

Carriers of Youth Wisdom



Zev is 17 years old, Metis, born in Squamish, and currently living in Powell River, British Columbia. Zev is in Grade 11 at Brooks Secondary School and enjoys track and field, mountain biking, hiking, travelling, and outdoor photography. He is the Metis youth representative for his local community, and enjoys meeting other Metis youth, sharing stories, and learning traditional skills. Zev is interested in Indigenous education from the perspective of increasing the awareness of Metis culture among the student population and opportunities for cultural activities for youth.

Tyra is 17 years old, a member of Abegweit First Nation, and currently living in Scotchfort, Prince Edward Island. Tyra is described as friendly, funny, and quiet. She is a pretty good problem solver when she needs to be, and is able to take on responsibilities and help out others. The National Day of Healing and Reconciliation was important to Tyra because it represented opportunities for future education that her family was never able to take advantage of in the past. Although Tyra may appear to be a very shy person, she is really a happy person, with a bubbly personality, and people feel like they can talk to her about anything.

Tiffany is 20 years old, a member of St. Mary's First Nation, and from Fredericton, New Brunswick. Tiffany has lived off reserve her entire life. She is taking a Bachelor of Science Honors in Chemistry degree at St. Francis Xavier University. Tiffany is involved in the St. Mary's Youth Leadership Enrichment Program (SMYLE), and is a mentor, motivator, and role model to youth in the community.

Tiffany won an award for highest First Nation graduate GPA. She is a good listener and thinker, and is interested in people, spirituality, connectedness and constant growth. Tiffany plans to travel across Canada this summer.

Teagyn is 20 years, a member of Kwanlin Dun First Nation, and currently living in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Teagyn belongs to the Crow Clan, and her traditional name is Aatagweix'i. She is described as humorous, caring, and cute. Teagyn can speak both French and English, and also a few words in her traditional language, Southern Tutchone. Teagyn is currently involved in building a youth workshop to facilitate with other youth on the topic of lateral violence in our communities. She has experience working with Indigenous youth and in heritage and cultural events. Teagyn is interested in increasing awareness about the challenges youth in Northern communities face when it comes to education. She currently works in the Constituency Office for The Honourable Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament for the Yukon.

Tanner is 16 years old and a member of Lennox Island First Nation, Prince Edward Island, which is where he currently lives. Tanner is described as talented, funny, and a great guy. He is a Grade 10 student at Westisle Composite High School. Tanner feels there should be more Indigenous cultural training in schools. He does well in school and has hopes of having a music career someday. Tanner loves music and writing lyrics, rap, and recording music. Tanner also loves to meet new people. He enjoys listening to people and helping them with any problems they may have.

Reena is 16 years old, First Nation, and currently living in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. She is in Grade 10 and attending a small town school. She lives with her dad, a single parent who works really hard to enable his kids to do things like play sports, hang out with friends, and make sure they are always in a safe environment. Reena likes to write, and an article she wrote about First Nations and the environment is being published in a magazine later this year. Reena is passionate about addressing racism and standing up for her people and culture and uses the strength she has developed through her life experiences to help them understand the impacts of racism.

Sarah is 19 years old, a member of Flying Dust First Nation, and currently living in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Sarah will be attending post-secondary in the fall to study Addictions Counselling and then Justice Studies. She is very engaged in her community with youth and health, and volunteers at different events held through-out the year. Some of her interests are drawing and travelling. She is also very involved with her culture and enjoys dancing jingle at powwows through-out the summer. As a young child, Sarah remembers Flying Dust held the First Nation Summer Games and her class sang O Canada in Cree before the crowd. As a small child, she was amazed that they were on stage singing to hundreds of people. Her life experiences have shaped who she is today, and Sarah has a passion for helping others and lots of work experience in different fields. She has an honest reputation and an ear for listening, and believes each youth should be encouraged to follow their dreams to achieve their goals whatever they may be.

Ryan is 20 years old, a member of Eel Ground First Nation, and currently living in Miramichi, New Brunswick. Ryan attended Natoaganeg School from Grades K4 to 8, then went to three different high schools. He is now in his second year of college at NBCC Miramichi and currently taking his practicum at the same school he went to as a child. Ryan's passion is community, and he plans to work in the education system in his home community. This June Ryan will be a certified Youth Care Worker, and has acquired further skills, strengths, and social skills through this course such as sharing, talking to people and building a foundation. He hopes to go back to university to acquire his Bachelor of Education and someday teach at the school. Ryan has been called a role model by educators who are proud to see a former student come back as a staff member. They say it shows the children and youth that there are opportunities and education outside of the reserve and that they can do it.

River is 17 years old, First Nation (Cree and Saulteaux) and Metis, and currently living in Abbotsford, British Columbia. River is a member of her school's Aboriginal Student Council which she greatly enjoys being a part of. She loves learning about different Aboriginal groups and their way

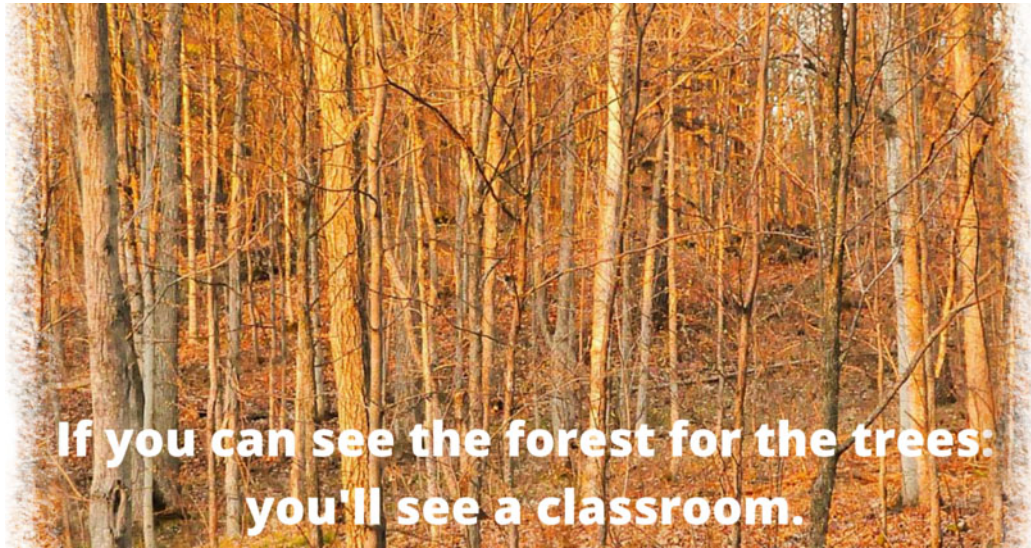


of life before the settlers, and hopes to learn much more about it in the future. River also has other interests in the arts as well, and loves drawing, dancing, and acting. She is very optimistic and is always looking for new friends and exciting experiences. Look for River to create a playful aura at this gathering!

Phoenix is 16 years old and a member of the Blood Tribe / Kainai First Nation, near Standoff, Alberta. Phoenix's community is part of the Blackfoot Confederacy. His traditional name is Grizzly Bear Boy. He was Grade 9 class valedictorian in 2015 and has received numerous academic awards, both local and provincial. His career goal is to become a doctor and it is something he has dreamed of becoming since childhood. Phoenix wants to start an organization dedicated to providing high quality care to First Nations. His other interests include dirt biking, paintballing, golfing, hunting, and knowing his traditions and culture, especially related to traditional healing.

Megan is 17 years old, Inuit, and currently living in Nain, Nunatsiavut (Newfoundland and Labrador). Megan comes from a small community on the north coast of Labrador. She is a driven, academic high school student who loves the outdoors and spending time with family and friends. Megan is involved with a Drama Troupe that includes Inuit myths, legends, old stories and folklore. She appreciates having the ability to learn more about her Inuit culture and being able to share what she can with others. Megan considers herself to be outspoken, especially when the conversation is about something she is passionate about. She attended last year's Students on Ice Arctic Expedition and because of that experience feels more comfortable talking to others.

Chantel is 18 years old, from We'koqma'q First Nation, Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia. Chantel is a Grade 12 student attending Dalbrae Academy in Mabou, currently in her fifth year of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program, and a volunteer in various programs in and out of her community. She is academically driven and has been granted numerous awards and scholarships. Chantel is a licensed Glider Pilot and working towards her Private Pilot license. She has been accepted to all four universities she



applied to, and has been offered several scholarships. She has been described as independent, determined, and hardworking.

Logen is 17 years old and a member of Lennox Island First Nation, from Prince Edward Island. Logen is described as talented, funny, and traditional. He is currently in Grade 12 at Westisle Composite High School and was recently accepted to Holland College in the Carpentry program. He loves music and his Mi'kmaq culture and jumps at any opportunity to become involved in both. He is learning recording arts as an engineer, and plays guitar whenever he gets the chance. Logen is an active drum maker and participates in the art of beading and regalia making whenever possible. He actively participates in a Drum Group called "Hey Cuzzin's" who perform at various powwows.

Lance is 18 years old, and member of Peguis First Nation from Treaty #1 Territory, currently living in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Lance lives with his family and is currently seeking to finish his education. His goal is to become a police officer for the City of Winnipeg. Lance spends a lot of his free time volunteering at the community based organization Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Inc. Here he developed a very good understanding of working with youth and families. Lance has always believed that education plays a very vital role in the development of many factors in one's life, including socio-economic status, a feeling of personal accomplishment and for finding meaningful employment in today's society. He very much enjoys learning about Aboriginal Culture and history and enjoys being and working around youth within his community.

Kawi is 18 years old and Kanienkehaka (First Nation, Mohawk) from Kanehsatake and Kahnawake, Quebec. Kawi's name is Kawisaienhne and she is a singer. She loves to sing both her people's traditional songs, and pop songs. Her culture is very important and crucial to her, and to her people. Kawi is in her last year of high school, and is very excited that she has been accepted to Vanier College, as it has been one of her major accomplishments. School was a challenge, but she has learned the importance of education and wants to make her family proud. She wants to have an amazing job, and be just like her grandmother, and she doesn't want to forget about her people. Kawi wants to challenge stereotypes and help open the minds of others and is considering becoming a Speech Pathologist or Human Rights Lawyer. Her dream is to help her people, and feels either of these careers would help accomplish that dream.

Karlee is 19 years old, and a member of Eskasoni First Nation, near Sydney, Nova Scotia. Karlee is described as ambitious, enthusiastic, and respectful. She was accepted into a competitive program from high school called "Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences" at Dalhousie University and will begin her third year in September. Karlee is a fluent Mi'kmaq speaker and has always worked towards achieving her lifetime goal of becoming a Mi'kmaq speaking doctor so that she can help her community members get the health care that they deserve. She is an active volunteer in her community during the summer months when she is home from school, and an active volunteer at the Ronald McDonald house during the school year. As an Indigenous youth, a highlight of her education experience was being able to speak to the Chiefs at the

annual Assembly of First Nations Assembly in Ottawa while in Grade 10. She shared with them her experiences with Mi'kmaq Immersion and how it shaped her to become the person she is today. Karlee feels that as an immersion graduate, it is her responsibility to teach others about the language if they are willing to learn.

Kalolin is 16 years old, and a member of Eskasoni First Nation, near Sydney, Nova Scotia. Kalolin is in Grade 11 and attending Allison Bernard Memorial High School in Eskasoni. She is the main performer featured in The Gentle Warrior project, initiated by her high school. This project was based on the work of Rita Joe, a Mi'kmaq poet who expressed her experiences of residential schools through poetry, to educate and create awareness. It was performed in Ottawa for the National Arts Centre, along with other First Nations schools in Canada, and allowed others to see the Indigenous perspective of how residential schools impacted individuals and families. Kalolin is a Mi'kmaq speaker, and has had schooling experiences both on and off reserve. She believes in cultural awareness and that being Mi'kmaq does not make her intelligence any different from those of different races. She is interested in Indigenous education because she knows the youth have the potential and capability of doing anything they set their minds to.

Kalli is 17 years old and a member of the Blood Tribe / Kainai First Nation, near Standoff, Alberta. Kalli is in Grade 12 at Cardston High School. In the fall she will be attending the University of Lethbridge majoring in Psychology and minoring in Native American Studies. She volunteers in her community, plays hockey and track and field events, and jingle dress dances at powwows. Kalli is a longstanding Honour Roll recipient, and is currently in the running to receive the Blackfoot Language 30 Senior Award. She is a strong advocate for incorporating First Nations/Metis/Inuit stories into the Social Studies curriculum and for reflecting on the impact of historical events and life experiences on her generation.

Kaitlyn is 19 years old, First Nation originally from Rocky Mountain House, currently living in Cranbrook, British Columbia. Kaitlyn moved from Alberta to Ktunaxa Territory (Cranbrook) when she was 4 years old. Once she reached high school she dropped out of the public school to attend the alternate school. She felt comfortable there and started learning and practicing culture. This is when she really started to love school and started to value herself more. She chaired the Wild Warriors which was involved in many community celebrations and cultural activities, where Kaitlyn developed a love for singing, drumming and dancing. She helped to develop an Aboriginal Education plan for students, and has become a mentor and facilitator. Through her life experiences she has become an advocate for culture and pursuing post-secondary. She is learning what it means to be humble and



of service to others while learning about the policies and politics of educational institutions.

Julianne is 19 years old and is a member of Kitigan Zibi First Nation, near Maniwaki, Quebec. Julianne is a proud First Nations woman who attended Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan from Grade 1 to Grade 11. Her community really cares about the youth and education and she says she would not be the person she is today if she had not attended her local school, or grown up in her beautiful Nation. She now attends CEGEP Heritage College in the Social Science department and will be graduating on the Dean's List this year. She cares about Indigenous education because she feels our youth have so much to give and contribute to this world and believes that education heals a nation. Julianne wants to tell her story in hopes it can help the future generations to come.

Josh is 17 years old, Metis, and currently living in Abbotsford, BC. Josh is very proud of his Metis heritage and is a citizen of the Metis Nation BC. His father's side of the family is Metis from the Red River and he learned a lot about his Metis family from him. He always took Josh out hunting and taught him about his cache and about wild berries. Josh became interested in Aboriginal issues and culture when he was in Grade 9 and started participating in cultural events and field trips through the Aboriginal Program at school. This helped Josh become more aware of his history although he still has much to learn. Josh is a member of the Mouat Aboriginal Student Council and helps facilitate weekly meetings and monthly cultural events. He is also very involved with physical fitness and is keenly interested in having an active and healthy lifestyle.

Jade is 16 years old, a member of Abegweit First Nation, and currently living in Scotchfort, Prince Edward Island. Jade is described as adventurous, independent, and determined. She is an academic Mi'kmaq student whose main priorities are school and culture. She is interested in many things, including politics, art (music, drawing/sketching, photography, etc.), reading, and travelling. Jade has lived both on and off reserve and has travelled a lot to different First Nation communities and

throughout Canada and the United States. Jade has been very involved in social justice issues with her mother; they are now in the process of building their Earthship – otherwise known as an eco-friendly, sustainable home. Jade's skills include voicing her opinion, social skills, art, and is a quick learner and feels she is well informed about the history and culture of the Mi'kmaq tradition, and leadership skills.

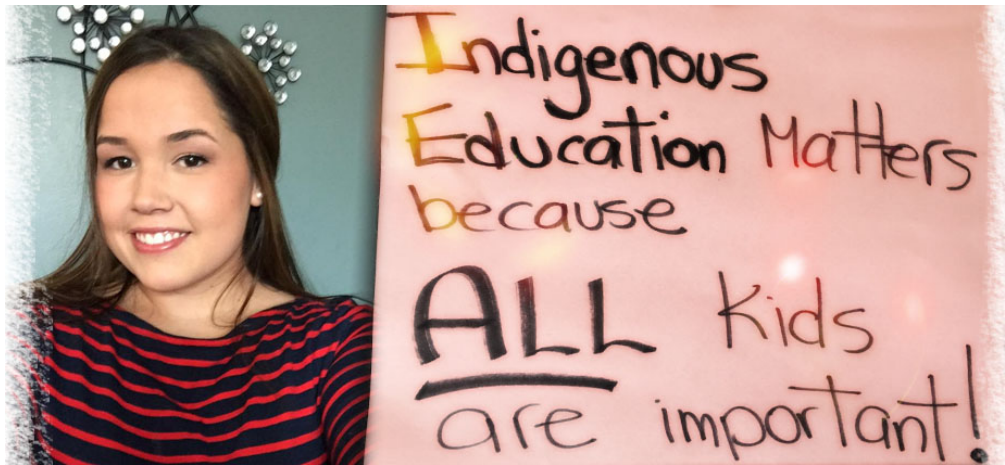
Hunter is 19 years, from Six Nations of the Grand River, currently living in Kingston, Ontario. Hunter is Cayuga, and very interested in Indigenous education. He feels that the current system is broken, biased, and blind, and that combined with the societal stigma of being Indigenous, it creates the perfect storm for hardship and failure. Hunter says, "We need a change, and we will have change." Because of the challenges he has endured with education, he wants to be a part of that change in any way possible. He is very mindful about what he says, yet at the same time he speaks what's on his mind. Hunter notes that his opinions and experiences are informed by his entire adventure through the school and health system, from the rock bottom to rising again, and overcoming various significant health and education challenges. Hunter is about to enroll in Adult Education and Aboriginal programming at Second Chance Community Education Centre.

Greg is 19 years old and a member of Kingsclear First Nation, near Fredericton, New Brunswick. Greg is in his third year of Chemical Engineering at UNB and employed

during the summer by Dillon Consulting. Greg is interested in Indigenous education because he believes everyone has potential and Indigenous students should have the same opportunity as non-Indigenous people. He wants to find ways to motivate youth anyway he can, so that they see opportunities in the bigger world. He wants to encourage the pursuit of post-secondary education after secondary school in order to help our communities flourish and prosper. Greg was voted "Role Model" in his graduating year in high school by his community, and volunteered helping First Nation children with math. Greg's skills include wisdom, empathy, and being able to see situations through multiple angles.

Eve is 20 years old, First Nation, currently living in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Eve is a mother to a 1 year old baby girl named Charokke. Eve has been working and volunteering in the inner city of Winnipeg since she was 14 years old. She loves helping and working with the youth and helping them make positive life choices. Eve's work with the community helps her be a better person and she is proud to represent Ma Mawi and Manitoba as a positive youth role model. Eve's skills include her lived experiences and knowledge of many youth issues, and her openness and willingness to communicate and make friends equally. Eve feels strongly about combatting racism and discrimination and believes in equality.

Dionovan is 19 years old, and a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, currently living in London, Ontario. Dionovan is Ojibwe and part of the Turtle clan. He



is in his last year of high school and will be pursuing his passion for football in September at U of Guelph. Donovan is hardworking, athletic, and maintains good grades. He is also bilingual. He loves public speaking, engaging with others from all backgrounds, and helping mentor younger kids, including his foster brother. He has worked hard to build his strength physically, mentally and spiritually. Donovan is interested in Indigenous education because culture is important. He says, "We should all follow our dreams and live a full life - that's being respectful to our ancestors."

Cheyenne is 20 years old, First Nation, currently living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Cheyenne is a Plains Cree woman, an artist, a musician, a yoga trainer, a poet, a dancer, a runner, a skateboarder, a model, a reader, a writer, and a performer. She was even a "human book" at a "human library" event. She loves to be on stage and enjoys public speaking. This includes speaking out about social and environmental injustice and sharing family stories about how inter-generational impacts have affected youths lives and educational journeys. Cheyenne is very passionate about finding balance within all aspects of life such as spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental wellness, and loves to inspire other youth to do the same.



Coco is 16 years old, First Nation, and currently living Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Coco's traditional name is Caona - Et'a Neo. It comes from her Chipewyan and Haitian roots. Coco is in Grade 11, and is interested in history and sciences/math. She has been dancing for 8 to 9 years and finds it to be the highlight of her day. She is very independent but enjoys interacting with people and learning new things. Coco is a leader in her northern community, and comes from a line of leaders. She spends time with elders to learn and grow, recognizing that being a leader is often her best, but hardest option. Coco believes that it is important to ensure that everyone has access to education and opportunities. She speaks her mind, and strongly believes that youth need to be heard. As a resilient and unique individual, Coco



has grown up proud to speak on something she is passionate about.

Brady is 15 years old, from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, near Shannonville, Ontario. Brady is a football player with a passion for learning and feels there is value in all types of learning opportunities - whether the learning comes from an elder, a teacher, a friend or a coach.

As an Indigenous youth attending a Catholic school, seeing the way residential schools are brought up in conversation is sometimes unsettling for Brady. Not only are youth around his school uneducated on the topic, but it brings up a more difficult pill to swallow, for him, knowing his ancestors' history has nearly been forgotten by others. Recently his family struggled with some family trauma, and even with the heart break, they all managed to be stronger than the day before. With that experience, Brady believes that he has an opportunity to provide a teaching to others about perseverance, and about teaching others that even in the darkest moments there's always a light at the end of the tunnel.

Alice is 15 years old, a member of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, and currently living in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Alice is an honours student and athlete and is described as outgoing, sports minded, healthy and goal oriented. Alice represents her community at many sporting activities outside of the Yukon at national and international levels, including the Yukon Select Soccer U18 team, paddling, running marathons, and training for the Canada Summer Games and North America Indigenous Games (NAIG). Alice is involved in culture and recently participated in a coming of age ceremony. She also harvested her first caribou and learned the rituals around that, including how to take care of the environment, harvesting in a respectful way, and sharing and giving away to those more in need. Alice lives a healthy lifestyle and is proud of being Indigenous. She hopes to make a difference for other youth her age and for her community. Her life-long goal is studying medicine.

Alassua is 14 years old, Inuit, and currently living in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Alassua is a throat singer, drum dancer, and a fiddle/violin player. She belongs to the Inuksuk Drum Dancers group, the Iqaluit Fiddle Clube, and is also in the 795 Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Alassua loves to travel, and has been on exchanges with the Drum Dancers, and has traveled with the Cadets. Alassua feels language and culture is very important, and would like to see the teaching of her language being mandatory in all communities. Ask Alassua to teach you how to throat sing and how to drum dance! She says she wants to show people how...

James is 16 years, Metis, and is currently living in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. James is of Woodland Cree descent and identifies as Metis because he is a proud ancestor of Louis Riel. His family is from Hay River, NT and his father is from Winnipeg, MB. James is an awesome fiddler and it is a big part of his life. His father taught him to fiddle when he was six years old, and when he was nine, he went to his first competition and won first place. He now volunteers with the Kole Krook Fiddle Society and the schools to instruct other youth to play fiddle, and to play for local Metis jiggers. Fiddling is important to James because it is important to carry on the cultural traditions. James is also a keen student of the Cree language and Metis history and culture. James was involved in Cadets for several years and now is joining the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves. He hopes to become an RCMP member when he finishes school.

Miriame is 19 years old, Inuit, and currently living in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Miriame is half Inuit and half French. She attends Sir John Franklin High School and is part of the Indigenous Leadership there. She likes to be outside, camping, being on the land, running, and hiking with her dog. She also likes reading, English class and to work out and do yoga. Miriame is on a path to regain her culture. She is passionate about equality and justice and tries to stand up to injustice every time she sees it. Miriame has the gift of

understanding other people and situations and can relate. She has the ability to speak, express and discuss her opinions with others. She wants to bring a strong voice from the NWT and to bring a perspective of those who really need to be heard and seen. Miriame wants to make changes in the world and knows that she can.



Melanie-Rose is 19 years old, Metis, and currently living in Sudbury, Ontario. Melanie-Rose is a Youth Ambassador of Canada, a Youth Aboriginal Leader and Motivational Speaker, and Founder of "It's Cool to be Healthy", a non-profit organization. Making a positive difference in her community and in her country is her passion. Melanie-Rose takes great pride in her Francophone and Metis heritage. Health promotion, empowering youth and community involvement are lifetime commitments. Over the past four years she has volunteered over 1500 hours to her community and created a non-profit organization based on raising awareness about living a healthy lifestyle. As the sole voice of students on the Aboriginal Advisory Education Committee, Melanie-Rose was instrumental in the initial offering of an Aboriginal Studies Course offered at a Secondary level in the French Catholic School Board. She was a guest speaker at We Day Toronto in 2015 where she represented the Indigenous youth of Ontario. Melanie-Rose is now an Indigenous Program and Service Coordinator for the University of Sudbury.