brothers and sisters in academia.

Elias Laing  
Fort Nelson First Nation  
University of Calgary  
Master of Business Administration

I belong to Fort Nelson First Nation and have deep roots and connections to my Dene heritage on my mother’s side. I am proud to have been raised in a traditional, family and community oriented environment. I believe that the time is now to further my education, seeing as I am young, healthy, and capable of attaining a higher level of education to achieve my hopes and dreams in this precise moment. My grandmother, a residential-school survivor, instilled in me the value of education and I pledge to never forget or disregard her valuable teachings.

Alyssa Walthers  
Upper Similkameen Indian Band  
University of Saskatchewan  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Growing up, I always had a fascination and connection with all animals, whether domestic or wild. While working towards my Biology degree in Halifax NS, and taking on various volunteer roles, it became clear that veterinary medicine would be the perfect fit for me. Several years later, I am now in my final year of vet med at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon SK, where I will be undertaking a diverse set of clinical rotations. My goals after graduation are to become a mixed animal practitioner, participate in community outreach initiatives, and to eventually own my own clinic.

Erik Prytula  
Old Massett Village Council  
Thompson Rivers University  
Master of Science – Environmental Science

I am a member of the Haida Nation and am currently attending Thompson Rivers University for a Masters of Environmental Science. I hold a degree in Biology and a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Administration. I am a traditional Haida Artist and was a finalist nominee for Emerging Artist of Kamloops 2016 and 2017. I was mentored by master artist Reg Davidson, and work with argillite, cedar, and acrylic paint. I’m the lead designer in a business called Adamant Prints, where the goal is to produce inspirational clothing. I’m also a designer and model for Fashion Speaks International, which is a Fashion show that raises money for the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Evangeline Guerin  
Musqueam Indian Band  
Simon Fraser University  
Master of Arts – Linguistics of a First Nations Language

I was born on Vancouver Island and raised in Vancouver. I grew up with my grandparents, Helen Guerin & late Robert Guerin. I was surrounded by the hul’q’umi’num’ language and cultural teaching growing up. When I was younger I attended our language classes because my grandparents and family members all shared teaching the language. Most of my grandparents spent their life doing research and teaching the language. I’m very passionate about the path I chose to take with the language. I’m Very grateful to be considered by the New Relationship Trust Foundation. hay ch qa.

Jaidin Wale  
Gitanmaax Band  
University of British Columbia  
Juris Doctor

My grandfather and my father’s family are Lax Gibuu (Wolf) and my mother’s side of the family is of European descent. I am the oldest child of four siblings, an adoring auntie, and a proud member of my nation’s Gitxsan Women’s Basketball Team. I am also a first year law student at the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. My dream is to use this legal training to benefit the Indigenous community here in Vancouver and my own community back at home. I further hope that my developing advocacy skills will be a useful tool to further reconciliation within the mixed Indigenous and settler spaces where I live, study, and work.

Melpatqw Matthew  
Simpcw First Nation  
University of British Columbia  
Master of Arts - Geography

I am currently conducting research on Secwepemc and Indigenous water governance, environmental issues, language revitalization, and Secwepemc culture. My research focus is on Indigenous geographies and intergenerational transmission of water and cultural knowledges. My goal is to further Secwepemc water governance and to implement and inspire de-colonial approaches to taking care of water and formulating sustainable alternatives to colonial capitalist water governance and water systems. My career goals are to work as a Professor in Indigenous Geographies and to continue educating my people on water governance.

Nakkita Trimble  
Gingolx Village Government  
Emily Carr University of Art and Design  
Master of Fine Arts

My name is Nakkita Trimble. My Nisga’a name is Speaking Through Art. I am from Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda, The House that is Never Empty. I am Frog clan and maternally from Gingolx, British Columbia. Maternally I am Nisga’a. My great grand-parents names are Rose (Gurney) and Christopher Trimble. My great grandparents were one of two of the last arranged marriages from my village. Currently my goals include completing my Masters with a focus on Indigenous Tattooing Practices of the Nisga’a Nation. My future goals include working towards my Doctorate with the same focus. I am doing this work for my Nation.
Pawa Haiypis
Ahousaht First Nation
University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Indigenous Nationhood

I was raised between Cowichan and Tsawout. I am currently working diligently to complete my Masters, studying the Linguistics of Huu’pi’um’um’/i. My goal is to become fluent and continue working to the best of my ability to contribute to language revitalization within our community. Hay ul’uy’ nu shqwaluwun kwunus ’itutul muu tuhu’pi’um’um’ sjwal. I am very happy to be learning the Huu’pi’um’um’ language.

Rae Anne (Claxton) Baker
Tsawout First Nation
Simon Fraser University
Master of Arts - Linguistics of a First Nations Language

I was raised between Cowichan and Tsawout. I am currently working diligently to complete my Masters, studying the Linguistics of Huu’pi’um’um’. My goal is to become fluent and continue working to the best of my ability to contribute to language revitalization within our community. Hay ul’uy’ nu shqwaluwun kwunus ’itutul muu tuhu’pi’um’um’ sjwal. I am very happy to be learning the Huu’pi’um’um’ language.

Samantha Bray
Stellat’en First Nation
University of Saskatchewan
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

My short term career goals are to be a small animal (dog and cat) veterinarian. Long term, my goals are to own a mobile veterinary clinic that can visit reserves and other northern communities to improve access to veterinary services. I hope to reduce the negative connotation that surrounds the treatment of animals on reserves. I am extremely grateful to have been chosen to receive scholarships from NRTF throughout my education in veterinary medicine. The debt to earning ratio in veterinary medicine is a huge burden to new veterinarians and thanks to NRTF that is not something I personally have to deal with and has made it easier to succeed in a tough program.

Sarah Robinson
Fort Nelson First Nation
University of Victoria
Juris Doctor

My name is Sarah Robinson, a proud citizen of the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Saulteau First Nation in Treaty 8 territory. I’m married to the Toquaht Nation on Vancouver Island, and I live in their small community of Macoah on the shores of Barkley Sound. I love to learn about Indigenous legal systems, and am passionate about ensuring that Indigenous peoples and Nations can navigate settler systems of law. I’m pursuing a law degree to better understand these complex systems, and to one day help others understand them too.

Saul Brown
Heiltsuk Nation
University of Victoria
Juris Doctor/Juris Indigenarum Doctor

He is a student of Heiltsuk Gvi’ilas (laws) and governance. As food sovereignist, he sees the intrinsic value and necessity of giving effect to Heiltsuk laws out on the water and land. He has worked with elders on numerous files with the intent of breathing life into Heiltsuk ancestral law in the contemporary. Saul is the former negotiator for the Heiltsuk reconciliation process and has worked as governance advisor for First Nations across the province. He is immensely grateful for receiving this scholarship from New Relationship Trust as he continues his education in making the space for Indigenous legal systems to flourish within what is now known as Canada.

Taylor Wale
Gitanmaax Band
University of British Columbia
Master of Science

I am a Gitxsan salmon woman and graduate student from the community of Gitanmaax. My future goals are to return to the Skeena River and again work alongside my community to protect and promote the health of our rivers and salmon, under our ancestral governance structures and protocols. In the meantime, I am working to complete my thesis, researching energy redistribution dynamics & selectivity of traits for Sockeye salmon in the context of Indigenous-led, known-stock terminal fisheries.

Zoe Verlaan
Spuzzum First Nation
University of Victoria
Master of Arts - Political Science

My name is Zoe Verlaan and I am a graduate student from the community of Spuzzum First Nation. I am currently in the second year of my Masters program in Political Science. My thesis looks at the connections between Indigenous sovereignty, gender, and sexuality in written and oral artistic works by self-identified Indigenous women and LGBTQ2S people. My goal is to contribute to a healing process for our communities from the gendered and sexualized violence of settler colonialism while prioritizing decolonization and revitalization.
Andrea Reid
Gingolx Village Government
Carleton University
Doctor of Philosophy - Biology

I am a Nisga’a citizen (Village of Gingolx) and a PhD Candidate in Biology at the University of British Columbia and Carleton University. I completed both my BSc in Environment and my MSc in Biology at McGill University. I am passionate about finding sustainable solutions for our fish, and the rivers, lakes, and oceans that support them. My research blends ecological and social approaches to explore ways of improving how we treat and manage our vital but increasingly threatened Pacific salmon populations. I am also dedicated to youth outreach, and regularly lead salmon science camps and talks in my community. In January 2021, I will join the University of British Columbia’s Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries as an Assistant Professor and Chair of the new Indigenous Fisheries Research Unit.

Eugenia (Gena) Edwards
Ts’kw’aylaxw First Nation
Wilfred Laurier University
Doctor of Philosophy

My name is Kwiks Ti7na I carry my great grandmother Celestine’s name. I am a St’at’imc woman from Ts’kw’aylaxw. I am the great granddaughter of Chief Thomas Adolph who signed the Lillooet declaration of 1910. And the granddaughter of Grand Chief Victor Adolph Sr. who helped establish the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada now known as the Assembly of First Nations. I am also the great great granddaughter of Chief Edward Towspoolah the first recorded Chief of Ts’kw’aylaxw. My parents are Sharon & Eugene Edwards, my children are Darian and Taylor and my grandson is Towspoolah (Greyson). My fiancé is Medrick Azak. My goals are to implement different dispositions and pedagogy. We have existed for time immemorial within our own úcwalmicw systems and will continue.

Corrina Sparrow
Musqueam Indian Band
University of British Columbia
Doctor of Philosophy - Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice

I identify as a Two Spirit person, and have been a helper with Indigenous communities for the past twenty years. For my doctoral studies, I will build on work previously done with my relatives, to explore Coast Salish Two Spirit resilience as a means to inform cultural revitalization, community wellness, and alliance building with our LGBTQ+ friends. This nation-based Two Spirit research is the first of its kind, and will help inform program, policy and community development efforts in our relative Nations respectively.

Jordan Wilson
Musqueam Indian Band
New York University
Doctor of Philosophy - Sociocultural Anthropology

I am a curator, writer and emerging scholar from the Musqueam First Nation. For the past ten years I have been working in museum contexts, with the aim of institutional change and development of Indigenous curatorial methods. I’m interested in the legacies of anthropological practices, issues related to Indigenous representation, and Indigenous resistance to and refusals of settler colonialism. As a PhD student, I am pursuing these interests through the lens of Musqueam’s revitalization of its ancestral language, hən̓ q̓əmin̓ əm̓. My work is informed by a commitment to the self-determination of Musqueam, and is inspired by the hard work of our ancestors and my extended family.

Vina Brown
Heiltsuk Nation
University of Alaska
Doctor of Philosophy - Indigenous Studies

Yau, my name is ƛáqvas gifwa which means Copper Canoe. I am from the Heiltsuk and Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations. My father Frank Brown is Heiltsuk and carries the name and chiefanship ƛ̓á̓l̓iyasila. It was our latest family potlatch that I had my name ƛáqvas gifwa affirmed within our most secret and sacred ceremony, the Caiqa, also known as the our red-cedar bark ceremony. I am my family’s copper carrier; therefore, my name translates into English as Copper Canoe Woman. My mother Kathy Brown is Nuu-Chah-Nulth from the Ahousaht First Nation. I am a mother to a beautiful one-year-old son named Hongyi. I am a lover of Native culture, land, and water. I am an advocate for the continuation of Heiltsuk knowledge systems and food systems. My passions include beading, dancing, spending time with my family, and traveling. Walas Giasixa for listening.

Receiving the support of the New Relationship Trust is an honour. It’s gratifying to feel supported by an organization dedicated to the educational pursuits of BC First Nations students. Seeing my profile amongst others who are doing important work reinforces that we aren’t alone in our educational journeys.
— Jordan Wilson
The NRT Foundation support allows me to fully focus on learning and fully immerse myself into my academics and community involvement. I am forever thankful to the NRT Foundation for supporting me.

— Noah Chenoweth
Scholarship Recipient

Bio on page 117
Your support will help an Indigenous student in BC to complete a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree. In addition, it will help the NRT Foundation to build an endowment fund that support Indigenous scholarships and bursaries for generations to come.

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

The NRT Foundation is a registered Canadian charity. Charitable tax Receipts will be provided to donors in accordance with CRA guidelines.

Empowering First Nations communities
Indigenous peoples have been historically disadvantaged at all levels of education attainment; investing in Indigenous education achieves a profound effect in addressing the following disparities:

- 23% gap in high school completion rates of Indigenous students compared to non-Indigenous Canadians.
- 33.9% of Indigenous people have some form of post-secondary compared to 54% of non-Indigenous Canadians; and $2,000 less per capita is spent on First Nations primary & secondary education than the rest of BC.

I am incredibly grateful to receive this award and it always helps me to relieve some financial stress at the beginning of each semester. Thank you so much for your support.

— Tatyana Daniels

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.

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BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE

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

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

The NRT Foundation is seeking industry partnerships. If you are interested in setting up an award for your company, or for an Indigenous community that you do business with, please contact:

Matt Cook-Contois
Partnerships & Marketing Manager
at (604) 925-3338
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

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

SEEKING INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Help us make a difference by supporting Indigenous education now.

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

Kahlw7alap Nsnekwnúkwa7 SKirsten nskwátsitsa T’it’q’etmekan. (Hello, friends/relatives/people, my name is Kirsten I grew up in the T’it’q’et community which is adjacent to the town of Lillooet, BC. T’it’q’et is one of 11 communities that is part of the St’át’imc Nation. My traditional name is Qwezqwazíźken (blue bird). I am from the Scotchman/Leech family on my mom’s side and the Smith family on my dad’s side from Samahquam.

I graduated in 2017 from Emily Carr University of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Design (BDes), majoring in Communication Design and a minor in Curatorial Practices. I am currently an in-house graphic designer at Science World, British Columbia. I am also a committee member of the newly developed Canadian Indigenous Design Charter which is a part of the Graphic Designers of Canada (gdc.design).

GET IN TOUCH WITH KIRSTEN
You can find my online portfolio at krstndesign.com kirsten.7-whitney@gmail.com

The NRT Foundation firmly believes in providing opportunities for past and present students. Investing in Indigenous youth builds our communities and paves the way for a strong Indigenous future. Kirsten’s journey from an award recipient to our brochure designer highlights the NRT Foundation’s commitment towards Indigenous resurgence and we thank her for sharing her talents with us!

“Taya Rankin Bursary Recipient

— Taya Rankin

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