



Indspire

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

DONOR UPDATE

A message from Roberta Jamieson

Reciprocity is a deeply-rooted concept among Indigenous people. We learn about it from the way nature works – its generosity is not self-less, rather it keeps the cycles of life moving.

As Cherokee philosopher Rebecca Adamson puts it, "I honour you by giving. You honour me by receiving." Indigenous reciprocity arises from mutual respect and appreciation. The interconnectedness between parties implies that we all see ourselves as part of the same whole.

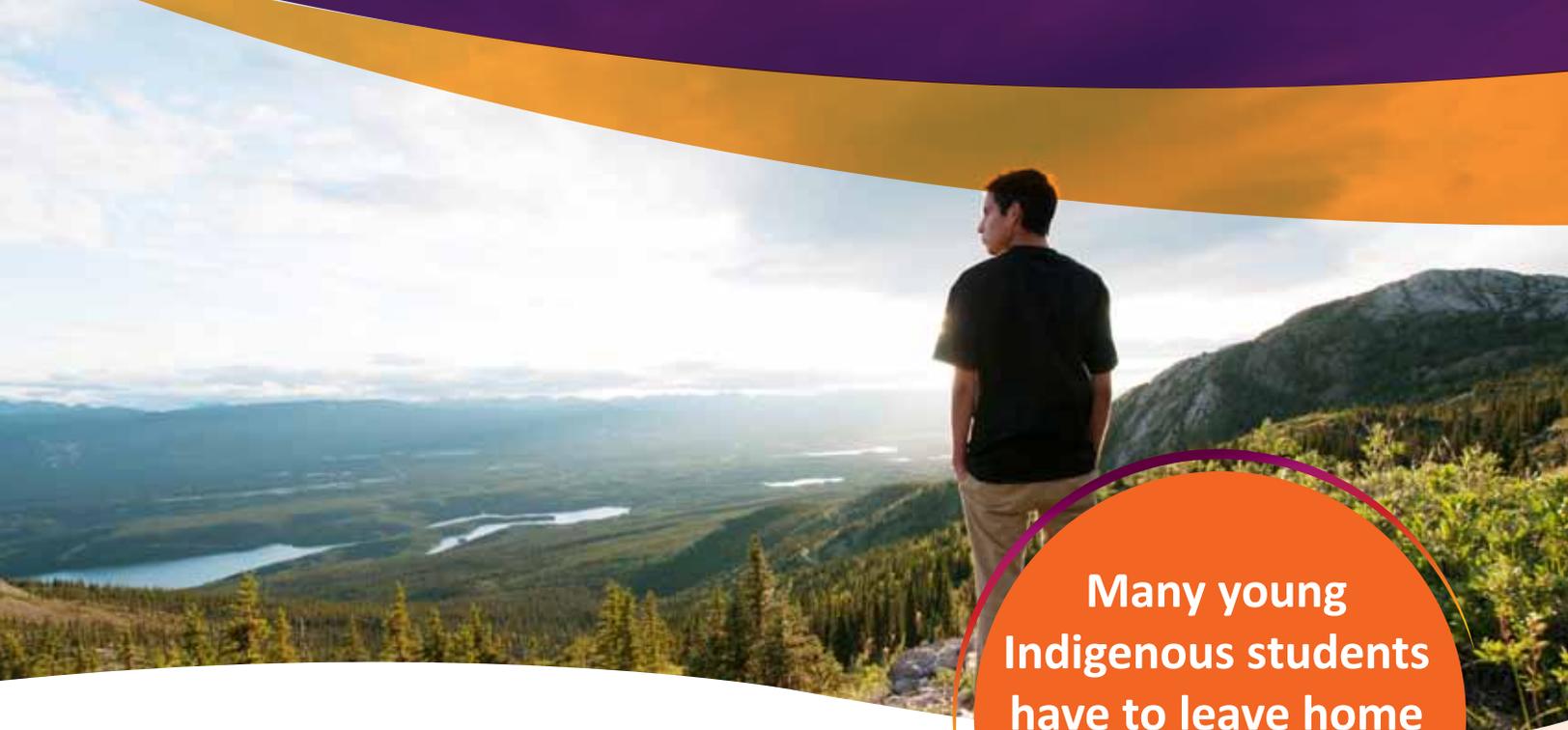
Indspire is all about reciprocity. We support Indigenous students so they may realize their potential for their own

well-being and that of their families, communities, Canada, and the world. Indigenous students implicitly understand the obligation to keep the cycle of giving moving. We hear it over and over; they want to give back, to use their potential to improve the well-being not only of human life, but that of our Mother the Earth.

Thank you for being part of this reciprocity engine through your support of Indspire's work.

Roberta Jamieson
President & CEO,
Indspire





Moving to the Big City

Many Indigenous communities don't have high schools, forcing our students to leave home at a very young age. Transitioning from a traditional way of life at home to the high energy of city life can be traumatic.

It is common, unfortunately, for our youth to encounter culture shock, bullying, and racism in the city. Filled with uncertainty about their place in their new world, many of them fall behind in school, and some turn to unhealthy coping mechanisms during this transitional time.

There are a variety of services available to assist our transplanted youth in the cities; however, they are often not culturally relevant and not

able address the specific challenges our students face, leading to further isolation.

One can never really predict what the outcome will be when we send our young people to the big cities to further their education. What we can do is prepare them within our own communities before we send them out on their own. By parents, grandparents, and other family members instilling a sense of Indigenous pride and self-esteem at a young age, our youth are able to view themselves and their lives through a strong Indigenous lens, which gives them the strength to feel more grounded in their new environment.

Many of the programs of Indspire's *K-12 Institute* are focused on developing the skills of educators to help our transplanted youth mitigate these challenges. ●

Many young Indigenous students have to leave home to attend high school.

There are **700** First Nation Schools in Canada

First Nation Schools by Province

Province	Number
AB	56
BC	125
MB	63
NB	11
NL	3
NS	11
NT	40
NU	43
ON	178
PE	2
QC	60
SK	94
YT	14

Loretta Woodhouse has been an educator for 30+ years. Currently, she is Director of Education at Pinaymootang First Nation, Manitoba. She was recently recognized by Indspire for her community service.

Your support is helping Rebecka confront adversity and give back



My name is Rebecka. I am from the Ojibway Nation of Aundeck Omni Kaning, Ontario. I attended elementary and high school off-reserve.

I am studying to become a social worker at Sir Sanford Flemming College. Eventually, I want to move back to my community. Social work is a great way to give back to my community and to aid in educating future generations through being a positive community role model. What led me to the field of social work was the inspiration of my grandmother who raised me. She has nine children and is a residential school survivor. She graduated from college at the age of 50. She instilled in me a strong sense of self through her love, care, and dedication.

Challenges that I have experienced include stereotypes and assumptions

about being an Indigenous person. Teachers in off-reserve schools assumed I had a learning disability because I learned in a different way than my non-Indigenous classmates. I experienced racism from some of my classmates who didn't want to be my friend because they didn't understand me or my culture. I had to educate my classmates and teachers about the realities that my people face.

What has helped me stay committed to my studies is the motivation I get from my grandmother. I wish to be a positive role model like her, teaching children the importance of education and resiliency. ●

Zondra Roy, Role Model for Indigenous Youth, Receives 2016 *Indspire Award*

Youth activist. Spoken word poet. Community leader. Twenty-six-year-old Zondra is all of these. After leaving home at 13 and being incarcerated before 15, she reconnected to her community by volunteering and gaining a deeper knowledge of her roots. Her first job was Youth Facilitator for the Saskatoon Catholic School Board. Now, she is studying in the University of Saskatchewan's Urban Native Teacher Education Program. As Zondra learned the power of her voice, she has helped other youth find theirs. From uncertain beginnings, Zondra has grown in her commitment to teaching, learning, and turning hurt into hope.



Indspire Responds to TRC

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) issued calls to action to redress the negative impact of residential schools. With your support, Indspire has existing and future programs that respond to these calls to action, specifically those related to education:

- evaluation and sharing of educational practices that are proven successful for Indigenous students;
- bursaries to ensure that lack of financial resources are not a barrier for Indigenous students and to increase Indigenous representation in fields such as journalism, law, business, health care, and more;
- new workshops for teachers, child welfare workers, and others to properly train them about the history of residential schools and the impact on Indigenous youth today;
- new youth council to support the dialogue between Indigenous youth and Elders around topics of spirituality, identity, and reconciliation.



Teachers helping teachers through mentorship

Peer Support is a mentorship program for educators of Indigenous students. Indspire pairs educators from across Canada based on their professional learning goals and provides support online to this learning community through webinars, discussion forums, and other professional development tools.

The program encourages peer-to-peer sharing of knowledge and experience to help Indigenous students graduate from high school. Topics that participants explore include K-12 student achievement strategies, increasing parental engagement, and ways to integrate Indigenous content and perspectives into lesson plans. This year, we have 200 participants in the program. One mentor told us “It was great to hear what types of issues they needed support with and then work together to identify solutions.”●

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.

Indspire is committed to transforming Indigenous education. And it's good for Canada. Please renew your support or join our monthly donor program. For more information, visit indspire.ca/donate.



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