2024 INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

Cadence Norton (Gitxsan) | Robert Bateman Secondary School

My grandmother is a residential school survivor; she hid her Indigenous ancestry, pride, and traditional knowledge, with her trauma; so, my knowledge of Indigenous peoples came from teachers and peers at school. I learned traditional harvesting alongside mentors; we gathered and processed stinging nettles and cedar. My artwork brings awareness to issues like the 60s-Scoop and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I have enjoyed being a part of the Indigenous leadership teams at school. In group projects, I am often considered the leader of the group because of my work ethic and attention to detail. I was accepted and completed the Junior Police Academy in grade 11. I continue to maintain honour-roll status and participate in school leadership groups while working and helping at home with my younger siblings. I plan to attend UFV and study criminal justice, which will lead to a career as a police officer with the Abbotsford Police Department. My goal is to work in a department connected to youth.

Words of Wisdom: Be a challenge seeker in life; explore your interests and learning opportunities. Being committed and passionate will help you achieve your goals!



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