

**Business Development Bank of Canada** Aboriginal Banking 155 Carlton Street, Suite 307 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3H8

bdc.ca

### WELCOME

In this issue of SOAR Magazine, you will discover intriguing and exceptional Aboriginal youth from across the country. The young people featured have stumbled on entrepreneurship, soared above the clouds and shot for the stars. We have also caught up with five more Aboriginal post-secondary students for the second instalment of our new column. What an inspiring group! As always, we enjoy featuring the interns who participate in the BDC Aboriginal Banking Internship Program. Look out for Lyndsay Brisard's article!

Since E-Spirit 2012 is just around the corner, we thought it would be nice to introduce our host, the University of Manitoba, and the great services available to Aboriginal commerce students there. Check out the comments from the director of the Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) at the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business.

The BDC Aboriginal Banking team hopes you enjoy Issue 19! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about excellent Aboriginal youth we should feature, please contact:

Aaron Rae, Co-editor aaron.rae@bdc.ca 204-983-2016

Angela Doerksen, Co-editor angela.doerksen@bdc.ca 204-983-3594

EDITOR'S CORRECTION: In Issue 18, in the article entitled "Verve Hair Lounge," we failed to give credit for the photo to Andrew Cooper. We apologize for this omission.



**CHARITY BUSCH** Both wise and successful beyond her years

**JOSH ST. CYR** Soaring with Wasaya Airways

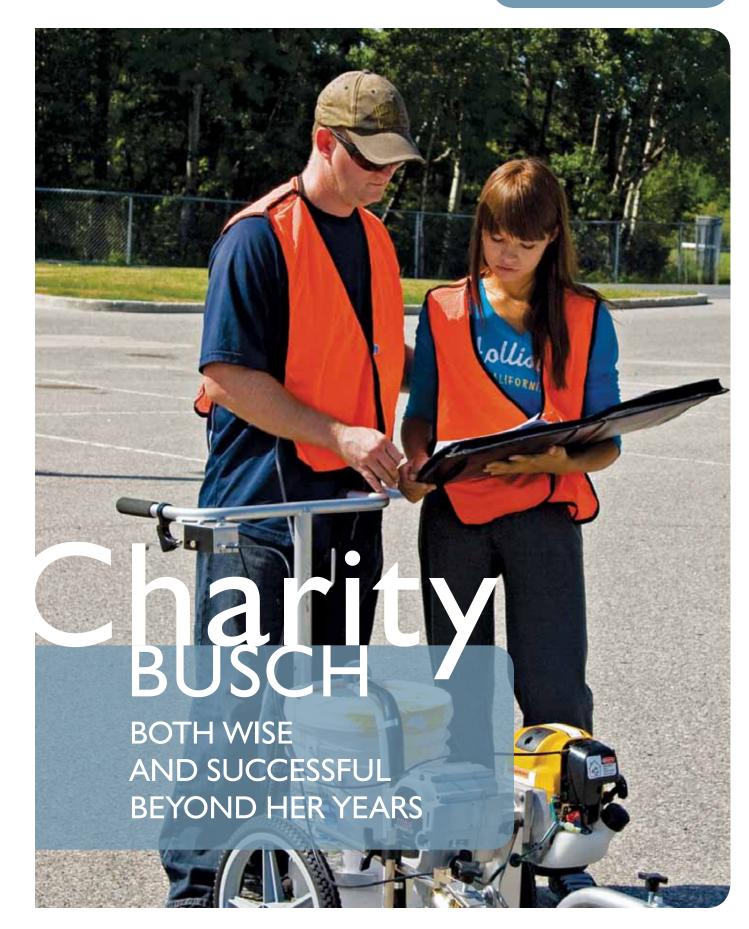
**ABORIGINAL BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERS** 

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ABORIGINAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION** 

**ALI FONTAINE** Singer rises to the top

**LINDSAY BRISARD** 

**ABORIGINAL POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS** 



Among the approximately 15,000 inhabitants of the small Ontario city of Kenora resides one unique entrepreneur: **Charity Busch**. Charity is a business person, a motivated speaker and a risk taker.

She is also only 13 years old.



Much like any girl her age, Charity is full of energy and enthusiasm. Perhaps how she differs from others in her age group is simply in the way she channels that youthful energy. Just over a year ago, she put it to good use by starting her own business, and she hasn't looked back since.

But how did a 13-year-old girl decide to start her own business?

It all began when a simple flight of fancy put her on a path that even she couldn't have anticipated. With school over for the summer, Charity would often find herself visiting her father, Darren, at the local restaurant where he worked. During one of these visits, she happened to stumble on some graffiti-removal products in the back of the restaurant. With her father's permission, she went out to the back alley to clean up some of the graffiti there. While she was scrubbing away at the graffiti, by pure chance, an Ontario Provincial Police constable drove by and noticed her hard at work. After several polite inquiries about her clean-up activities, the constable went inside to commend Charity to her father and thanked them for their efforts. On his way out, the constable stopped to give Charity a bit of cash as a reward for her hard work and, just like that, an "entrepreneurial light bulb" went off in the back of her head.

It was as simple as that: a random, spur-of-the-moment decision, and her graffiti-removal business, dubbed Angel's Touch, was born.

After that, Charity and Darren weren't quite sure how to proceed, so they did what any good entrepreneur would: they Googled it! After a bit of research on the Internet, they had a better idea of what

they needed to do, and what types of products and equipment were suitable to invest in for their small operation.

As with any new business, they ran into their first hurdle rather quickly. What they found was that there really wasn't that much motivation in the community to remove all the graffiti across the city. Charity's response to this realization is precisely what defines entrepreneurs as a unique species: she decided that if people weren't taking notice of all the graffiti, she would make them take notice. So she prepared a speech and pleaded her case in front of Kenora City Council. She urged the mayor and the council to pass a bylaw targeting the removal of graffiti across the city. Not only was the bylaw passed, but she also reportedly became the youngest person ever to make a deputation at Kenora City Hall.

Since then, Charity has actually gone on to make a habit of it. As a nature lover, she was concerned about cleaning up a local wildlife preserve on the outskirts of Kenora. So she recently made another deputation, urging council to keep this area clean for the benefit of residents and tourists alike. From there, more unexpected results arose: the City created an environmental board called the Green Team, on which Charity sits as a member among many high-ranking city officials. The purpose of the Green Team is to encourage and participate in a citywide clean-up every year.

Needless to say, the results that Charity has managed to achieve in such a short time are quite staggering. Like any good entrepreneur, she's surrounded herself with quality people. One such person is her father Darren, who helps out with the business whenever he can.

"He's really supported me tons," says Charity. "He does quite a bit of work, too, because I have a second job as well, not to mention school. So I don't always have the time to do everything."

In effect, they've become something of a dynamic father-daughter team, and they're learning the ropes of entrepreneurship pretty quickly. Concepts like networking aren't lost on them, either. They've already had several offers from previous clients to help them market their business, including an offer to design a website for them.

But, like any business, it's not always smooth sailing. Her father says there are certain obstacles Charity has to confront on a daily basis: "At such a In reality, she did have a bit of training that helped set her down this path. She had previously attended a summer camp program called BizKids, aimed at encouraging entrepreneurial ideals in young people. In Charity's case, it obviously worked quite well.

As for the future, the father-daughter tandem's goal is to grow the company a little more, spread into different municipalities and then, one day, compete for official city road work contracts. Next summer, they plan on taking the first step toward their goal by expanding into parking lot jobs.

Further down the road, Charity plans to go to university when she finishes high school, and it's hardly surprising that she wants to focus on business

"If you think you have a good idea, just go for it. Because I never imagined this could happen just by going off and wiping up some graffiti."

young age, sometimes the biggest challenge is just establishing your credibility," says Darren. "But right now, with each successful job, she's slowly building the foundation for that credibility."

To say that she's a natural entrepreneur might be a bit of a stretch, as even Charity claims that she didn't imagine any of this for herself just a year ago. But her father Darren says she certainly has some inherent entrepreneurial characteristics. "She's definitely a real go-getter. When something interests her, she just goes out and gets it."

courses. But for now, she's got enough on her plate to last her quite a while!

When asked if she had any advice for other aspiring young entrepreneurs, Charity simply had this to say:

"If you think you have a good idea, just go for it. Because I never imagined this could happen just by going off and wiping up some graffiti."

Both wise and successful beyond her years!

4 SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC 5

JOSH ST. CYR

# SOARING WITH VASAYA



# Flying is what Josh St. Cyr loves to do.

The 27-year-old pilot for Wasaya Airlines in Northern Ontario smiles when he thinks about what his job entails on a day-to-day basis: piloting aircraft, acting as delivery man for important packages and envelopes, and serving his customers by getting them where they need to go.

But it isn't as simple as firing up the aircraft and taking off.

"I usually go in about an hour prior to departure and check the weather," he says. "That's important. I have to get our routing straight and file the flight plan. Only after that do I check the systems on the aircraft." He does this the same way every time so nothing gets missed.

Josh puts in long days—sometimes as long as 17 hours in winter.

"You go to work when it's dark and come home when it's dark," he says. "There are varying factors as to how long we'll be out there. We may have weather delays or more passengers on a particular day."

Stopovers can be as short as 10 minutes in a community—just long enough to get a passenger onto the plane before taking off again.

This is what being a pilot in Northern Ontario is all about.

Josh fell in love with the life as a youngster growing up in Big Trout Lake First Nation. His father was a member of the Northwest Patrol and sometimes Josh joined him, flying out of Bearskin

Lake. "I got to go places with him and I remember flying through the clouds, that feeling of movement and freedom," he recalls. "He was a cop, so he was always travelling and I got to go places, and that feeling of discovery never left me." Josh answered that calling early by picking up his father's textbooks and reading them.

The seed had been planted.

After getting his credentials from First Nations Technical Institute, he got a job three weeks out of school. "It worked out for me," he says humbly. "I was a taxi pilot but learned the basics really quickly."

He had wanted to fly a water bomber but, in hindsight, things have worked out just fine. "I had to work hard in "I enjoy it all. I feel freedom when I'm up there and I love all aspects of flying..."

school and take the extra time to get things done, and that has served me well in what I do today," he says.

"I enjoy it all. I feel freedom when I'm up there and I love all aspects of flying," says Josh. "I don't want to fly big commercial aircraft. This is what I love doing because I'm already at home."

www.wasaya.com

6 SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC 7



### ABORIGINAL BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERS

# ROadpayed SIICHSS

#### When it comes to one's educational journey, the road paved to success is not always an easy road to take.

The courses required to obtain any degree may be challenging, but the rewards and opportunities are endless. This is especially true of a bachelor of commerce degree from the Asper School of Business. Despite the challenges, many students of Aboriginal ancestry have chosen this path, and the Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) is there to share it with them.

"The journey of a student is not an easy one, but it is worthwhile to follow your dreams and achieve something," says Sarah Schmidt, a fourth-year Métis student, of her educational experience. Balancing an active lifestyle that includes women's hockey with her studies can be difficult at the best of times—and much more so when the unexpected occurs.

In October 2009, Sarah lost a very dear friend to an automobile accident. "At the time. I felt lost and like I had no one to turn to. ABEP was there for me." she recalls. Staff and students rallied behind her to help her carry on with her educational path and stay focused on success. Through regular attendance at ABEP events and workshops, Sarah found a community of fellow Aboriginal students who care.

"ABEP has made this last year a great one for me and has given me confidence to pursue my dreams. I don't think that I would be where I am today without them," Sarah remarks. Fellow ABEP student Mya Horley agrees: "ABEP has brought students together as though we are family."

More than just a community of Aboriginal learners, ABEP offers the right support and services to ensure Aboriginal students excel in their studies. Students are provided with

tutoring support in the more challenging math and finance courses at no cost to them. Tutoring includes one-on-one sessions with accomplished students, as well as optional attendance at exam preparation seminars.

During the summer, ABEP students either continue with their studies (which allows them to graduate sooner than their peers or to take a lighter course load in the regular term), or secure employment at one of ABEP's corporate partners. Many alumni have continued on to full-time employment with their internship employers upon graduation.

Then there is the scholarship and bursary money: lots of it. Using generous donations from its corporate partners, ABEP distributes scholarships, awards and bursaries, depending on financial need and academic achievement. Each and every year, thousands of dollars are disbursed to qualifying students.

entrepreneurship, academic achievement and performing arts.

Lenny McKay (the entrepreneurship award recipient) assisted with the planning and delivery of BDC's 2011 E-Spirit competition in Moncton, New Brunswick. Furthermore, he was recently selected as a 2011–2012 General Electric Foundation Scholar-Leader—one of only five students chosen from across Canada.

ABEP director Dr. Wanda Wuttunee observed. "While we celebrate the many accomplishments of our award recipients, we are mindful that their impressive accomplishments are only a fraction of the many incredible activities in which all ABEP students are involved."

Matt Cook-Contois remarked, "Being part of ABEP is every bit as important to me as being a part of the Asper School of Business." Through his involvement

#### More than just a community of Aboriginal learners, ABEP offers the right support and services to ensure Aboriginal students excel in their studies.

More than a support program, ABEP is a community that strives for and celebrates excellence and leadership. Many ABEP students rank among the school's best and brightest. As a testament to this commitment to excellence, four ABEP students received 2010 Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards, in the categories of community/volunteerism, in ABEP, Matt has found a home within the Asper home. His passion for the fiddle takes him across Manitoba and throughout Canada, teaching at music camps. Whenever possible, Matt shares his passion for post-secondary education with Aboriginal youth. "I am always proud to say I am part of an elite program in an elite school."

# University of Manitoba

BACK ROW (left to right); Mark Cardy. Myra Tait. Jayme Menzies, FRONT ROW (left to right); Shauna Mulligan, Kyra Wilson MISSING FROM THE PHOTO: **Brandy Dennis** 



Being a student can be difficult; being a first-year student can be particularly difficult; being a first-year student from a northern reserve can be daunting.

How do you find your way around campus? How do you find the services and resources that students need on a daily basis, such as tutoring or academic advising?

The University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students Association (UMASA) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1971 to support the student population at the University of Manitoba (U of M). Its focus is on the Aboriginal student population, but it helps students of all ethnicities.

UMASA supports and provides information on Aboriginal issues. It also plans and organizes recreational, political and cultural events. Participation in UMASA is as simple as getting a free membership, which includes various services, use of the computer lab and access to the student lounge.

Currently, more than 1,600 Aboriginal students are enrolled in full-time or part-time studies at the U of M. Roughly 200 students hold a UMASA membership. Membership in UMASA allows students to volunteer at or participate in activities organized throughout the school year, including the yearly Elders Gathering, traditional teachings, Halloween and Christmas functions, and our Graduation Pow-Wow. These events are collaborations between the UMASA council and other groups on campus.

# Aboriginal Students Association

Over the years, UMASA has developed relationships with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations and groups at the U of M. Currently, it has partnerships with the University of Manitoba Student Union, Manitoba Access programs, the Promoting Aboriginal Community Together program, the Manitoba Aboriginal Law Students Association, the Office of the Executive Lead for Indigenous Achievement and the Canadian Federation of Students. All of these groups offer various services and opportunities to U of M students and UMASA members.

UMASA was designed for Aboriginal students at the U of M. It is a way for Aboriginal students attending the university to maintain and preserve their cultural identity. It also challenges and improves the images and stereotypes that Aboriginal people face while in school. UMASA gives a voice to Aboriginal students in university, and shows that their culture and traditions are alive and still being practised. Aboriginal people are not a dying race or a forgotten culture.

An important feature of this council is that it always has female and male positions; this is done to acknowledge the traditional roles in Aboriginal culture. Historically, both men and women had a say, and each held the other accountable when making decisions for their people.

For the 2011–2012 academic year, UMASA council comprises of 13 executive and supporting council member positions. Currently, our female Co-President is Myra Tait and the position of male Co-President is vacant. The female Co-Vice-President is Vale Flett, and the male Co-Vice-President position is vacant. The position of Secretary is filled by Shauna Mulligan and our Treasurer is Skip Gagnon. Our mature student representative position is filled by Michael Phillips, and Kyra Wilson is the first-year student representative. UMASA's Coordinator is Mark Cardy and our Events Coordinator is Kayla Farquar and Jayme Menzies has recently taken on the position of Co-Events Coordinator. Our Public Relations Representative position is filled by Brandy Dennis. At this time, Adam Kowal's position is pending.

Council members bring different goals and aspirations to the job and represent a variety of faculties and programs. One strength of this council is that members maintain relationships beyond the classroom. Diversity is the key to bringing ideas together. Working as a team, UMASA council seeks to meet the needs of students, whether those needs are political, academic or personal.

www.umanitoba.ca/student/asc/programs/umasa.html

10 SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC | II

# ALI FONTAINE S111ger 11ses To the top

SOAR Magazine recently had the chance to catch up with a rising star in the Canadian music scene: Ali Fontaine, a singer/songwriter from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. We spoke with the young singer about her development as an artist and the direction in which she'd like to take her talents.

Just 17, Ali recently released her first album, a self-titled debut that features 10 songs written exclusively by her. This release is the culmination of a long string of efforts from Ali that started nine years ago. Ali told us the story of how her music career really began.

"It was kind of unexpected and surprising. When I was about eight years old, I entered an all-ages talent competition, which was the first time I ever really sang, and I just ended up winning first place in my community."

Her rendition of lewel's "You Were Meant For Me" not only netted her first place in the competition, but also came with an enticing \$1,000 prize. It was around this time that Ali and her parents began to see this as a very real career possibility for the talented young singer.

With nine years having gone by since that fateful competition, she's accumulated a staggering list of achievements for someone so young. Besides getting extensive radio play in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, she also currently sits at #17 on the National Aboriginal Music Countdown Top 40. If that wasn't already enough, she recently cemented her name in the Canadian music scene even further by winning best country album and best new artist at the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards 2011. She also won the Ka-kee-nee Konee Pewonee Okimow—the most outstanding Aboriginal Manitoban award.

The mysterious part of her rise to fame lies in the fact that nobody in her family had any prior musical

experience whatsoever. But, although the burgeoning of her natural talent came as something of a surprise to her family, her creativity and imagination did not. Apparently, she has always had a strong creative streak, and her affinity for writing and poetry quickly developed into a knack for songwriting.

Around the time Ali turned 14, she started getting more serious about her musical career, and her efforts since then have resulted in what she calls her proudest achievement yet: her self-titled debut album, produced by Errol Ranville and Marc Arnould. Her other feats have kept her equally busy, as she frequently performs at various concerts, as well as at community gatherings and assemblies. In 2010, she performed her first single, "Hey," at the NCI Jam in Winnipeg, where she placed third overall. She also recently performed at the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute for the World Indigenous Business Forum in New York City.

Although her style has been described as having country music leanings, she shrugs off any attempt at being pigeonholed into a particular style of music.

"I don't like to think that I have a certain style. I like to be very open and embrace a wide variety of influences. I don't want to label myself as any one style in particular—maybe just a collection of styles put together. I like a lot of music, all the way from heavy metal to Justin Bieber," she says, laughing.

Despite enjoying her life as a musician, she also says it definitely hasn't been without its challenges.

continued on next page



"Everybody is good at something, so it's important that you find your talent and never give up on that. And if you truly love what you do, all you can do is go as far as you can with it. It takes a lot of dedication and you have to be really passionate about it. And if you succeed, although it might be a job, it definitely won't feel like one."

"Right now, life is actually pretty hectic. It's been a challenge juggling both my studies and my singing career. It's kind of a balancing act, but you just have to take it one day at a time, and learn to take what's being thrown at you in stride."

One source of strength is the unwavering encouragement her parents have given her. "They really are my biggest supporters in all of this," she says. "I just don't think I could be doing it without all of their help." She continually emphasizes how important family values are to her, as she considers herself a very traditional person. She also places a special emphasis on her Ojibwe culture, as well as on contributing what she can to her community.

Ali is making sure she doesn't close any doors on her future, either, so she plans to continue with her education. Now in her final year of high school, she's deciding whether she wants to study fine arts or law at university.

She offers some advice for other young artists struggling to achieve their dreams.

"Everybody is good at something, so it's important that you find your talent and never give up on that. And if you truly love what you do, all you can do is go as far as you can with it. It takes a lot of dedication and you have to be really passionate about it. And if you succeed, although it might be a job, it definitely won't feel like one."

Despite all of her personal success, Ali refuses to rest on her laurels, and she is continually honing her skills as a musician. She continues to work on and improve her guitar-playing techniques, while simultaneously teaching herself to play the piano and the banjo.

Nowadays, finding any musician who writes his or her own music is tricky enough, so when a 17-year-old does it—and very successfully, at that—it's all the more impressive. It's pretty clear for all to see that this self-taught, self-motivated musician is truly dedicated to mastering her art.

Ali's album is available in stores and on iTunes.

www.alifontaine.com

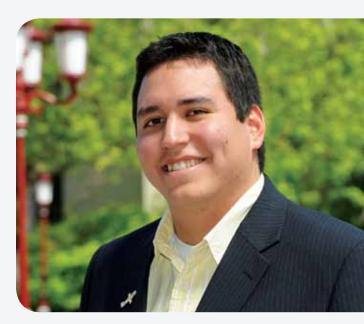
# Lyndsay BRISARD

Sitting at my desk in the BDC Sudbury Business Centre and looking back, I can remember the day that I made the decision about what I would do with my life. I think of all of the people who have influenced or strengthened that decision, and everything I have experienced between then and now. I was fortunate to have known that business was my calling since I was young—a time when most people are so unsure of what to do in life. And now, well into my journey, I know I have a lot to look forward to.

I think I can honestly say that BDC had a lot to do with that decision. I was in Grade 9 when I first participated in BDC's E-Spirit, the national youth entrepreneurship competition, and it was that very experience that exposed me not only to entrepreneurship, but commerce and accounting as well. From that point on, I knew that was what I wanted to do.

"BDC has given me many opportunities to better myself and has always supported my education."

When I started university, I decided to look for a job that was relevant to my studies. I was lucky enough to work for BDC as a part-time intern throughout the school year. Once again, BDC was able to offer me an invaluable opportunity.



During my time at BDC, I have had the opportunity to learn countless aspects of not only commercial finance, but small business consulting and accounting as well. Whether it was talking to a client about their account, calculating a client's risk or evaluating their financial statements to identify areas for improvement, not a day has gone by where I haven't learned something valuable—and, more importantly, useful—in my chosen career. The fact that I am learning and applying the knowledge I am gaining in school has made it even more beneficial—not to mention the fact that the BDC family is very welcoming to new members.

I felt like a part of the team as soon as I walked through those front doors for the first time—being fully included in meetings and networking events, and involved in the local business community. More importantly, BDC has given me many opportunities to better myself and has always supported my education.

With only a few more years of university ahead of me, I am looking forward to starting my career, and BDC is definitely a place where I can picture myself working for many years to come.

14 SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC SOAR MAGAZINE | BDC 15









- T Kelly Boucher
- 2 Jocelyn Formsma
- 3 Eric Klapatiuk
- 4 Darla Contois
- 5 Nathan Twovoid

# ABORIGINAL post-secondary students





SOAR Magazine focuses on Aboriginal youth succeeding in education and business. Many Aboriginal young people are enrolled in post-secondary institutions across the country. We caught up with a few of these dynamic students to hear about their lives. The students interviewed attend schools from coast to coast.

## KELLY **Boucher**

Program: Business administration School: Aurora College, Thebacha Campus City: Fort Smith, NT

#### **Soar:** Why did you choose your program? My mother inspired me to be who I am and that led me on the path that I am on today. She has worked hard and overcame many obstacles to achieve her goals. She has taught me that with motivation, strength

and support, I can accomplish my goals.

**S:** What advice would you give to a high school student wanting to enter your field? Some advice I would give would be to read, read and read your chapters, and don't give up, no matter how overwhelming it gets.

#### **S:** Did you have experience related to your field of study prior to beginning college?

Before I started my post-secondary education, I didn't really experience much related to my field of study, but I saw people around me—like my mother, father and others—who have a career in business and are working with Aboriginal people, which really motivated me to decide the direction I wanted to take.

# DARLA **Contois**

**Program:** Theatre Performance School: Centre for Indigenous Theatre City: Toronto, ON

#### **S:** What inspired you to choose the direction you are taking?

I broke into acting because I wanted to be like my older brother. I began theatre in high school and never really started to take it seriously until I began my first semester in university. At first, it was just an interest, and it grew unexpectedly into a passion. It was my favourite class because it took such commitment and you truly experienced what it felt like to be someone else, while still being yourself. It's very complex and great because you evoke feelings in strangers that they probably didn't realize they had. The school I'm working with is especially focused on being an Indigenous actor in society; it inspires me to work toward our healing

#### **S:** What advice would you give to a high school student wanting to enter vour field of study?

Practise, practise, practise; don't let anyone tell you that you shouldn't. If you truly have a love for the art, then continue. Take all the classes and workshops you can, never leave a bad impression on anyone you meet and, most importantly, work hard.

## **IOCELYN** Formsma

**Program:** Social Sciences (major in public Administration) **School:** University of Ottawa City: Ottawa, ON

#### **S:** What inspired you to choose the direction you are taking?

After graduating from high school, I worked and volunteered for a number of years before attending university. It was my mentors and family encouraging me to get my post-secondary degree that really motivated me at the beginning. I wanted to take public administration to give myself the most options upon graduating.

**S:** Where do you see yourself in five years? In five years, I hope to graduate from law school and return to the Timmins/James Bay area. I want to return to my home

territory so that I can work to assist my family and community in any way I can, and raise my children to be fluent in their Cree culture and language.

#### **S:** What do you enjoy doing in your down time?

Most of my work and volunteering has been in politics. However, I've always continued to be an artist. I write. I make films and I love to sing. Art taps into the side of me that doesn't have to live by a schedule or deadlines. I can create and explore worlds that just don't exist in everyday life. It is my escape.

## NATHAN Twovoice

Program: Bachelor of Commerce School: University of Manitoba City: Winnipeg, MB

#### **S:** Why did you choose your program?

I wanted to continue with my education from my business administration diploma, which I completed at Red River College. I wanted to educate myself in an area where I could improve the economic status of First Nations, in any capacity possible.

#### **S:** What are your future career plans?

I plan to work directly with First Nations, either on reserve or off reserve, depending on opportunities available. My main goal is to find meaningful employment where I can contribute to the economic development progression.

#### S: What lessons have you learned through post-secondary education?

It is not an easy task to balance school responsibilities with family responsibilities and social obligations. There have been a lot more challenges than I expected. I have had to make many sacrifices, and it is sometimes difficult to have less time for family and friends.

# ERIC **Klapatiuk**

**Program:** Arts (theatre major) **School:** Thompson Rivers University City: Kamloops, BC

#### **S:** What inspired you to choose the direction you are taking?

I had a theatre teacher from Grade 8 to 10 who was one of my least favourite teachers at the time, who was the hardest to impress. We now Facebook each other and I finally realized she just really believed I could always do better and was always looking out for my best interests. She is definitely an inspiration as to the field of study I have chosen—theatre.

#### S: Did you already know what job you wanted when you started post-secondary

I loved working with youth and I saw theatre as an amazing passion. I would love to teach my own classes and direct my own high school productions. I've known what I wanted to do since Grade II and kept striving toward that goal I made.

#### **S:** Do you have advice for prospective students who do not know what to take in their first year?

Take a variety of whatever! There is so much that you don't get to experience in high school, and post-secondary education offers many more options to choose and take part in.

# **CH BDC YOUNG** ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

# \$100,000

## **TO BRING YOUR BUSINESS** TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Are you an **18- to 35-year-old** entrepreneur with an innovative project to grow your business? If so, pitch your idea in a short video and you could win the \$100.000 BDC Grand Prize for Innovation!







EXCLUSIVE MEDIA PARTNER



# ACQUIRE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE THROUGH BDC'S ABORIGINAL STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We are looking for 20 Aboriginal students (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) at the college and/or university level who are interested in a future career with BDC. Students must have completed at least one year of college or university and/or be enrolled in a bachelor of commerce or business administration program. Send your resume and cover letter to: angela.doerksen@bdc.ca.



FINANCING | VENTURE CAPITAL | CONSULTING

bdc.ca/careers