



Join Indspire in making a difference and making your efforts count.



Indspire

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

DONOR UPDATE

A message from Roberta Jamieson

The times are ripe for change and reconciliation regarding First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada. Attitudes are slowly changing. There is greater support and awareness of issues. Canadians increasingly want to create social equity. With this heightened awareness, we can move forward together to help build brighter futures for more Indigenous students and their communities.

At Indspire, our constant focus is to support post-secondary education and training, and the achievement of Indigenous youth from across Canada. In 2015-16, thanks to the generous support of donors like yourself, we were able to raise and disburse \$12.2 million through 3,792 bursaries and scholarships to First Nation, Inuit and Métis students. Once

our students graduate, they are deeply committed to supporting their families and communities while they continue to achieve their fullest potential.

As we work with others to initiate and advance reconciliation to repair the errors of the past and to create a new future, we celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation. The time has never been better to support Indigenous youth through Indspire. Our youth are our future.

Thank you, Merci,
Nya weh, Miigwetch

Roberta Jamieson
President & CEO
Indspire





Thomas Dymond, 2017 Indspire Award Youth Laureate

Every year, Indspire honours the accomplishments of outstanding Indigenous people across Canada through the Indspire Awards. Thomas Dymond (24, Bear River First Nation, NS) was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Indspire Award Youth Laureate – First Nations

Thomas grew up in a quiet rural town of under 1,500 and attended Grades 1 through 9 in a small school house. Thomas loved the outdoors, running through the woods and riding his bike. Unknown to him at the time, his interest in sports, fitness and motion would lead him to eventually study medicine and kinetics.

Growing up, he played percussion in a local band and started exploring woodworking with the 4H Club. He spent a lot of time with his great Uncle Henry (Hank) Peters, who was inducted into the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Sports Hall of Fame.

By the time he got to high school, Thomas still had no concept of university and worked part time in his First Nation band office and at McDonalds. Before he graduated, he explored various programs, choosing general sciences with a view to studying kinetics. He realized early on that he needed financial support to further his education.

In 2013, Thomas left Nova Scotia to study in Newfoundland. The Aboriginal resource office at Memorial University introduced him to Indspire, who has provided him with educational financial assistance since 2014. His first

degree is in kinesiology, with honours and he has just completed his first year in medical school.

Inspired by his son, Thomas' father completed an electrical engineering degree... after he retired.

In his spare time, Thomas works as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Memorial University, encouraging many more Indigenous youth to pursue their dreams of advanced studies ... dreams that only come true with the support of generous donors like you. ●

**“Attending
university grants so
much opportunity
beyond the
classroom – “**

**2017 Indspire Awards Ceremony will be held in the Nation's Capital on
Friday March 24, 2017 – for more information and to buy tickets,
visit <http://indspire.ca/indspire-awards>**

Indspire's K-12 Institute - Supporting educators from across Canada



In 2012, the Board of the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation provided funding to create *Indspire's K-12 Institute* – a virtual environment and coaching program designed to support Indigenous educators as they collectively work towards increasing Indigenous students high school graduation rates.

The Foundation understood and appreciated the Institute's unique role – and over the years has worked with Indspire to help fill a tangible void educators face in teaching Indigenous students. Through national surveys, *Indspire* heard a unified voice of

educators across Canada, calling for an online repository of documented successful practices that can be easily accessed and shared.

One of the *Institute's* most popular programs is called *Peer Support*, a mentorship and coaching 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 objective is to improve educators' impact in the classroom, especially when faced with the unique needs of Indigenous students.

Recently, the *Indspire Institute* offered a training workshop to prepare educators to deliver classes on the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's* outcomes. Demand for the workshop was extremely strong and further sessions are being planned for delivery across Canada in 2017, thanks to the ongoing support from the J.W.

McConnell Family Foundation.

In 2016, *Indspire* created the first ever *Guide for Educators of Indigenous Students*, a comprehensive directory of all the programs we offer through the Institute.

Thank you to the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation for funding the creation of the *Indspire Institute* and for working with *Indspire* to close the gap on Indigenous education. ●

“There are challenges we encounter as Indigenous educators that are unique to us. Having each other to connect with creates a valuable and sustaining space for me.”

Lisa Lenkart, Teacher (Saskatchewan)

Indspire's K-12 Institute is a:

1. Online resource centre for educators, students, parents, public and private sector supporters, and Indigenous organizations to access promising practices evaluated by consultation with Indigenous educators.
2. Showcase of biographies and vignettes of 283 past *Indspire Award* laureates for learners and educators.
3. Access for teachers to the *Industry in the Classroom* Mining Module.
4. Host for online discussions, monthly webinars and blogs.
5. Access for educators, school administrators, band councils and the general public to *Successful Practices and Nurturing Capacity* projects which are evaluated strategies that are making a difference in the educational outcomes of Indigenous students.
6. Access to *National Gathering: Indigenous Education Conference* and *Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conferences* videos and information.

THE J.W. McCONNELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION

LA FONDATION DE LA
FAMILLE J.W. McCONNELL

Senator Murray Sinclair - A Lifetime of Achievement

From humble beginnings grew an Indigenous leader who has literally changed Canadian history.

Murray Sinclair was born in 1951 on St. Peter's Indian Reserve, in Manitoba. He graduated as class valedictorian from his high school and was Athlete of the Year in 1968.

Murray Sinclair is a Canadian Senator, former judge, First Nations lawyer, and is the first Aboriginal judge appointed in Manitoba. He has also played a key role in Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest.

In 2009, Senator Sinclair was appointed Chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Throughout this process, he was instrumental in creating a space for more

“Education is what got us into this mess; and education is what will get us out.”

Senator Sinclair, Nov 2016

than 6,000 residential school survivors across Canada to tell their stories on a national level. Many survivors spoke for the very first time about their experiences. Senator Sinclair ensured that survivors' stories were properly documented so that all Canadians could learn this dark part of our country's history. This documentation will contribute to the country's collective healing and connects Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians in the reconciliation process for years to come.

“By recording the experiences of thousands of survivors, the TRC has ensured that all Canadians can gain a deeper understanding of this dark chapter in our collective history, and of the devastating and lasting legacy it has left on



aboriginal peoples' communities, cultures, languages, health, education, and welfare.” — *Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.*

In 2016, Senator Sinclair was appointed to the Senate. That same year, he received Canada's World Peace Award from the World Federalist Movement-Canada.

Senator Sinclair spoke at Indspire's recent National Gathering in Toronto in November, attended by over 800 educators and the program included a workshop on how to teach youth about the TRC.

Through your generous support, we can facilitate the healing process by providing financial support to Indigenous youth. We also provide teachers with the tools to educate all youth about the TRC and how the outcomes can create a stronger Canada.

Knowledge is power.

On March 24, 2017, Senator Sinclair will receive the prestigious Indspire *Lifetime Achievement Award*, and is the only double-laureate in the *Indspire Awards* 24-year history. ●

Join us as we celebrate Senator Sinclair's achievements, along with 12 exceptional role model laureates, at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on March 24, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at <http://indspire.ca/indspire-awards>



Indspire
1002 - 555 Richmond St. W.
Toronto ON
M5V 3B1

Charitable Number 118834696RR0001
1.855.INDSPIRE (463.7747)
donate@indspire.ca
indspire.ca/donate