The School Perseverance Scholarships were created to recognize efforts, enthusiasm, perseverance and involvement of First Peoples students.

In this first year, we have received numerous applications from youths whose paths are all more than inspiring. We are proud to be able to witness the perseverance and involvement of these students, and to see the support afforded by the different actors of the education community surrounding them, teachers and professionals, as well as parents.

We want to acknowledge and support these young First Peoples who continue to progress and evolve despite the hardships, and we wish to emphasize their exemplary tenacity.

To all of you, thank you for your great participation! Please know that we are behind you and we encourage you to continue on the path of perseverance.

Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite’s team and members of scientific committee
Julia Chachai, Atikamekw Nation, Nikanik School
“Those barriers demonstrate my school perseverance and determination. I learned to be stronger in school and continue till the end. That makes me a role model for younger students in my school, that’s what pushed me to go further.”

Lucasi Iyaituk, Inuit Nation, Iguarsivik School
“Lucasi wants to help his community, the younger ones and peers … and that’s what makes him so unique. He is a positive role model for other students in the school. He is an extremely inspiring young man!”
Audrey Morin, Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse

Cindy Petiquay Richer, Atikamekw Nation, centre de formation générale des adultes des Rives-du-Saguenay
“I want to be a role model for my children. I want to show my determination and that one should never give up. Every day I try to get better and to challenge myself. I’m close to getting my high school diploma and I have the motivation to keep going till the end.”

Audrey Morin, Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse

Rebecca Tukalak, Inuit Nation, Iguarsivik School
“Rebecca asks for help, verbalizes her difficulties, comes to school, and is committed within its environment. She certainly is an inspiration. Her maturity, her sensitivity and her sense of responsibility make Rebecca a crucial part of the school.”
Audrey Morin, Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse

Liliane Fournier, Inuit Nation, Iguarsivik School
“Liliane is a force of nature. When facing challenges, she gets into a solution mode and moves into action. Liliane is a positive role model at all times, with a bright future!”
Audrey Morin, Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse

Allisson Cheezo, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“I am very motivated to finish high school. I’d like to be a model for those behind me; I would like to show them that anything is possible. Even when there are difficulties, it is possible to go for what we want to be in the future and to have a good life.”

Romana Poucachiche, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“For me, school was never easy. I want to get a school diploma to be a model for my little sister, but the most important reason is that I want to get it from the school where my grandmother was director.”

Kayla Poucachiche, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“It is my self-pride and desire to make it that helps a lot. My greatest wish is to see my community to increase its graduation rate, so I will contribute hoping to become a model for future generations, and I will work hard for it. We are all capable.”

Norman Junior Papatie, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“I realized that despite the ups and downs, I have to move forward. We cannot stand still, it leads nowhere. I want to be an idol for the youth in my community; I also want to show them the outside world.”

Audrey Morin, Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse
Michel Byron, Innu Nation, Manikanetish School
“Very few people were aware of my condition (epilepsy). I had to open up to my friends and my teachers to explain my absences. The support I have received moved me. I was able to catch up and it allowed me to strengthen bonds of friendship.”

Alain Wabanonik, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“When I face difficulties, I continue to move forward and I do not intend to give up so easily. I manage with the support of my family, my friends, and my teachers.”

Katherine Ottawa-Néquado, Atikamekw Nation, Chavigny School
“For sure my motivation had decreased significantly, but the feeling of wanting to succeed was still present. So, I continued to make efforts. Even today, I see that perseverance is worth the while. I have improved a lot and I’m proud.”

Keanna Goodleaf, Mohawk Nation, Howard S. Billings School
“However, I still accomplished my goal all these years without knowing I had this problem [reading comprehension disability] by working hard and going to every tutorial session offered.”

Daphnée Petiquay-Wabamoose, Atikamekw Nation, école forestière de La Tuque
“I give my all until the end, without letting go. Despite the difficulties, I always knew how to overcome them and stay motivated. No matter what happens, I understood that we should let go. It takes sustained effort and do what it takes to get ahead in life. Perseverance is worth it.”

Daphné Rock, Innu Nation, Centre d’éducation des Adultes Chemin du Roy
“Everything was destroyed around me, nothing tempted me. Two years after [my diagnosis of pancreatic cancer], I decided to pull myself together and return to school.”
Jérémy Gill Verreault, Innu Nation, Kassinu Mamu School
“I decided to get myself together. I stopped playing video games to focus on my time in school and sports, which was very beneficial. I stand out in the cinema by my imagination, while being able to stay serious when necessary.”

William Branconnier, Innu Nation, Kassinu Mamu School
“Today, I’m proud of myself, I’m graduating and I am aware that many challenges await me in college, but I’m confident, persevering, and above all, I know I can ask for help if needed. I have come a long way since the first secondary year. I have come a long way since the first year in high school.”

Maina Vassillou-Allard, Innu Nation, polyvalente de l’Érablière
“I really wanted to success in this area; therefore during several afternoons at school, I took remedial classes and I had a private tutor on weekends.”

Andrew Manisishish, Innu Nation, Teueikan School
“My mother is my inspiration. She always encouraged me to finish high school, although I was not motivated. She would always say to me: ‘You’ll be proud of yourself after!’ My motivation made me do lots of nice things.”

Mélodie Bernard, Mohawk Nation, école Liberté-Jeunesse
“I work hard and educators help me to put resources in place to help me to persevere, to motivate me and calm me down when I get angry.”

Marie-Soleil Mapachee, Algonquin Nation, polyvalente la Forêt
“During examination sessions, I motivate myself with my friends and I try to take it one day at a time.”

Vicky Penosway, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“I often tell myself that it is not the time to fail when I’m so close to the goal. I believe I am able to succeed because my motivation is there.”

JÉRÔME LACHANCE
Teacher of mathematics and sciences

WILLIAM BRANCONNIER
Innu Nation
Kassinu Mamu School

MARC ROY
Teacher of mathematics and sciences

BRIAN AUDLA-TOOKTOO, Cree Nation, Golden Valley School
“I’m determined. I first do any work by myself. If I face a problem, I ask a peer and if he doesn’t know either, I ask a teacher for help.”

VICTOR MCCANDLISH
Innu Nation
Kassinu Mamu School

WILL
Innu Nation
Kassinu Mamu School

PATRICIA DANN
Teacher and Coordinator (IB)
DREAMS AND OBJECTIVES

Damiana Mestokosho-Napess, Innu Nation, Teueikan School
“My motivation was to prove to myself that I could succeed and, above all, finish high school. This is a goal that I gave myself. My family was there to encourage me in times when I wanted to drop everything.”

Dominique Papatie, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“I am now in Secondary 4 and I still don’t want to quit school. I want a good future for myself, I won’t let go. My motivation comes to mind when thinking about school.”

Coralie Robertson, Innu Nation, cité étudiante de Roberval
“I am a person determined to get my degree to be able to realize my dreams. I tell myself that if I want them to come true, I have to put the necessary efforts to achieve them and that’s what motivates me to persevere.”

Alyssa Jérôme, Innu Nation, Manikoutai School
“I know what can happen to me if I drop out of school and it gives me good reason to stay in school and achieve my goals and dreams.”

Benoît Beauchamp, Mohawk Nation, école secondaire d’Oka
“I am proud of the efforts that I have made. My motivation started when I found out what I wanted to do later. This allowed me to believe in myself and to have better results.”

Kosis Petiquay-Quoquochi, Atikamekw Nation, école forestière de La Tuque
“I am not discouraged; I want to achieve my goal, so I move forward.”

Gabrielle Beauchamp, Mohawk Nation, école secondaire d’Oka
“What motivates me the most is my future laboratory technician job. For this work, I give my 110% to school, what I did not do before because I did not have this magnificent project.”

Mélina-Jane Anichinapéo, Algonquin Nation, polyvalente le Carrefour
“I am proud of the efforts that I have made. My motivation started when I found out what I wanted to do later. This allowed me to believe in myself and to have better results.”

Nikki Wabanonik Pénosway, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School
“Yes, at times I did have the urge to quit everything, but I often find solutions. There are many reasons why I am still sitting at a desk, it is because I have dreams and goals in life that I am pursuing and I think that’s what motivates me the most!”

JULIA CHACHAI
Attikamekw Nation
Nikanik School

CAMILLE ROBIDOUX-DAIGNEAULT
Teacher of French

Mélina-Jane Anichinapéo, Algonquin Nation, polyvalente le Carrefour
“I am proud of the efforts that I have made. My motivation started when I found out what I wanted to do later. This allowed me to believe in myself and to have better results.”

Benoît Beauchamp, Mohawk Nation, école secondaire d’Oka
“I am proud of the efforts that I have made. My motivation started when I found what I wanted to do later. This allowed me to believe in myself and to have better results.”

Kosis Petiquay-Quoquochi, Atikamekw Nation, école forestière de La Tuque
“I am not discouraged; I want to achieve my goal, so I move forward.”
Sabrina Aylestock,  
Innu Nation, Manikoutai School  
“My academic success rhymes with the word commitment. I stand out at meetings, express my ideas freely, and do show determination and leadership. This is my last year in high school, you have to enjoy it!”

Noah Kilupa Eliyassialuk,  
Inuit Nation, Iguarsivik School  
“Noah made a strong comeback in school by demonstrating his constant desire to make a difference in the community. His involvement is growing and he wants more and more committed, which is extremely inspiring!”

Audrey Morin,  
Coordinator for Fusion Jeunesse

Shanon Germain, Innu Nation,  
polyvalente des Quatre-Vents  
“My motivation was evident when I decided to enroll in a program not knowing who was going to this school, and being the only Aboriginal in my cohort. I found it important to be part of a committee, because it allows me to be behind the scenes, to be aware and participate in many activities.”

Debbie Mapachee,  
Algonquin Nation,  
polyvalente la Forêt  
“I’m in my final year of high school. This was an important and remarkable step for me. I am motivated more than ever to continue my studies. I stand out by my leadership and my involvement.”

Britney Commonda, Algonquin Nation,  
D’Arcy McGee High School  
“I am sure that she will play an important role in her community in the near future. She is not a quitter and she is very determined and motivated to succeed academically. Britney is very involved in creating awareness of indigenous issues at school and in her community.”

June Moar, Atikamekw Nation,  
Institut secondaire Keranna  
“This student stands out, among others, by his openness and intellectual curiosity. All other teachers also testify to his involvement, autonomy, and respect for other students.”

Mélissa Paré, Professor in social sciences at Institut secondaire Keranna
LIST OF WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

PATH TO PERSEVERANCE
Nelly-Kate Courtois
LIST OF THE 6 WINNERS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER, BY FIRST NAME) AND OF THE 7 FINALISTS FOR THE SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE FOR FIRST PEOPLES SCHOLARSHIPS

JULIA CHACHAI (ATIKAMEKW NATION)
FINALISTS: CINDY PETIQUAY RICHER AND ANNIE MIKIS DUBÉ DUBORD

KAREN PIEN (ALGONQUIN NATION)
FINALISTS: CAMERON RANKIN AND GREGORY WAWATIE

KAYLA OTTER-MOWATT (CREE NATION)

KEANNA GOODLEAF (MOHAWK NATION)
FINALIST GABRIELLE BEAUCHAMP

LUCASI IYAITUK (INUIT NATION)
FINALIST LILIANE FOURNIER

WILLIAM BRANCONNIER (INNU NATION)
FINALIST CORALIE ROBERTSON

LIST OF THE 46 PARTICIPANTS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER, BY FIRST NAME)
SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE FOR FIRST PEOPLES SCHOLARSHIPS

Alain Wabanonik (Algonquin Nation)
Allison Cheezo (Algonquin Nation)
Alyssa Jérôme (Innu Nation)
Andrew Manisishish (Innu Nation)
Annie Mikis Dubé-Dubord (Atikamekw Nation)
Benoit Beauchamp (Mohawk Nation)
Brian Audla-Tooktoo (Cree Nation)
Britney Commonda (Algonquin Nation)
Byron Michel (Innu Nation)
Cameron Rankin (Algonquin Nation)
Cindy Petiquay Richer (Atikamekw Nation)
Coralie Robertson (Innu Nation)
Damiana Mestokosho-Napess (Innu Nation)
Daphné Rock (Innu Nation)
Daphnée Petiquay-Wabamoose (Atikamekw Nation)
Daren Germain (Innu Nation)
Debbie Mapachee (Algonquin Nation)
Dominique Papatie (Algonquin Nation)
Gabrielle Beauchamp (Mohawk Nation)
Gregory Wawatie (Algonquin Nation)
Jean-Pierre Jonally-Rhanda (Atikamekw Nation)
Jérémy Gill Verreault (Innu Nation)
Julia Chachai (Atikamekw Nation)
June Moar (Atikamekw Nation)
Karen Pien (Algonquin Nation)
Katherine Ottawa-Néquado (Atikamekw Nation)
Kayla Otter-Mowatt (Cree Nation)
Kayla Poucachiche (Algonquin Nation)
Keanna Goodleaf (Mohawk Nation)
Kosis Petiquay-Quoquochi (Atikamekw Nation)
Liliane Fournier (Inuit Nation)
Lucasi Iyaituk (Inuit Nation)
Maïna Vassiliou-Allard (Innu Nation)
Marie-Soleil Mapachee (Algonquin Nation)
Méline Jane Anichinapéo (Algonquin Nation)
Mélodie Bernard (Mohawk Nation)
Nikki Wabanonik Pénosway (Algonquin Nation)
Noah Kilupa Eiyassialuk (Inuit Nation)
Norman Junior Papatie (Algonquin Nation)
Rebecca Tukalak (Inuit Nation)
Romana Poucachiche (Algonquin Nation)
Sabrina Aylestock (Innu Nation)
Shanon Germain (Innu Nation)
Shawerim Coocoo Weizineau (Atikamekw Nation)
Vicky Penosway (Algonquin Nation)
William Branconnier (Innu Nation)