

REPORT ON SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE

Thank you !

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**

MODEL

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.”

Julia Chachai, Atikamekw Nation, Nikanik School

“These 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.”

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

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



AUDREY MORIN ◀
Coordinator
for Fusion Jeunesse

▶ **LUCASI IYAITUK**
Inuit Nation
Iguarsivik School

Karen Pien, Algonquin Nation, Amik-Wiche School

“I would say that what motivated me most is that I will be a role model for my little sisters. Today I look how far I’ve come and I feel proud, proud of myself. Knowing that my family supports me gives me even more courage to move forward and finish high school!”

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.”

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.”

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.”

RESILIENCE

« **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."

« **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."



» **KEANNA GOODLEAF** ◀
Mohawk Nation
Howard S. Billings School

» **PATRICIA DANN**
Teacher and
Coordinator (IB)

« **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."

WILL

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."

Maïna Vassillou-Allard, Innu Nation, polyvalente de l'Érablière

"I really wanted to succeed 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.'"



JÉRÔME LACHANCE ◀
Teacher of mathematics
and sciences

▶ **WILLIAM BRANCONNIER**
Innu Nation
Kassinu Mamu School

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."

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."

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."

DREAMS AND OBJECTIVES

**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.”

**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.”

**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 in achieve them and that’s what motivates me to persevere.”

**Daren Germain, Innu Nation,
Kassinu Mamu School**

“I participate in territory outings to learn about the culture and practise the culture of my ancestors.”

JULIA CHACHAI ◀
**Attikamekw Nation
Nikanik School**

**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.”

**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.”

**Kosis Petiquay-Quoquochi,
Atikamekw Nation,
école forestière de La Tuque**

“I am not discouraged; I want to achieve my goal, so I move forward.”

**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!”



INVOLVEMENT

« **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!”

« **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.”

« **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



▶ **KAREN PIEN** «

Algonquin Nation
Amik-Wiche School

▶ **HÉLÈNE CARON**
Teacher

« **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**

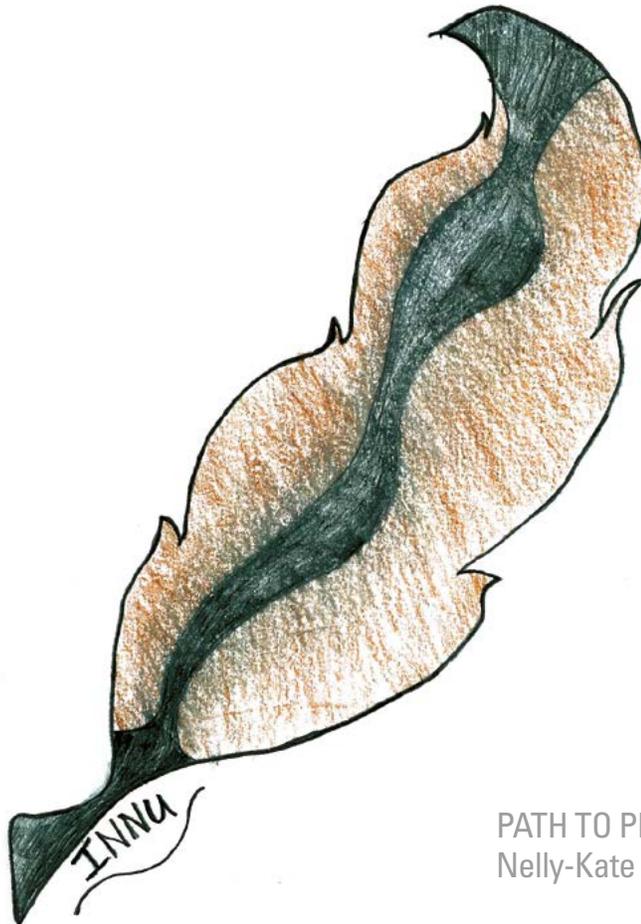
“I am sure that she will play an important role in her community in the near future. She is not a quitter and she is very determined and motivated to succeed academically. Britney is very involved in creating awareness of indigenous issues at school and in her community.”

Jennifer Piercey, Aboriginal Success Coordinator

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