



Indspire

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

DONOR UPDATE

A message from Roberta Jamieson

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission shed light on the dark legacy of Canada's residential schools and highlighted the crucial role that education plays in healing.

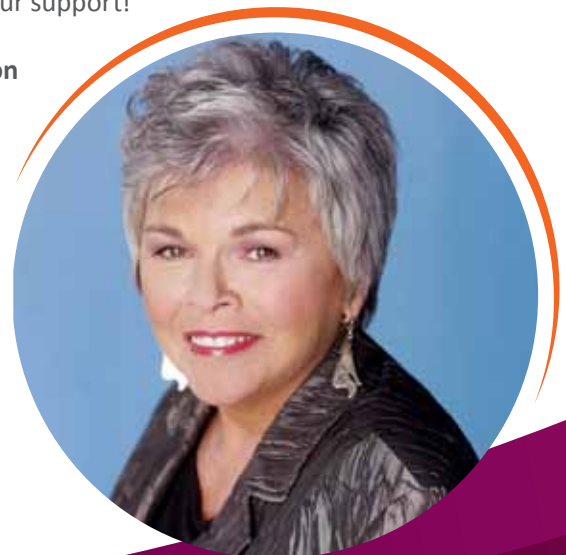
Though there is much to be done, I feel confident about the future. By improving the educational achievement of Indigenous youth, the probability of success for other areas of life increases considerably. Indspire's focus has always been to close the gap in Indigenous education by providing post-secondary students with the funds they need to create a promising future for themselves, their families and communities, and Canada. I am proud of our efforts to create a network of Indigenous educators

across the country who support each other by sharing knowledge and valuable resources that can help them address the impacts of residential schools on their students.

Thank you for being on this journey with us. Together, we can write a new chapter in the Canadian story for our children and for generations still to come.

Thank you for your support!

Roberta Jamieson
President & CEO,
Indspire





Bringing *ayangwamazim* to the classroom

Born in Saddle Lake, AB, Pauline Shirt is a Cree elder and educator who helped found Wandering Spirit Survival School (now First Nations School) in Toronto. Currently, she is a Wisdom Keeper at George Brown College.

I started a school in 1976 with other parents. If we are going to make our way of life fertile, we have to know our own history; so we asked ourselves, how did our people teach our kids? We sat and listened to our elders. So we did that. We started each day in a big circle with a smudging ceremony; we

taught in Ojibwe and Cree; we hired an Indigenous teacher, and we developed our own curriculum.

Today we talk about “Indigenizing” education, but what does it mean? In the standard school system, the teacher dictates everything. In our way of life, everything is a circle, and the community takes care of the child. In Western culture, the child must fit into a box, but in the Indigenous way of teaching, you accommodate the child: you give them a voice, music, their history, and the ancient ways of teaching. There is an Ojibwe word, *ayangwamazim*, which means “to be clear and determined to encourage each other”. This is what we should be in the classroom, because when you accept a child as a spiritual being, they can achieve anything. ●

Our
K-12 Institute
supports educators
across Canada with
mentors, lesson plans,
cultural resources,
and more!

Indspire
works with
60+ partners
in Indigenous
education



Only 29% of elementary and 47% of high schools offer professional development to teachers on Indigenous subjects and ways of teaching.

To support kindergarten to grade 12 teachers across Canada, Indspire evaluates and shares resources, including successful educational practices that are rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and have been proven to enhance Indigenous student success. These are available online at indspire.ca/successful-practices.

How Indspire helped me become a lawyer

My name is Daniel. I am an Inuk of Nunatsiavut (Labrador). This is my story about how Indspire changed my life.



In the summer of 2010, after graduating from Memorial University of Newfoundland, I was admitted into Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Excited for the future, my fiancée and I packed our belongings in a U-Haul trailer in St. John's and headed for Ontario.

About halfway there, I received an unexpected email: I would not receive funding from the Nunatsiavut Government's education program for the coming year. This was devastating news as student loans would not even cover half of my tuition. Upon arriving in Toronto, I contemplated packing everything up and returning home to

seek employment. My law career was nearly over before it started.

Later that summer, I learned that I had been successful in my Indspire application. The bursary made up the monetary shortfall for the coming year, and I knew then I could start my first year of law school.

I have since completed law school, been called to the bar, and I am practicing law. Indspire had a huge part to play in this, no doubt. For me, Indspire's support was the difference between a life-changing career path and the status quo. Very few organizations, I'm sure, can have this type of impact, so thank you! ●

93% of students funded by Indspire graduated from a post-secondary program and **82%** of them are employed



Creating Positive Outcomes

Indspire conducted a survey of the students we fund, and the results are very encouraging! When Indigenous students receive financial support, they complete their studies and secure meaningful work. The survey report, entitled *Creating Positive Outcomes: Graduation and Employment Rates of Indspire's Financial Award Recipients*, is the first of its kind. You can read it online at indspire.ca/graduation. For a print copy, please email donate@indspire.ca. Your generosity is part of our success story – thank you!

What are our students studying?*

Program	Number of Awards
Social Sciences	1,479
Education	576
Business & Commerce	493
Nursing	455
Science	373
Technical Studies (policing, aircraft mechanic, horticulture, and more)	305
Social Work	226
Law	189
Medicine	148
Engineering	138

* Students who received support from Indspire for the 2014-2015 academic year.



Indspire's holistic approach: beyond grades

Indspire assesses thousands of applications annually using criteria that give a holistic picture of each student, including how they give back to their community and their cultural involvement. Here's what that means to Justin, one of our bursary recipients:

"When I applied, I worried that my GPA wasn't at the level it needed to be. With a lot of bursaries and scholarships, you have to be significantly better than your peers to qualify. But Indspire also considers what you have done and what you will do for your community. Helping at my community's job fairs and pow wows is important to me. I am grateful that Indspire believes it's important too." ●

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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