



2022 INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

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I am an Indigenous girl from Paul Band First Nations in Alberta and a student at Rick Hansen Secondary. I moved to the lower mainland when I was nine years old. Due to moving so far, I have always struggled with finding ways to associate myself with my culture. It was a difficult journey but I was able to overcome these obstacles by finding several ways to connect. I stayed involved in Indigenous-based activities at school and always had Indigenous connections available to me. For example, during Truth and Reconciliation week, I taught multiple classes how to smudge and cleanse themselves and shared the meaning behind smudging. As a senior Air Cadet, I take leadership in getting to know other Indigenous Cadets and ensure that they are not alone. I also taught and completed a lesson on the history of the Cadet organizations involvement in Residential Schools. At school I found it extremely difficult to maintain a balance between online learning and my personal life. Halfway through Grade 11, I finally found that balance which reflects in my grades and journal. My hope is to attend UBC or UVIC and study for a BA in English and History as well as a BEd and to become a secondary teacher. I'd like to work in a school located in an Indigenous community. A piece of advice that I would give other Indigenous students is that you cannot rely on anyone but yourself to put the work in. Put in that effort and I promise you, life will reward you!



**Indigenous
Education**