

CHIEF JOE MATHIAS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ABORIGINAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Annual Report



www.chiefjoemathias.ca



chiefjoemasthias@gmail.com



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 people.

This Scholarship Fund is dedicated to helping realize Joe's dream of providing post-secondary opportunities for energetic, dedicated and aspiring British Columbia First Nation students 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 500 scholarships to over 100 students from most of the First Nations in BC since its inception in 2002.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Lisa Ethans, President and Chair –

“The Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Scholarship Fund has been awarding post-secondary scholarships to Indigenous students for over 20 years, but we have never seen greater demand for support than we are today.

Indigenous students are pursuing a wide variety of careers in the fields of traditional languages, technology, nursing, midwifery, medicine, social work, environment, business, and others. In addition to our private donors, the Scholarship Fund is grateful to have the Province partner with us in supporting these students and taking this important step toward reconciliation.”



LISA ETHANS

BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF 2024!



Aiden Antoine
Bonaparte First Nation
Bachelor of Commerce, UBC

I am a member of the Bonaparte First Nation based in Cache Creek, BC. Currently, I live in Vancouver, where I attend the UBC Sauder School of Business; this September, I entered my fifth and final year in the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program, specializing in Business Technology Management. I'm so, so grateful for the financial support from the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund as I come to the end of my undergraduate journey, and I know that this is a journey I will finish off strong!



Aiyana Twigg
Ktunaxa
Master's of Education in
Indigenous Language
Revitalization, UVIC

Aiyana Twigg is Ktunaxa and Blackfoot. She is a youth activist, researcher, and linguist within her community, and across Turtle Island. Aiyana is part of the International Decade for Indigenous Languages (IDIL) Working Group led by the Canadian Commission for CUNESCO, and she is the only youth member on UNESCO's IDIL Ad-Hoc Group for Digital Quality and Domains. Aiyana has a Bachelor of Arts degree from UBC with a double major in First Nations and Endangered Languages (FNEL) and Anthropology.



Aleah Johnson
Witset
Masters of Education, Queens
University

I grew up on a small reservation in Northern British Columbia that is home to the Wet'suwet'en people. I sit with the Liksilyu Clan (small frog clan) and my father clan is the Laksamishu (Grouse/Fireweed Clan). I am also of British, French, and Russian ancestry. I am currently completing my Professional Master of Education with a focus in Literacy Development. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Fund for their financial support. It is organizations like this that have made my academic journey a successful one. Mussi Cho'/Merci/Thank you.



**Amber-Lyn May
Tahltan**

**Bachelor of Science (Forensics),
Laurentian University**

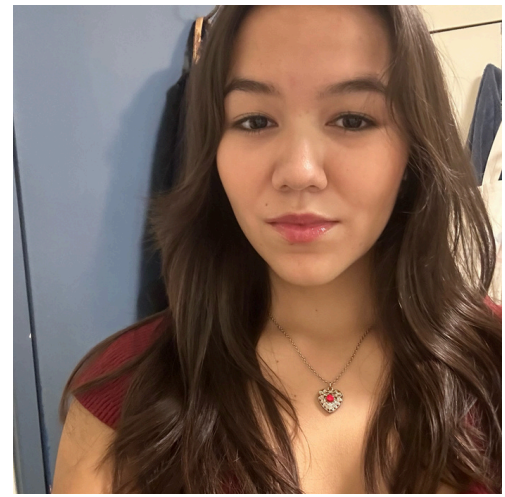
I am Tahltan and I am from Calgary, AB. I am currently in my fourth and final year studying Forensic Science at Laurentian University and I play on the varsity women's basketball team. I am applying to the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine with aspirations of becoming only the second Indigenous forensic pathologist in Canada. I am very grateful for the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Board for supporting my education and overall goals towards improving Indigenous life!



**Angie Seeber
Simcw**

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing,
UBC Okanagan**

I am a proud member of the Simpcw. I am a second-year nursing student at the UBC Kelowna campus. I live in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, where I enjoy hiking and swimming. I run long-distance to raise money for the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and to reduce my personal risk of heart disease. My goal is to become a nurse practitioner and provide healthcare to at-risk and Indigenous clients. I want to thank the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Award committee for their support in my scholastic journey.



**Arraya Janvier
N'quatqua**

**Bachelor of Science
(Biochemistry), UBC**

kalhwá7alap ~ Hello! My name is Arraya and I am from the N'Quatqua Nation, part of the St'at'imc Nation. I am currently in my first year of university at the University of British Columbia pursuing a bachelor of science degree. I hope to major in biochemistry and work towards becoming a medical doctor. I would like to thank the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship fund for the opportunities this contribution will open up for me. kukwsturnckálap ~ Thank you all.



**Ashtynn Gurnsey
Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc
Bachelors of Education, UBCO**

I am gratefully one of the recipients of the Chief Joe Mathias BC Scholarship fund. I am currently enrolled in a program called NITEP (Indigenous Teacher Education Program) at UBC. I am very excited to continue my studies in this program with an end goal of becoming a Math teacher back home in Kamloops. On the reserve or maybe even back at my secondary school. I would like to say a huge thank you for helping me on my way to achieve my goal and making it more accessible!



**Braeden Fowler
Xaxli'p
Bachelor of Applied Science
(Engineering), UBC**

I am a member of the Xaxli'p First Nation near Lillooet, BC. I was born and raised in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, where I am beginning my studies at the University of British Columbia to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science. My goal once I graduate is to use my education to contribute to sustainable development projects that benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Canada



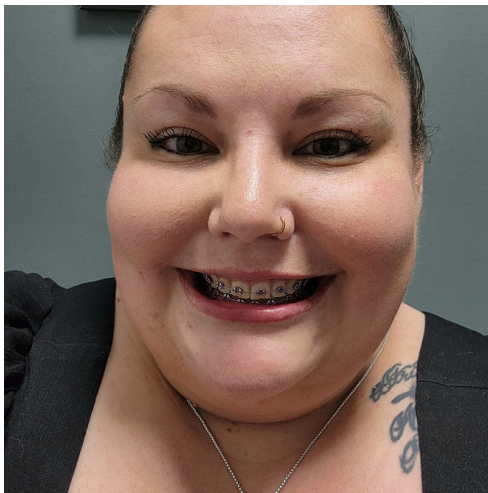
**Brendan Eshom
Gitga'at (Hartley Bay) Bachelor
of Science, UBC**

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 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.



Cassa Courtney
Tla'amin Nation
MSc in Occupational Therapy,
UBC

I am currently finishing the last year of my master's in Occupational Therapy (OT). I was born and raised in Surrey, and I am a member of the Tla'amin Nation. I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend the University of Alberta to pursue my future career aspiration of becoming an OT. I look forward to putting the knowledge and skills I have learned into practice as I assist others in pursuing their meaningful occupations!



Cely-Rae Street
Okanagan Indian Band
Juris Doctor, TRU

I am a proud woman of Syilx and Nlaka'pamux, having spent my childhood residing and participating in traditional practices in Nlaka'pamux. After obtaining my Juris Doctor of Law, I want to represent Indigenous people experiencing systemic oppression and discrimination within Canada's justice system. I am fortunate to have inherited the wisdom of my late parents: unwavering tenacity for the pursuit of justice, the ability to connect with others on a deeper level, and the remarkable capacity to argue my point.



Cheyenne Cunningham
Katzie
PhD of Language and Literacy
Education, UBC

ʔáý swéyəl Cheyenne θə nə sk'wix təli cən ʔə́ł ǵíćáý. I am English on my mum's side and Coast Salish on my dad's. I am beginning my 4th year of my PhD. I also recently graduated from SFU with my Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency. My research interests focus on the exploration of Katzie place names that have been identified in Suttles (1955) Katzie Ethnographic Notes, to delve into knowledge embedded within these landscapes. I would also like to examine how these place names can contribute to language revitalization.



Christina Tsuil-menak
Secwépemc (Bonaparte)
Bachelor of Science in Nursing,
UVIC

Maternally, I am of Secwepemc (St'uxwtéws) and settler heritage and paternally, I am of Metis and settler heritage. I am a single mother of two children, and two cats. I am currently in my 4th year at UVIC, and have a passion for working with and building relationships with families and communities. I am grateful for the generosity and support from this award as I would not be successful without it!



Dylan Whitney
Faculty of Medicine MD
Undergraduate Degree,
University of Alberta

Dylan Whitney is a medical student in his final year at the University of Alberta, born and raised in Vancouver with origin and strong ties to the Xaxli'p First Nation. He has multiple research publications with the generous support of Stanford University. Dylan is an active member and contributor to the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada.



Edric Antoine
Bonaparte First Nation
Bachelor of Science, UBC

Edric studies computer science and plans to graduate in May of 2025. With a 90.7% and multiple software development internships under his belt, and years of experience in giving back to his community through volunteering, he demonstrates excellence in both his studies and the workplace. He has a diverse set of both technical and interpersonal skills, and has also participated in multiple hackathons where he and a team developed software projects.



Helena Burritt
Bachelor's of Environmental
Studies, UVIC

I am part of the Nlaka'pamux Nation located in Lytton, BC. I am a creative and hard-working student eager to achieve my post-secondary goals. I will be following my passion for the environment by attending the University of Victoria to study geography and environmental studies. After post-secondary I hope to return to the Comox valley where I will create positive environmental change in my community. I value preservation and connection to nature greatly and I aspire to protect the land as my indigenous ancestors did before me.



Jenevieve Hyslop
Xaxli'p
Masters of Arts - Clinical
Psychology, UBC

I am a proud member of Xaxli'p First Nation. After completing my undergraduate degree at University of British (UBC) Okanagan, my journey has led me to embark on a Master of Arts degree with a specialization in Clinical Psychology at UBC Vancouver. My thesis will explore barriers and facilitators to help-seeking in Indigenous undergraduate students. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue my passions and advocate for Indigenous mental health.



Jeremiah Hyslop
Xaxli'p
Doctor of Optometry,
University of Waterloo

My name is Jeremiah Hyslop and I am a member of the Xaxli'p band and St'at'imc Nation. I grew up in West Kelowna, BC. I am now in my third year of studies in the Doctor of Optometry program at the University of Waterloo. I have a wonderful wife and hope to one day create a good life for our future children and next seven generations through my education.



Jocelyn Benji
Tl'etinqox-tin
Medical Doctor Undergraduate
Program, UBC

Born and raised in the Cowichan Valley, I completed my B.Sc. in a Combined Major at UBC. I have a passion for health and wellness and worked as a project assistant at the Indigenous Studies in Kinesiology program at UBC. I am excited to study medicine at the Island Medical Program, and to hike, kayak, and explore new places across the island. (she/her/hers)



Jocelyn Harry
Skwxwú7mesh
Bachelor of Science in Nursing,
VIU

My ancestral name is Kwexaliya. My grandparents on my mother's side are Linda Harry and the late Jim Harry, and my grandparents on my father's side are the late Donna Bigcharles and the late Roy Whitford. My mother is Josie Harry and my father is Jason Wilson. I am going into my 2nd year of nursing, and I am so grateful for everyone who has and is supporting me through my education journey.



Joshua Houghton
Skwxwú7mesh Masters of Child
and Youth in Care, UVIC

Hal7th Skawyel. I am a single father and caregiver, obtaining my graduate degree in child, youth, family, and community studies at UVIC. I am currently working on my research on reintegration back into the community and the importance of community connection. My goal is to work in some capacity in my community providing decolonial support, resources and collaborative approaches to foster traditional and cultural health and well-being. Walking alongside our community members in their healing journeys.



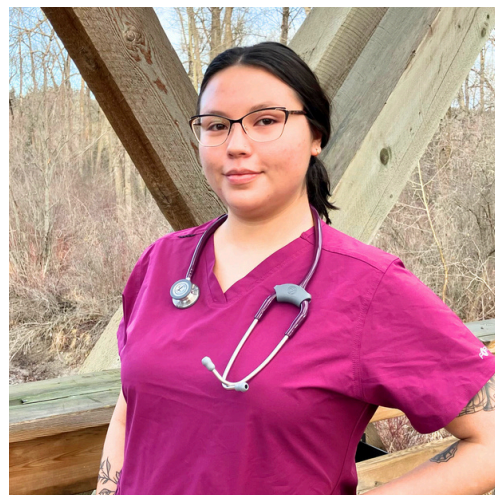
Julian Stokes
Old Massett Village Council
Masters of Health Sciences,
UNBC

I am a UNBC master's student and health sciences researcher specializing in near-infrared spectroscopy and cognitive pain management. As UNBC's Lead Research Ambassador, I also actively work to support fellow students and UNBC's overall academic culture. I frequently strive to expand upon my education, such as with a recent research internship in Japan, and I am now excited to complete my degree and proceed to the next stage of my career. Thank you to this Scholarship Fund for supporting me in my education, research, and community activities.



Kaitlind (Kaity) Laverman
Okanagan Indian Band
En'owkin Center (NVIT),
Bachelor of nsyilxcen Language
Fluency

My name is Kaity Laverman. I am a proud member of the Syilx Okanagan people, and I was born & raised on the OKIB land. I am currently taking my nsyilxcen language fluency program. It is my greatest aspiration to become fluent in my peoples language, and I strongly believe that this will be one of the most important things I have ever dedicated myself to. I am so thankful that I was blessed enough to be part of this journey and I can't wait for all the teachings that are coming my way.



Khloe Lambert
Witset
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
(Baccalauereate), UNBC

I am Wet'suwet'en and I belong to the Laksilyu clan of Tsee K'al K'e Yex. I am in my last year of the accelerated nursing program at UNBC. I can confidently say that pursuing nursing was the best decision I have made, as my passion for nursing continues to grow each day. After I graduate, I will be working towards of my goal of working in acute care in rural and remote areas of Northern BC.



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

Sdahl K'awaas, is a Haida scholar and culture-bearer. She is a SFU PhD candidate, with 30 years museum and repatriation experience, researching Haida museology as an act of reconciliation. Lucy is also a Xaad Kil (Haida language) learner and revitalizer and is creating a phrasebook app. She loves learning about her kuniisii (Ancestors) and bringing their teachings into today's world. She is a proud Bill Reid Centre and Smithsonian Fellow. Her accolades include the BC Community Achievement Award, the Sterling Prize for Controversy, and the BC Museums Association's Distinguished Service Award.



Nicole Jules
Adams Lake
Masters of Public Health, UBC

Weyktp! Nicole (BHK, she/her) is Secwepemc & Nlaka'pamux and grew up in Cstelnec (Adams Lake). She works at the BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer on areas within the Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Indigenous-Specific Racism Project. She fosters an environment of cultural safety and humility, anti-racism, and trustworthiness with love and care. She hopes to become a Medical Health Officer and looks forward to making a meaningful impact and courageous change in Indigenous Public Health.



Rebekah Towriss
Lax Kw'alaams
Bachelor's of Science in
Nursing, Douglas College

I am a proud Ts'msyen woman raised in Vancouver. I am of the Laxgiik Eagle clan of the Gitando tribe. I'm passionate about health care equity and I am excited to be pursuing my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. I would like to specialize in emergency or perinatal nursing. In the future, I would like to be a travel nurse to have the opportunity to give back to my Indigenous community by working in remote, Northern communities.



Sierra Lewis
Sḵw̓xwú7mesh
Masters of Social Work,
University of Victoria

My name is Sierra Lewis, and I am a member of the Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw and I grew up in what is now colonially known as North Vancouver, B.C.

I would like to acknowledge that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

However, I have been living on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən speaking people and the W̱SÁNEĆ nations for five years now (Victoria, B.C.). With immense gratitude, I would like to accept the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship Award, which will greatly assist me financially during my Master of Social Work Program.



Trena Black
T'Sou-ke Nation
Doctorate - Public Health and Social Policy,
University of Victoria

I am TELAES Trena Black from T'Sou-ke Nation. In September 2021, I made a four-year commitment to earn a PhD in Social Dimensions of Health, in the school of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria.

Through this commitment I will KEPSIT (gather) ÍY sqʷəlqʷəl' (stories) of T'Sou-ke people, language, and land to form a theoretic framework on T'Sou-ke SŁEWÁŁ OL (wellness).

HÍSWKE (thanks) to the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund for the financial award. It will support my goals of contributing to the future holistic wellbeing and language revitalization of T'Sou-ke Nation.



If you would like to learn more about the Scholarship Fund,
 please visit www.chiefjoemathias.ca.

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.



Founded in 2012, George & Bell Consulting is a firm of pension, benefits, and investment consulting professionals. We work with various pension & benefit plans, endowments, foundations and other investment entities, and provide advice to boards, committees, unions, Indigenous trusts, and other stakeholders.

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.



HLYNKY + DAVIS ARCHITECTS INC. is a deliberately small boutique firm that provides a high level of client service. We have evolved from B. Gordon Hlynky Architects, a practice which originated in 1986 to become a partnership in 2015.

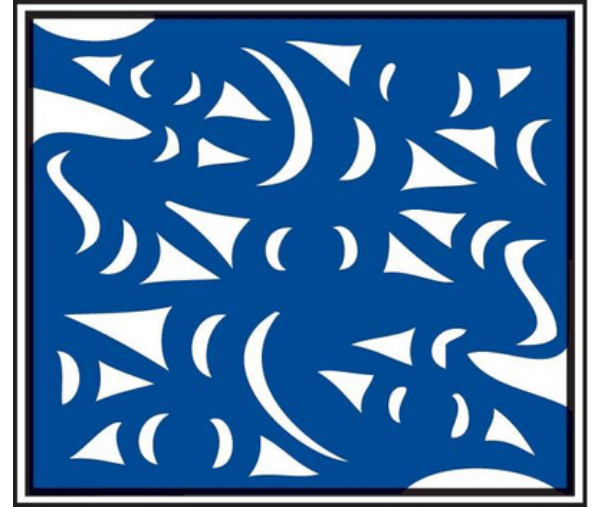
We strive to present solutions that are timeless while allowing flexibility to support future change and expansion.



Registered Name:
CHIEF JOE MATHIAS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ABORIGINAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



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
- Victor & Judith Pearson
- Susan Stout
- Douglas & Carla Mason
- Tsukiko Takagi
- Mitacs
- Jonathan Manheim
- Douglas A. Davis Architect Inc.
- + 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 Indspire Laureate and holds an Institute of Corporate Director's designation.

Lisa Ethans

Lisa is the founder, President and Chair of the Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship Fund. Prior to retiring from Deloitte, she held a variety of leadership roles including founding and leading the firm's National Aboriginal Client Services practice and the wealth management 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, and Artemis Gold.

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.

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 to clients regarding their internal affairs, including the development of legislation, policy, and governance structures.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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.

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.

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.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mason Ducharme

Mason Ducharme, a passionate advocate for Indigenous self-determination, proudly comes from Lil'wat Nation. At 23, he became one of Canada's youngest band administrators for Nuchatlaht Tribe. Currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Victoria (UVic), Mason's research focuses on retaining Indigenous executives in Indigenous organizations. His academic achievements include a Master's in Public Administration, a Bachelor of Business Administration, and an Advanced Diploma in International Business. A nominee for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, Mason actively encourages Aboriginal youth to embrace education and sobriety, embodying "The Red Road." Mason has taught Indigenous Governance in Canada at the UVic, and Indigenous values in business and human resource management at Vancouver Island University. Mason's unwavering dedication to Indigenous governance is evident in his impactful research, advocating for equitable resource allocation. As he pursues certification as an Associate Certified Coach, Mason remains steadfast in inspiring others towards education, leadership, and a self-determined Indigenous future.

Angela Wesley

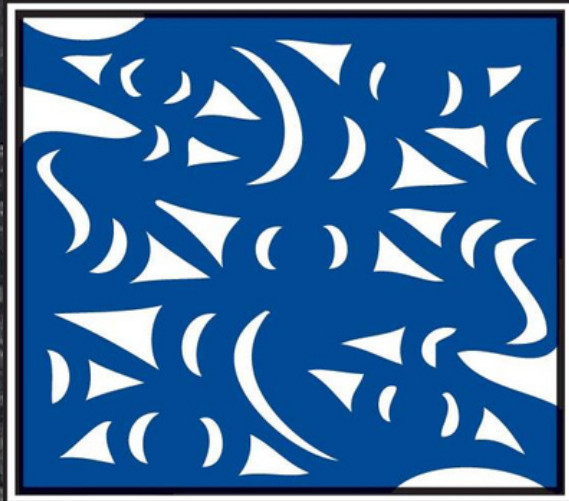
Angela is a citizen of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Nuu-chah-nulth). As owner/partner in Wes-Can Advisory Services since 1992 she has spent her career providing advisory and facilitation services to First Nations and other governments and organizations in the areas of strategic planning, community development and engagement, communications, and governance capacity building. She has a strong vision of and passion for realizing an ever-improving quality of life for First Nations and their citizens. Angela was an active participant in negotiations leading to the ratification and implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty and the Huu-ay-aht Constitution and continues to be one of the champions in her Nation's self-governance journey. She served for 8 years as Board Chair/President for the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and has served and continues to serve on a number of provincial and First Nations boards, holding the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. Angela has served as a Commissioner on the BC Treaty Commission since 2018 and is actively involved in international discussions on indigenous governance and leadership. She is proud to have learned from and been mentored by some of the most brilliant indigenous leaders in British Columbia.

Executive Director

Kamana Bikadi, CPA

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. She proudly hails from the Líl'wat Nation where she was born and raised.





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