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talk

**Scholarships:
Heroes of
Our Time (HOOT)
and Indspire**

it's
our
time

The future has never been brighter for First Nations students with post-secondary education and training. This is a time of opportunity from coast to coast to coast for First Nations members with skills, knowledge, background and experience and a First Nations perspective. It is clear that post-secondary education has never been more important for First Nations students.

The Assembly of First Nations is proud to support First Nations youth through the ***Heroes of Our Time (HOOT) Scholarships*** Program. ***Heroes of Our Time Scholarships*** are awarded by the Assembly of First Nations to acknowledge and celebrate the success of First Nations students in achieving their educational goals.

The Scholarships are awarded in eight categories, each Scholarship in a different discipline. Each Scholarship is named in honour of a First Nations hero and has a value of \$2,000.

The application process requires demonstrated *exceptional academic abilities and a commitment to extra-curricular/volunteer activities*. Applications must include a completed application form, a 1500 word essay, official transcripts, two (2) reference letters and proof of First Nations ancestry (photocopy of Indian Status or Treaty Card). The essay should outline why you should receive the ***Heroes of Our Time Scholarship***. Be sure to include reasons why you chose your field of study, various accomplishments, future career plans, interests, volunteer and community work with any Aboriginal community or organization.

More information on deadlines, application processes and the scholarship program can be found at <http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/policy-areas/education/other/heroes-of-our-time-scholarships-2012>

The application form is available at http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/hoot_2010_eng_app_form.pdf
Because the application form may be updated without notice, please check the website for the most recent version.

Application packages can be sent to:
Assembly of First Nations
55 Metcalfe St., Suite 1600
Ottawa ON
K1P 6L5

Heroes of Our Time (HOOT) Scholarships

Jack Fire Award in Criminology

Jake Fire, a Mohawk from Akwesasne, was known as a strong defender of the Iroquois Confederacy. He was a citizen of a society that practiced a sophisticated order of government long before the arrival of the Europeans. On May 1, 1899, he was assassinated by the Canadian Dominion Police while attempting to protect his brother, Grand Chief Jacob Fire. This award is for post-secondary education in Criminology.

Walter Dieter Award in Social Work

Walter Dieter, a member of the Peepeekisis Reserve, became involved in First Nations politics in 1958 when he laid the foundation for the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre in Saskatoon. He helped form the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and became its first leader in 1966. Walter Dieter was one of the founders of the National Indian Brotherhood that was formed to combat the assimilation of First Nations peoples. This award is for post-secondary education in Social Work.

Robert Smallboy Award in Medicine

Born in 1898, Chief Robert Smallboy was a member of the Cree Nation of Ermineskin Band of Alberta. In an attempt to remove his people from the devastating influence of the Western World, he moved the band into a wilderness area just east of the Rocky Mountains. Chief Smallboy stood strong in his belief that his people had a right to live their traditional way and on their traditional lands. This award is for post-secondary education in Medicine.

James Gosnell Award in Law

James Gosnell was a hereditary chief of the Eagle Clan of the Nisga'a in British Columbia. He entered politics to secure the recognition of the Aboriginal title and rights of the Nisga'a people. He was a fearless advocate of Aboriginal title/ rights and displayed his talents as an orator to the fullest during the First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal Matters. This award is for post-secondary education in Law.

Tommy Prince Award in Native Studies

Sgt. Tommy Prince, from Brokenhead Band in Scanterbury, Manitoba, received the highest military decoration for bravery, the Silver Star. In World War II he served in the elite Devil's Brigade and then re-enlisted in the Korean War. This award is for post-secondary education in Native Studies.

Omar Peters Award in Political Science

Omer Peters was a founding member of the Union of Ontario Indians and served in positions of President and Executive Director. At the national level, he helped form the National Indian Brotherhood and served as its Vice-President and Chairman of the Council of Elders. This award is for post secondary-education in Political Science.

Dr. Freda Ahenakew Award in Education

Freda Ahenakew was considered a leader in Indigenous language preservation and literary heritage preservation in Canada. She had 12 children and only returned to follow her educational goals in 1968, where she attended high school with 9 of her children. She obtained her Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979 while teaching Cree Language. She eventually became a professor in Native studies at the University of Manitoba. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1998 and was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2005.

John Young Award in Science

John Young was a Chief of The Pas First Nation, an Elder from Swampy Cree Tribal Council, a senator for First Nations and a positive role model for all Aboriginal people. John believed that one of the keys to First Nation success, prosperity, and sovereignty is through education. John always encouraged and supported First Nations people to attain the highest levels of Education and use the acquired knowledge and skills to enhance the lives of all Aboriginal people. He envisioned the day when Canada would be enriched by First Nation lawyers, doctors, lawmakers, educators, corporate executives, political scientists and social scientists.

Indspire: Bursaries and Scholarship Awards

Since its inception in 1985, Indspire has disbursed almost \$65 million through close to 20,000 scholarships and bursaries to Indigenous students, making it the largest funder of Indigenous education outside the federal government.

Indspire disburses funds to Indigenous youth across Canada, covering all disciplines in funding categories: Fine Arts, Oil and Gas and Trades and Technology, Health Careers and Post Secondary Education.

Indspire is able to obtain and disburse this much-needed financial support by partnering and engaging some of Canada's leading companies, public agencies, professional and labour groups who generously invest their resources toward realization of the potential of First Nation, Inuit and Métis students.

Download the *Building Brighter Futures* booklet for more information about Indspire's financial awards and the generous organizations and individuals who support our work.

<https://indspire.ca/programs/building-brighter-futures>

The Elijah Harper Memorial Award

The RBC Foundation is sponsoring a new scholarship to be awarded annually beginning in 2015. The Elijah Harper Memorial Award will be given annually to an applicant who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education in the field of commerce or business, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities by championing the principles of consultation and collaboration, and has been involved and shown a commitment to extracurricular/volunteer activities.

RBC is committed to helping bridge the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons in Canada through impactful initiatives that support post-secondary education like the Heroes of Our Time scholarships, said Annette Sabourin, Vice President Aboriginal Markets, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, NW Ontario and North of 60. By introducing a new scholarship, we know each winner will strive to match the conviction and strength of character of Elijah Harper, and honour his legacy through their own commitment to personal growth through post-secondary education.

it's our time...

*Whatever you do in life,
do the very best you can
with both your heart and mind.
Lakota*

