



2022 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 450 scholarships to over 350 students from over 100 First Nations in BC since its inception in 2002.

2022



Adina Williams

Squamish Nation

Master of Arts in History
University of British Columbia

Ha7lh skwayel! I am from the Squamish Nation and I'm also Kwakwaka'wakw, descending from the 'Namgis peoples from Alert Bay, B.C. I am a 2nd-year Master's student in History at UBC, where I am focussing on Indigenous histories and oral histories. I am immensely grateful to be a recipient of a Chief Joe Mathias scholarship, all the more so because this award is named after one of the strongest leaders from my community. This scholarship will help me greatly as I begin another year of school, and I raise my hands up to you for your support in my educational journey. Huy chexw a. Gilakas'la.



Aiden Antoine

Bonaparte First Nation

Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com)
University of British Columbia

I am a member of the Bonaparte First Nation in Cache Creek, BC. I was born in and currently live in Vancouver, but have lived in Langley, Surrey, Cache Creek, and Kamloops. This September I will be entering my third year in the Bachelor of Commerce program at the UBC Sauder School of Business; in doing so, I considered many options for my specialization, including Finance, but ultimately chose to study Business Technology Management as it perfectly combines my analytical skills, digital creativity, detail-oriented attitude, and interest in emerging technologies



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 fourth year medical student at the UBC, and I am hoping to pursue community based Obstetrics and Gynecology, with the hope of supporting Indigenous women through their pregnancies and births. 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, Chem, and
Environmental Sciences)
University of British Columbia

Brendan Eshom is a member of the Gitga'at (Hartley Bay) First Nation. He is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia Vancouver, where his combined major program blends studies in life sciences and environmental science.



Cheyenne Cunningham

Katzie

PhD of Language and Literacy Education (Traditional
hən'q'əmin'əm'əm' Language)
University of British Columbia

ʔəy' swéyəl Cheyenne θə nə sk'wix təli cən ʔəʔ Katzie. Hello, my name is Cheyenne, I am from Katzie. I am in my third semester of my PhD in Language & Literacy Education at UBC. I am also enrolled full-time at SFU in the Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency. My research interests focus on the exploration of Katzie place names and stories in relation to the topographical features of landscapes within our traditional territory. More specifically, I would like to examine how land-based knowledge and education contributes to Indigenous language revitalization and Indigenous education.



Cheyenne Leon

Sts'ailes

Bachelor of Integrated Studies
University of the Fraser Valley

Hi my name is Cheyenne Leon and I would like to take this time to say thank you for selecting me as a candidate to receive the bursary from the Chief Joe Mathias Association. I am a full time Indigenous student and mother of two attending the University of the Fraser Valley in my third year of the Integrated Studies bachelor studies and will be going into my fourth year this September, 2022. The bursary will help to alleviate my everyday living expenses and will assist towards achieving my student goals. Furthermore, I encourage all students to apply for future scholarship funds to assist with successful completion of their educational pursuits.

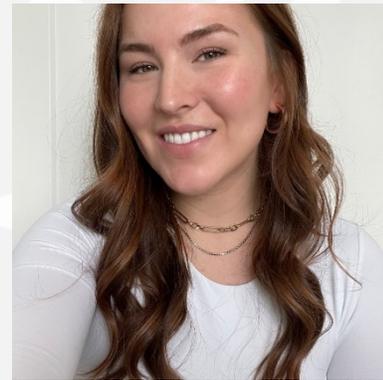


Christina Tsuil-menak

Bonaparte First Nation

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Camosun College

My name is Christina Tsuil-menak. I am of mixed ancestry. Maternally, I am of Secwepemc and settler heritage and paternally, I am of Metis and settler heritage. I am a single mother of two extraordinary children. I am thankful for the Chief Joe Mathias BC Aboriginal Scholarship Fund Award as it will support me and my family. In September of 2022, I will begin my second year of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing program offered at Camosun College and the University of Victoria. My end goal is a PhD in Nursing to support nursing students at a university level.



Darienne Russell

Tl'azt'en Nation

Master of Public Health, Indigenous Health
University of Toronto

Hello! My name is Darienne Russell, I am from Tl'azt'en Nation in Fort St James, BC and I am from the Lusilyoo (frog) clan. I am currently pursuing a Master of Public Health with a specialization in Indigenous Health from the University of Toronto. I am very passionate about bridging the gaps that exist in the western healthcare systems to better support the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples. I am honoured to be receiving the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship to help me support my education goals. Musi Cho (thank you).



Desiré Nicolson

Old Masset Village Council

Bachelor of Business Admin
Camosun College

My name is Desiré Nicolson and I belong to the Kaw'aas Stast'aas Eagle Clan in Haida Gwaii. I also have ties to the Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw First Nation and to the WSANEC First Nation. I grew up in WSANEC territory on the TSARTLIP reserve. I'm currently attending Camosun College to obtain my bachelor's in Business Administration – Accounting Major. After graduation, I plan to pursue my Chartered Professional Accountant designation. This knowledge will help to ensure my success as a business leader within my community.



Dylan Whitney

Xaxli'p

Faculty of Medicine (MD Undergraduate Program)
University of Alberta

Dylan is a local from Vancouver, BC. He is a graduate from the Engineering Physics program at UBC and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Alberta. He has publications with Stanford University and the University of Toronto and he is eager to pursue research related to technology and surgical specializations in the future.



Frances Hans

Skidegate Band Council

Bachelor of Education
University of British Columbia

My name is Francine (Frances Hans). I come from the tiny island of Haida Gwaii. I am a proud Haida woman, and I will attend the University of British Columbia for the Bachelor of Education program. I will be a teacher once I graduate and teach in Haida Gwaii. I am so proud of myself. Never in my life did I think I would be attending UBC. I never gave up on my dreams, and I'm going to UBC now.



Jenna Marand

Tsawwassen First Nation

Masters in Social Services - Masters of Children,
Family, and Community Studies
University of Victoria

Hi – My name is Jenna Marand. I am Coast Salish from Tsawwassen First Nation. I am in my first year of the Child, Youth, Family & Community Studies Masters program at the University of Victoria. It is my ongoing goal to support and enhance the lives of young people and hopefully dismantle modern structures of racism and colonization within the child welfare system. Thank you to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Board supporting my dreams.



Joe Ignace

Skeetchestn Indian Band

Bachelor of Science (Med School)
Thompson Rivers University

Wéyt-kp (hello), Joe-Thomas Stsmél'cqen Ignace ren skwékwst(is my name), te skeetchestn re st'e7e7k-wen(i come from), secwecwpemc-ken re Ron Ignace ren qé7tse (father) ell Marianne Ignace ren kí7ce (mother). I am a university student attending TRU with the intention of becoming a doctor. I dream of one day creating new medicines with a fusion of traditional and new practices. In my spare time, I enjoy spending quality time with friends and with family. The one lesson I have learned from my father is one word "X7ensq7," which translates to "If you don't respect the land and look after the land properly it will turn on you."



Joshua Rolland

We Wai Kai Nation

Bachelor of Business Administration
Vancouver Island University

Yo 'wiksas? (hello, how are you?). My name is Joshua Rolland, I am a member of the We Wai Kai Nation and I am a Business student at Vancouver Island University. I have spent all of my life in Campbell River, before leaving for Nanaimo for university. My summers are spent back home, working for my band's treaty society where I have seasonal and part-time employment opportunities. In my free time, I enjoy music, movies, reading, and anything to do with soccer."



Joshua Houghton

Squamish Nation

Bachelor of Child and Youth in Care
University of Victoria

My name is Joshua and I'm a member of the Squamish Nation. I am a single father, foster parent and respite worker. I'm in my last year of my bachelor's degree in Child Youth in Care. My goal is to be a social worker within my community to better support the youth and families in care and also providing preventative services. My current education has shown me the ongoing systemic marginalization of Indigenous people in all institutions across Canada. With the ongoing support of Chief Joe Scholarship, I can put my full focus on my studies and graduate to work and walk alongside my community. All My Relations.



Josie Duncan

Xatsúll First Nation (Soda Creek)

Bachelor of Midwifery
University of British Columbia

Weyt-kp/Hello, my name is Josie Duncan and I am a member of the Xatsúll First Nation. My family on my mother's side is Secwépemc and Austrian, and my father's side is Scottish and Lithuanian. I am currently in my third year of the Bachelor of Midwifery Program at UBC. My passions are advocating for social and reproductive justice and anti-colonial practices in health care and education. My goal is to help bridge the significant gap in culturally competent health care to rural and Indigenous communities, as well as the protection of traditional and holistic perinatal and newborn health.



Kathryn Ignace

Skeetchestn

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Thompson Rivers University

Weyt-kp xwexwéyep, Katie Ignace ren skewekst. Hello, my name is Katie Ignace and I am an Indigenous woman of Secwepemc ancestry. I grew up on the Skeetchestn Indian Reserve where I learned the Secwepemc language and culture from my parents and elders. I am currently entering my final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Thompson Rivers University while completing my Labour and Delivery Nursing specialty through The British Columbia Institute of Technology. Once I graduate, I would like to work in the hospital and in the community with pregnant women, newborns, and families, particularly with indigenous populations.



Keanna Pilkington

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Bachelor of Education - Elementary Stream
Thompson Rivers University

My name is Keanna Pilkington. I have just graduated from Thompson Rivers University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and I am now going into the Bachelor of Education program at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Upon graduating this program, my main goal is to become an elementary school teacher. As a teacher, I believe it is important to always consider the First Peoples Principals of Learning while providing quality education to the future generations. Some of my personal interests and passions include: kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, hiking, crocheting, snowshoeing, and spending quality time with friends and family.



Leah Meunier

Katzie

Education -Language and Literacy Education (Doctorate)
University of British Columbia

ʔəy' swéyəl, Leah Meunier 0ə nə sk'wix tənī cən ʔ qičəy' təməxʷ. My name is Leah Meunier, I reside in my qičəy' (Katzie First Nation) community with my husband and five children. I am currently enrolled, in a PhD program, at the University of British Columbia in Language and Literacy Education. My experiences as a Hənqəmínəmə language instructor for my community, local school districts, and for Simon Fraser University, have led me to university. My studies and my story creation have been fueled by the need to create accessible resources; so, my people don't have to work so hard in their reclamation of their language and culture.



Lois Yeomans

Old Masset Villege Council

Bachrlor of Science - Chemistry
TRU

Hello, My name is Lois Yeomans. I am Tsimshian from Kitselas, Gitaus, and Haida from Old Massett. I am a mother of two children who are my daily inspiration. I am currently entering my final year at the University of British Columbia pursuing a bachelor's in Education through the NITEP program. I am very honored and grateful to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship for its support of my educational journey



Lucy Bell
Haida

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

Lucy is a self-proclaimed “Haida Nerd” with a passion for Haida museology and language revitalization. She is a distinguished UVIC Alumna. Lucy’s UVIC thesis, “Xaad kilang T’alang Dagwiieihldang” showed how Haida ancestors would heal the Haida language with traditional ceremonies, medicines, Supernatural guidance and food. She is currently an SFU PhD Candidate focusing on Haida museology. With her guidance, her Haida community has repatriated over 500 ancestral remains, language resources and belongings. Lucy received a BC Community Achievement Award for her work in repatriation. Lucy is the recipient of the Sterling Prize for Controversy for calling out the provincial museum for racism.



Mike Nichol
Haida Nation - Old Massett

Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts
Capilano University

Mike Nichol is an emerging Black Haida filmmaker from Old Massett, born and raised in North Vancouver. After his father was removed from his community through the sixties scoop, Mike made connections to Indigenous communities through playing soccer and basketball as a youth and now coaching as an adult. He worked as an environmental monitor, protecting traditional territory of the Coast Salish people. While completing the Indigenous Digital Film program at Capilano University, Mike found his passion for producing and directing. He is currently continuing his studies to complete his Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts Degree.



Perry Roberts
Simpw

Integrated studies, Bachelor of Applied Management
University of the Fraser Valley

I grew up in Enderby B.C. into an adopted loving family. I never met my birth mother who was from the Chu Chua reserve of the Simpew nation in Barriere B.C. I was always involved in sports such as hockey and baseball. I graduated from A.L. Fortune secondary in Enderby B.C. in 1988 where I concentrated in the Industrial arts. I’m currently a student enrolled in the Integrated Studies degree program with a concentration in Applied Management at the UFV. I am also considering possible minors that qualify me for positions in which I can help others.



Rhonda Billie
K’ómoks First Nation

Indigenous Governance Mastery
University of Victoria

Ronda Billie is a member of K’ómoks First Nation and a descendant of Hereditary Chief Joseph NimNim. She is the first in her family that has achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and is pursuing a Masters in Indigenous Governance. As an Intergenerational survivor, education is a way of reclaiming her voice as an Indigenous woman and obtain a deeper understanding of the impact of colonial assimilation.



Samantha Beynon
Nisga'a Nation

Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Ed. And History
Vancouver Island University

My name is Samantha Beynon. I have been a visitor on the unceded territory of the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples and have called Victoria my home for the past seven years. I am of mixed blood of Nisga'a, Tsimshian, and European heritage. I am a mother of two and I am currently finishing the Bachelor of Education program at Vancouver Island University. Through my education, I hope to help end vicious cycles and stereotypes surrounding historical abuses in Indigenous communities. My passion is to help, guide and offer support. Huy ch q'u T'ooyaksiy' níin T'oyaxsut 'nūn.



Shane Baker
Ghitwangak

Bachelor of Arts - Indigenous Studies
University of Victoria

My name is Shane Baker and my traditional name is Willookw. I am a Gitwangak first nation member and I am a member of Wilp Gwininitxw of the Lax Gibuu (Wolf Clan) of the Gitksan. I have one year to complete my Bachelor of Arts Indigenous Studies Major degree and I am grateful for all of the support I have received. I have not let my challenges stop me from attaining my goals and have used my culture as a source of strength.



Michelle Paul
Okanagan Indian Band

Urban Forestry - Indigenous Land Stewardship
University of British Columbia Okanagan

My Mother is from the Squamish Nation, and my Father is from Sts'ailes. I graduated from the NEC Indigenous Land Stewardship certificate program and made the Dean's List. I am currently enrolled in the Urban Forestry undergraduate degree at UBC in 3rd year in Urban Forestry. I am planning to attend the Haida Gwaii semesters Sept 2022 through to April 2023. My registration has begun within the Haida Gwaii. I am planning to enroll into Indigenous Law during my 4th year. I have been travelling with the Squamish Ocean Going Canoe Family since 1999, and have become a leader on the canoe, dance floor, and protocol during Tribal Journeys. I am registered with the Okanagan Indian Band, my Mother registered with Squamish, and my Father with Sts'ailes, and I am currently living with my common-law partner from Tsartlip. I am an Artist, Canoe Puller, Traditional Dance Leader, and a student of Science and Indigenous Stewardship.



Shannon Campbell
K'ómoks First Nation

Bachelor of Education
Vancouver Island University

My ancestral name is Tsatsomatiya, and my English name is Shannon Campbell. I am from the Musqueam Nation. I live on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, in the beautiful City of Courtenay. I am a 3rd year Bachelor of Education student at Vancouver Island University. I am a mother of two and a first-generation university student in my family. I am also a survivor of the foster care system. My inspiration to succeed are my children and the current and future generations of Indigenous peoples. My goal is to work in Indigenous Education. Hay ce:p qə!

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.



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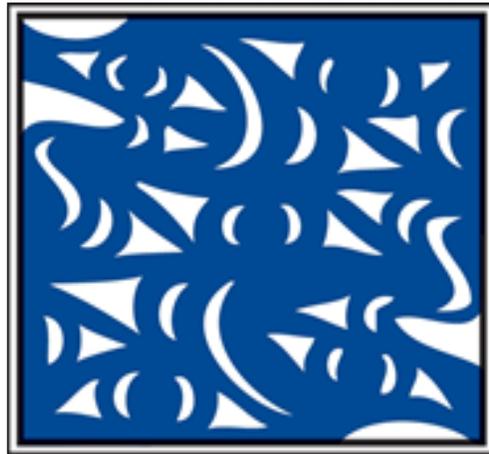
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