INTERNS

Pathways to Indigenous Youth Leadership 2019
International Aboriginal Youth Internships (IAYI)
Wishing all the interns a challenging, positive and fulfilling experience in Peru!
Donald Alook

My name is Donald Alook. I am 20 years old, and the first to graduate high school in my family. I am really proud of this accomplishment because it sets a good example for my younger siblings to graduate also. I am from Tallcree First Nations but I’ve lived off reserve all my life. Some of my interests include watching movies, all types of sports and outdoor games, boxing, and going to the gym. There are many goals I want to accomplish in life and one of them is starting my own business, the other is joining the army. I hope that after my time in this program, I will have made up my mind on which to pursue first.
My name is Claudia Anderson, I am from Winnipeg Manitoba. My home community is Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation. I have 1 more year to finish for my Kinesiology degree at the University of Winnipeg, and 1 more year for my Social Enterprise diploma at Red River College. I played college soccer at Red River, and basketball at UofW and RRC. I have travelled quite a bit all over the world and I am excited for this opportunity with Canada World Youth!
Devon Blind is a First Nation university student in the Bachelor of Health and Physical Education program at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. She is studying Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership and minoring in Elementary Health and Physical Education and Business of Sport and Recreation. Through her education, she is focusing on finding ways to incorporate Indigenous culture and traditions into tourism and eco-tourism.

After graduation she plans on working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, by building programs for healing, wellness, culture, and reconnecting to the land through backpacking and outdoor programs seasonally. She also plans on creating a community project working with her home community of Pasqua First Nation, which is a Saulteaux and Plains Cree tribe located in the Treaty 4 Territory in Saskatchewan, Canada.
Lakeisha Buffalo

I am 19-years-old from Samson Cree Nation, which is also part of a reserve in Alberta, named Maskwacis. I grew up in both Edmonton, Alberta and Chase, British Columbia. I have many interests, and some of them include outdoor physical activity, web surfing, traveling, art, cooking, taking nature photos, working with children, and of course, watching cultural gatherings.

I have a strong desire to get involved in the community as much as possible! Last summer, I volunteered at the 2018 Alberta Indigenous Games. One of my biggest accomplishments was graduating from an office administration course with Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. During my practicum portion, I worked at the Edmonton Elections and Census office as administrative support. My biggest goal is to gain leadership skills and be a voice for youth that are struggling in my home community.
I am a 23-year-old Mi’kmaq man from Toronto, Ontario. My family is originally from Sipekne’katik First Nations in Nova Scotia, but I have spent my life living in various cities in North America such as Boston, Massachusetts; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Wilmington, North Carolina. I have lived in Toronto for the last 5 years and in that time have worked to help urban and rural Ontario Indigenous communities move towards an independent and sovereign future. I currently work for the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres where I am helping our Centres establish easier pathways of funding to support their programming for community members.

I have been intermittently attending Ryerson University for Economics & Finance although I do not feel as if I have found a place within the western education system. In my free time I like to participate in the music and arts scenes in Toronto. Diversity of ideas and culture is what I value most, especially within the global Indigenous community.
My name is Nikita Aubichon Desjarlais. I am nineteen years old and currently living in Edmonton, Alberta. I am hoping that within my life time I can experience and see how others around the world live. I would like to become a social worker, as I want to help children and families.

I wish for my people to feel comfortable on their land knowing it can't be taken. I want this for all people. I hope indigenous rights and quality of life improve.

My interests are mainly focused on others and their perspective on things, as I have already figured out the qualities in myself I enjoy, and I hope to find more. I may be one of the most open-minded people around. I say this because I have been taught to respect and encourage others daily, regardless of who they may be.
Hello! My name is Sara Drew and I am an 18-year-old Metis from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. I grew up in a rural part of my town on a small farm. In 2017, I taught English and food sustainability in Guatemala. This opened my eyes to the world around me and I knew this was something I wanted to do for life. I am now in my second year at the University of Vancouver Island pursuing my Bachelor of Education degree. I aim to be an elementary school teacher with a minor in Indigenous Studies. My goal is to motivate students to be excited about life-long learning and to empower them to pursue their goals. I would love to teach abroad and in smaller communities. I enjoy film, photography, hiking, surfing and gardening. In a nutshell, if I’m outside, I am happy!
Summer Fisher

Summer Fisher is a 19-year-old Anishnaabe Kwe from Nipissing First Nation. Some of her interests include travelling, painting, hockey and working with youth. Something Summer holds close to her heart is the youth summer camp Niigan Mosewak (Moving Forward). Summer has worked at these youth camps to help Indigenous youth through problems they still face today such as; suicide, drugs & alcohol, and the ripple effect of residential schools. Summer was the first Youth Chief of Nipissing First Nation and will always cherish the adventures she lived with the youth in her community.

Summer attained her grade 12 diploma from St. Joseph Scollard Hall and is currently at Algonquin College in Early Childhood Education. She is taking some time to explore her options by traveling the world. Her favourite memories include helping communities and schools in Costa Rica and attending the YMCA Youth Exchange to Vancouver Island. She has built many great relationships throughout her years growing up and hopes to continue living life to the fullest with current and new relations.
My name is Ashley Gramada. I’m 29 years old and have been to 24 countries. It is my goal to reach 30 before I’m 30! Traveling has been one of my main hobbies.

I’m currently working toward a business and administration degree and excited to come back to school with more community development and cultural experience.
Christy Hatch

Christy Hatch is a 21-year-old Aboriginal woman from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her interests include helping volunteer around her community and going for walks near the parks. She enjoys helping her grandmother with smudges and opening prayers and she loves reading nonfiction books about true events and biographies.

Her greatest accomplishment was being able to graduate high school and she wants to go back to school and take her Childcare assistant (CCA). She’s worked in a daycare in her area called “Manidoo Gi Miini Gonaan” for about 1 1/2 years. Discovering that she loved working with youth, her goal in life is to attend college and take her ECE. She also wants to help more around her community so that it can be safer for the families and the youth.
Bree Ingram

Bree Ingram, an 18-year-old from the Skwah First Nations Indian Band, was born and raised in Williams Lake, British Columbia. In 2017 Bree was accepted into Adventures in Healthcare, a program organized by the Rotary Club for high school students to learn about future careers in healthcare. Bree has volunteered in the x-ray department of the Cariboo Memorial Hospital and continues as a volunteer in a study for BC Children’s Hospital.

Graduating high school early, Bree looks forward to attending the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus in 2020 and obtaining a Bachelor of Psychology. Bree’s goal is to learn about different communities and pursue a career in sociology/psychology.

Growing up in the Cariboo, Bree enjoys spending time outside and is often exploring hiking trails and kayaking on the lake. Bree also practices yoga as a way to stay active and enjoys learning new skills.
My name is Aaron Jones, I am Ojibwa from the Garden River Reserve in Ontario. I grew up in BC but visit my home in Garden River yearly. After receiving a Certificate of Adventure Tourism on Vancouver Island and working in BC for a couple of years, I moved back to Garden River to be closer to family, learn more about my culture, and go to college. This year I graduated from a 3-year Natural Environment Technologist program at Sault College and found work as a Technologist at a nature reserve in the Fraser Valley.

While living in Garden River I have taken youth out for guided nature trips to learn more about the natural environment and the Ojibwa culture. I have also been learning many land-based activities like hunting, fishing, gardening, and trapping. I plan on going to University after this Canada World Youth program to get a Science Degree. In the future I hope to get a job working for a Indigenous Band in either environmental or lands and resources type work!
My name is Chad Kakegumick. I just turned 19 this past July. My biggest passions are sports, (specifically basketball and football). I like to put people before me even when I know I shouldn’t - that’s just the type of person I was brought up to be. I also love listening, making and playing musical instruments. The piano and guitar are my strong suits. I’m an outgoing guy that loves to explore, take risks and embark on exciting adventures, just like this internship with Canada World Youth.
Austin Lathlin-Bercier

Austin Lathlin-Bercier is a part of Opaskwayak Cree Nation and was born in The Pas, Manitoba. He enjoys working with youth and wants to become a youth worker or a teacher after his military service to educate, inspire and be a good role model.

Some of Austin’s proudest moments in life were graduating from Oscar Lathlin Collegiate and from The Raven program which is a military program based in Victoria, BC. After Austin’s military experience he knew he wanted to reapply to the Canadian Armed Forces to become an infantryman. He loves the sense of teamwork, comradeship, contribution and the discipline. After his time in the army, Austin wants to help and work with youth in his community and all over Canada in education, culture and mental health. He aspires to be a good role model to youth, friends and family.
Princess Lightning

My name is Princess Lightning I’m from Maskwacis Alberta, from the Samson Cree Nation. I enjoy painting, beading, sewing and reading. I also enjoy hiking and being out in nature. I’ve also always been passionate about working out and living a fit and healthy lifestyle.

I grew up in maskwacis and was fortunate enough to be able to practice my culture and to learn my language. I’m proud of where I come from because i wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for everything I’ve experienced and everything I’ve been through. I moved to Calgary Alberta to attend university and since I’ve moved, I became a youth council member for the Diamond Willow Youth Lodge. I’m currently attending Mount Royal university but my real passion is for theatre and I will be attending theatre school next fall.

I feel blessed to be able to be part of this internship and to be able to do something I’m passionate about and to grow and to learn from this amazing experience. I hope to one day give back to my community and to be a good role model for other indigenous youth.
My name is Jaiden Lucas, I am a 21-year-old Metis girl from Kelowna.
I am an adventurous person who like bonfires, hiking, dance, yoga, and hanging out with my friends.
I have accomplished graduating high school. This may not seem like a big deal but to me it is, as I am the first of my family who was able to graduate from grade 12. I went to college right after high school to become an esthetician but quickly found out it was not for me as my true calling is to be helping children to learn and give them an opportunity to grow as their own person. I would like one day to become an ECE and work in a daycare or school with young Indigenous kids to show them all the potential they have, and not to give up on any dreams they may have, or even to help them find a goal or dream they have hidden inside of them.
My biggest goal is to become a foster parent to children/youth so they feel loved and cared for even if they can't be with their parents.
Chase McCorrister

My name is Chase McCorrister. I’m 22 years old from Peguis First Nation and was born and raised in Winnipeg Manitoba. I’m a youth worker in the inner city of Winnipeg. I’ve been doing youth work for 6 years. I currently work at the YMCA located in the north end of Winnipeg where I teach kids the fundamentals of skateboarding. In the future I hope to continue my education and get my Bachelors of Arts in Urban Inner City Studies and continue working in my community and making it a better place.
Breanna Murdock

Breanna Murdock is a Cree woman from Winnipeg Manitoba, she is 19 years old and recently graduated and plans to attend the University of Manitoba to pursue a career in social work.

Breanna is currently working with youth from the inner city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has a passion for helping others. She plans to pursue her career in social work because social work is about assisting those who need it most and helping others is her greatest passion.
Sam Myre

Born and raised in Montreal Quebec, Sam Myre is an Algonquin and member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. He recently completed his first year at Dawson College in the Journey’s program where he enjoyed exploring core subjects presented within an indigenized world view. He loves to travel and yearns to gain knowledge about diverse cultures and traditions to eventually tie them into indigenous video-game making. He hopes to get into the 3D Animation and Graphics Design program at Dawson College.
Hello, my name is Calli Najera. I am a 21-year-old first year plumbing student from Duncan B.C.

My middle school years thrust me into the incredible world of languages, and it is here where I recognized my passion for the connection and happiness it brings. Learning Korean was life changing as it allowed me to connect to the small community in my town as well as surrounding cities.

Being active has been a huge part of my life, and dancing is one of the many ways to relieve stress. Another passion of mine is rugby. After graduating with honors, I went on to participate in a trades program.

Immersing myself in different languages and cultures has given me a different outlook on life. Not only am I able to make connections through my own life but I am able to get firsthand experience in others. Being able to connect through another persons' mother tongue has brought me immense joy and happiness, and I believe it will continue to do so.
April Parnell

April Parnell is 26 years old from Haida Gwaii BC, from the Haida Nation. Her interests are traveling and exploring new places, spending time with family and friends, reading and learning new things.

Her future goals are to go back to college and take up law or social work. She would like to become a First Nations activist for Indigenous rights.
Hello. I’m Michael Patchenose, I’m 18 years old and I’m from Chemawawin Cree Nation. I spend most of my time with my family and friends. I love listening to music and watching movies with my friends. I also enjoy walking around my community with my friends.
My name is Elsie Phillips, I am 24 years old. I am from the Lil’wat Nation within the St’at’imc Territory. My Ucwalmicw name is “Katika Cacusn” meaning Evening Star.

Growing up, I have always played competitive and recreational sports and at the age of 4, I started to play soccer. From there, I moved onto volleyball, floor hockey and now one of my favorite sports to play with family & friends is slo-pitch.

To-date – my main accomplishment has been graduating high school. I moved on to completing a 6-month program for Mining Exploration and have been working on getting my diploma for Geomatics Engineering.

I’ve been expanding my employment opportunities in a variety of ways. I am still trying to find my passion in life.
Anna Ratzlaff is a 19-year-old from the Gitwangak First Nations band in British Columbia located in Kitwanga. Born and raised in Abbotsford, she obtained her Applied Business Technology certificate from the University of the Fraser Valley while still continuing her education.

Anna currently works for the Abbotsford School District as a Cultural Support Worker. She is very passionate about her culture, as well as the future of it. She believes embarking on this trip will help give her a different perspective and knowledge on other Indigenous people around the world that can later be used to help her community.
Hi! My name is Hope Richards and I am from Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba. I grew up on the reserve so I’m fairly familiar with all members of the community. My hobbies include reading, listening to music and working on my art. After the CWY program, I plan to continue my university studies and to hopefully graduate in 2022.
I’m Jewel. I am a Dakota and Ojibway woman from Winnipeg, Manitoba. My education experience is in Community Development/Community Economic Development and I’m working towards a degree in Urban and Inner-City Studies. I have previously worked in the non-profit sector mostly working on fundraising/event planning and promoting community economic development in Winnipeg’s inner-city. I love playing sports, specifically volleyball, reading and playing video games.
Hi my name is Mary E. Sayese, I was born and raised in Opaskwayak, Manitoba. I am the youngest with 3 older siblings. I Graduated high school in 2013 and I am currently employed with Opaskwayak Health Authority as a full-time Receptionist along with numerous other duties. I have been a proactive member of the community when it comes to functions, for example I have been in different leadership capacities such as Sources of Strength, Student Council, and Grad President, participated in Northern Trappers Festival as a Fur Queen Candidate and was a representative of Jr. Chief and Council for the youth in my community. In my spare time I enjoy being with family (numerous nieces and nephews), friends, travel, play team sports, and participate in community events. My future goals are to travel and eventually get back in Post-Secondary Education.
Elizabeth Sha’Oulle

Elizabeth Sha’Oulle is a 22-year-old Déne women from Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan. Her interests are reading, listening to a wide range of music, traveling, learning new languages, taking nature photos, and volunteering. Her aunt inspired her to become an advocate for missing and murdered indigenous women and men - to be a voice to those who don’t have a voice.

Elizabeth wants to work in healthcare and is looking at becoming a pharmacist technician, phlebotomist, and a continuing care assistant. She took care of her late grandmother who needed help and who became her inspiration to work in this field.

Her main goal is to be an inspiration to her family, friends, and community. Also, to travel as much as she can along with volunteering wherever she is needed.
Athena Sharp is an Inuk originally from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, currently residing in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. She is very passionate about teaching youth about sexual health and healthy characteristics of a positive relationship. She has been pursuing this goal the last few years by working with a non-profit organization called FOXY (Fostering Open Expressions among Youth).

She is also very passionate about travel, sports, culture, and gender equality. Some of her goals in life include working her way up from municipal government to the federal level. Her aspirations are to be a strong indigenous female working alongside other world leaders.
Raven Stanley

Raven Stanley is a 21-year-old Plains Cree female from Frog Lake First Nations in Northern Alberta. She is currently taking a year off from her Bachelors of English program at Mount Royal University and wishes to transfer into Bachelor of Interior Design at Vancouver Island University. She hopes after finishing her degree in Interior Design to start a company of her own and also acquire her realtor licence.

While attended Mount Royal University, she enjoyed volunteering and also was team captain for volleyball intramurals.
Hello, my name is Dylan Thompson, I am an Ojibwe male from Lake Manitoba First Nation. I was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Some of my interests are meeting new people, listening to music, playing sports, video games, exploring/traveling and working with youth.

My accomplishments would be graduating high school and being one of the students with the most volunteer hours from the Rec & Read Mentorship Program. I enjoy working with youth in my community and help making a change within the inner city. My goals are to have a career that includes working with youth to protect and help them develop into happy/positive individuals and in the meanwhile, helping myself expand my knowledge and experiences.
Troy Whiteway

Troy Whiteway is a 21-year-old Metis from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Some of his interests include going to the gym, reading, taking part in sports such as basketball and hockey, taking wildlife photos, and also spending every weekend in the summer exploring his province to see what natural beauty there is in the world.

One of his biggest accomplishments was receiving a full scholarship to The University of Winnipeg in the Criminal Justice program. He hopes to obtain a degree in Criminal Law and pursue a legal career and become a role model for youth that have been in-care or are from low-income families. His main goal is to help make our youth and at risk youth feel safer in their community. He hopes to advocate for these youth in the future and to help end violence within their communities.
Wiser Wood

Wiser Wood is a twenty-two-year-old Plains Cree / Salish man from Saddle Lake Cree Nation, in central Alberta. He is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education Program while also completing a minor in Indigenous Studies at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. After completing his degree he hopes to return to his home town and work as a full-time teacher. In addition to his academic pursuits, Wiser has worked with youth, primarily of Indigenous decent, over the past several years in other capacities as well. During the academic school year he is a reading tutor for elementary students aged 5-12. More recently, he has acted as the Program Coordinator for the Summer Day Camp on the only Boys and Girls Club located on reserve lands in his home community of Saddle Lake Cree Nation.
Tania Wright

Tania Wright is a member of Wilps (the house of) Nikateen (Chief Francis Sampson) in the Lax Seel (Frog) Clan. Born and raised in the community of Gitanmaax (people of torch light fishing) in Northern Hazeton, British Columbia (Canada), she is the second oldest of 7 with 1 older brother, 3 younger brothers and 2 younger sisters. She plans on getting a psychology major in order to get into the Mental health wellness field and help others achieve overall physical, mental, and spiritual balance in life. She is excited to share this opportunity with each of you and encourage other Indigenous youth to travel abroad.
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