



2020 Chief Joe Mathias BC 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 300 scholarships to over 240 students from almost 100 First Nations in BC since its inception in 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF

2020



Aiyana Twigg

Ktunaxa Nation
Bachelor of Arts
UBC

Ki?su?k Kyukyit, hu qak?ik Aiyana Twigg. Hu ?ini Ktunaxa, hu qaxi qaki yaqit ?a·knuq?i?it. Hello, my name is Aiyana Twigg. I am Ktunaxa, and I am from Tobacco Plains. I am Ktunaxa on my mother's side and Blackfoot on my dad's side. I am currently in my 3rd year of my undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia, pursuing a major in First Nations Endangered Languages, and a minor in Anthropological linguistics.

"I would like to thank the board members, and all of the people who made the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Fund possible. With this fund, it will enable me to continue my post-secondary education, assist my community in language revitalization and thrive in an environment that was not meant for indigenous students to be successful in. Hu suk?it q?ukni!"



Amanda Vick

Gitanmaax
Juris Doctor (JD) / Joint Indigenous degree (JID)
Program
University of Victoria

My name is Amanda Vick and I am Gitxsan from the village of Gitanmaax, also known as Hazelton BC. I am in my third year of the JD/JID program at the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. I am privileged to learn the Canadian common law system alongside various Indigenous Legal Orders in the world first ever law program of this kind.



Brendan Eshom

Gitga'at

Bachelor of Science

UBC

A member of the Gitga'at First Nation, Brendan Eshom is invested in his culture and strives for excellence in all his endeavours. From running a First Nation language app to playing sports to volunteering, he is conscientious with everything that he pursues. While attending the University of British Columbia in the upcoming year, he aims to use his experiences to propel himself into the future and inspire others to do the same.

"I want to extend my gratitude to the Fund for inspiring Indigenous youth to reach their goals, which pay dividends to the future communities in which we will strive."



Brynna Williams

Skidegate

Bachelor of Business Administration

Vancouver Island University

This fall will be my third year in the BBA program at VIU in Nanaimo. I am currently majoring in accounting and my goal is to graduate with my bachelors and return to my hometown of Skidegate on Haida Gwaii.



Diamond Point

Musqueam

NITEP - Indigenous Teachers Education Program

UBC

Diamond Point is a proud member of Musqueam and is in her final year in the NITEP Indigenous Teacher Education Program at UBC. In September, Diamond will begin the final 11 month teacher education certification program and was accepted into the IB Diploma Program cohort. Diamond has been dedicated in her studies in order to begin a career as an educator. After completing her Bachelor of Education, she plans to teach secondary social studies and history.

"This award makes a huge difference toward my education because I have been paying for my education myself and this award relieves some of these costs considerably. In September, I will be starting my final year! Thank you again, Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Fund for your generous support."



Dylan Whitney

Xaxli'p

Faculty of Medicine (MD Undergraduate Program)

University of Alberta

Dylan Whitney is a year 2 medical doctor student at the University of Alberta. Dylan was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. He holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics from the University of British Columbia.

His research focuses on Alzheimer's biomarkers, hypertension-prevalence, and optical coherence tomography diagnostic techniques.

"I would like to sincerely express my utmost appreciation to the Board of Directors for their generosity and continued support. This award is extremely special to me as well as to all of the other students that continue to focus and achieve their goals. This award and recognition really helps to personally keep myself on track to pursuing my educational targets and roles in my community. Thanks so much for this opportunity!"



Jazmine Mccrimmon-Cook

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care
University of Victoria

My name is Jazmine, I am a Kwakwaka'wakw woman from the Namgis and Musgamakw nations. I have recently completed the third year of the Child and Youth care program at the University of Victoria with Indigenous specialization. I want to thank the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship for assisting me on my journey of working to make changes with Indigenous children and youth as I see they are our future. Gilakas'la



Joe Ignace
Skeetchestn Indian Band
Bachelor of Science
Thompson Rivers University

I am from Skeetchestn Indian band but attend school at Thompson Rivers University and am looking to be a future doctor. By day I tackle tests and homework and by night I lift weights to maintain my fitness. I am always encouraging my friends to do their absolute best and try to lead by example.

"Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."



Jessica Barudin

Namgis
Human Sciences - Individualized Studies
Concordia University

Jessica is Kwakwaka'wakw, a member of the 'Namgis First Nation. She is a proud mother of two daughters, wife, Sundancer, Indigenous health advocate, doctoral student and yoga teacher. Jessica received a Master's in Applied Science in Physical Therapy from McGill University and an Undergraduate Degree in Human Kinetics from the University of British Columbia. In September 2019, Jessica started doctoral studies through the INDI Program at Concordia University. Her research will create and evaluate a culturally-responsive, trauma-informed yoga program led by Kwakwaka'wakw women and girls. The focus is empowerment through movement, ceremony, women's teachings and language revitalization.



Jorden Hendry
Lax Kw'alaams Band
Master of Public Health
UBC

Jorden is Tsimshian and a member of the Lax Kw'alaams band from her mother's side and has Western European ancestry from her father's side. She was born and raised on Tsimshian territory. She recently completed a BSc in Biology from the University of British Columbia and will be starting a Master of Public Health at UBC in September 2020.

"Thank you to the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund for supporting me on my graduate school journey. I am committed to using my teachings to further help my community in the field of Indigenous Public Health."



Joshua Houghton

Squamish Nation

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education
University of Victoria

My name is Joshua and I'm from the Squamish Nation. I'm a single father and my son motivates me to pursue my education to further develop my skills and experience. Currently I'm in the Child Youth in Care program at The University of Victoria. I want to pursue social work to improve the lives and services of Indigenous youth. The Chief Joe Scholarship allows me to continue my education for our youth and community.



Julian Stokes

Old Masset Village Council

Bachelor of Health Sciences - Biomedical
University of Northern BC

Having grown up with a passion for science and for helping others, I naturally gravitated towards the field of medicine. Since beginning my Bachelor of Health Sciences at UNBC, I have further discovered my enjoyment for research, and was recently accepted into the Biomedical Studies Honours program for my final year. My current goal is to attend UBC's Northern Medical Program and eventually work as a neurologist and clinical researcher.



Kala Draney

Skeetchentn Indian Band

Medical Undergraduate Program
UBC

My name is Kala Draney and all of my known ancestors are from the Secwépemc First Nation. I am proud of where I come from and although my post-secondary schooling has displaced me from my reserve, I hold all of my cultural teachings close to my heart for posterity. I am currently in my third year of medical school. Upon graduating I hope to train in rural based medicine to serve rural and remote Indigenous peoples in the future.



Karly Morgan

Haida

Bachelor of Social Work
NVIT

Karly is entering a BA of Social Work at NVIT this fall. She previously attend KPU for general studies and a certificate of NGO and Non-profit studies which she graduated with distinction. Karly is Haida First Nation's, grew up in Campbell River BC and currently resides in the Lower Mainland. She hopes to use her education to serve her Indigenous communities in rural areas through mental health and addictions work, advocacy or community building.



Kathryn Ignace

Skeetchentn Indian Band

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Thompson Rivers University

My name is Kathryn Xyemetkwe Ignace and I am a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student at Thompson Rivers University. My hobbies include swimming, functional training, and hiking with my dog. My goal is to graduate for the TRU Nursing Program, and work with indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous mothers and their children by working in obstetrics, maternity, and pediatrics. I would like to eventually return to school to become a Nurse Practitioner.

“I am so humbled and grateful to receive a Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund! Thank you so much for your support! This fund will aid me in pursuing my dream career as a nurse.”



Kirsten Caley

Dzawada'enuxw

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
UBC Okanagan

My name is Kirsten Caley and I am a 19-year-old nursing student from Campbell River, B.C. I am studying at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in Kelowna B.C. to become a nurse. I enjoy playing rugby and played for the UBCO Women's Heat team last year. I chose nursing because I would like to represent the aboriginal community in healthcare and would like to inspire others to do so.

“I would like to thank the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund and the Board of Directors for choosing to help fund my education and other aboriginal students alike.”



Keenan Andrew

Ahousat First Nation

Master of Arts (Child & Youth Care)
University of Victoria

ʔuklaasiš Imscha Hist't'ukkk shitls Ahous Hist't'ukkk shitls Nuučaanuł Isaaq camis čuu λ Eekoo λ eekoo. My traditional name is Imscha, I come from the people of Ahousat of the Nuučaanuł Nation. Respectfully, thank you. My given name is Keenan Andrew, and I would like to sincerely thank the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund for your continued support for me and my family throughout my academic journey. Čuu λeekoo λeekoo (respectfully, thank you)



Lucy Bell

Haida

Interdisciplinary Studies - (Museology)
UVIC and UBC

Sdaahl K'awaas, Lucy Bell belongs to the Haida Nation. She is an Indigenous museologists with a passion for repatriation and reconciliation. She is also a Haida language revitalizer. Her thesis examined what her ancestors would have done if the language was critically endangered during their time. She is also creating a Haida phrasebook App. Her PhD research at SFU will bring light to Indigenizing and decolonizing museum practice.

“Haw.aa, thank you for selecting me to be one of the Joe Matthias Indigenous academic warriors. Like Chief Matthias, I will strive to enhance my knowledge, walk in both worlds and honour my ancestors.”



Norm Schaeffer

Nadleh Whut'en Band

Master of Education in Counselling Psychology
SFU

My name is Norm Schaefer. I am from Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, a member of the Bear Clan. I am a second-year student enrolled in a Master of Education in Counselling Psychology program. I was drawn to counselling, even though going back to school, as a full-time student, has presented numerous challenges for me and my family. I am excited to become an Indigenous Registered Clinical Counsellor.

"The Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship is a blessing to me and my family. Thank you for your support!"



Rob Louie

Lower Kootenay Band

Master of Law
York University (Toronto)

I am from the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) Nation. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree (political science major) and a Bachelor of Law degree, and I am now pursuing my Masters in Law degree specializing in constitutional law. My recently published article entitled "I Heard the Band Office Call My Name" now allows me to add "author" to my credentials. I am a proud member of the Indigenous community, the legal community and the recovery community.

"This bursary did exactly what Chief Joe Mathias did for me when I first met him in person: it helped."



William Robertson

Namgis (Alert Bay)

Juris Doctorate, Peter A. Allard School of Law
UBC

I am a passionate and energetic person who hopes that a career in law will add value not only to my family but to my community. I believe that the values of justice and fairness are essential to a properly organized culture. This summer I was able to work at the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic in the downtown east side and was able to help the people that need legal services the most.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

The Chief Sharon Bowcott Memorial Award

In addition to the scholarships awarded this year, the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship has made a special award to honour the memory of Chief Sharon Bowcott, a sister of the late Chief Joe Mathias, who has recently passed.

The Chief Sharon Bowcott Award is to commemorate the life and leadership of the late Chief Sharon Bowcott, from the Tsawwassen First Nation. This award celebrates the strong qualities Sharon was gifted with, including intelligence, leadership, and courage most of all. Sharon was the first woman chief of Tsawwassen First Nation and was a strong believer in First Nation rights, education for First Nation people, and women in leadership. Sharon did not have an easy life, but was able to overcome many struggles and accomplish what she believed she needed to do for the Tsawwassen First Nation and Indigenous people. This award has been given to an applicant who's courage and leadership showed through in their application.



Shane Baker

Gitxsan

Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Studies)
University of Victoria

My name is Shane Baker, and I am a member of Wilp Gwininitxw, which is part of the Lax Gibuu (wolf clan) of the Gitxsan (Gitwangak first nation). I have just completed the Indigenous Studies Diploma program at Camosun College, and will be starting the Indigenous Studies Major program at the University of Victoria in September 2020. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities that my post-secondary education has brought me.

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We are also proud to contribute and give back to our professional practice communities. We support our staff who volunteer their time with associations like the BC Water and Waste Association, the BC Groundwater Association, the Planning Institute of BC, and the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies. Our teams are also led by some of our industry's most respected individuals, who are active in making our areas of practice stronger and smarter all the time.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- M. Ann Ferris
- Scott Serson
- Victor & Judith Pearson
- Susan & Robert Stout
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The largest law firm on Vancouver's North Shore, Ratcliff & Company is a leader in providing a full range of legal services to clients in the local community, throughout the Lower Mainland and beyond. A significant percentage of the firm specializes in aboriginal law, serving First Nations governments, organizations and tribal councils throughout the province.

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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 85059 Willoughby PO, Langley, BC V2Y 0L0, Attention: Kamana Bikadi) and you will receive a charitable tax receipt. Your donations are helping to make a difference!