

# 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.



Since 2010 we have provided more than 172 scholarships totaling over \$164,000



## Heaven Makokis

Heaven Makokis is from Saddle Creek First Nation in Saskatchewan. She attended Tamanawis Secondary High School in Surrey. Heaven is pursuing a business career in the construction industry and will be attending Kwantlen College.

**“Merging my passion for business with my interest in construction, I aim to land a dynamic and impactful business-oriented role in this field. I can’t thank you enough for this incredible opportunity, and I am committed to making the most out of it.”**



## Kenton Dalaney

Kenton Dalaney is twenty-three, Blackfoot, Kaninai Blood Tribe from Alberta. Kenton completed the ACCESS Sheet Metal worker program and is currently employed with Modern Niagara. Kenton is working on the construction of the new St Paul’s Hospital, and he is thankful for his career opportunity, and he is also attending school part time towards his degree. Kenton plans to complete his Red Seal and move back home and have/start his own business. The Urban Spirit Foundation award has helped him on his journey towards more education and he is thankful for the support and encouragement towards his future goals.

## Wakenniosta (Rosie) Cooper

Wakenniosta Rosie Cooper is Mohawk of the Kanesatake, and she started her training through ACCESS, it has changed her life and provided her with a lifelong career that is very fulfilling. She cannot see herself working in any other field now! Since 2018, Wakenniosta has won countless awards from outstanding graduate, apprentice of the year, high achievement award for level 2 of her apprenticeship, and second place at the BC Skills competition for electrical wiring in 2023.

Wakenniosta received the Urban Spirit Foundation Scholarship after finishing her fourth year of Electrical. “Urban Spirit Foundation and ACCESS are great resources for the Indigenous community. They assisted me in identifying my career goals and provided support since 2018!

“Thanks to Urban Spirit Foundation for the scholarship, it helped me feel great about finishing my studies. Hopefully, I will win Foreman of the Year in the future!”



## Tanis Wilson

Tanis Wilson is Cree from Constance Lake First Nations in Ontario. Constance received the Urban Spirit Award to recognize her hard work and commitment to her program of studies.

“Miigwetch Urban Spirit Foundation for my award in 2023! As a single student living in Vancouver, finances can cause burdens or stress because the city is expensive, and I am unable to work during the school year. Awards such as yours relieve financial stress, therefore, I am very grateful.

In April 2024, I completed Nicola Valley Institute of Technology’s Bachelor of Social Work with a specialization in Indigenous health care. I am happy to share that I will be continuing my education in the Juris Doctor (law degree) program at The University of British Columbia in September 2024. “

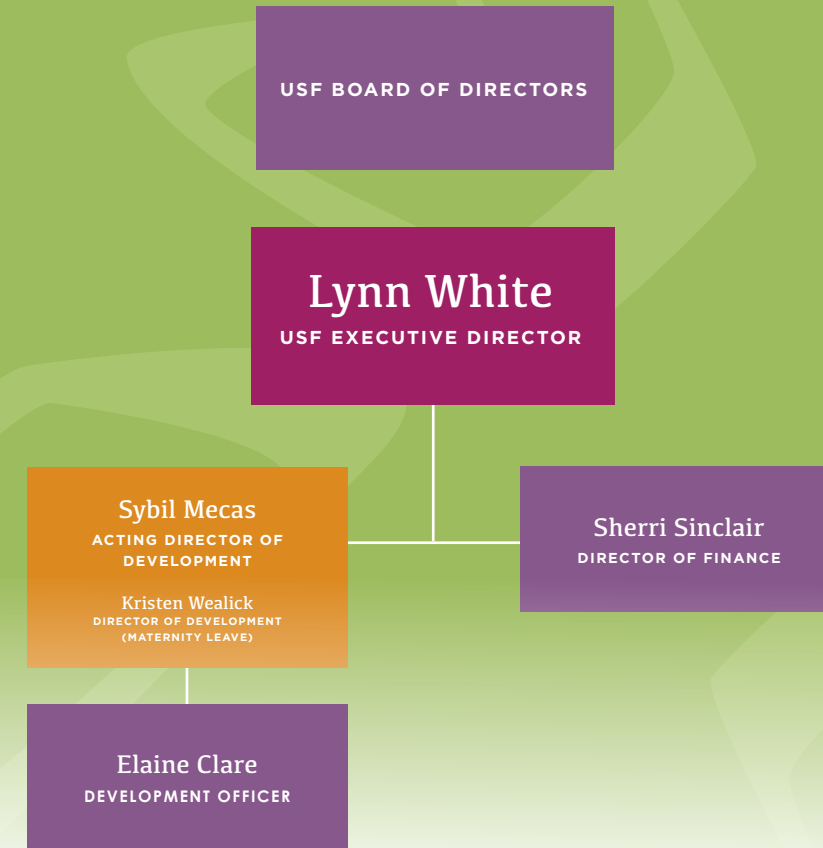


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# Organization Chart



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