

# Industry connector

Without Limits

## Success Booklet

### Spirit of Unity 2016/17

# Achievement Awards

June 6, 2017



# Spirit of Unity 2016/17

## Achievement Awards Gala

### Work... Life... Balance

Each year PGNAETA hosts a Spirit of Unity Forum. For the past five years the event has been enhanced by the Spirit of Unity Achievement Awards Gala to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions and successes of organizations, companies and individuals who have performed admirably in fields of Aboriginal Human Resource development. Or in the case of individuals, in having pursued and achieved personal success in their respective career goals.

Unity speaks of one heart, one mind, and many hands. In this instance the common thread that brings us together to celebrate tonight is that we all share in aspiring to see Aboriginal citizens participate fully in today's economy and celebrate success as they work toward achieving their personal career goals.

We would like to acknowledge The Board of Directors, Elders, and Leaders for their leadership and guidance to make this event a success.

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# LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Leadership Excellence Award celebrates the achievement of individuals who have distinguished themselves as leaders with their contributions toward Aboriginal Human Resource Development and as innovators, trailblazers, and champions of advancing Aboriginal capacity, skill, and artistry.



**Chief Wilf Adam**  
**Lake Babine Nation**

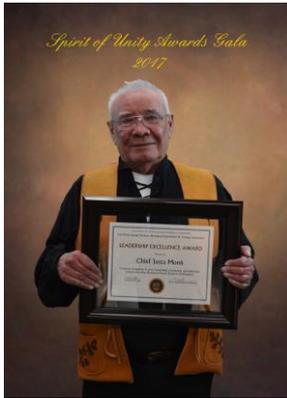
Chief Wilf Adam has a lengthy history of serving his nation and the broader First Nations communities in British Columbia. Chief Adam has been serving Lake Babine Nation since 1977 in various capacities from Management to Chief. His first term of leadership was in 1983. Chief Adam continues to serve the people through his leadership and goes above and beyond the call of duty. He always worked for the people. Lake Babine Nation is the third largest First Nation in British Columbia, with a total registered membership of upward of 2,438 citizens. The nation's language is Babine Carrier. The nation has twenty-seven reserve lands and five communities, including Woyenne, Old Fort, Fort Babine, Tachet, and Donald's Landing.

Chief Adam is the former chair of the Burns Lake Native Development Corporation (BLNDC) and is now the President of BLNDC. Chief Adam was one of the co-founders of the Burns Lake Law Centre. He was born in Burns Lake and raised in Pendleton Bay. Chief Adam worked for the late Ted Lowley as Band Manager, looking over administration. Ted Lowley negotiated everything with Council, including the funding for the Babine reserve to have water, sewer, power, and the bridge. Chief Adam assisted with the implementation of these projects, and was Ted Lowley's right

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hand man. Chief Adam also taught at the local high school teaching Carrier. Among these roles, Chief Adam also worked as the BCTC Commissioner from 1995 to 2007 in Vancouver prior to returning home and running for Chief. A recent noteworthy accomplishment of Chief Adam and his team is the historic Foundation Pathway Agreement signed between the Province of BC and Lake Babine Nation. This agreement sets out a commitment for the Province and Lake Babine Nation to negotiate a twenty-five-year framework to strengthen the government-to-government relationship, reconcile respective jurisdictions and responsibilities and provide certainty and benefits. The agreement will strengthen Lake Babine's participation in the regional forest economy through new forest tenure opportunities, partnership opportunities with BC Timber Sales, and new, innovative ways to work collaboratively with the Province and forest sector through development of a regional forestry forum. Chief Adam says, "the work is urgent and cannot await another generation. The Lake Babine people and the citizens of British Columbia deserve our best efforts." Early benefits can be observed through the issuing of a First Nations woodland license to Lake Babine Nation, enhancing employment and economic opportunities in the region. Chief Adam states, "I welcome the First Nations woodland license on behalf of Lake Babine Nation. As stewards of the land, we welcome the benefits that the agreement will bring to the community and the increased opportunity to shape and manage the use of resources around us." Chief Adam is a member of the Bear Clan. He is the proud father of six children, and together he and his wife Barbara are strong advocates for higher education among youth.

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## Chief Justa Monk Tl'azt'en First Nation

Justa Monk is a member of the Tl'azt'en First Nation and has been a leader in the Dakelh community for many years. He was Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council from 1981-1983 and again from 1990-1994. He served as Executive Director of Tl'azt'en Nation, Co-Chair of the Northwest Tribal Association, and as a member of the Task Group of the First Nations Summit. His life is described in the book *Justa*.

Justa served his community as Band Councillor and Chief for the past twenty-two years on and off. Of noteworthy mention, he was seconded to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council in 1982 as the first President of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and sat on a committee that worked on getting their constitution that was brought from England.

Following his term as President of CSTC, he moved back to his home community of Tl'azt'en to take on the Band Manager role (1983-86). In 1986 he obeyed the counsel of his elders and once again took on a broader leadership role as Vice-Tribal Chief for CSTC from 1986-1990. Home was calling and Justa returned to his village to lead the community in economic development in 1995. It was during this time Justa had a heart attack and was ordered to take time off work. Once he returned to work he then moved on to the Northern Wood, Pulp and Paper mill as the Aboriginal Liaison worker up until 2000, when he had open-heart surgery. Following his convalescence he undauntedly returned to work for Tl'azt'en as the Executive Director

Justa extended his reach, went to work for Northern Health, and sat on the First Nations Interim Governance Committee. He has family ties to the Lake Babine Nation and at the request of their Council took on the role of the Interim Executive Director. Home is where the heart is and Justa

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returned to his community to enter governance and run for the position of chief Councillor. He is now in his third year as Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation. Justa speaks with intensity when he mentions the economics of the area and the need for long-term, sustainable jobs for his citizens. The economic development department within Tl'azten's operations focuses on individual supports for business development and longer-term initiatives. The focus is on long-term job creation and creating joint ventures that can have a financial impact on Tl'azt'en Nation. Some of the organizations already involved in the joint ventures are Redrock Camps, Frost Lake Logging, and Rugged Edge Holdings. The department is currently working on a joint venture with a security company called Lions Gate Risk Management. Tl'azt'en has significant potential for both jobs and income in the future. Justa's leadership spans fifty years of service.

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## **Christie Ray, Chief Executive Officer Chamber of Commerce**

A passionate advocate for Prince George and northern BC, Christie is a big believer in relationship building and working together to achieve common goals. She is a proud graduate of UNBC's Bachelor of Commerce program, and has a background in marketing and project management. Christie has worked in and with several small businesses locally and around Canada over the past seventeen years. For seven of those years, she owned and operated a home-based business with her husband. Christie is responsible for all operations at the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, and is accountable to the Board of Directors. She prepares and implements the Chamber's strategic policies in collaboration with the Board, and manages the Chamber's business and financial affairs. She is the primary voice of the Chamber to the public.

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## Leo Hebert, HeBear Consultant

Leo is a First Nation who originates from the Sawridge First Nation in Northern Alberta. He attended PGSS and the CNC in the early 70's and went back to Alberta to work in construction. In 1979, he returned to BC where he fell in love with his wife Maureen and her four children and moved to Prince George where they built a house and had a daughter of their own. It was

then that he was introduced to the living conditions of the local First Nations. From his own experience he understood what living in poverty is like, and he wanted to be part of the solution and to make change. Leo calls himself a community developer. For over thirty-five years he has worked for First Nations, non-profit Aboriginal organizations, and government in a variety of capacities, predominantly in housing and building. Some of his work includes: RRAP Inspector for BC Native Housing, Program Officer with CEIC, Housing Coordinator for CSTC, Energy Auditor for BC Hydro, Special Projects for PGNFC, Capital Development for Lheidli T'enneh, Program Officer for CMHC, Executive Director for the AHSPG, Huboduleh Coordinator with PGNAETA, and project manager for a variety of projects on and off reserve. Leo has sat on many community and provincial boards and committees over the years.

Leo now works part time from home offering his experience and skills to others as a volunteer and consultant, and he spends more time with Maureen and their granddaughter Raine. He is dedicated to continuing to help find solutions. He is thankful that he was given the opportunity to serve and be part of a vibrant indigenous community here in northern BC.

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## Canfor

Canfor is a leading integrated forest products company based in British Columbia with operations in BC, Alberta, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Arkansas. Canfor produces primarily softwood lumber and also owns a 53.9% interest in Canfor Pulp Products Inc., which is one of the largest producers of market northern bleached softwood kraft pulp and a leading producer of high performance kraft paper.

Canfor's operations overlap with numerous traditional First Nations territories in British Columbia and Canfor is committed to the development of mutually beneficial opportunities for First Nations participation in its planning and operations, including economic development, procurement, education and employment.

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## **Mary Teegee, Executive Director of Child and Family Services Carrier Sekani Family Services**

Mary is Gitk'san and Carrier from Takla Lake First Nation and a proud member of the Luxgaboo Wolf Clan. She holds the Hereditary Chief's name Maaxswxw Gibuu (White Wolf).

She has been raised to live her culture, customs, laws and traditions. She is the daughter of Sarah and William Teegee and mother to Noah Rain. Mary has long espoused that in order for nations to be revitalized, nations have to heal from the atrocities that occurred through colonization. She also maintains that all services, programs, and initiatives developed to benefit First Nations have to be built on a cultural foundation. She advocates that healing and wellness have to be priorities for leaders. Mary is the Executive Director of Child and Family Services at Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) overseeing the provincially delegated programs, youth services, family preservation, maternal child health, and the Highway of Tears Initiative as well as violence prevention programs. Mary is an accomplished presenter at global and national conferences; always with the intent to educate and raise awareness of social issues for the First Nations people of Canada.

Prior to working at CSFS, Mary worked for her nation as Chief Negotiator and as Deputy Chief. At CSFS she has worked at developing and implementing Community Health programs for CSFS nations. She was also a part of the development of the CSFS Family Justice Facilitation Program in partnership with UNBC, the Justice Institute, and the BC Mediators Roster Society. This collaboration produced approximately twenty First Nation Mediators for Northern families.

Mary also contributes as:

- Member of the National Advisory Council for Child and Family Services, Assembly of First Nations
- President of BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

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- Co-chair of the BC Delegated Agencies Directors Forum
- BC Board Representative for the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada(FNCFS)

Currently Mary acts as the representative for BC on the Child and Family National Advisory Council to reform child and family services in Canada. She also is a representative for the First Nation Delegated Agencies on the Provincial Child and Family Tripartite Working Group. As the BC representative on the FNCFS she has had the privilege of working with the FNCFS Board, Cindy Blackstock and the AFN on the Canadian Human Rights Court Case which proved Canada was discriminatory against First Nation children.

Her goal is to assist in the reformation of child and family services within Carrier nations, BC, and Canada to ensure First Nation children are protected, taken care of by their own families, and have the freedom to live up to their full potential within their culture. She firmly believes that the way forward for our nations is to revitalize cultural practices, traditions, customs and governing systems while embracing secular education and training.

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# COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS

**PGNAETA supports an AHRD Network comprised of employment practitioners serving 17 First Nations and Urban Aboriginal citizens, who work toward achieving career and employment goals. The success of the Association could not be realized without the support and encouragement given by the practitioners to the unemployed. Truly they are community champions. PGNAETA acknowledges four individuals who have served their communities with dedication, always striving for excellence and with fervent passion for seeing community members succeed.**



**Linda Johnnie, Employment & Training  
Coordinator  
Lake Babine Nation**

Linda Johnnie is the youngest of six children of the late Vincent and Louise Johnnie. She graduated from an Office Administration Program in 1993. She worked for two years with Burns Lake Native Development Corporation

(BLNDC) as Assistant to the Native Liaison Officer.

In 2007 she began working in the employment and training program with Lake Babine Nation. This job has introduced her to many new people, challenges, and perks. She has been in this position for ten years. She says she “is FINALLY getting the hang of it with mentors such as Terry Lynn, Bruce, and Cathy Pierre (whom has taught me everything about the ARMS system) and everyone else at PGNAETA; along with all of my co-workers at Lake Babine Nation.” She enjoys working with Lake Babine Nation citizens and assisting them with trying to advance into the work force. She wants to acknowledge Pauline Goertzen, her supervisor, for encouraging her and allowing her to assist Lake Babine Nation citizens in any way that she can.

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## **Adele Gooding, General Manager Skin Tye Nation**

Adele Gooding was born and raised in Burns Lake.

She is a School Trustee for School District 91 Nechako Lakes, Chair of LDATES - Lakes District Aboriginal Training to Employment Society and Chair of the new NFET - Northern First Nations Employment and Training (formerly the PTP ASEP - Pacific Trail Pipelines Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership). She is also the Secretary for the First Nations LNG Alliance and Treasurer for the Chinook Community Forest.

Adele is an advocate for First Nation students in their efforts to further their education and social wellbeing, and Adele promotes culturally-based ways of learning.

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## **Samantha Wurtak, Therapeutic Life Skills Coach/ Employment Counselor Carrier Sekani Family Services**

Samantha Wurtak was born in Whitehorse, Yukon in January 1972 to Jim and Peggy Wurtak (Nee Fox). Her traditional name is Cocohan, which means "Keeper of Her Brothers". She has three brothers and one sister and was raised in Northern BC. She moved to Prince George in

1997 to raise her children.

Her career path restarted in 2000 at the Prince George Native Friendship Centre. She worked there in various departments. It was there that she realized that she enjoyed working in the Employment Services field and assisting individuals to reach their goals, find sustainable employment, and/or return to school. In 2010, she decided to continue with her education and complete her Career Development Practitioner Diploma through Concordia University in Alberta.

Upon completion of her training she was hired as a Therapeutic Life Skills Coach/ Employment Counselor with Carrier Sekani Family Services in the Bridging to Employment Program. She has been employed for over six years. It gives her much satisfaction to work with a diverse group of individuals and to see how this program has made a difference in their lives/career paths. Students leave the program with a greater sense of self, increased employability/life skills, and a support system that they can turn to when needed. She maintains contact with many past students and has felt privileged that they keep her updated on their journeys.

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**Mason Abou**  
**Executive Assistant/ Employment and Training Coordinator, KNRLP**  
**Safety Coordinator, Obo Forest Management**

Mason Abou is a proud young warrior from the Tahltan and Sekani Nation and was raised for most of his childhood by his grandparents in

Iskut, B.C. As a child Mason spent most of his free time out on the land hunting, camping, and gaining traditional knowledge. In later years he moved to Kwadacha where he graduated from grade 12 with honors in the local Aatse Davie School. Right after graduating Mason pursued his love of music in the Recording Arts program at the Art Institute of Vancouver. Mason finished his first semester and didn't return to continue in this direction because the "mountains were calling." Mason's love for the land was the deciding factor in his decision to move home to Kwadacha. In Kwadacha Mason had opportunities in the exploration camps in the summer and worked in the school in the winter. In 2011 he became a father of twins and was seeking employment closer to home when the opportunity for the Employment Coordinator position became available. Since then Mason has been serving the Kwadacha community through the roles of KNRLP Executive Assistant and Employment and Training Coordinator and as Obo's Occupational Health and Safety Personnel. During this term and continuing Mason has been learning as he goes, having no experience when he first started, gaining more knowledge of all aspects of KNRLP Activity, and most importantly providing opportunities for community members as they pursue their career goals. During Mason's free time he still finds ways to enjoy the traditional teachings and living on the land, whether he is bow hunting, making arrows, fly fishing, or tying flies. He stays strongly connected to the roots of his upbringing.

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# ELDER COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

The Elder Community Champions Award is a category for one elder to be acknowledged for leadership in a field of study, or community activism, or community volunteerism, or transferring skill and knowledge to younger generations.



**Clifford Quaw**  
**Esteemed Elder**  
**Lheidli T’enneh Nation**

Clifford Quaw is an esteemed elder from Lheidli-Tenneh Nation. He is married to Leslie and has one daughter. He is a man of humble nature, willing to share his knowledge and experience to educate and inform others.

Clifford is a survivor from the Lejac Indian residential school, which he attended from 1953 to 1964. The Lejac Residential School was one of the 130 boarding schools for First Nations children that operated in Canada between 1874 and 1996. Lejac was located on the shore of Fraser Lake and closed in 1976.

Clifford was employed in the forestry sector as a faller and as a silvaculture worker for most of his life. In 2008, he heard about the Hubodulh’eh Targeted Initiative for Older Workers, a program being offered by PGNAETA and designed to build on both employability skills and foundational skills of older workers. The goal was to prepare elders, a key community resource, as community facilitators. This project made a significant impact on their lives. Clifford says “my crowning achievement was to graduate from the Hubodulh’eh 2008 project fully certified with the Provincial Instructors Diploma from Vancouver Community College.” He would like to thank Karin Hunt for bringing the project to Prince George and assisting him and the other seven students, also survivors of the residential schools, who graduated.

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Today Clifford is engaged by the University of Northern BC, College of New Caledonia, and School District 57 as a workshop lecturer to students of all ages. Clifford teaches students about the impact of the Residential School Syndrome.

Clifford is an inspiration to all. He has demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity, tremendous capacity to see the good in others, and perseverance to reach his goals. He is the epitome of grassroots leadership! It is with tremendous respect and gratitude that we bestow upon Clifford Quaw the “Elder Community Champions Award” for his continued encouragement of First Nations citizens to pursue higher education and for the legacy he is building through the transferring of skill and knowledge to younger generations.

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# YOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

This year, PGNAETA has added the Youth Community Champions Award a category for one youth to be acknowledged for leadership in culture and language revitalization, community volunteerism, or having persevered and demonstrated exceptional resilience in the face of adversity.



## Trent Seymour Youth Championship Lheidli T'enneh Nation

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the first ever recipient of the “Youth Community Champions Award” is Trent Seymour. Trent’s proud parents are Phyllis (Saikuz) and Barry (Lheidli T’enneh) Seymour.

In 2014 Trent Seymour’s fastball team won gold at the North American Indigenous Games. That fall Trent was paralyzed after a shooting accident damaged his spine. After weeks in the ICU and months in rehab, Trent was able to get around again in a wheel chair.

Trent’s hopes and dreams as a promising young athlete might have seemed devastated by his accident; instead, Trent has determined to use his experience to create positive change in the lives of others, and to find ways to get back in the game.

Trent went on to graduate from high school. Today, Trent can be found on the fastball pitch serving as Canada’s first paraplegic Umpire. He considers his wheelchair an advantage since the chair puts him in the perfect position to assess strikes at eye level – no need for uncomfortable squatting or crouching.

Trent’s unwavering optimism has received attention from Canadian icon Rick Hansen. Trent is currently working for the Rick Hansen Foundation on a pilot project intended to increase accessibility and inclusivity in cities

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across Canada. About Trent, Hansen says: “I can relate to what he's gone through, a Cariboo boy who was a young athlete with lots of hopes and dreams and they seem to have been shattered along with the injury, but I've also known that such a trauma can also be not just a tragedy, but it can be a triumph and a new opportunity.”

Trent’s indomitable spirit in the face of adversity, and his enthusiasm to give back and create positive change for others makes him an ideal recipient of PGNAETA’s first Youth Community Champions Award.

# SPIRIT OF UNITY AWARDS

**The Spirit of Unity Award is awarded to a company or organization who has distinguished themselves by their passion for advancing the Aboriginal labour force and by their willingness to give of their support and talents towards that goal through partnership and collaboration.**



## **Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

The vision and commitment of the Ministry of Aboriginal

Relations and Reconciliation leadership and team toward advancing the Aboriginal labour force has earned MARR a nomination and opportunity to be recognized as a 2017 recipient of the Spirit of Unity award! The willingness of the MARR team to share in enacting the vision of a prepared Aboriginal workforce by working diligently with the aboriginal community has earned MARR the accolade. MARR works in partnership with First Nations, offering unique strategic measures under the Aboriginal Skills Training and Development fund. Throughout this region skills development is taking place in First Nations communities with colleges, industry, unions and PGNAETA at the partnership table. The end result is the maximizing of resources and shared success!

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**Walter Sorokovsky, Apprenticeship  
Advisor: Central North  
Prince George North  
Industry Training Authority**

In addition to operating a construction business, Walter brings over ten years of experience working as a Millwright/ Machinist instructor to his role as Apprenticeship Advisor. Trades and apprenticeship are Walter's passion,

and he is dedicated to building apprenticeship opportunities and supporting employers and apprentices throughout the Central North and Prince George North region of BC.

Walter obtained his Provincial College Instructors Diploma, and has experience in the health, pulp and paper, lumber processing and mining industries. He holds Red Seal certification in several trades— Millwright, Machinist, and Carpenter—along with a Certificate of Qualification in Power Engineering. Most recently, Walter worked in the advanced education system to train and guide apprentices from BC and Alberta to become skilled tradespeople.

Walter will be the point of contact for apprentices and employer sponsors throughout the Central North and Prince George North region of BC. If you are an apprentice, employer sponsor or employer interested in becoming a sponsor, contact your local ITA Apprenticeship Advisor for any guidance and support you may need with the BC apprenticeship system.

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**Donna Anderson, Apprenticeship Advisor:  
Central Interior  
Prince George South  
Industry Training Authority**

With over ten years of experience coaching and motivating individuals towards employment as a Certified Career Development Practitioner, Donna Anderson is well suited to her new role as Apprenticeship Advisor. With her extensive

understanding of the BC apprenticeship system, Donna is dedicated to building apprenticeship opportunities, and supporting employers and apprentices in the Central Interior and Prince George South region of BC. Donna has experience providing client-focused support as a case manager, essential skills facilitator and job coach within the area of employment and training. For the past thirteen years she has worked primarily within the Employment Assistance Services Department at the Aboriginal Community Careers and Employment Services Society (ACCESS). During that time, she was responsible for the recruitment, monitoring and mentorship of ACCESS-sponsored trades training students. Donna is a member of the Tl'etinqox (Anaham Band) of the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) Nation located in the central region of BC.

In addition to being the point of contact for apprentices and employer sponsors in the Central Interior and Prince George South region of BC, Donna will also focus on supporting Aboriginal apprentices within the local communities. If you are an apprentice, employer sponsor or employer interested in becoming a sponsor, contact your local ITA Apprenticeship Advisor for any guidance and support you may need with the BC apprenticeship system.

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# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Outstanding Achievement award acknowledges the successes of students or project participants who have distinguished themselves by their commitment and dedication toward their career goals. Tonight we celebrate their achievement.

## 17 First Nations

**Ts'Il Kaz Koh**



**Burns Lake Band**

**Douglas Andersen**  
**Burns Lake Band**

Douglas worked as an exemplary student during the Customer Care course taken at the Pathways office in Burns Lake, BC. Douglas made the work that was required look easy, excelled in his Essential Skills tasks, and scored in the highest ranges. He was very quick to finish projects and did so with enthusiasm and a special knack. He

made a great impression during his interview and was a welcome and exceptional addition to his Work Experience placement. Douglas will do well in any course he chooses to pursue.

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**Brian Tibbetts**  
**Burns Lake Band**

Brian was an exemplary student that soon was noted as a Leader. He was prompt to class and worked diligently on any and all tasks that were put to him. He was a great example of what the program was looking for in a student, and he made use of his in class wisely and efficiently. Brian was a welcome addition to the new hotel in Burns Lake during his work experience placement. He left a positive and pleasant impression with both the administration and the staff. Brian will do well in whatever he chooses to explore and follow in his professional path.



**Ron Vanzetta**  
**Cheslatta Carrier Nation**



## **Demi Abou Kwadacha Band**

Demi Abou is dedicated and determined toward employment. She has sought out all applicable training needed for employment in the summer as she pursues her desired field. She was born in June of 1997 and was raised by her grandparents, former chief of thirty-seven years, Emil McCook, and by their beloved matriarch Fanny McCook. Demi has lived in Kwadacha for her entire life. She was brought up with respect, love and a deep understanding of her community and culture. These values have taught her to work hard for what she believes in and to never give up on her goals and dreams.

She completed up to Grade 11 in school and decided to take time off from her studies to figure out what she wanted for herself in life. She has gained from the elders in her community much knowledge about her culture and has gained insight related to business. She has worked on and off for the KNRLP throughout the years. She enjoys its company and people, gaining experiences through projects that she has taken on, and overcoming many challenges, which has helped her to become the young lady she has aspired to be since the beginning.

She is honored to receive this nomination. It encourages and inspires her to continue the journey that she has only just begun.

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## **Kyle McCook Kwadacha Band**

Kyle McCook has taken all the training throughout the years in Kwadacha. He has taken every opportunity to become the employee he is today.

Employed by the KNRLP, Kyle holds multiple positions. He can adapt to tasks in any department. Currently Kyle mainly works as a

sawmill labourer and as an equipment operator driving an excavator and a loader, and he also drives a bio mass truck.

Kyle is a proud Sekani warrior, born in Kwadacha and raised there by his grandparents. In his younger days Kyle worked in various fields of employment in Kwadacha. He then joined the Kwadacha Saw Mill, and worked there part time from 2011 to 2012. Kyle has been with the KNRLP Saw for the last five years full time doing various tasks and operating Heavy Equipment. In 2015 Kyle pursued and received a driver's license, and now he has earned a Novice License, which has furthered his duties with the KNRLP. His license has allowed him to assist with the Community Bio Mass Project as the main operator of the Chip Truck. He delivers chips to the bio mass site for their operation. During Kyle's free time he still goes out climbing mountains, hunting, camping, and living off the land, and he also teaches the younger generation traditional ways. He will always have a strong connection to the roots of his upbringing.

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## **Sabrina Tom**

### **Lake Babine Nation**

Sabrina was enrolled in a couple of courses before deciding on the ABT Admin Course at CNC. Her first course was the Women in Trades course at Thompson River University. She successfully completed the program but couldn't decide what trade to get into as she was living in Kamloops, BC. Once the course was complete

she moved back home to be with her grandmother who needed someone to care for her during her elderly years.

Sabrina enrolled in the Environmental Monitor program at the College of New Caledonia and was only in it for a couple of weeks before accepting a position with the LBN Elementary school. This was her calling to enroll in the ABT Admin assistant program.

Being a single mom and assisting her grandmother was very challenging, as both required her constant attention. She was a struggling student and was at odds with the LD Campus on completing the course. In January of 2016 she was asked to withdraw. She fought hard to stay in the program. The administrator of College of New Caledonia placed her on the other side of the campus where she finished the courses on her own. In June 2016 Sabrina successfully completed the Applied Business Technology Program.

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**Doug Olson**  
**Lheidli T'enneh First Nation**

Doug Olson was hired in 2016 as the general manager of Tano Fuels Ltd., with the primary responsibility of overlooking an on-reserve gas bar within the Traditional Territory of Lheidli T'enneh. Mr. Olson has participated in many programs, such as Pathways to Success with Community Futures. He holds several industry certificates, and he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Doug's inherent motivation, self-driven nature, and strength of character truly set him apart from his peers. As a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, he is committed to strengthening his community for many years to come.



**Deryl-Lynn Seymour**  
**Lheidli T'enneh**

Deryl-Lynn Seymour was hired on June 1, 2016 as Community Maintenance Technician (CMT) in the Public Works Department, and she has been working actively and progressing in her role since then.

The Community Maintenance Technician (CMT) works under the direction of the Lands Manager. The CMT effectively maintains all on-reserve community assets. The CMT provides required services such as operation of band-owned equipment, water and septic system maintenance, household refuse removal, community facilities lawn maintenance, snow removal, and road and ditch upkeep. The CMT also maintains all equipment associated with the role. The CMT will complete reports and record-keeping documents to support effective management of community infrastructure.

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**Kevin Findlay**  
**McLeod Indian Band**



**Delbert George**  
**Nadleh Whut'en**

Delbert graduated from high school in June 2011. He worked at various jobs and various training programs over the next few years. Delbert had been considering going into the carpentry field and in the spring of 2016 he applied and was accepted to the Carpentry Level 1 Foundation program at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. He started his program in the fall of 2016 and received his Carpentry Level 1 Foundation certificate this past February. Delbert was a recipient of the Trans Canada Pathway to Pipeline Readiness CNC Skills Fund Bursary. He also won first in the Regional carpentry skills competition at CNC in Prince George. He was then invited to and competed in the Provincial Skills competition in Abbotsford in April of this year and won a safety award at the Provincial Skills competition. Delbert is currently working in the carpentry field to gain experience and hours toward his carpentry apprenticeship.

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## **Colton Heathcliff Nadleh Whut'en**

Colton graduated from high school in June of 2008. He continued with his education in the carpentry trade. Colton completed his Carpentry Foundation L1 program through The College of New Caledonia in 2009. He then worked toward obtaining the hours for his apprenticeship and completing his levels 2 & 3.

In December 2016 Colton achieved his Carpentry Level 4 and passed his ITA Red Seal Exam. He is now working in the carpentry field towards obtaining the necessary hours for his final certification.

In addition to this, Colton was also accepted to and attended the Youth Leadership Training Symposium for the BC Centre of Excellence for Young Indigenous Leaders at Royal Roads University in May 2017.

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## **Gina Joseph Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Gina Joseph is the daughter of the late Harold Isaac and the granddaughter of the late Agnes and Seymour Isaac. Gina is part of the Lusilyoo clan. Gina seeks to be positive and grateful and to spread joy and love to others.

She graduated with her adult dogwood diploma in 2013 at the age of twenty-nine. With

assistance from NETS, she completed her Carpentry foundation level and dabbled in a little business management. Her most current and greatest education accomplishment is the Health Care Assistant Program, which she recently completed.

She went to NETS for job search, where she successfully gained employment with Nak'azdli Health as a Homemaker. She is currently on an education leave with the Nak'azdli Health Centre. She cleaned for the elders, serving up to five clients a day, and also helping them run errands if needed. She prepared and cooked meals for some of the clients.

Gina is proud of and motivated by her children, whom she considers her greatest accomplishment. She has four amazing, talented, smart children whose ages range from four to fourteen years old. They are growing up to be respectful and well-behaved people. They make her want to live a better life and to give them a life that they won't have to recover from. She wants to be a good role model for them and to show them that they can accomplish anything if they set their minds to it. Gina is also very proud of her sobriety.

Her clients at the Nak'azdli Health Centre have considerably influenced her as well. Her supervisor, Lucy McKinnon, was a great supporter, and encouraged her to register for the HCAP course. Gina doesn't think she would have enrolled in the program if her supervisor hadn't put the bug in her ear. Gina's late father also played a huge role in motivating her.

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Everything that she does, she does so that she can live a good and healthy life and so that he can be proud of her and her accomplishments.

Gina's goals are to finish her preceptorship and to find work that will help her utilize all the tools and education that she recently received in the HCAP course. She wants to begin her career in helping those who can't help themselves and to help them live life as independently as possible and with as much dignity as possible. Her goal is to help people smile when they don't feel like they have anything to smile about while also helping them to meet their basic needs.



## **Nigel Sagalon Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Nigel Sagalon is from the Beaver clan and has lived all over British Columbia. He has studied carpentry in Kelowna, Nanaimo, and Prince George, and has spent about half of his life in the Vancouver area. He has always come back to his home in Fort St. James. An outdoorsman, he spends most of his time hunting on his family trap line. When he is not away at school or out in the wilderness he is a carpenter by trade. He has been a carpenter for five years and is looking forward to furthering his skills to advance toward his goals. He has earned a Grade 12 diploma, and in May he completed Carpentry Level Four. Nigel's grandfather has always had a good work ethic and still works to this day. Also, his mother has always pushed him and his siblings to pursue meeting their full potential. Nigel's goal is to finish the remaining apprenticeship hours needed in order to receive his Red Seal. He would also like to further his education in either building inspection or architectural engineering.

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# PARTNERSHIP OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The Partnership Outstanding Achievement award acknowledges the successes of students or project participants who have distinguished themselves by their commitment and dedication toward their career goals. Tonight we celebrate their achievement.



## **Brandon Collison Canfor**

Brandon started with Canfor in 2012 as Field Assistant. Due to Brandon's strong work ethic, after a few short months he was promoted to Quality Control for cruising and shortly thereafter was promoted to Crew Boss because of his knowledge of the job. It wasn't long after that when Brandon was promoted again to a supervisory role because of his ability to relate to people on the job site and his natural ability to train and build the confidence of his team. Brandon strongly values his role and cherishes the opportunity to work on his traditional lands of the Lheidli T'enneh. One of the main attractions for Brandon in working with Canfor is that safety is a number one priority, which to him sends a strong message that Canfor is serious about bringing him home each night to be with his family.

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## **Tim Boyes** **Conifex Timber Inc.**

Tim started working for Canfor, then Pope & Talbot in 1999 as a labourer, and eventually knew how to run every job in the Saw Mill. In 2004 he became a sawmill chargehand. In 2005 he became a lumber grader and in 2006 he utilized his grading ticket and became the Quality Control Size Checker.

With the mill closure from 2007-09, Tim returned to work in 2009 for Conifex in the warehouse. He received his Level III First Aid Ticket and became a Sawmill Utility again. In 2011 he was offered a position as the Safety Chargehand, which he still holds today.

During all of his time working in the mill he has always been dependable, safety conscious, and a role model for all of our employees. Currently he is still the Safety Chargehand but he also is the Safety Chairperson on the union side of the Plant Safety Committee and continues to show leadership in everything that he does.

Over his years as a Safety Chargehand he has learned much about the WCB Regulations and helps everyone on site to follow and understand them. He has taken many courses to understand the impacts of dust in the workplace as it has been a focus since the disasters at the Babine Forest Products and Lakeland Mills.

When Conifex hires new employees it is Tim's responsibility to put them through a one-week safety orientation to help them understand what is expected of all employees in regards to safety and how to look out for themselves and others. He has also taken many of the local Bladerunners on mill tours so they have a better understanding of what they could expect if they were to work in the Sawmill.

When Tim is not working he volunteers for the Fort St James Fire Department and is very active with them.

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# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - Continued

The Outstanding Achievement award acknowledges the successes of students or project participants who have distinguished themselves by their commitment and dedication toward their career goals. Tonight we celebrate their achievement.



**Victor Burt**  
**Nee Tahi Buhn Band**

Victor has completed the Occupational First Aid Level 3 Course this year with the help of PGNAETA funding. He now has all the skills and knowledge to successfully obtain employment in a wide variety of work environments, to provide exceptional care of injured employees, and to ensure the safety of all workers at the work place.



**Terri Lynn Peterson**  
**Nee Tahi Buhn Band**

Terri Lynn has grown into a proud and strong woman. Before she started the BEAHR program, she was unemployed and starting to feel a little lost. She enrolled herself into the program, put one hundred percent into it, and attended every day. It gave her a sense of security to know that there are people out there who care for the plants and animals. "After all, we are the ones who speak for them!"

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**Rachel Thomas**  
**Saik'uz First Nation**



**Shirley Wilson**  
**Skin Tye Nation**

Shirley resides in the Traditional Territory of Skin Tye Nation. She has accomplished several training initiatives this past year in Tourism, Customer Care and Hospitality, including Project Management and Business writing. She was instrumental in the Aboriginal Labour Market Research Initiative for the Nation and is a very

valuable asset to our community.



**Leanne Charlie**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

Leanne Charlie is a member of Stellat'en First Nation. Her parents are Norman and Alberta Charlie. Leanne completed the Health Care Assistant Program this year at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. Leanne's goal was to complete this program so that she could work helping the disabled and elders to do

things that they could not do on their own. Leanne is a hardworking, dedicated young lady who was very determined to complete this program. Leanne was hit with great personal heartache and also went through

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some issues with her health. Leanne lost both her uncle and cousin to cancer while trying to complete this program and the physical pain she was in near the end of the program made it difficult for her to walk. However, she wasn't going to let anything get in her way. She got up and went to school. Leanne is an amazing young lady who not only completed this program while in great physical pain the last few months but she did it with a smile. No matter what she was going through, she was always positive and always had a big beautiful smile on her face. Her kindness and compassion will be a wonderful addition to the healthcare field.



**Alexandra Luggi**  
**Stellat'en First Nation**

Alexandra is an active member of the Tsamusyoo clan.

Alexandra is a single parent to two wonderful kids. Her training has always been a struggle, but she was determined to get it done in order to support herself and her children. Alexandra

always had valuable support from family and friends in pursuing her goals and educational pursuits. Her pursuits and roles have included attaining a First Nations Degree from the University of Northern BC, Mediation Services of BC, Paramedic at the BC Ambulance Services of BC, a School Bus Driver for Nak'al Bun School, and most importantly she is a mother. Training took weeks away from her family, but Alexandra was determined to achieve a better, more supported life for herself and children.

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## **Brandon Sampson Wet'suwet'en First Nation**

Brandon Sampson is twenty-four years old and has two children with his wife Kayla. He is a Wet'suwet'en First Nation from a small reserve called Palling, which is located outside of Burns Lake.

Brandon has successfully graduated from the Welding program (2017) and the Millwright program (2014), both held by College of New Caledonia in Burns Lake. He has always been interested in working with metal since he was in high school. After graduation, he immediately put himself in college to receive education in pursuit of his career in metal.

Shortly after, Brandon entered a millwright program, and he fell in love with the career. He was eager to learn more about it and always had his head in the books. After successfully graduating from the program, Brandon did not want to wait any longer. He handed out resume after resume, waiting for a call back. Unfortunately he had no luck in finding a job as a millwright, until he saw an advertisement on a CNC pamphlet for a welding course. Right then he knew that ticket would get him started on his career.

He was excited for his program to start. He loved learning new things and keeping himself busy. He was always in class making sure he never missed a day. When Brandon talked about welding, you could see the joy it brought to him. He was happy, and loved going to school. After a few months in the welding program, Brandon had a medical problem and had to go through major surgery. He was devastated and nervous; he thought he would get kicked out of the program. After missing a couple weeks of school, Brandon was determined to go back right away and catch up. The doctors told him to rest for a month, but that didn't stop him. He went to school in pain, still wanting to learn and catch up on what he had missed.

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It was a long, hard couple of weeks for him, and he managed to catch up and finish school.

Brandon is hoping to find work right away as a welder or a millwright. He is fully healed and ready to jump into anything life throws at him. Nothing will stop Brandon from achieving what he really wants, not even major surgery.



**Nathan Alexander**  
**Takla Lake First Nation**

Nathan Alexander would like to thank everyone who helped him get to where he is today. He was raised by his grandmother along with his two brothers. His grandmother was the first person to teach them how to sew and to make their own moccasins. Nathan grew up in Fort St.

James, BC. He has two sons whom he works hard for. Nathan is currently doing a piping foundations course as he pursues a Red Seal endorsement in plumbing.



**Clayton Cameron**  
**Yekooche First Nation**

Clayton is a husband, and a father to a young son. Clayton wishes to better his life so that he can be a good role model for his son and be able to provide for his family.

Over the past few years, Clayton has been working on overcoming personal barriers. He has reached out and gotten involved in various training opportunities and community projects. Last year, Clayton worked tirelessly as a volunteer in the Community Garden. This year he has taken the lead and is coordinating the work. Clayton also took the NVIT Intro to Community Economic Development course this

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spring as well as the On Our Way Program. The On Our Way program ran from January to April this year. Clayton was there every day, on time and very motivated to learn. He was the Champion; he helped recruit participants by going door to door, making wake-up calls and posting up notices of upcoming courses.

Yekooche First Nation is proud of all of Clayton's hard work and accomplishments. Clayton succeeded because he had a clear vision of what he wanted and because he greatly persevered in overcoming life's obstacles. Yekooche First Nation looks forward to watching and supporting Clayton as he works towards achieving his goals.



## **Kelsey Beausejour** **Yekooche First Nation**

Chelsey Beausejour has many strengths and responsibilities. She has helped raise her young sister and three nephews and has also helped to support her family in any way that is needed. Over the years, Chelsey has demonstrated her strength in leadership by speaking out to Chief & Council and the Youth of her Community,

encouraging them to come together and get involved in directing their future.

Over the last year Chelsey has taken significant steps in achieving her education and employment goals and she has also worked to overcome personal barriers and the loss of her sister, Cheryl. Chelsey moved to Prince George and took Adult Upgrading so that she could enter into post-secondary education. She was then hired as the Finance Assistant at the Yekooche Finance Office in Prince George where she studied all areas of administering the Nation's finances. The funding for this position has now ended but the Nation is looking to secure other funding in order to continue to support Chelsey in advancing her finance skills.

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Yekooche First Nation is proud of all of Chelsey's hard work and accomplishments. Chelsey succeeded because she had a clear vision of what she wanted, and great perseverance in overcoming life's obstacles. Yekooche First Nation looks forward to watching and supporting Chelsea as she works towards achieving her goals.

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# URBAN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The Urban Outstanding Achievement award acknowledges the successes of students or project participants who have distinguished themselves by their commitment and dedication toward their career goals. Tonight we celebrate their achievement.



## **Sylvia Williams** **PGNFC Smokehouse**

Sylvia Williams was our most successful candidate with the Smokehouse Kitchen Program. Sylvia faithfully attended the program and stated that it was life-changing for her. Through working in the restaurant, Sylvia gained much-needed confidence and overcame her shyness and anxiety. After making these strides during the program she was offered a part time position as a Hospitality Assistant. Before attending the Smokehouse Kitchen Program Sylvia Williams was also a Bladerunners student, and it was through Bladerunners that Sylvia developed a passion for cooking.

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**Thomas Denet**  
**Carrier Sekani Family Services Bridging Program**

Thomas originally attended the Bridging Program from September to November 2016.

He came to the Bridging program to see where he was in his career choices, to get himself back on his feet and on the right track in his job search, and to obtain his certificates in order to become more employable.

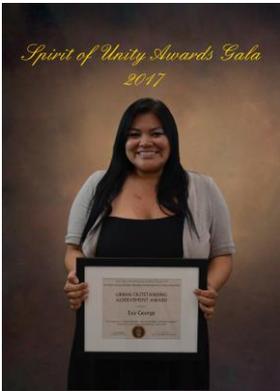
Thomas could always be counted on to help out whenever there was any task that needed to be done. He always attended the program with an outstanding attitude, ready to work. He completed a one-week work placement at Staples Office Depot, and they gave him an excellent reference. He is a resourceful individual who possesses exceptional customer service skills. If a customer had a question that he didn't know the answer to, Thomas would make sure to find the answer.

Thomas was also able to secure full time work with the Treasure Cove Casino as a Security Officer shortly after completing the program, and he has been able to successfully maintain his employment. Congratulations on all your success Thomas.



**Monica Contois**  
**Aboriginal Business Development Association**

Monica started as a medic twelve years ago. Since then she has completed an Electrical apprenticeship and achieved her Red Seal Status. She has completed her Occupational Health and Safety Certificate and is currently working on her Diploma. Monica is able to instruct over ten courses herself, including gas detection and respiratory control. She started her own safety company two years ago and now has two mobile first aid trucks, is able to provide any safety course for industry and provide Consultants and Specialists for Industry. Her main focuses are her three-year-old son, Carter, and growing her business while keeping up with her professional development. Monica hopes to go back to school to become an Occupational Hygienist.



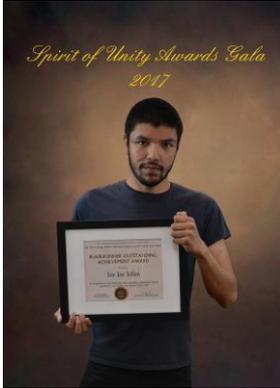
**Eva George**  
**Prince George Native Friendship Centre Employment Services**

Eva George is thirty-one years old, a single mom of five children, ages ranging from one to nine years old. Eva successfully completed the Bladerunners Program and the Traffic Control Program with PGNAETA. Eva loves to sing, and singing lullabies at home to her children is one of their favorite family moments.

Before attending as a client with the Aboriginal Career Development Counsellor and being referred to Bladerunners; Eva was strictly an at-home mom, not even venturing out to drop off her little ones at school. After the program, she blossomed into the beautiful lady you see today.

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## BLADERUNNERS PROGRAM



### **Jay Jay Julian**

### **Nak'azdli Whut'en Bladerunner Program**

Jay Jay Julian is of Carrier ancestry, and his clan is Lusilyoo. His parents are Joseph Julian and Marylou John. Jay Jay is nineteen years old, and his hometown is Nak'azdli Whut'en, Fort St. James.

Jay Jay's experience with Bladerunners was certainly interesting. He learned many things, met new people, and learned a little about himself, his culture, and the many different perspectives in people's lives.

Jay Jay currently works for One Sparc run by Shauna Hess, where Jay Jay works on a variety of things handed to him by Shauna, including working with the theatre program and digital media program for the high school, while also building Jay Jay's end goal of having a production company.

One of Jay Jay's influences is Michael "Burnie" Burns who founded a production company, Rooster Teeth Productions, with his partner Matt Hullum. They make many different types of content including podcasts, shorts, machinima, animation, web series, and movies.

Some of Jay Jay's accomplishments are finishing the Bladerunners program, conducting a play alongside the theatre program, and creating a trailer for a project of his in the near future.

Jay Jay wants to one day run and own a full-scale production company built by him and other people interested in what he does, where he will create content that is epic, loud, and over the top, content that his viewers will appreciate, however small they may be.

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## **Kai Banks** **PGNFC Bladerunners**

Kai Banks is a very determined young man, which is why he was selected for Bladerunners's most successful student in 2016. After attending Bladerunners Kai returned to school full time and is determined to finish his goals. He has aspirations to become a firefighter among other things. Kai continues to mentor other youth and volunteer at the Prince George Native Friendship Centre in the Food Bank. Last summer Kai worked with Camp Friendship and would like to do so again.



## **Jeremy John** **Bladerunner Student**

Jeremy John was a very dedicated student of the past Bladerunner program. He was always on time, and he attended on a regular basis. His commitment to complete the program went above and beyond. Even when he was feeling sick, he made sure he attended every day. He didn't want to miss any courses that the program had to offer, and he passed all training. Jeremy's enthusiasm and comedian personality has kept all the education staff and instructors in a positive vibe. His commitment to completing this program and many long-term programs before has given him this amazing opportunity to be nominated for the outstanding achievement award at the Spirit of Unity Gala. Keep up the hard work Jeremy John!!

## **ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT GATEWAY**

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## **Darlene Joseph**

After being unemployed for several years, Darlene has persevered, overcome various obstacles with respect to obtaining employment, and obtained employment.

In 2016 Darlene obtained her Level III First Aid certificate through Tl'azt'en First Nation.

After completing her certificate, she returned to PGNAETA for job search assistance, at which time she received assistance with her resume,

cover letter and interview skills, and enhanced her skills through additional safety certification for camp related work.

This past spring Darlene was referred by her AEG job coach to an employment opportunity to work with Compass Group in Steward, BC. Darlene was able to travel, and she enjoyed meeting new people. Since then, Darlene has been given a second referral to a local employer who has employed her as a Level III First Aid Attendant. Darlene is now employed with JFT Secure.

Darlene understands that you have to be flexible with respect to employment and grab what you can to reach your destination. Darlene says she will mentor others to keep their head up no matter what, and continue no matter what obstacles step in their way.

Darlene is very grateful for all the community organizations that helped her with her journey to reach her goal.

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## **ABORIGINAL GATEWAY TRAINING CENTRE**

**Raylene Erickson**

**Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Articulate, results-oriented, and professional, Raylene is of Carrier descent. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge rich in culture, customer care excellence and ability to see projects through to completion. With a focus on career orientation, Raylene sees herself graduating with a degree in Commerce. She has successfully completed the Nohba Usten Jr Customer Care Program and secured a job placement with Tourism Prince George. She has obtained her World Host and recognition from World Hosts throughout North Central BC.

## **PATHWAYS**

**Dakota Attachie Charlie**

Dakota is an outstanding young man. He is currently training to be a Heavy Equipment Operator, his dream position. Dakota has completed two of a three-year Royal Roads Environmental Technician course with top marks. Dakota is definitely a rising star and will be a future leader and ambassador for his community.

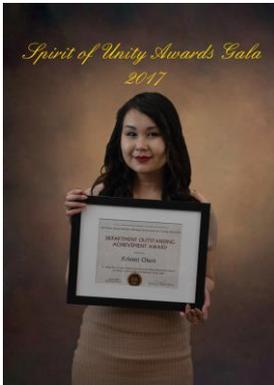
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## TRADES



### **Jerricko Prince** **Nak'azdli Whut'en**

Jerricko Prince has gone from being a Big Guy Lake Bat Boy to playing on the Big Guy Lake Men's team to playing in the Jr. A Nationals down in Toronto. Most recently he made the U21 Team BC baseball team. Jerricko came to PGNAETA after graduating from high school in 2015. He completed his Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) Machinist Foundation program at CNC in 2016, and has moved on to obtain his Driver's License and his level 3 First Aid. Jerricko secured an Apprenticeship with Deltech Manufacturing in Prince George. He has done all this all by the age of eighteen.



### **Kristen Olson** **Gitxsan First Nation**

Kristen is an IBEW Local 993 member. She secured her Electrical Apprenticeship in 2013 and is scheduled to write her interprovincial red seal as an Electrician this year. Kristen encourages women to continue in their endeavors, telling women that personally the most challenging part about being in trades was the physically demanding workload. She got used to it, though, and eventually got stronger. Her advice to Aboriginal women in any trade would be "Don't be discouraged. The stereotype of women not being able to do this type of work is a thing of the past, if you're willing to put the hard work in you'll strive to be a great Journeywoman".

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# SERVICE DISTINCTION AWARD

Each year PGNAETA bestows the Service Distinction Award to a deserving staff member as acknowledgement for outstanding and dedicated service to the Association.



**Mona Anatole**

**AEG Job Coach/Workforce Promoter  
PGNAETA**

Mona Anatole is a member of the Lusilyoo (Frog Clan), and is a member of the TI'azt'en Nation. She grew up in Fort St. James, BC. After graduating from the Fort St. James Secondary school, Mona left to attend post-secondary studies at Douglas College in New

Westminster, BC, where she studied social sciences, and graduated from the Criminal Justice program.

Upon completing her training at Douglas College, Mona worked with immigration and youth at a group home in the East side of Vancouver for several years. In 1995 Mona moved back to Fort St. James, and held various positions. She worked for the Dene Law Centre as a Legal Information Counsellor, and later held a role as a Social Development Worker for Yekooche First Nation.

While working, Mona completed her Career Practitioner Certificate with Douglas College. Mona worked for PGNFC as a Job Coach for two years, and then completed two years of the First Nations Program at UNBC. She then took a break and started working at PGNAETA.

In 2010 Mona started her position as a Job Coach for PGNAETA. Mona works closely with clients, assisting them with obtaining employment and

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training. Mona is very passionate about assisting clients to reach their career goals, and about ensuring that clients become self-sufficient. Most recently Mona has enrolled into the Provincial Instructor Diploma Program at Vancouver Community College, and is almost halfway finished completing her diploma.

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