

Over 500 Indigenous students share over \$1.9 M in awards

VICTORIA: November 30, 2022 – Leah Alfred-Olmedo is working toward a master’s degree at the University of British Columbia, and the \$5000 Indigenous Student Award she recently received from the BC Scholarship Society will allow her the time she needs for study and research.

“I am incredibly grateful for the time that the Indigenous Award represents... time that I can spend working toward my degree, rather than pursuing financial resources. Awards such as this greatly impact the academic success of Indigenous students. Thank you for supporting our dreams.”

Leah is one of 547 Indigenous students sharing more than \$1.9 million in awards from the Society this year in support of their studies at public post-secondary institutions throughout BC.

The Society’s Indigenous 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 Indigenous peoples. Awards of \$2,000 to \$5,000 each are issued every year to students studying at all post-secondary levels, from trades training to doctoral programs.

“These scholarships will support Indigenous students in reaching their educational goals, helping them focus on their studies and find further success,” said Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. “We’ve put forward investments in post-secondary supports, housing, and gathering places to ensure the post-secondary system is relevant and responsive to Indigenous students and they can access education in a welcoming, culturally safe environment. This work is ongoing.”

The [BC Scholarship Society](https://www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca) provides awards and scholarships to students attending public post-secondary institutions throughout the province and internationally. Since its inception, nearly \$30 million has been distributed to B.C. students from its six scholarship and award programs. The Victoria Foundation provides administrative support to the Society.

“Awards from BC Scholarship Society are more than just financial assistance - they are life assistance and can be life changing. We are proud to provide this support and to be able to help develop future leaders.”
Noted Society Chair, Melvin Berg.

Learn More:

Eligibility criteria and application instructions for *Indigenous Student Awards* are available at:
<https://www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca/indigenous-awards/about-this-award/>

Media contact:

Rory Grewar, Program Director, BC Scholarship Society
Phone: 1-844-478-4645 | Email: rgrewar@bcscholarshipsociety.ca