

### Women in Technology & Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarships - Building Our Capacity

2023 marks the sixth year for the *Women in Technology & Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarships (WITS) Program* which continues to create a strong framework to support women engaged in the study and practice of technology – engineering, mathematics, and computer/data sciences in British Columbia. \$10,000 scholarships are awarded by the BC Scholarship Society to selected applicants based on their unique narratives combined with academic excellence. Funds for the awarding of the Scholarships were granted to the Society by the Province of BC.

*“Over the past six years this government has put an emphasis on tech with significant investments in more tech seats,” said Selina Robinson, B.C.’s Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. “Getting more women and especially Indigenous women in B.C. into this sector is key and that’s why we are supporting these tech scholarships. As part of our StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, it’s providing more accessible education and skills training for those facing barriers to build good paying careers.”*

Twelve *Women in Technology Scholarships* were awarded today at a ceremony held at the Helijet International Inc. aircraft hangar in Richmond, BC. Helijet is a long-standing supporter of the *WITS Program*.

#### 2023 Women in Technology and Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarship Recipients

Anderson*	Brie	University of Victoria	Mechanical Engineering
Dressler	Aislinn	University of Victoria	Civil Engineering
Flores Pitton	Agustina	University of British Columbia	Civil Engineering
Greville	Emma	University of British Columbia	Applied Science
Hagerty	Ali	Kwantlen Polytechnic Institute	Computer Science
Han	Sara	University of British Columbia	Electrical Engineering
Le	Lona	Simon Fraser University	Sustainable Energy Engineering
Nguyen	Thi Ngoc Anh	BC Institute of Technology	Computer Science
Rea	Georgia	University of British Columbia	Applied Science
Riley	Bethany	University of British Columbia	Mathematics
Sedlock	Sarah	Camosun College	Electronics and Computer Engineering
Shang	Jessie	University of British Columbia	Computer Science

\*Anderson was awarded the Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarship

Yasmin Dibai, who will be graduating from SFU's Sustainable Energy Engineering program in 2024, is a past *Women in Technology Scholarship* recipient. *“The WITS scholarship provided me with the confidence and resources to create opportunities to demystify STEM for the incoming generation, in collaboration with the BC Scholarship Society, in hopes of encouraging them to pursue a rewarding career in STEM and spreading the WITS Scholarship message,”* she notes.

Since its founding in 2006, the BC Scholarship Society has awarded more than \$34 million in scholarships and awards to thousands of BC students through five different programs including *Transfer, International, Indigenous, Adult Basic Education, and Women in Technology*. The Society is governed by a volunteer board of directors and is administered by the Victoria Foundation.

*“It is encouraging to see the improvement in women’s representation in the STEM fields in recent years. However, gender disparities still exist due to several factors. The WITS scholarship program along with other initiatives, helps lower the barriers to harnessing the full potential of diverse talents to drive innovation, economic growth, and societal progress”* said Society Board Chair, Firas Abbasi.

**Learn More:** To learn more about the Women in Technology Scholarship Program or any of the Society’s other scholarship and award programs, visit [www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca](http://www.bcscholarshipsociety.ca)

**Media contact:** Rory Grewar, Program Director, BC Scholarship Society [rgrewar@bcscholarshipsociety.ca](mailto:rgrewar@bcscholarshipsociety.ca)