

2021 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 400 scholarships to over 300 students from over 100 First Nations in BC since its inception in 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF

2021



Amy Beevor-Potts

Sts'ailes

UBC Faculty of Medicine MD Undergraduate Program
University of British Columbia

Hi! My name is Amy Beevor-Potts and I am Coast Salish from the Sts'ailes Nation. I am currently a third year medical student at the University of British Columbia, and I am hoping to pursue community based pediatric medicine. I am very grateful to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Board for their support in my education.



Brendan Eshom

Gitga'at (Hartley Bay)

Bachelor of Science (Biology and Economics)
University of British Columbia

Brendan's matriarchal bloodline is Ts'msyen from the Gitga'at (Hartley Bay) First Nation. He belongs to the Gisbutwada (Killerwhale) house Wah Moodm. Currently, he is in his second year of pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in biology and statistics.



Caitlyn Baker

Squamish Nation

Bachelor of Health Science - Midwifery
Ryerson University

My name is Caitlyn Baker. I am a Squamish student from West Vancouver. I am beginning my studies as a student midwife at Ryerson University in Toronto this fall. I am thankful to have received this award which will help me through my academic journey.



Dylan Whitney

Xaxli'p

Faculty of Medicine (MD Undergraduate Program)
University of Alberta

I am a student of the MD program at the University of Alberta. I was born in Vancouver, BC. I successfully completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Physics in 2019 at UBC. I have interests in research, surgery, and technology development.



Janice Wilson

Metlakatla

Masters of Educational Leadership
Vancouver Island University

My name is Janice Wilson. I am Tsimshian and Nisga'a. I am a mother of 2 beautiful children who inspire me to be the best role model I can be. I am an Indigenous Education and hul'qumi'num language teacher. I am pursuing my Masters in Educational Leadership to become a stronger Indigenous Leader for our youth



Coral Baird

Tswwassen First Nation

Certificate First Nations Language Proficiency
Simon Fraser University

My name is Coral Baird and my ancestral name is Setsemyə. I'm 31 years old, and I am a proud Tsawwassen First Nation member. I reside in my community with my two children: Cashmir, age 2 and Perseus, age 1. I'm currently enrolled at SFU, studying my ancestral language hənqəminəm, in the Indigenous Language Certificate Program. Advancing in my post-secondary education has ignited so much positivity in myself and surroundings, I'm forever grateful. My hands go up to everyone that has helped me along the way, you've all played an integral role in my accomplishments and future successes! O' siəm.



Elena Adams

Katzie

NITEP - Indigenous Teachers Education Program
University of British Columbia

ʔəy' sweyəł, my name is Elena Adams, I am a proud Coast Salish woman, wife, and mother from the Katzie First Nation. I am entering my first year of NITEP at UBC to obtain my Elementary Years teaching degree. I am so honoured to receive this award, it will help out immensely.



Davena Isaac

Nak'azdli

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Vancouver Community College

Davena Isaac is an Indigenous woman from the Carrier Nation and she is part of the Frog Clan. Davena is a self-motivated woman who is studying to become a Registered nurse. Her overall dream is to become a culturally competent nurse and give back to her community and her people.



Joshua Houghton

Squamish Nation

Bachelor of Child and Youth in Care
University of Victoria

My name is Joshua and I'm a student in the Child Youth in Care program. I will also have a specialization in Indigenous studies. I'm a single parent and my son is my biggest motivator. I want to work in my community as a resource worker.



Josie Duncan

Xatsúll First Nation

Bachelor of Midwifery
University of British Columbia

Weyt-kp/Hello, my name is Josie Duncan. I am a member of the Xatsúll First Nation and enrolled in the Bachelor of Midwifery Program at UBC. I have a passion for anti-oppression, social and reproductive justice, and a goal to bridge the significant gap in healthcare to rural and Indigenous communities.



Julian Stokes

Old Masset Village Council

Master of Science - Health Sciences
University of Northern British Columbia

I have recently obtained my BHS. Honours degree at UNBC. My passion for health science research has now led me to pursue my master's degree. I hope to make valuable contributions to the academic community in the coming years and ultimately work as a physician in Northern BC.



Kathryn Ignace

Skeetchestn

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Thompson Rivers University

My name is Kathryn Xyemetkwe Ignace and I am an Indigenous woman of Secwepemc ancestry. I grew up on the Skeetchestn Indian Reserve learning the Secwepemc language and culture. I am currently entering my 3rd year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program at TRU.



Kathy Rintoul

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tes7et'h' First Nations

Human Service Worker - Diploma
College of the Rockies

Hello my name is Kathy Rintoul and I am from the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tes7et'h' First Nation which is part of the Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council. I am married with three children. I am currently in my second year of Human Service Worker diploma and hoping to transfer into SW degree program.



Keanna Pilkington

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Bachelor of Science - Chemistry
TRU

My name is Keanna Pilkington. I am currently in my fourth year of my Bachelor of Science degree at Thompson Rivers University, where I plan on graduating in April 2022. My future goal is to attend the Bachelor of Education program and eventually become an elementary school teacher.



Michelle Paul

Okanagan Indian Band

Urban Forestry - Indigenous Land Stewardship
University of British Columbia

My name is Michelle T. Paul, born in North Vancouver, B.C. My Mother is from Squamish-Capilano Nation, and my Father is from Sts'ailes Nation. I have graduated from the NEC Indigenous Land Stewardship ILS certificate program, and made the Dean's List, and currently working for my Bachelors degree at UBC.



Tina Nash

Tahltan

Doctor of Medicine
Cumming School of Medicine

Meduh. My name is Tina Nash and I am a member of the Tahltan First Nation, mother to 11 children and a grandmother to 5 grandchildren. I am in my first year of medicine at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary and grateful for this award.



Leateeqwhia Daniels

Squamish Nation

Master of Education
University of British Columbia

Leateeqwhia Daniels kwi en sna tina7 chan tl'a Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw My name is Leateeqwhia Daniels I am from Squamish Nation. I completed my Bachelor of Education in NITEP at UBC in 2004. I am currently in the Masters of Indigenous Language Program at UVic. I am passionate about learning and teaching our Squamish Language. I have one 10 year old son. I am honored to be a Chief Joe Mathias scholarship recipient.



Mason Ducharme

Lil'wat Nation

Ph.D. of Public Administration
University of Victoria

Mason Ducharme is from Lil'wat Nation, and Samahquam Nation in British Columbia. Mason is currently enrolled in his PhD at the University of Victoria in the School of Public Administration. His dissertation will focus on the retention of Indigenous executives in Indigenous organizations. Mason is passionate about Indigenous self-determination.



Marci Thomas

Nak'azdli

Master of Business Administration
University of Northern British Columbia

I am a member of the Nak'azdli Whut'en and am in my final year of the MBA program at UNBC. Learning to embody authentic leadership, & cultural intelligence is encouraging and inspiring to me. I am so thankful (and proud) to have been selected for this particular award as its establishment is to honour a man who dreamt of enabling students to become, brave and self-aware, leaders.



Shane Baker

Ghitwangak

Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies
University of Victoria

My name is Shane Baker. I am Gitksan and my first nation is Ghitwangak. I am Lax Gibbu and am from Wilp Gwininitxw. Currently I am a guest on LEKWUNGEN territories & am completing my Bachelor of Art's Indigenous Studies Major.



Lucy Bell

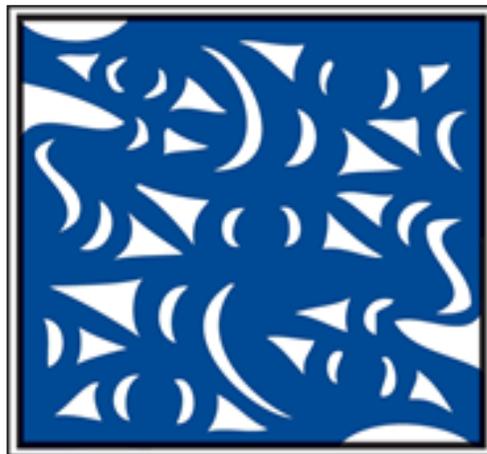
Haida

Independent Interdisciplinary Studies in Indigenous Museology (Doctorate)
University of Victoria

Sdahl K'awaas belongs to the Tsiits G'itanees clan of Haida Gwaii. She is a SFU PhD candidate focusing on her passion for Haida museology. Lucy has over twenty years working in the heritage field. She is so proud to have repatriated over 500 ancestral remains for which she received a BC Community Achievement Award. She also curated and coordinated a number of international Haida exhibits and museum collaborations.

As the inaugural Head of the Indigenous Collections and Repatriation Department at the Royal BC Museum, she co-wrote the Indigenous Repatriation Handbook and supported repatriation efforts in BC. Lucy is the recipient of the Sterling Prize for Controversy for calling out the provincial museum and demanding museums to decolonize and strive to be anti-racist institutions.

Lucy is passionate about learning in the Haida world and the academic world. She is a learner and advocate for the Haida language. She is a distinguished University of Victoria Alumna for her Master's in language revitalization and her certificate in Cultural Resource Management. Sdahl K'awaas is excited to continue her journey as a Haida scholar.



If you would like to learn about the application process, please email chiefjoemathias@gmail.com, like us on Facebook, or visit www.chiefjoemathias.ca for updates.

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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.



The founders of First Nations Bank of Canada had a vision to develop a federally-chartered bank serving Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people throughout Canada. The Bank was conceived and developed by Indigenous People, for Indigenous People and regards itself as an important step toward Indigenous economic self-sufficiency. With the support of its Indigenous shareholders, the Bank has demonstrated consistent growth and profitability. Bank services are available through a network of full service branches (five on reserve), Community Banking Centres and electronic banking channels.

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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

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 Aboriginal Client Services group provides solid advice to assist First Nations and other aboriginal 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.

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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.

We take pride in the talent of our people and the extensive service to the community. Many of our lawyers and staff are involved in civic and charitable events, often in a leadership role. We are also proud of our service on boards of directors and numerous committees of nonprofit organizations.

Whether you need a legal opinion, advice or require comprehensive legal representation, Ratcliff & Company is here for you.

We've been serving our communities since 1950.



Working Together for Justice and Reconciliation.

We are a team of lawyers based in Vancouver and Victoria that represents Indigenous communities throughout Canada. Driven by a passion for justice, we offer creative legal solutions and work towards meaningful change.

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WITSET First Nation

Originally named 'Kyah Wiget ('Old Village'), Witset is a Witsuwit'en village in the heart of northwest British Columbia, located on the side of the Wetzin Kwah (also known as the Bulkley River). The current village was built during the early 1900s but served as the Witsuwit'en fishing grounds for thousands of years.

Witset (previously known as Moricetown) is home to approximately 661 on-reserve members, 1129 off-reserve members with a total population of 1790 people and is located 30 km west of Smithers and 32 km east of Hazelton, BC. As a federally recognized Indian band, we offer programs and services to meet the specific needs of each community member. The programs that are currently in place accommodate our mandate and mission, "Serving our community with pride, providing services and programs to enhance the development of our nation."



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At KWL we challenge ourselves to create water, community, and energy infrastructure solutions in balance with nature that make the world a safer, better place for our children. We are striving to be climate leaders both corporately and professionally in our work.

We don't just make communities better through our work. We also donate our time and money to projects like local tree planting, fundraising for global catastrophes, and employee sabbaticals to allow them to work in areas of the world in need.

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.



We chose the arbutus tree for our name and logo because trees represent stability and growth. The arbutus tree is known as the Tree of Knowledge and is associated with integrity, strength, depth, and safety. The arbutus tree is highly adaptable and creative – the amazing shapes of the branches on the trees come from its ability to twist and turn itself in order to find the sunlight. The symbolism in our name reminds us of the integrity, strength and creativity that we aim to draw on in our Aboriginal law practice.



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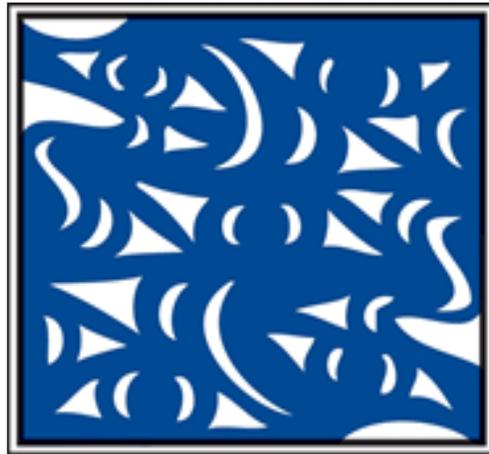
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If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please send your cheque payable to the **Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund** (c/o PO BOX 85059 Willoughby PO, Langley, BC V2Y 0L0, Attention: Kamana Bikadi) and you will receive a charitable tax receipt, OR through canadahelps.org.

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