



# Indspire

Indigenous education, Canada's future. | L'éducation des autochtones. L'avenir du Canada.

## DONOR UPDATE

### A message from Roberta Jamieson

**No:ia! Happy new year! And thank you for your ongoing generosity, which will bring over 800 Indigenous high school students to Calgary this February.**

Through your continued support, over 800 First Nation, Inuit, and Métis youth will have the opportunity to participate in Indspire's *Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conference* in Calgary this month.

They will attend career-building workshops, tour Bow Valley College and the University of Calgary, meet Canadian employers from diverse industries, and learn about the

bursaries and scholarships that Indspire provides.

On page 3, you can read about one example of your impact: Daysha, a high school student and the mother of a little girl named Rose.

Daysha will attend *Soaring* in Calgary and, as you will read, she is determined to maximize her experience at the conference, and learn all she can about her education and career options; not only for her own future but also her daughter's. Thank you for supporting Daysha's dreams.

**Roberta Jamieson, President & CEO**





## Why I am a mentor

*Peer Support* is Indspire's mentorship and coaching program for educators of Indigenous students. Donna Neyando (Gwich'in Nation) of Inuvik, NT is a mentor with the program and knows personally the support Indigenous teachers need.

By Donna Neyando

For me, being a *Peer Support* mentor isn't just about sharing classroom strategies; it's also about using my own story to encourage new Indigenous teachers to keep going, no matter what.

I grew up in Fort McPherson, NT in a culturally rich family talented in beading, sewing, and preparing traditional foods. In 1992, I completed grade 11 in residential school, then started a family.

In 2002, my educational journey began at the Aurora College Teacher Education Program and continued at the University of Saskatchewan Indian

Teacher Education Program. I now have my BEd, and I recently applied to the Lifelong Learning Cohort Masters Program at the University of Saskatchewan.

The first few years teaching were difficult: I had no experience and few professional resources to rely on. New teachers need a mentor. My message is, if I can do it, so can you; let me show you how. Teachers guide the next generation, and that's hard work. Thank you, Indspire, for creating this vital program. ●

*For more information about Peer Support, visit [indspire.ca/peer-support](http://indspire.ca/peer-support).*

In the Indigenous tradition, being an **Elder** is not defined by age.

Elders are recognized for their commitment to teaching and guiding with wisdom of mind and spirit.

# 100%

increase in attendance at the 2014 National gathering for Indigenous Education over 2013.

Number of full-time Indigenous K-12 students in Canada:

# 110,597

## Did you know?

Indspire helped fund the studies of 261 Indigenous teachers in 2013-2014



## Each year, Indspire hosts 3 Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conferences across Canada.

Here's a letter from Daysha Peequaquat, who is in high school in Yorkton, SK and is attending *Soaring* in Calgary in February.

I am looking forward to the Soaring career conference because I am graduating this year and I am dedicated to school. I want a healthy and well-educated life for my daughter, Rose, and myself. To provide that life, I need to be at school every day with a positive and determined attitude.

I have heard that Soaring is helpful and motivational and I am determined to make the most of my experience. I have a lot of goals I want to pursue. Ever since I was a little girl in kindergarten - even before that - I always told my Aunty and Grampa that I wanted to be a lawyer because I was good at getting my way! My Grampa also passed on wisdom about how to be kind and responsible.

I want to be somebody in this world, not just for me but for Rose. I feel like Soaring will help keep me motivated and show me that all of my goals are achievable and accessible. I will have all the right people and information to make Rose's life healthy and successful. I thank you for making this conference available.

Daysha

## Since we talked to you last...

- Over 400 students and their chaperones from more than a dozen schools in northern Ontario and the Northwest Territories attended the *Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conference* in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- 450 educators attended Indspire's *National Gathering for Indigenous Education* in Toronto from November 20-22. We also honoured 10 outstanding educators at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards*.
- 1,811 post-secondary students applied for *Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries and Scholarship Awards*

## Now Talk to Us

### What would you like to hear more about?

- 
- Elementary & high school student & educator programs
  - College and university student programs
  - Personal success stories from students and educators
  - Indigenous traditions and customs
  - More ways that I can get involved in the work of Indspire
  - Information how to include Indspire in my will

Please email or print and send your reply to:  
[donate@indspire.ca](mailto:donate@indspire.ca)

Indspire  
1002 - 555 Richmond Street West  
Toronto ON M5V 3B1



## Why I donate to Indspire

Tammy Martin has worked in Indspire's education department for eight years. She recently graduated from Queen's University's Masters of Public Administration program and is the proud mother of six children, ages 14 to 26. She is a Mohawk woman from the Bear Clan.

By Tammy Martin

I choose to be a monthly donor because I know firsthand that my steady support creates lasting change. Every day, I talk to students and educators and see the impact of Indspire's work.

Celebrating Indigenous success and

achievement is something that I find easy to support. It's important that my children hear about the magnificent contributions we Indigenous people are making to the beauty and wealth of this country. ●

Indspire is a national registered charity that is dedicated to delivering programs and providing the necessary tools and support for Indigenous youth to complete their education and achieve their potential.

Did you know that *every* Indspire staff member is also a proud donor like you! Joining our Monthly Donor Program is a simple way to make a huge impact. Visit [indspire.ca/donate](https://indspire.ca/donate) to learn how.



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