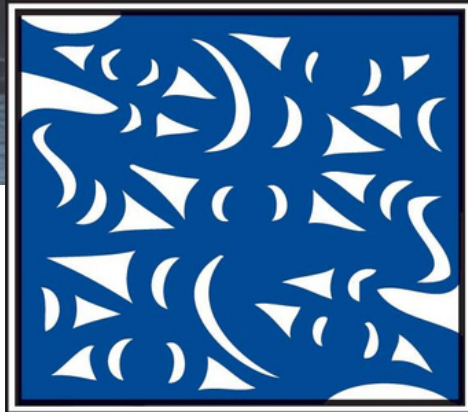


2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**CHIEF JOE MATHIAS
BRITISH COLUMBIA ABORIGINAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**



The Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund was established to honour the memory of the late Chief Joe Mathias, a hereditary and elected Chief of the Squamish Nation. Chief Mathias is remembered for his vision and his leadership for the rights of aboriginal people in British Columbia and across the country. Central to that vision was his passionate belief in and advocacy for higher education for aboriginal young people.

This Scholarship Fund is dedicated to helping realize Joe's dream of providing post-secondary opportunities for energetic, dedicated and aspiring young British Columbia First Nation students, opportunities to enable them to realize their dreams of becoming leaders of tomorrow in the career of their choosing. There is no more appropriate tribute to the work of Chief Mathias than to witness the success of the young aboriginal graduates and scholarship recipients presented here. First Nation doctors, businessmen and women, scientists, social workers, engineers, nurses, computer programmers, lawyers, and teachers...these are the leaders of the future who will continue his legacy and ensure a bright and prosperous future for First Nations citizens and their communities.

The Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship has provided over 480 scholarships to over 380 students from over 100 First Nations in BC since its inception in 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF 2023!



Aiden Antoine
Bonaparte First Nation
Bachelor of Commerce, UBC

Hey, this is Aiden! I'm a member of the Bonaparte First Nation, which is based in Cache Creek, BC. Currently, I live on-campus at UBC, where - come September - I'll be entering my fourth year in the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program at the UBC Sauder School of Business, specializing in Business Technology Management with hopes of one day working as a data analyst. If it wasn't for the support of scholarships just like this one, post-secondary education would have never been a possibility for me... so from the bottom of my heart, thank you, Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Fund!



Amber May
Tahltan
Bachelor of Science - Forensic Science - Laurentian Univeristy

Hi, my name is Amber May. I am from Calgary, AB and I go to Laurentian University. I'm going into my third year of forensic science and I am on the varsity basketball team. I come from a family of 13, and I am only the third child to go straight to university even though I am the 8th of 11. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and I plan on using my education to become a forensic technician, and then a medical examiner. Thank you very much



Andrew Dexel
Nłe?kepmx
Bachelor of Nłe?kepmx
Language Fluency, UBC

I am Nłe?kepmx from Nweyc, where I live with my wife and three children. I am honoured to be learning my language, and I am so grateful for all the support. Learning Nłe?kepmxcn has given me many wonderful opportunities to further learn about my identity and connect with Elders. I am so grateful to have something of importance to share with my children and those to come. I did not foresee my educational journey leading to a Bachelor's degree, and I am very proud of this accomplishment. It shows how far one can go when driven by passion and fulfillment, and I feel I am on the right path. hułeł



Ayana Brown
Lower Nicola Indian Band
Masters in Accounting,
University of Utah

I am a member of the lower Nicola Indian band located in Merritt BC. I am a Master of Accounting Student at the University of Utah located in Salt Lake City. My dream is to become an indigenous business consultant to help indigenous businesses thrive. I love leaning about business and one day would love to run my own. In my free time you can find me painting, hiking, and dancing. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to receive this scholarship to make my dreams become reality.



Brendan Eshom
Gitga'at (Hartley Bay) Bachelor
of Science, UBC

My name is Brendan, and I am a member of the Gitga'at First Nation. My traditional name is Gaa Liip Liibm Laxha, and I am a member of the killer whale clan. Currently, I am pursuing my passions at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Science. This upcoming school year, I am continuing with the fourth year of my bachelor's degree, where I blend the fields of biology, chemistry, and earth & environmental science.



Cheyenne Cunningham
Katzie
PhD of Language and Literacy
Education (hən q- əmiñ əm əm),
UBC

Cheyenne is currently residing on the Katzie reserve located along the Fraser River. She is English on her mother's side and Coast Salish on her father's. She is in her 3rd year of her PhD. Her research interests focus on the exploration of Katzie place names that have been identified in Suttles (1955) *Katzie Ethnographic Notes*, to surface knowledge embedded within these landscapes. She would like to examine how these place names can be an intervention for language revitalization.



Cody Teichroeb
Westbank First Nation
Bachelor of Arts, UBCO

wáy ʒast sʒlɪʒaʒlt, iskʷist nciʔcn, iʔ sumaʔ iskʷist Cody Teichroeb. I am passionate about mental wellbeing. I am a youth worker in my home nation, and a researcher at the university. Both jobs help me find purpose. I am fortunate to research psychedelics as well as Indigenous mental health as it relates to substance use. I look forward to seeing how my education and research can bring positivity and a new outlook to treatment options.



Danika Shaw
Heiltsuk
Bachelor of First Nations
Endangered Languages, UBC

Yí'yául! Danikaxʒlanugva du Haíʒaxvnugva. I am currently my community's Urban Haíʒaqvɪa instructor. I have since also helped collaborate with my community on developing the curriculum and resources needed for our upcoming Language Nest Program that is starting in Sept 2023. It's been a great learning journey, and I can't wait to see what more I'll learn and create.



Darienne Russell
Tl'azt'en Nation
Master of Public Health,
University of Toronto

As a graduate student completing a Master of Public Health with a specialization in Indigenous Health, I am also a research assistant at the Ontario Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research. My focus includes women's health, homelessness, and housing. My goal is to be a strong advocate for Indigenous peoples and communities.



Dylan Whitney
Xaxli'p
Faculty of Medicine MD,
University of Alberta

Dylan previously graduated from UBC with a BAsC in Engineering Physics in 2019. He was born and raised in Vancouver along with his parents, younger sister, and brother. His father is a member of the Xaxli'p. Dylan has research ties in both the United States and Canada with notable publications with Stanford University and the University of Toronto spanning topics from Anesthesia to genetic diversity and early evolution of SARS-CoV-2. Dylan holds research and clinical interests in the field of medicine.



Francine Hans
Skidegate
Bachelor of Education , UBC

I am part of the Haida Nation on Haida Gwaii. Last year when I was awarded a scholarship, my dream was to go to UBC. Now that I am finished my first year, I would love to finish my degree and continue on to get my Master's and Ph.D. in Education. I would love to build a curriculum for our communities instead of teaching it. I want to inspire others to do the best they can in life. I am extremely proud of the person I am today, and I will only learn from my past mistakes.



Jessalyn White
Lax Kw'alaams
Bachelor of Arts, TRU

Through my own experiences and studies, I was propelled from an early age to explore the field of psychology and mental health. After growing up watching my mother struggle with her depression, I realized I wanted to assist individuals like her in getting the help they need. I am passionate about starting my own business, and hope that with much training I can pursue a career as a clinical counsellor and provide services to those in my community on the Sunshine Coast.



Jessica Savoy
Nisga'a
Associate of Arts Diploma,
Langara

Jessica has years of experience working with non-profits, municipal and provincial governments. She has interests in community engagement and policy framework and was recently elected as the National Youth Rep. for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Office. She's an advocate who works to better the lives those living off reserve. One of her enjoyments in life is her interactions with elders and youth.



Joshua Houghton
Squamish Nation Masters of
Child and Youth in Care
(Indigenous), UVIC

I am a single father to an amazing son and caregiver to my 15-year old sister after the passing of our father. I am starting my graduate studies in Child, Youth, Families and Community. I want to make a difference on a community level that uses decolonial frameworks to remove barriers for nation members using nation services. I want to create systemic changes for Indigenous youth and families grounded in culture and traditional governance.



Josie Duncan
Xat'sūll First Nation (Soda
Creek)
Bachelor of Midwifery, UBC

Weyt-kp/Hello, My family on my mother's side is Secwépemc and Austrian, and my father's side is Scottish and Lithuanian. My passions are advocating for social and reproductive justice and anti-colonial practices in health care. My goal is to help bridge the significant gap in culturally competent and holistic health care to rural and Indigenous communities, as well as the protection of traditional perinatal practices.



Julian Stokes
Old Massett Village Council
Masters of Health Sciences,
UNBC

I conduct research using near-infrared spectroscopy to investigate cognitive pain management techniques. By staying involved in the community with roles such as a UNBC Research Ambassador, I further strive to support the university's academic culture and act as a role model for other students. The CJM Scholarship Fund's support comes at a pivotal time as I enter the final year of my program, and your recognition of my efforts inspires me as I move towards the next stage of my career.



Justin Grenier
Nak'azdli Whut'en
Medicine, UBC

Hadih, Daht'oh? I'm a dad to 2 young amazing boys and husband to a fantastic wife. I graduated in 2016 from UNBC with a Bachelor of Health Sciences with a Major in Biomedical Studies. I also spent 12 years with B.C Wildfire Service hiking up mountains, falling trees and sleeping in the bush, then spent my winters training Muay Thai in Thailand. It is my first year in medical school at UBC in the Northern Medical Program. Remember, laughter enhances blood flow, improves the transfer of oxygen, boosts the immune system and releases endorphins.



Kaitlyn Cunningham
Katzie
Bachelor of Arts, SFU

I am from Katzie First Nation, but I currently live off reserve. My interests include reading, gardening, making plant medicines, crafting with my daughter, TEK, and linguistics. I am currently working towards my Bachelor of Arts with a double minor in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics, focusing on hə́n' q' əmín' əm' and hul'qumi'num'. My current educational and professional goals are to finish my BA and move on to my MA, and to be an instructor at SFU, teaching INLG courses to the Indigenous youth that I have worked with for almost their entire lives



Leanne Joe
Sts'ailes
Masters of Education, SFU & UFV

Ey swayel, my traditional name is Senoqw'iyē. I am from Sts'ailes with ancestral lineage from Matsqui, Skwah, and Katzie where my traditional name and matrilineal lineage comes from. I live in Ch'iyaqtel with my husband and our children. We both work for Abbotsford School District's Indigenous Education Department. I am pursuing a Graduate Certificate of the Sto:lo Language and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction for Ecological Education.



Lucy Bell, Haida
Independent Interdisciplinary
Studies in Indigenous
Museology, SFU

Lucy Bell, PhD (ABD) belongs to the Tsiits G'itaneé Eagle clan. She is a Nation-based scholar and a PhD candidate at SFU, studying Haida museology and repatriation as acts of reconciliation. She is the recipient of the Sterling Prize for Controversy and a BC Museums Association's Award for speaking out against racism at the RBCM and the need for change in the museum sector. Lucy is also a Distinguished UVIC Alumna, where she received a MA in language revitalization and a cultural resource management certificate.



Madison Kaminski
Simpchw
Dietetics, UBC

I was born and currently reside in Vancouver where I attend the University of British Columbia. I am currently a fourth-year Dietetics student in the faculty of Food, Nutrition, and Health. Post-graduation I see myself working in healthcare with goals to educate people on the importance and fundamentals of nutrition. I am very grateful to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Board for their support in my education.



Mary Dollard
Tl'azt'en
Health Sciences, SFU

I live and grew up in the Lower Mainland. My mother's family is from the north, Tl'azt'en Nation. My father's family were German settlers on my paternal grandmother's side, and Chinese immigrant on my paternal grandfather's side. I am an RN working in Public Health, working on completing my masters degree in Indigenous Population Health. I live with my partner, daughter and our sweet pets. Once I am done with my degree I hope to move north and work with communities.



Melodie Casella
Shishalh Nation
Social Work - Indigenous
Specialization, UVIC

My traditional name is Siémthlalt, & I am registered with the Shishalh Nation (maternal) & also have roots in the Katzie Nation (paternal). I acquired my Bachelor of Social Work (2011) & I am now into the 3rd year for my Master of Social Work – Indigenous Specialization with the University of Victoria. I am a MMIWG family member & my longtime advocacy has compelled me to channel this through my education to bring a voice for MMIWG family members & create a platform to invoke change for MMIWG families.



Robert Burns
Gitxsan, Gitanmaax
Bachelor of Arts, UBC

My traditional name is Su Wil Laksa Galyax. It means learner of our history. Knowledge of the Skeena River. I come from the Gitxsan and Heiltsuk First Nation; I was born in Hazelton, BC of my Gitxsan territory. I am a fourth-year student at the UBC within the Bachelor of Arts First Nations and Indigenous Studies program. I grew up outside my community and this has been a starting point to understand the urban Indigenous experience, it has been a driving force for my career and educational goals.



Sadie Thomas
Cowichan
Bachelor of Arts, Vancouver Island
Univeristy

'Uy' skweyul (Good day). My Hul'q'umi'num' name is Susa'lie. I am a Cowichan member with family ties to Halalt First Nation. I am a mom to two teenage daughters and a crazy/beautiful Husky-Shepherd named Nova. I am a second generation residential school survivor, both my parents attended Kuper Island Residential School. I am currently completing pre-requisites for the Bachelor of Social Work Program.



Sage Thomas
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
Bachelor of Science in
Midwifery, UBC

Sage is a trained doula, Breastfeeding Educator/Counsellor and Student Midwife. Sage has been working with families as a birthworker since 2011. She completed an Associate of Arts concentrating in Anthropology and Sociology 2021. She is a professionally trained visual artist. Sage is an advocate and has a passion for the arts, reproductive rights and justice, Indigenous and gender equality, revitalizing Indigenous birthing practices, and her Secwépemc culture and language.



Shanna Anderson
Cook's Ferry
Bachelor of Arts, University of
the Fraser Valley

I would like to express my extreme gratitude towards the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund. I am beyond thankful for the award I have received. I am an Indigenous studies major with a minor in Criminology. My goal after completing my bachelor's is to attend the Peter A. Allard School of Law school UBC. I hope to complete the Indigenous Law program.



**Stephanie Paul
Wsanec Nation**

**Masters of Science in Environmental Economics
and Management (MScEEM),
Thompson Rivers University**

My name is Stephanie Paul and I am Coast Salish on my father's side and Secwepemc on my mother's side. I was raised on Tsartlip Indian Reserve. We, as First Nation people need to maintain and protect the land and water to pass our teachings and history onto the next generations.

I will continue my work in Title and Rights to combine Indigenous worldview with western science. The MScEEM program has provided me the skills to balance economic development with environmental sustainability and I will continue to advocate for environmental justice. I am truly grateful for the scholarship support.



**Tina Nash
Tahltan**

Medicine, University of Calgary

My name is Tina Nash. I am 53 years old, and a proud member of the Tahltan First Nation, Eth'eni family, daughter of John and Irene Creyke and granddaughter of John and Dinah Creyke.

I am a mother to eleven children and grandmother to seven grandchildren. I already hold degrees in Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Master of Counselling. I am currently in my final year of a Doctor of Medicine degree through the University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine where I am completing an eight month longitudinal clerkship in Yellowknife, NT.

I am dedicated to becoming a Family Medicine doctor so I can serve to meet the needs of Indigenous people living in rural/remote areas.

Meduh for the support and love along this journey.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS...



ILLAHE is a family foundation working with partners to support measures aimed at meaningful systemic change by addressing poverty, social and economic inequities, reconciliation, environmental degradation, family violence, housing, women's health, and substance abuse. Besides addressing these matters directly, our foundation promotes educational, cultural, and community initiatives that increase capacity in the long term.



Our goal is to support the political and cultural resurgence of First Nations through the recognition and exercise of their inherent rights. We provide legal advice to First Nations political bodies to support both their internal governance structures and their engagement with other First Nations, federal, provincial and municipal governments. We work hard to get to know and understand our clients - including their perspectives and approaches to addressing issues. This allows us to tailor our services to our clients' unique circumstances.

Fraser Fibreglass Ltd.

Fraser Fibreglass Ltd. was established in 1980 by owners, Amanda & Philip O'Donoghue. In addition to our specialties of colour matching, yacht painting and solving fibreglass related problems, Fraser Fibreglass provides shipwrighting, woodwork, repair, design and alteration services. We take pride in the quality of our work and our track record of servicing the yachts of discriminating owners and skippers throughout the Vancouver and Lower Mainland areas. We regularly carry out repairs to yachts damaged by collision, grounding, and other accidents. Whether your vessel is insured or not, we are always pleased to give you an estimate for repair, including a detailed list of what we would do to get your yacht back in the water.



Trans Mountain Corporation operates Canada's only pipeline system transporting oil products to the West Coast. We deliver approximately 300,000 barrels of petroleum products each day through 1,150 kilometres of pipeline in Alberta and British Columbia, and 111 kilometres of pipeline in Washington state.



Registered Name:
**CHIEF JOE MATHIAS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ABORIGINAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

RAYMOND JAMES®

Worth Allaye-Chan Investment Counsel is an innovative presence on the Canadian investment landscape, providing customized investment solutions for First Nations, individual investors, trusts and estates, institutions, corporations, foundations and not-for-profit organizations.

As Portfolio Managers, they manage the intricacies of risk management, asset correlation and allocation, and other essential elements of building and managing wealth. The managers take a global view of investing and seek opportunities inside and outside of North America. Their thoughtful approach begins with an understanding of the client's own financial picture to provide the most suitable advice for their specific circumstances.

Deloitte.

Deloitte is one of Canada's leading professional services firms, providing a full range of assurance and advisory, financial advisory, tax and consulting services through more than 8,400 people in more than 55 locations across the country. Our Indigenous Client Services group provides solid advice to assist First Nations and other Indigenous organizations in meeting their objectives and building financially successful communities. Deloitte Indigenous was founded in 1990 to enable Indigenous leaders, communities, and organizations with access to comprehensive professional services.



The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of the lands and waters that make up the Port of Vancouver, Canada's largest port. Trade through the Port of Vancouver connects Canadian businesses and consumers with the variety of products that we use every day from markets across the globe, and generates tax revenues and secure employment for local communities.



Mandell Pinder was founded to provide legal assistance to support the struggle for recognition of Aboriginal title and rights, and the right to self-determination. With the goal of responding to the visions and needs of Aboriginal governments, our firm has developed a strong team with a broad spectrum of expertise. Our approach is shaped by the legal and cultural traditions of Indigenous peoples.

AQUILINI

At Aquilini, we believe that everything we do should touch people's lives in a profound, thoughtful way. We've spent the last 60 years assembling a family of companies driven by talented, passionate individuals focused on creating World Class experiences in the realms of homebuilding, workspaces, food and entertainment. Our vision is to be a part of your life, full circle, from the moment you wake up, to the moment you go to bed. As a privately held company, our experience and collective strength allows us to take a long term, strategic approach to every opportunity we pursue because every decision we make matters.

Ratcliff LLP

Founded in 1950 with just one lawyer, Vancouver law firm Ratcliff LLP has steadily grown to its current size by offering a comprehensive range of legal services to the communities we serve. Much of the firm focuses on Aboriginal law, serving First Nations governments, organizations, businesses, and tribal councils throughout the province, and constitutional law serving all our client groups.



Brian Chatwin started Chatwin Engineering in 1982. He is recognized as a leader in BC's engineering and geosciences community, a trusted mentor to his staff, and a passionate advocate for the sustainable development of our island home.

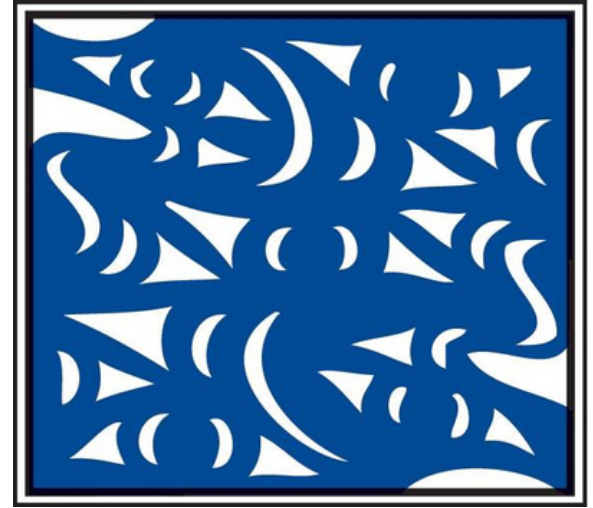


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We strive to present solutions that are timeless while allowing flexibility to support future change and expansion.



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With new post-secondary investments, First Nations learners will have access to expanded Indigenous-led post-secondary education programs, training and supports.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- M. Ann Ferris
- R. Scott Serson
- Margaret Fellowes
- Victor & Judith Pearson
- Susan Stout
- Douglas & Carla Mason
- Tsukiko Takagi
- + all other donations received from our wonderful communities!

If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please send your cheque payable to the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund (c/o PO BOX 51511, West Vancouver RPO, BC V7T 2X9) and you will receive a charitable tax receipt, OR through canadahelps.org.

Your donations are helping to make a difference!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Baird

Kim is an accomplished leader advising Indigenous communities, governments, businesses, and other organizations on Indigenous matters. She is the Chancellor for Kwantlen Polytechnic University and is the owner of Kim Baird Strategic Consulting. She was elected Chief of her community for 13 years where she negotiated and implemented the Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty and helped initiate the Tsawwassen Mills Project on Tsawwassen lands. Kim's continued goal is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people through her services in relation to First Nation policy, governance, and economic development; as well as First Nation consultation, communication, and engagement issues. She is on several boards including the Canada Infrastructure Bank, and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. Kim is a member of both the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada, is an Inspire Laureate and holds an Institute of Corporate Director's designation.

Lisa Ethans

Lisa is the founder and Chair of the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund. During her 30+ years at Deloitte, she held a variety of leadership roles including founding and leading the firm's National Aboriginal Client Services practice. She was awarded a Fellowship from the Canadian Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants (FCPA), previously the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA); she is a qualified Chartered Business Valuator (CBV) and she holds the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. In addition to chairing the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Board, she serves as a Board Director of First Nations Bank of Canada, FNB Trust, BC Lottery Corporation, Artemis Gold and the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC.

Danielle Levine, BA, MBA

Danielle is Métis and is from Winnipeg, Manitoba, she now calls British Columbia's lower mainland home. She is an educator and is currently working with the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC on increasing the number of Indigenous CPA's and Indigenous engagement in the profession. She also leads the provincial Financial Literacy program. Prior to joining CPABC, Danielle worked with the Ch'nook Indigenous business program at UBC and has taught in several Indigenous entrepreneurship programs. Danielle currently sits on the Chief Joe Mathias Aboriginal Scholarship Fund Board of Directors; she also sits on the National Indigenous Economic Development Board and serves on other advisory committees including her local school district.

Stefany Mathias

Stefany is the daughter of the late Chief Joe Mathias. She carries one of the 16 Squamish hereditary chieftainships passed on to her from her father. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UBC and got her start in theatre, eventually expanding into film and television. For the past 25 years, Stefany has worked in the film industry as an actor, director, and producer, she continues her creative work in film and TV. She has served on the board of the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Fund (CJMSF) since its inception in 2002. Stefany looks forward to the work done at CJMSF. Although very challenging, the reward of helping Indigenous students achieve their goals makes it more than worth it.

Amanda "Mandy" Mathias-O'Donoghue

My ancestral name is Siyamtnaat and in the business world I'm known as Amanda Mathias-O'Donoghue. I have been a successful entrepreneur of a boat repair and charter business since 1980. As a direct descendant of Chief Joe Capilano and Mary Capilano and the sister of the late Chief Joe Mathias, I am deeply committed to community building and carrying on their dedication to improving the lives of Indigenous peoples. Being a member of the Squamish Nation has given me the opportunity to sit on the Membership as a chairperson, and Land & Claims committees and I advocate for higher education for our people. I enjoy being involved in speaking, performing and being a liaison with members and council. It brings me genuine joy to have been a Sunday School teacher at Cascade Gospel Chapel for over a decade, and to work with organizations such as BC Aboriginal Child Care Society and The Full Circle Talking Stick Festival.

Nancy Morgan

Nancy Morgan has been practicing law for over 35 years. She works primarily in the field of Indigenous law representing First Nations and regional First Nations organizations in the negotiation and implementation of modern treaties, agreements, and other arrangements. She is also provides advice regarding to clients regarding their internal affairs, including the development of legislation, policy, and governance structures.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melody Morrison

Melody Morrison has worked with First Nations and Indigenous organizations across the country for several decades. She provides strategic, government relations and communications advice, writes and mentors young leaders. Presently, Melody works with the Kaska Nation in British Columbia and the Indigenous Leadership Initiative in support of advancing Indigenous led-conservation efforts like Indigenous Conserved and Protected Areas (IPCA's) and the Indigenous Guardians movement, 'Land Needs Guardians.' Melody is an experienced political strategist, policy advisor and facilitator who has served as Chief of Staff to two Premiers in Ontario and the Northwest Territories. She has a law degree, international NGO and United Nations experience and has lived and worked in the United States and Africa.

Sophie Pierre

Sophie Pierre was born and raised in ʔaq'am near Cranbrook, B.C., and has lived there all her life. Pierre served as the elected chief of ʔaq'am, formerly known as the St. Mary's Indian Band, a member of the Ktunaxa Nation for 26 years, and Ktunaxa Nation Council's tribal chair for 25. Among her defining accomplishments was the transformation of a residential school, where she studied as a child, into the renowned St. Eugene Mission Resort. She was appointed chief commissioner of the B.C. Treaty Commission in 2009 and received the Order of B.C. in 2002 and the Order of Canada in 2016.

John Watson

For two and a half years John Watson was the Head of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat in the Privy Council Office where he served as the Secretary to the Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. He was formerly the Regional Director General of Indian Affairs, in British Columbia, and also directed the management of regional federal organizations responsible for labour market and training programs in both British Columbia and Ontario and the delivery of immigration programs. He was educated in Political Science at Carlton University and is a previous recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Head of the Public Service for his work related to the successful negotiation of the Nisga'a Treaty. He is the former chair of the Pacific Council of Senior Federal Officials. He retired from the federal public service in May of 2006 and is in private consulting practice with an impressive roster of clients.

Executive Director

Kamana Bikadi, CPA

Born and raised in her community, the Lil'wat Nation, Kamana has been the Executive Director of the Scholarship Fund since 2015. Currently a Senior Trust & Client Operations Officer at FNB Trust, the First Nation Bank of Canada's wholly owned Trust Company, she serves a portfolio of clients all working towards the common goal of long-term generational prosperity. Supported by the Scholarship Fund prior to 2015 during her studies, Kamana is passionate about supporting the next group of students accessing financial support to use towards achieving their educational goals.

