



# Indspire

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

## DONOR UPDATE

### A message from Roberta Jamieson

In this issue we profile First Nations, Inuit and Métis young people, along with a story about a passionate donor just like you. These inspiring individuals are transforming ideas and communities across Canada, and serving as dynamic role models for us all.

All are passionate advocates for bringing down barriers that persist wherever they may be – on a personal level, within the community, nationally, or across the globe.

We look forward to continuing to share the positive outcomes for Indigenous students that you have made possible with your generous support.



Thank you,  
Merci,  
Nya: weh,  
Miigwetch

**Roberta Jamieson**  
President & CEO  
Indspire



## Global Thought Expert, Motivational Speaker, Activist and Entrepreneur Extraordinaire

**A brighter future is being built by Indigenous leaders like Gabrielle Scrimshaw**

**“One day soon, I will be in a position to give back and help someone else not have to worry so much, and be able to focus on their studies.”**

It's clear that Gabrielle Scrimshaw is already well on her way to becoming an incredible, galvanizing leader.

A citizen of Hatchet Lake Dene First Nation, Gabrielle Scrimshaw is a unique dual degree candidate at the Stanford Graduate School of Business (MBA 2017) and the Harvard Kennedy School (MPA 2018), a Gleitsman Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard, and the 2013 *Indspire Award* recipient for Youth - First Nations.

Gabrielle's connection to *Indspire* began with a scholarship while at the University of Saskatchewan: “This started me on a life-changing path. I say this because I was later invited to an *Indspire Awards* ceremony in Regina to celebrate Indigenous people, and it was especially moving for me to see the amazing women who received the *Indspire Youth Awards* that year. I was just

one of the thousands of people in the audience, but I thought, I could do this! I could be one of the people on that stage one day. Well, I was on that stage a few years later. I received an *Indspire Award*, and it was a surreal moment. I remembered the feelings I had that day being in the audience, and now, here I was, standing there with the other winners. My family was watching. It was one of the proudest moments of my life so far!”

At her graduation, Gabrielle had a realization about the importance of her education.

“What I thought my life could be had expanded. I realized that with education, I can do whatever I want – and that knowledge is the most powerful thing you can ever give yourself. For Indigenous people, this confidence is the key.”

This young Dene woman is raising the bar for *Indspire Award* laureates, and breaking down barriers to success for Indigenous youth all over Canada. She co-founded a non-profit organization (the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada) which is regarded as an international thought expert in Indigenous leadership, building a bridge between the Indigenous community and corporate Canada – and is spreading a message of hope to students who may be struggling or experiencing setbacks during their education, serving as an excellent role model to youth everywhere.

“Finding the funds is one of the biggest barriers to going to school. A scholarship is a game-changer for young people. Education has brought the most changes in my life. No one in my family had ever gone to university. Or college. I was scared!”

Gabrielle emphasizes, “For donors, the return on your investment is both a heart and a head thing. There is a very strong economic and social impact return. Just think – in the next 10 years, over 400,000 Indigenous youth will enter the workforce. When you support *Indspire* and their students, you get a big share of a long-term and very significant impact.”

## Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: How Giving Back Inspires Others

Tobey Berriault brings *Rivers to Success* full circle: The student becomes the mentor, the mentee becomes a mentor



“Indspire knows just how important it is to support the first steps for Indigenous students after they complete high school.”

**T**obey Berriault has been involved with Indspire since her first year at the University of Calgary, and she learned about Indspire at a campus hub offering information about post-secondary support. “Indspire is really special and inclusive to all Indigenous students – and they know just how important it is to support the first steps for Indigenous students after they complete high school. The difference that post-secondary funding has made in my life is immeasurable.”

A dedicated scholar committed to giving back, she’s working on research that examines the impacts of warfare on social change - no small feat for this young Métis scholar!

“Receiving financial help from Indspire signals a strong level of confidence in a student’s potential, and this starts to open doors for young people. For me, I think it’s the most important scholarship I’ve ever obtained. It opened the way for me to attain other scholarships and helped me to start doing my first fieldwork in Sierra Leone, Africa, for my Master’s degree.”



**Tobey is proud to be part of the UN and part of the Indspire network.**

She has participated in Indspire’s *Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering*, where First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students in grades 9-12 learn about careers, education options and financial support. Students also have a chance to meet the *Indspire Awards* Youth recipients in person.

“Indspire funded me and I want to give back to the community, that’s why I also stay involved as a mentor in the *Rivers to Success* program. Being a mentor is a very special way to connect with someone who is a bit younger, to help them navigate things like considering the long-term pros and cons of career choices. I can also connect youth to people in my network – my mentee is training to be an international human rights lawyer, and in my present work with the UN, I am surrounded by global human rights practitioners, so I can connect her directly.”

An Indspire bursary recipient, *Soaring* participant, and *Rivers to Success: Mentoring Indigenous Students* mentor, Tobey Berriault is a Ph.D. candidate at the prestigious University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and is currently doing fieldwork in Mali and partnering with the United Nations.

**FOOTNOTE:** The young woman Tobey has been mentoring is in her final year of university and has applied to become a mentor herself after graduation.





## Three Siblings Follow Their Parents' Footsteps to Continue Giving Back

Paving the way for paying it forward: How one family walks together on the path to graduation

**"I'd like to say how deeply fortunate we are as recipients to have Indspire donors who care about our education."  
– Mitchell MacDougall**

**M**itchell, Samantha and Allison come from a family tradition of serving others – mom was the first Inuk RCMP officer in Canada, and dad, who was also in the RCMP, is now the Band Manager with Acadia First Nation. The young family transferred to Rigolet Labrador so that the children could get an understanding of their ancestry and learn the basics of the Inuktitut language.

The support of donors like you helped the MacDougall siblings graduate with post-secondary degrees – Allison MacDougall, pictured in the middle at her graduation, along with her brother, Mitchell, and sister, Samantha – and all three have chosen career paths to help people.

As you might expect, it can cause a great deal of financial stress on a family to have three students in school at the same time. To help, the MacDougall siblings each worked summer jobs, applied for student loans, and competed for scholarships and bursaries like Indspire's *Building Brighter Futures* funding.

The siblings, now all in their early 20's, have chosen altruistic career paths: saving lives and saving the planet. Samantha has just graduated as a paramedic and is working for the Province of Nova Scotia. She started volunteering when she was just six years old, baking cookies and selling them door-to-door to raise \$120 for cancer research. Samantha says, "It may not seem like much, but to a six-year-old, it was the whole world."

Later as a student, "The funding provided by Indspire was life-changing." Financial support "...can make a lasting change in people's lives. The reality of coming straight out of high school is that paying for university costs a fortune. Most kids make minimum wage and you never think that

it's possible to get help, no matter how great your grades are."

Her sister, Allison, has a very similar story. With a degree in Geology and Environmental Science from Acadia University, she received numerous leadership awards for community volunteer work, especially on behalf of Canadian war veterans. Allison says to young Indigenous students, "Don't shy away from applying. It can remove a lot of pressure and there is so much other support and help available from Indspire. You just need a little push to get started and you can become a success." Echoing the thoughts of her siblings, Allison says,

**"I'm so thankful for all of the help from Indspire. I felt that I had to work even harder because there were these great people who had invested in me."**

Mitchell, the eldest, is scheduled to graduate from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine in 2020. Indspire funding made his dream of becoming a doctor possible because, "My parents are not able to help me financially through school. I feel sincere gratitude for the support that I received from Indspire."

This trio acts as a real testament to the power of paying it forward and the importance of nurturing a need for education, selflessness and the motivation to succeed. Bravo MacDougalls – keep up the good work!



The MacDougall children, along with their parents, Lloyd MacDougall and Stephanie Patey.

## Chief Cadmus Delorme Shares His Heart, His Story and His Vision

A young boy feels pride attending his mother's graduation and his life is forever changed

**"Just to know that there is a caring group that wants you to succeed makes all the difference in a young person's life."**



**W**hen Cadmus Delorme was only 10 years old, he watched his mother graduate from university with a degree in education, "And this really set the tone for me." After receiving funding from Indspire, his awareness of the fundamental role of education began to evolve.

Cadmus continues, "I believe that Indspire was one of the factors that got me to where I am today, helping me to attend the First Nations University (FNU) of Canada and to graduate with a business degree. No question that Indspire helped me to succeed. After I graduated, I worked as a recruitment and retention specialist at FNU and I watched Indspire help so many other students. Later, Indspire was there again to help me when I was accepted into graduate school."

*"I believe there is a big ripple effect when a donor supports Indspire. Yes, the donor enables challenges to be overcome today, but they can also change the future. Education helps to lift young people in the right direction in life."*

"Yes, financial support is everything, but it also means so much more when you have a renowned organization like Indspire willing to support you. Indspire understands the challenges Indigenous students face, and they are working so hard to create more opportunity and more solutions."

A Cree-Salteaux man born and raised in the tall grass plains of the Saskatchewan prairies, the slogan Cadmus Delorme used during his campaign for Chief was: "Show them your heart before you ask for their hand."

Today, as leader of the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan, Chief Delorme is building a powerful record of accomplishment, achieving success at every turn on his journey. Cadmus is known for a warm sense of humour, can-do attitude, and the insightful approach he brings to solving problems. He has all the qualities of a leader, founded on an unshakable commitment to a sustainable future for Indigenous people.

*"I'd like to say to a potential donor that right now, there is a young person somewhere in Canada, in an urban house or on a reserve – someone who is working very hard to learn and achieve, but they need your help. They have the talent to succeed. They might be the very first person of their generation to graduate and show their family and their community that they can do it. They just need a little help to take the next step. And your gift can have a powerful impact on the life of that young person."*

An Indspire bursary recipient, Chief Cadmus Delorme showcased his talent as a storyteller during his inspirational TEDTalk on identity, in addition to several other media appearances, and has received many awards, including CBC's *Future 40 Award* in 2015.



## One Man's Dream Transforms an Army of One Into a Movement of Many

Kendal Netmaker is changing the future for Indigenous students across Canada, one stitch at a time

**"We should all empower entrepreneurs and leaders around the globe by demonstrating that regardless of where you come from and what you have gone through in your life, you have the power to enact change. Become who you were born to be!"**

**K**endal Netmaker says that understanding the importance of education came early. As a young man, "I really needed scholarship help with my undergraduate degree. At first, I wasn't sure that I could get support from Indspire's *Building Brighter Futures* program, I wasn't sure that I stood a chance. But now I would tell all Indigenous students to go for it, just do it and apply and ignore the negative voice inside."

**"It is so important to get as much education as you can; otherwise, you've maxed yourself out in terms of your potential in life. Young people need to know that even 10 to 20 years ago there were very few chances available to Indigenous students. Now is the time to create opportunity!"**

Kendal Netmaker, an Indspire bursary recipient and the 2015 *Indspire Award* recipient for Youth - First Nations, from Sweetgrass Cree First Nation, Saskatchewan, has become one of Canada's leading entrepreneurs and motivational speakers.

Kendal has great charisma. With it, he speaks to thousands of people every year about personal motivation, leadership, and the power of telling your story. He has built an outstanding career and is becoming recognized as a champion for Indigenous youth,

exemplifying hard work, success, and of the power of the mind. His new book, *Driven to Succeed: From Poverty to Podium*, has been described as, "...an incredible story of success from one of the most unlikely places on the planet. The story develops on a First Nation reserve, in northern Canada. The child of a single mom of four, living on welfare, was forever changed through a simple act of kindness."

Kendal has always worked toward becoming an innovator, aiming to motivate everyone around him. As a role model for engaging Indigenous youth in business and entrepreneurship, he founded Neechie Gear, a sports fashion brand based out of Saskatchewan. Kendal donates a percentage of all Neechie Gear profits to funding sports programs for underprivileged youth. The company was initially based out of his one-bedroom apartment, and he grew this business while also finishing not one but two degrees from the University of Saskatchewan.

**"Indspire has built an extraordinary track record across Canada, and they can prove their success with thousands of students. I'm living proof that donor support of *Building Brighter Futures* works."**

## DONOR PROFILE

### Strengthening Relationships, Giving Back to Communities: This Is How Better Futures Are Built

Patty Wilson celebrated her grandfather's legacy by helping Indspire students



"I want to get more people like me involved in the work of Indspire. Donor support can open up so many big opportunities and give young people power and hope for the future."

**P**atty Wilson is an advanced nurse practitioner working in Calgary. Her day-to-day clients are marginalized people living precariously or on the street. She says, "I grew up in fortunate circumstances and hadn't been exposed to the realities of this population before, especially to vulnerable people dealing with mental health issues on top of life-on-the-street. Every day I deal with the serious health discrepancy between First Nations, Métis, and non-Indigenous people. I see first-hand the huge challenge that long-term and unmet health needs have on the quality of people's life."

"Then, I received an inheritance from my grandfather. At the time, the Canada 150 celebrations were underway, and I felt it was obvious that we were barely acknowledging Indigenous history since Confederation. An important part of our story was just not there. I didn't want to take anything away from people's desire to enjoy and support Canada 150 – but I asked myself, what was it that I could be doing to celebrate Canada? I realized then that what I wanted to do was to build some positive attention and help create opportunities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people."

Where does someone like the inspiring young Patty Wilson find the motivation for getting involved in a philanthropic project? "Strengthening relationships just seems to come naturally to me," she says, "this is just how I was raised. My family has always been involved in giving back to communities. Valuing community means that the personal experiences and friendships I cultivate with my clients are very important to me. And as a result, I know how important it is to be open-minded and inclusive."

She makes it clear that this hasn't always been an easy way to look at things: "I could be offended for sometimes being 'called out' for my privilege; but rather, I feel that in fact I am being 'called in'. The way I look at things, it

changes everything to see the opportunity, rather than just the problem."

"Although my nursing background trained me to work with people on the street, I felt that I wanted to make my gift 'upstream' of the problem. To do this, I needed to find a way to make a larger impact and decided to focus on Indigenous post-secondary educational opportunities. Why? Because I know that formal education is one of the determinants of health, and that health literacy empowers people, especially someone dealing with mental health issues who can feel validated and can have hope."

Patty is confident with the research she did before making her gift.

"I went online and found Indspire, I looked at their history and reviews, and I saw that their charity ranking is excellent. I knew then that Indspire was exactly where I wanted to get started."

This extraordinary young woman is inspirational in her determination and intent as a donor. She realizes that school tuition can be a lot of money, particularly for Indigenous students. That is why, for generous first-time donor Patty, and donors like her, their support is so important in helping First Nations, Inuit and Métis students overcome the obstacles that put their education plans at risk.

Patty wants others to know that taking the first step is easy once you decide to mobilize and take action: "If you're interested in helping Canada, and you really want to do something meaningful to help young people, then talk to Indspire."





## We're thrilled to announce the names of the 12 outstanding First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals who have been selected as recipients of the 2019 Indspire Awards!

As in the past 25 years, the 2019 Indspire Award recipients include an extraordinary list of individuals whose journeys we're excited to let you know about in the coming months:

**Lifetime Achievement:** Atuat Akittirq, Aggu, NU – an Inuit elder and Gemini award-winner.

**Arts:** Barbara Todd Hager, St. Paul des Métis Settlement, AB – a documentary filmmaker, writer and producer.

**Business & Commerce:** Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson, Westbank First Nation, BC – one of the most successful Indigenous businessmen in Canada.

**Culture, Heritage & Spirituality:** Jijjuu Mary Snowshoe, Gwich'in Nation, NT – a traditional Gwich'in teacher who continues to live off the land.

**Education:** Dr. Vianne Timmons, Mi'kmaq, NS – an educator and university president.

**Health:** Dr. Marlyn Cook, Misipawistik Cree Nation, MB – one of the first Indigenous physicians in Canada.

**Law & Justice:** Dianne Corbiere, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON – the first Indigenous lawyer named as one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential by *Canadian Lawyer Magazine*.

**Public Service:** Peter Dinsdale, Curve Lake First Nation, ON – the President & CEO of YMCA Canada.

**Sports:** Brigette Lacquette, Cote First Nation, SK – the first First Nations athlete to play on Canada's women's Olympic hockey team.

This year's youth are not only leaders of tomorrow, but leaders of today.

**Youth – First Nations:** Billy-Ray Belcourt, Driftpile Cree Nation, AB – an award-winning poet and published author.

**Youth – Inuit:** Kelly Fraser Sanikiluaq, NU - a Juno-nominated pop musician.

**Youth – Métis:** James Lavallée, Métis Homeland (St. Vital, St. Boniface, Bissett), MB – a canoe and kayak athlete who has competed at the international level,

**The Indspire Awards Ceremony will be held in Calgary on February 22, 2019 - Save the Date!**

## We know that the stories of the Indspire Awards recipients will inspire our youth to dream big!

**Another incredible Indspire event** in conjunction with the Indspire Awards is our *Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering* taking place at the Calgary Stampede Park on February 21st and 22nd, 2019. This annual event is a tremendous opportunity for high school students from across Canada to meet Indspire Award youth recipients and learn about career paths and post-secondary options. Students participate in career workshops, learn about financial support, and meet Canada's top employers. We're already looking forward to another amazing Gathering!

**Important Lecture Series** If you haven't heard of the Massey Lectures, this is your chance to learn about an insightful Indigenous leader who is sharing her vital work to address Indigenous youth suicide in Canada and around the world. **Tanya Talaga**, an Anishinaabe author and investigative journalist, will deliver the 2018 CBC Massey Lectures: "All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward," through the month of October. If you can't make it in person, a book version of the lectures will be available in October, as well as being broadcast on CBC Radio's *Ideas* in November.