

Urban Spirit Foundation



The Urban Spirit Foundation (USF) is a charitable organization that exists to further the success and self-reliance of Urban Indigenous people in the Metro Vancouver Region. USF was created in 2007 by the founders of ACCESS, and with ACCESS' support all funds raised by USF go directly to our purpose with no administration fee. We are united in our purpose, with the Foundation working to grow philanthropic resources to provide education and employment training opportunities, secondary and post-secondary scholarships and bursaries, and community-based programs and projects that move people from poverty to self-sufficiency.

In what seems like a short time since, we have worked to create our vision, build our leadership, support our local community, and engage with people who have been so moved by our purpose that they have made valued contributions of many kinds.

Annually, USF supports the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre's Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program. Children receive a backpack filled with school supplies needed to start the new school year. USF also supports the VAFCS (Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society) Children's Christmas Party where low-income families receive a food hamper, and each child receives a present to open on Christmas morning. Each year for Giving Tuesday, USF has the Chili and Bannock Lunch-To-Go Fundraiser and the Annual USF Charity Golf Classic Tournament.



CHAD ROBINSON
GITGA'AT FIRST NATION

Chad was enrolled in the Carpentry Foundations program at BCIT and received the USF top student award for his great attitude and commitment to the program. He received the award for overcoming barriers and still attended and worked hard to maintain an elevated level of achievement in his schoolwork. He was a leader in the classroom and helpful to his classmates.

"My future goal is to get my Red Seal in Carpentry so hopefully one day I can build a house of my own. I'd like to thank the USF for helping me on my journey to get my Red Seal certification."

USF would like to wish him all the best with his future goals.



CRYSTAL CHAPMAN
SKAWAHLOOK FIRST NATION

Crystal Chapman returned to school as a mature student. She is enrolled in Integrated Studies at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. She was chosen to receive the Urban Spirit Foundation scholarship because of her drive and commitment to overcoming all the barriers she faced. She has a great attitude and doesn't let anything get in the way of her success to achieve her goals and dreams.

She would like to help the Indigenous community to heal from their trauma due to Colonization and Residential School experiences.

"I would like thank USF for the financial help. I am extremely grateful for all the assistance that I received on my educational journey".

Since 2010 we have provided over **153 scholarships** totaling over **\$150,000.**

JEWELL ISAAC
CARRIER FROM NAK'AZDLI WHUT'EN NATION

Jewell is Carrier from the Nak'azdli Whut'en Nation. She is 18 years old. She is from Fort St. James and moved to Vancouver when she was 3 years old. Congratulations to Jewell who successfully graduated from the Tupper Nova Program with the Vancouver School Board. Jewell has plans to enrol in the Culinary Arts program at Vancouver Community College. Jewell received an Urban Spirit Foundation award for all her hard work and perseverance.

"Thank you to Urban Spirit Foundation for the scholarship. I would like to pursue the Culinary Arts Program at Vancouver Community College to further my cooking skills and learn more about food and nutrition."





JODI KLASHINSKI
MÉTIS

Jodi is 21 years old and is from the Musqueam Nation. Jodi completed high school at South Hill Education Centre and is now enrolled in the Child and Youth Care program at Douglas College. She hopes to pursue a degree in Social Work.

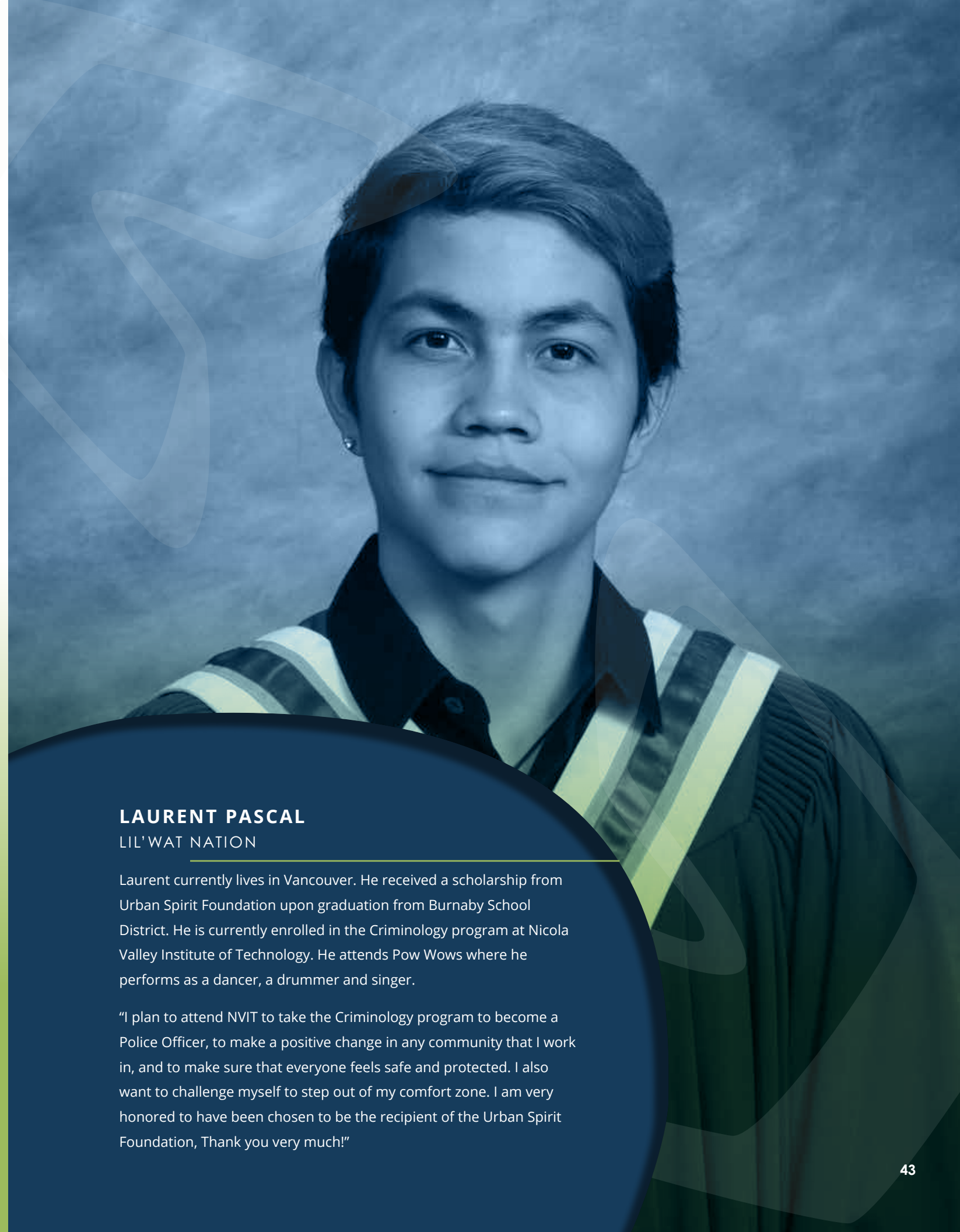
"I intend on getting my child and youth care diploma, pursuing my Bachelor of Social Work to benefit Indigenous communities. I am doing this to break the cycles within my own family. Intergenerational trauma ends with me. If I can do it, you can too. Thank you to USF for the scholarship, it helped to start off my 1st year of college without worry!"



LAURENT PASCAL
LIL'WAT NATION

Laurent currently lives in Vancouver. He received a scholarship from Urban Spirit Foundation upon graduation from Burnaby School District. He is currently enrolled in the Criminology program at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. He attends Pow Wows where he performs as a dancer, a drummer and singer.

"I plan to attend NVIT to take the Criminology program to become a Police Officer, to make a positive change in any community that I work in, and to make sure that everyone feels safe and protected. I also want to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone. I am very honored to have been chosen to be the recipient of the Urban Spirit Foundation, Thank you very much!"



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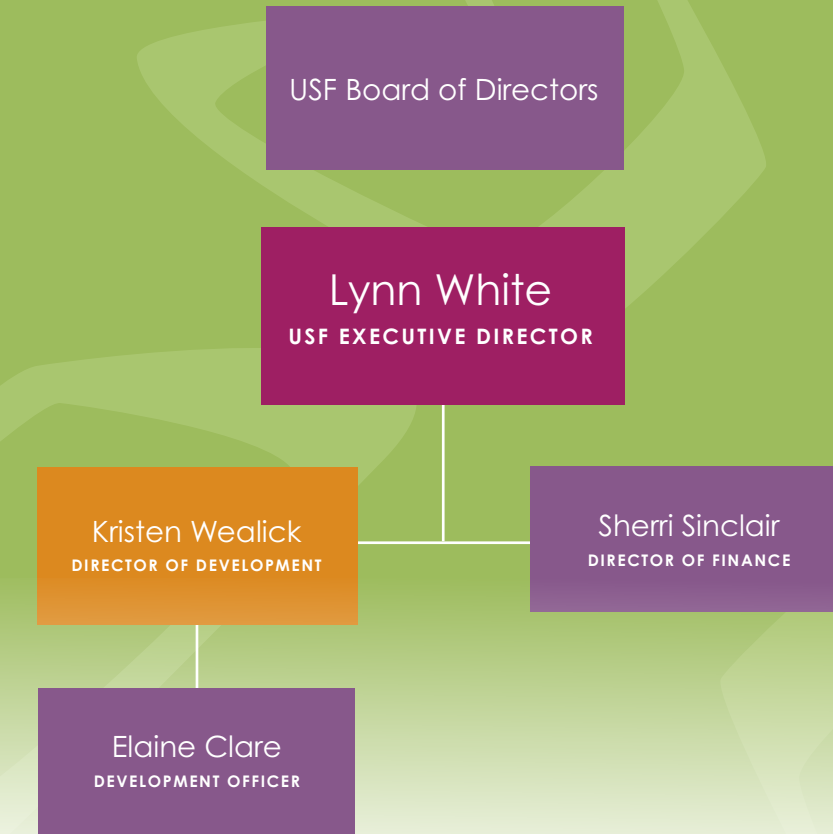
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Organization Chart



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