

NEWS RELEASE  
December 8, 2015

**Over 300 BC Aboriginal students will share more than \$900,000 in awards for college and university education this year.**

**VICTORIA** – More than 300 Aboriginal post-secondary students in BC will benefit from nearly a million dollars distributed by the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society this year.

The Society has granted \$985,000 to 303 Aboriginal students in BC to support their studies at post-secondary institutions throughout the province.

The Society's Aboriginal Student Awards program is funded from the returns on an endowment fund established by the Province of British Columbia. It was created to assist in removing barriers to higher education for Aboriginal peoples. Awards of \$1,000 to \$5,000 each are issued every year through a competitive process to students studying at all post-secondary levels, from trades training to doctoral programs.

"Aboriginal people are a vital part of the future of British Columbia and contribute to our diverse, growing and strong economy," said Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson. "Awards for 303 students will increase the retention and completion rates for Aboriginal students studying at all levels throughout our post-secondary education system."

Vancouver Island University student Lianne MacWatt understands well the impact the scholarships can have. "The Aboriginal Student Award I received is enabling me to concentrate on what is important for me: my education. Your generosity has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal, and has inspired me to help others by giving back to my community."

It's also clear that the award inspires many of its recipients. "I look forward to one day being able to give back and help others achieve higher education," says MacWatt.

"The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society is privileged to distribute the Aboriginal Awards annually. These awards assist deserving Aboriginal students, whether they are completing trades training, enrolling or finishing courses for a baccalaureate degree, or pursuing a masters or doctoral degree," says Society chair Hugh Gordon.

The [Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society](http://www.ikbbc.ca) provides scholarships and awards to students attending public post-secondary institutions throughout the province and internationally. Since its inception, nearly \$10 million has been distributed to BC students from its six scholarship and award programs. The Victoria Foundation provides administrative support to the Society.

**Editors Please Note:** A list of 2015 Aboriginal Student Award recipients can be found attached to this release and at <http://www.ikbbc.ca/web/news>.

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## BC Aboriginal Student Awards – Masters/Doctoral

| Hometown                                      | Student Name           | Institution                     |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Burnaby                                       | Ciara Morgan-Feir      | Simon Fraser University         |
| Burnaby                                       | m.d. Caroline Lefebvre | Simon Fraser University         |
| Gitwangak/Gitxsan Nation                      | Sharon Hobenshield     | University of British Columbia  |
| Kamloops                                      | Joshua Gottfriedson    | Simon Fraser University         |
| Kamloops                                      | Melanie Nelson         | University of British Columbia  |
| Kamloops                                      | Ryan Tomm              | University of British Columbia  |
| Kelowna                                       | Evan Ayers             | University of British Columbia  |
| Komoka, ON                                    | Erynne Gilpin          | University of Victoria          |
| Lumby   | Amanda Neufeld         | University of British Columbia  |
| Merritt                                       | Suzanne Sterling       | University of the Fraser Valley |
| Muscowpetung, SK                              | Jennifer Anaquod       | University of British Columbia  |
| Nanoose Bay                                   | Natasha Wawrykow       | University of British Columbia  |
| Osoyoos                                       | Krista Stelkia         | Simon Fraser University         |
| Ottawa, ON                                    | Emily McAuley          | Simon Fraser University         |
| Parksville                                    | Andrea Kerr            | Royal Roads University          |
| Richmond                                      | Nathan Sletten         | University of British Columbia  |
| Splatsin First Nation,<br>Secwepemc Territory | Dorothy Christian      | University of British Columbia  |
| Ucluelet                                      | J. Hjalmer Wenstob     | University of Victoria          |
| Vancouver                                     | Kyle Bobiwash          | Simon Fraser University         |
| Vancouver                                     | Lyana Patrick          | University of British Columbia  |
| Victoria                                      | Monique Auger          | Simon Fraser University         |
| Victoria                                      | Rachelle MacDonald     | University of British Columbia  |
| Victoria                                      | Rita Merrick           | University of Victoria          |
| Withheld                                      | Withheld               | University of Victoria          |
| Withheld                                      | Withheld               | University of Victoria          |

## BC Aboriginal Teacher Education Award

| <b>Hometown</b> | <b>Student Name</b>       | <b>Institution</b>                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Cranbrook       | Starla Atwood             | University of Victoria                   |
| Crofton         | MaryDawn MacWatt          | Vancouver Island University              |
| Duncan          | Nona Marchand             | Vancouver Island University              |
| Fernie          | Brooklynn Braconnier      | University of Victoria                   |
| Fort St. John   | Kristiana Bailey          | Northern Lights College                  |
| Kamloops        | Breanne Stallard          | British Columbia Institute of Technology |
| Merritt         | Julie-Anne Francine Billy | University of British Columbia/NVIT      |
| Merritt         | Shanny Mc Mclvor          | University of British Columbia           |
| Moberly Lake    | Cody Norris               | Northern Lights College                  |
| Nanaimo         | Christina Drouin          | Vancouver Island University              |
| New Westminster | Amber Geremia             | Simon Fraser University                  |
| Port Hardy      | Davina May Hunt           | University of Victoria                   |
| Port Renfrew    | Trystan Dunn Jones        | University of British Columbia           |
| Prince George   | Eliza Boer                | University of Northern British Columbia  |
| Vancouver       | Shaniah Hillis            | University of British Columbia           |
| Victoria        | Pamela Langevin           | University of Victoria                   |
| Withheld        | Withheld                  | Thompson Rivers University               |
| Withheld        | Withheld                  | Vancouver Island University              |
| Withheld        | Withheld                  | Simon Fraser University                  |
| Withheld        | Withheld                  | University of British Columbia           |

## BC Aboriginal Student Award

| <b>Hometown</b> | <b>Student Name</b>       | <b>Institution</b>                      |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 100 Mile House  | Ashlie Daniels            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| 108 Mile Ranch  | Ian Heales                | University of Northern British Columbia |
| 150 Mile House  | Liana Nguyen              | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Abbotsford      | Jill Bowes                | Camosun College                         |
| Abbotsford      | Kree Byrne                | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Abbotsford      | Tammer Byrne              | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Abbotsford      | Jessica Curry             | University of Victoria                  |
| Abbotsford      | Alandra Kirschner         | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Abbotsford      | Terin Lovesar             | University of British Columbia          |
| Abbotsford      | Natasha O'Donaghey-Eacott | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Abbotsford      | Whitley Point             | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Agassiz         | Warren Point              | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Aklavik, NWT    | Lianne MacWatt            | Vancouver Island University             |
| Aldergrove      | Colin Hopes               | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Anahim Lake     | Tina Alexis               | University of British Columbia          |
| Bella Bella     | Kristy Humchitt           | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Black Creek     | Kolby Koschack            | Camosun College                         |
| Burnaby         | Erica Krauseneck          | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Burnaby         | Dylan Whitney             | University of British Columbia          |
| Burns Lake      | Liam Clovis               | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Calgary, AB     | Danielle Sanford          | University of British Columbia          |
| Campbell River  | Carolyn Hebenton          | North Island College                    |
| Campbell River  | Shelby Huffman            | University of Victoria                  |
| Campbell River  | Ryan Hutton               | University of Victoria                  |
| Campbell River  | Shannon Munro             | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Campbell River  | Julianna Sayers           | University of Victoria                  |
| Campbell River  | Rory Shade                | University of British Columbia          |
| Campbell River  | Jackson Stirling          | University of Victoria                  |
| Campbell River  | Jessie Stirling           | University of British Columbia          |
| Cawston         | Nicola Terbasket          | Vancouver Island University             |
| Chase           | Melpatkwa Matthew         | University of British Columbia          |
| Chilliwack      | Douglas Day               | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Chilliwack      | Jennifer Janik            | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Chilliwack      | Rudy Langstaff            | University of British Columbia          |
| Clearwater      | Jesse James Akers         | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Cloverdale      | Caterina Marra            | University of British Columbia          |
| Comox           | Ryan Danroth              | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Comox           | Stephanie Fell            | University of British Columbia          |
| Comox           | Isaac Forsland            | Emily Carr University of Art + Design   |
| Coombs          | Rowan Forseth             | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Coquitlam       | Chris Macklin             | Simon Fraser University                 |

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Coquitlam             | Victoria Marshall       | Vancouver Community College             |
| Courtenay             | Candace Marks           | North Island College                    |
| Cranbrook             | Nicole Boon             | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Cranbrook             | Dallas Cardinal-Clement | College of the Rockies                  |
| Deroche               | Vannessa Langlois       | Vancouver Community College             |
| Ditidaht First Nation | Betty Knighton          | Vancouver Island University             |
| Edmonton              | Cody Kaskamin           | University of British Columbia          |
| Fauquier              | Brier McLean            | Camosun College                         |
| Fauquier              | Kiara McLean            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Fort Mckay, AB        | Charles L'Hommecourt    | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Fort McPherson, NT    | Stephanie Ross          | Vancouver Community College             |
| Fort St. James        | Stephanie Holmes        | Nicola Valley Institute of Technology   |
| Fort Ware             | Keisha McCook           | College of New Caledonia                |
| Genelle               | Cara Gallo              | Selkirk College                         |
| Gibsons               | Karlene Ostrosky        | University of Victoria                  |
| Hazelton              | Candice Loring          | University of British Columbia          |
| Hinton, AB            | Codie Lavoie            | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Hope                  | JoLene Payant           | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Houston               | Taylor Johnson          | Vancouver Island University             |
| Hudson's Hope         | Cindy Martin            | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Kamloops              | Ashley-Anne Churchill   | University of Victoria                  |
| Kamloops              | Danielle Cooley         | University of Victoria                  |
| Kamloops              | Jelise Friesen          | Langara College                         |
| Kamloops              | Adam Halland            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Elizabeth Ignace        | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Naomi Jules             | Vancouver Community College             |
| Kamloops              | Dayna Lasaga            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Landon MacGillivray     | University of Victoria                  |
| Kamloops              | Paige Martin            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Chase McLeod            | University of British Columbia          |
| Kamloops              | Jessica Mucha           | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Dolan Paul              | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Shenise Sigsworth       | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kamloops              | Marina Troke            | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Kelowna               | Kari Barge              | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | Shenay Craig            | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | Amber Geissler          | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | Leah Haldane-Robinson   | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | Kaitlyn Lafontaine      | Vancouver Island University             |
| Kelowna               | Sasha Lovely            | Okanagan College                        |
| Kelowna               | Tina Miller             | Okanagan College                        |
| Kelowna               | Sasha Platz             | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | Lisa Renaud             | University of British Columbia          |
| Kelowna               | James Williams          | University of British Columbia          |

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| Keremeos                                  | Tiinesha Begaye      | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Lac La Hache                              | Josie Duncan         | University of British Columbia          |
| Ladysmith                                 | Courtney Chanin      | Vancouver Island University             |
| Langley                                   | Sonia Bear           | Capilano University                     |
| Langley                                   | Nolan Chem           | University of British Columbia          |
| Langley                                   | Denbigh MacIntosh    | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Langley                                   | Brandon Macleod      | University of British Columbia          |
| Lax Kw'alaams                             | Randi Dudoward       | Vancouver Island University             |
| Lower Nicola                              | Trevor Day           | Nicola Valley Institute of Technology   |
| Lumby                                     | Cara Major           | University of British Columbia          |
| Lytton                                    | Jade Baxter          | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Maple Ridge                               | Rhea Loveless        | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Maple Ridge                               | Emily Morin          | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Merritt                                   | Darby Collier        | Nicola Valley Institute of Technology   |
| Merritt                                   | Andrea McVean        | University of Victoria                  |
| Merritt                                   | Crystal Wallace      | Nicola Valley Institute of Technology   |
| Mission                                   | Wayne Martin         | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Mission                                   | Amber Searwar        | University of British Columbia          |
| Mission                                   | Tamara Sykes-Yarwood | Langara College                         |
| Moberly Lake                              | Julian Napoleon      | University of British Columbia          |
| Mount Currie                              | Kamana Bikadi        | Capilano University                     |
| Nak'azdli Whut'en                         | Tania Hink           | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Nakusp                                    | Avery Palmer         | University of British Columbia          |
| Nakusp                                    | Madeline Palmer      | University of Victoria                  |
| Nanaimo                                   | Kimberly Collier     | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Nanaimo                                   | Jason Fortin         | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanaimo                                   | Rebecca Hannibal     | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanaimo                                   | Samantha Harry       | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanaimo                                   | Breyanna Hiebert     | Langara College                         |
| Nanaimo                                   | Carly Hinksman       | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanaimo                                   | Gabrielle Jeffrey    | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanaimo                                   | Wendy White          | Vancouver Island University             |
| Nanoose Bay                               | Breshell Russ        | University of Victoria                  |
| Nelson                                    | Avery Kushner        | Selkirk College                         |
| Nelson                                    | Gabriel Williamson   | Selkirk College                         |
| New Westminster                           | Vyctoria Coughlin    | BC Institute of Technology              |
| North Delta                               | Denise Bobb          | Vancouver Community College             |
| North Saanich                             | Glenn Jim            | Camosun College                         |
| North Vancouver                           | Justine Doiron       | University of British Columbia          |
| North Vancouver                           | Zoe Friesen          | University of British Columbia          |
| North Vancouver                           | Michael Mucha        | University of British Columbia          |
| North Vancouver                           | Jodie Nowell         | University of British Columbia          |
| North Vancouver –<br>Capilano Reservation | Jaymyn La Vallee     | Simon Fraser University                 |

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| Old Massett     | Shelly Samuels          | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Parksville      | Jamie Coutts            | Vancouver Island University             |
| Parksville      | Emily McKee             | University of Victoria                  |
| Peachland       | Esmae Rothfusz          | University of British Columbia          |
| Penticton       | Sterling-Rae King       | University of Victoria                  |
| Pitt Meadows    | Christine Thompson      | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Pitt Meadows    | Sheryl Thompson         | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Port Alberni    | Michael Charlesworth    | North Island College                    |
| Port Alberni    | Sydney Nicholson-Mieras | University of Victoria                  |
| Port Alberni    | Alice Sam               | North Island College                    |
| Port Alberni    | Rachele VanZoeren       | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Port Alberni    | Ricky-Lee Watts         | University of Victoria                  |
| Port Coquitlam  | Jane Montgomery         | Douglas College                         |
| Port Hardy      | Lucy Hache              | University of British Columbia          |
| Powell River    | Derek Lambert           | Camosun College                         |
| Prince George   | Anna Gervais            | Vancouver Island University             |
| Prince George   | Cole Laviolette         | Camosun College                         |
| Prince George   | Tanelle Smith           | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Prince George   | Jordan Stewart          | College of New Caledonia                |
| Prince Rupert   | Ashton Garay            | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Prince Rupert   | Aaron Grant             | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Prince Rupert   | Stephanie Thompson      | Camosun College                         |
| Regina, SK      | Kear Porttris           | University of Victoria                  |
| Revelstoke      | Michelle Barisoff       | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Richmond        | Simone Carriere         | Vancouver Community College             |
| Richmond        | Nicole Iaci             | University of British Columbia          |
| Richmond        | Miles Jaques            | University of British Columbia          |
| Roberts Creek   | Bailey Quinn            | University of British Columbia          |
| Saanichton      | Bryun Armitage          | Camosun College                         |
| Scowlitz        | Stephanie Pennier       | Nicola Valley Institute of Technology   |
| Sidney          | Holly Reid              | University of Victoria                  |
| Six Nations, ON | Jessie Anthony          | Capilano University                     |
| Squamish        | Kayla Uren              | Simon Fraser University                 |
| Summerland      | Jordan Johnson          | University of Victoria                  |
| Surrey          | Jesse Adams             | BC Institute of Technology              |
| Surrey          | Roxanne Charles         | Kwantlen Polytechnic University         |
| Surrey          | Jennifer Haggerty       | Vancouver Community College             |
| Surrey          | Karra Pierce            | Western College of Veterinary Medicine  |
| Surrey          | Kody Pierce             | Vancouver Community College             |
| Surrey          | Delainn Urdiga          | University of British Columbia          |
| Surrey          | Jennafer Wilson         | University of British Columbia          |
| Telegraph Creek | Benjamin Chief          | Camosun College                         |
| Trail           | Santanna Hernandez      | Selkirk College                         |
| Vancouver       | Christina Campbell      | Langara College                         |

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| Vancouver     | Keisha Charnley        | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Joseph Currie-Bastine  | Langara College                         |
| Vancouver     | Dexter Everett         | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Jaimie Garlough        | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Corbin Girard          | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Bryan Hill             | Douglas College                         |
| Vancouver     | Tanis Lewis-King       | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Scott MacDonald        | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Baillie Redfern        | University of British Columbia          |
| Vancouver     | Savanna Todd           | Emily Carr University of Art + Design   |
| Vernon        | Nicole Skidmore        | University of British Columbia          |
| Victoria      | Megan Clarkson         | Camosun College                         |
| Victoria      | Shaylyn Crisp          | University of Victoria                  |
| Victoria      | Ronald Dann            | University of Victoria                  |
| Victoria      | Cheryl-Lynn Hebert     | University of Victoria                  |
| Victoria      | Charlene Hickey        | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Victoria      | Samuel Mann            | University of British Columbia          |
| Victoria      | Michelle McColl        | University of Victoria                  |
| Victoria      | Riley McDonald         | University of Victoria                  |
| West Kelowna  | Danielle Douglas       | University of British Columbia          |
| West Kelowna  | Sandra Gaspard         | Okanagan College                        |
| West Kelowna  | Crystal Prince         | University of British Columbia          |
| Westbank      | Reba Ladron de Guevara | University of British Columbia          |
| Westbank      | Nathaniel MacDermott   | Thompson Rivers University              |
| White Rock    | Emma Lawrence          | Selkirk College                         |
| Williams Lake | Ashley Abercrombie     | University of Northern British Columbia |
| Williams Lake | Victoria Booth         | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Williams Lake | Travis Flaherty        | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Williams Lake | June Lulua             | Thompson Rivers University              |
| Williams Lake | Jamie Moore            | North Island College                    |
| Williams Lake | James Smith            | University of Victoria                  |
| Withheld      | Withheld               | University of Victoria                  |
| Withheld      | Withheld               | University of Victoria                  |
| Withheld      | Withheld               | University of the Fraser Valley         |
| Withheld      | Withheld               | University of British Columbia          |