



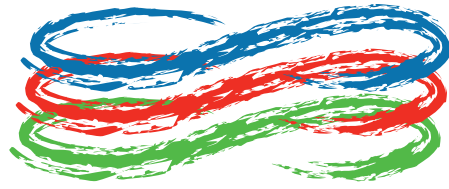
Celebrating **20** Years
BELCOURT BROSSEAU
Métis Awards

Congratulations on 20 years of success Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards!

We're proud to support the journey of
Métis learners and celebrate this
milestone anniversary.

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background. The background of the entire image is a scenic view of the city of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, featuring the Peace Bridge over the North Saskatchewan River, with a dense urban skyline in the background and green foliage in the foreground.

Edmonton



BELCOURT BROSSEAU
Métis Awards
creating possibilities

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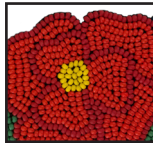
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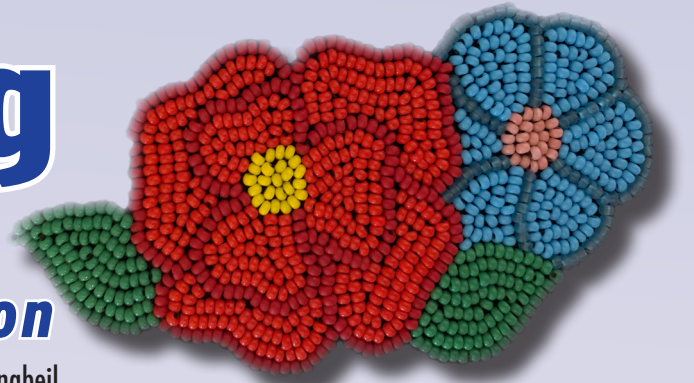


Port & Key

Publishing

Celebrating 20 Years of Métis Excellence in Education

By Cailynn Klingbeil



The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards create a stepping stone for a lifetime of success.

Twenty years ago, Herb Belcourt, Orval Belcourt and Georges Brosseau knew they had found the right community partner to make a lasting difference for Métis students in Alberta.

In 2001, they established

an endowment with Edmonton Community Foundation to create the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards (BBMA). The initial endowment was \$13 million. Today the fund has grown to \$20.5 million and supports Alberta

Métis students pursuing post-secondary education.

A key part of this growth has been continued individual and corporate contributions, including donations from Alberta Health Services, Scotiabank, TELUS, Métis Family Services, Syncrude and many others.

In 2010, Syncrude donated to the endowment fund to support students from the Wood Buffalo Region. This year, in celebration of the BBMA's 20th anniversary, Syncrude donated an additional \$200,000.

"It's a program that we're really proud to be associated with," says Will Gibson, Syncrude spokesperson. "We really



"Knowledge is a fire of education. We would like all members of the Métis family to be able light their candle against that fire, so all can have a brighter future."

-Georges Brosseau, Q.C.

BBMA Founders:
(from left) Herb Belcourt, Orval Belcourt, and Georges Brosseau, Q.C.

think that it's worthwhile, given our focus on working with Indigenous and Métis communities and focusing on trying to hire Indigenous and Métis people."

This support from the community has allowed the BBMAs' impact to grow. In 2002, 32 students received a BBMA, and in 2020, the number had grown more than five times to 161 recipients. The BBMA Panel hopes to eventually provide scholarships to all eligible applicants.

There is much to celebrate as the BBMAs mark their 20th anniversary. In two decades, more than \$9 million has been provided through over 2,000 awards to more than 1,500 Métis Albertans studying at post-secondary institutions. In 2021, more than 400 students applied for funding.

The BBMAs are now one of the largest sources of non-governmental funding for Métis students in Canada. Orval and Georges are still involved, as was Herb, until his death in 2017.

Orval and Georges sit on the BBMA Panel, where they guide the program and review award applications. Applicants are evaluated on numerous criteria, including the likelihood of improved opportunities through education, financial need, connection to their Métis community and personal circumstances.

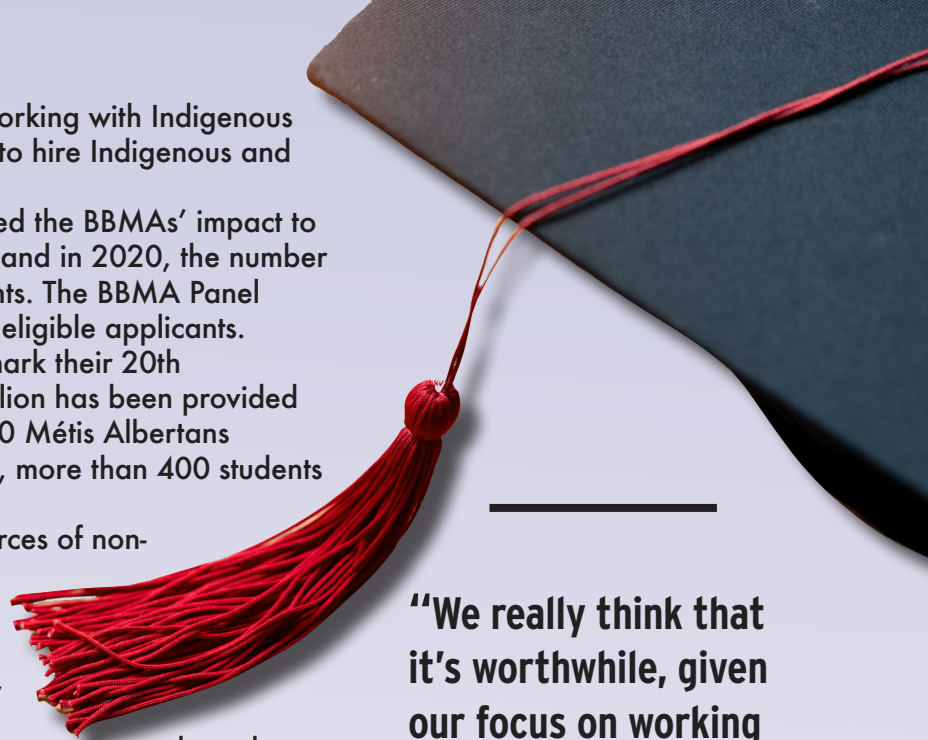
"When we created the BBMAs, we had an endless date in mind," explains Orval. "Today, our principal investment is over \$20 million, and our student awards average is increasing. In this new age of virtual and technical communication, education is vital, and I am so pleased to see our Métis people placing a higher priority on learning."

The founders are also part of the annual BBMA Sash Ceremony. At the ceremony, students receive their sash from Métis Elders. As they are welcomed into the BBMA family, they are also connected to sponsors, their Métis community and fellow students. This demonstrates that the community is there to support them on their educational journey.

Over the past 20 years, the awards have had a significant impact on the Métis community in Alberta. The BBMAs have set up students for success in their careers and in their lives. Recipients are advancing in their careers, becoming key decision-makers and giving back to their communities.

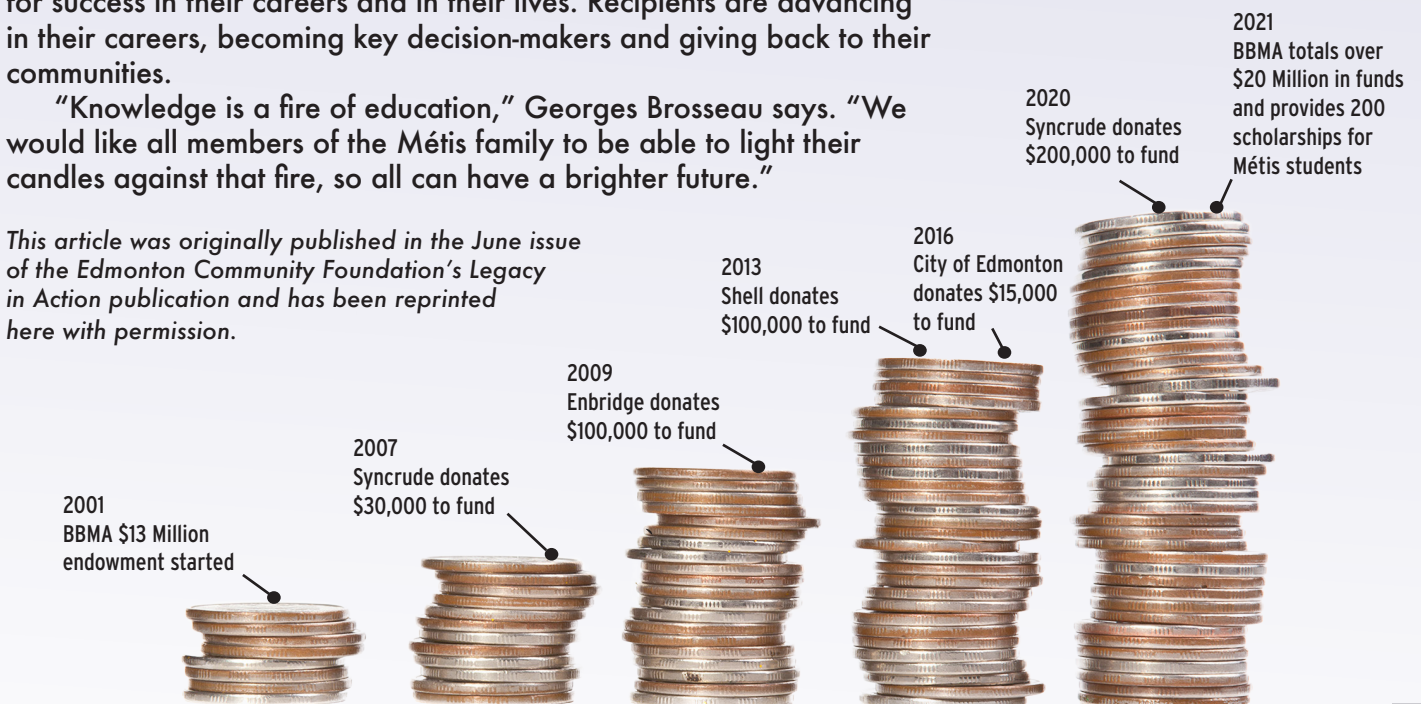
"Knowledge is a fire of education," Georges Brosseau says. "We would like all members of the Métis family to be able to light their candles against that fire, so all can have a brighter future."

This article was originally published in the June issue of the Edmonton Community Foundation's Legacy in Action publication and has been reprinted here with permission.



"We really think that it's worthwhile, given our focus on working with Indigenous and Métis Communities and focusing on trying to hire Indigenous and Métis people."

-Will Gibson, Syncrude



2008
Recipient

Autumn Whiteway
Artist & Archaeologist

Born and raised in Calgary, Autumn is a scholar that holds multiple university degrees. With the support of the BBMA, she completed a B.Sc. in Archaeology and B.A. in Greek and Roman Studies. She currently works as an archaeologist and has done research in Jordan, Ethiopia, Italy, Iceland, and Canada.

Currently, she is on maternity leave, enjoying time with her son, Migizi. After his birth, she started curating the art exhibition, “Indigenous Motherhood and Matriarchy.” The exhibition quickly grew to three shows, with the final exhibition opening this September. In addition to curating art collections, Autumn is also producing her own art. “My work focuses on both traditional Woodland style art, the style grandfathered by Norval Morrisseau, and activist art to

highlight Indigenous issues.”

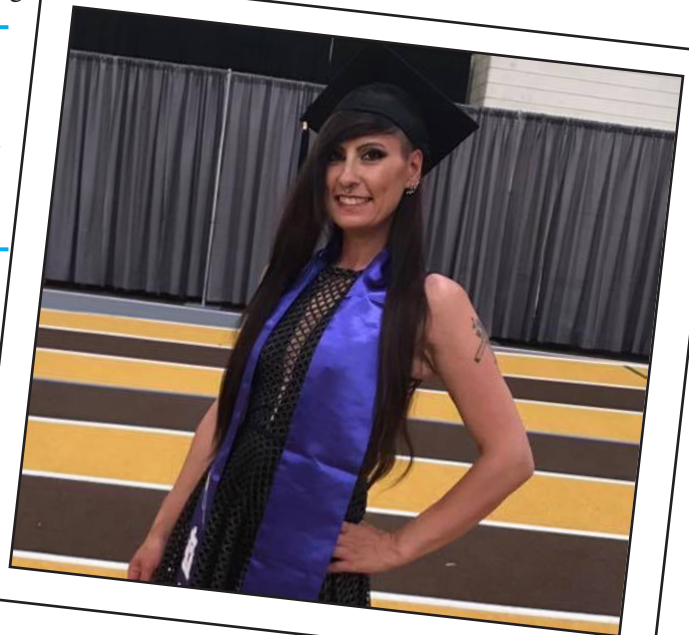
Recently, she started planning to open a business focusing on traditional knowledge, land use studies, archaeological assessment, and Indigenous research and consultation. Her future plans also include curating more art exhibitions and selling

“The BBMA is not only about scholarships.”

her pieces through her online store, Oji Creations.

When looking back at her career and studies, she says, “The BBMA program took away some of my financial stresses

and allowed me to focus on getting my degrees, which ultimately led me on a path of success in gaining employment in my field. The BBMA is not only about scholarships. It helps students build connections with other like-minded Métis students and puts them on a path of success, relationship building, and cultural connection.”



EDUCATION

DARCY HOUSE Teacher, Mathematics

2005
Recipient



This high school math teacher never stops learning and is currently completing his master's degree in secondary education at the University of Alberta. Academics of equity influence Darcy's worldviews, and he is proud of the time he spent working at an Edmonton high school that provides students with strength-based programming and wrap-around services. He says, "I often think about why Indigenous Peoples are under-represented in the STEM disciplines and find myself attempting to reimagine educational communities in which many more students fall in love with mathematics."

For the past ten years, he has been sharing the joy and wonder of mathematics with students and sits on the executive committee of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association as their treasurer. He and other volunteers organize professional development training for Alberta teachers interested in mathematics education.

He found the BBMA's financial support instrumental in moving to Edmonton and completing his degree at the University of Alberta. He appreciated that BBMA staff regularly reached out and offered additional support beyond the financial assistance he received. "Looking back, I am appreciative of these additional assistive efforts, although I was young and perhaps unreceptive at the time. Your support has always been appreciated, never been forgotten, and continues to inspire me."

"I began my master's degree by auditing courses at the University of Alberta. However, there would have been no success without the friends and mentors I met along the way. Be open to connections with everyone, and people will inspire, encourage and boost your mental health while you complete your studies."

Congratulations on your milestone 20th anniversary
Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards and students across Alberta

Fueling community spirit and supporting our neighbours for 74 years

Imperial

Esso Mobil

DAN ALLARD

Entrepreneur



Dan is the co-founder of Cold Garden, a staple in Calgary's brewery, hospitality and event

space. His microbrewery has even garnered international attention from the New York Times, National Geographic, The Independent, The Guardian, The Washington Post and more.

When not running his company, Dan chairs the Inglewood Business Improvement Area (IBIA), an organization that represents over 220 businesses in the premier retail district in Calgary. Thanks to a partnership between his company and the IBIA, he realized his dream in 2019 with the construction of Gopher Park.

"It has always been a dream of mine to build a

basketball court in whatever community I landed," he says. "What once was a beaten-up gopher field is now one of Calgary's most active parks. The space includes a basketball court with a painting on the asphalt depicting dozens of gophers—an homage to the little critters who still hang out there."

Before he was building parks and brewing beer, Dan honed his business sense at university. "The BBMA was the organization that paid for my education, but most importantly, it allowed me the freedom to grow my entrepreneurial skills. The BBMA was the difference that enabled my entrepreneurial spirit."

While Dan has run three successful businesses, he still finds time to showcase Métis culture by jiggling whenever possible. "The BBMA highlighted the importance of staying connected with the community, and I have continued to jig whenever the Métis community asks, even virtually lately."

Even long after he's graduated, Dan still stays in touch with other BBMA recipients he met at the awards ceremony.

He says winning the award was more than just receiving the funds to go to school. "The BBMA pays your way, yes. The benefit can end with you not having to work a part-time job during school and having time to socialize. Most importantly, you will be networking with hard-working people who you will grow with throughout your career."

"The BBMA was the difference that enabled my entrepreneurial spirit."

ENTREPRENEUR

Thank you to our sponsors!



Lindsay Beaulieu

Entrepreneur

This Red Deer entrepreneur learned to run her company at college, where she completed her business administration diploma with a major in accounting. After working in the oil patch for a few years, Lindsay opened her business, **i love microgreens**. Since starting her company in



“I was a single mother at the time and the support helped me financially to be able to return to school.”



2018. She has continually grown her customer base and now supplies microgreens to grocery stores, gyms and restaurants.

For Lindsay, winning an award with the BBMA made all the difference for her considering going back to school as a mature

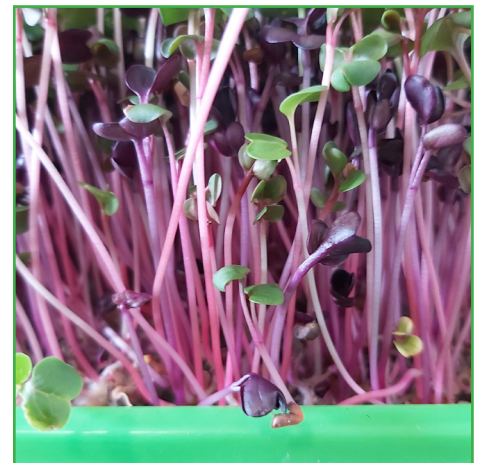
student. “I was a single mother at the time and the support helped me financially to be able to return to school,” she says. Receiving the award was more than just financial support; it helped her further connect with her Métis culture and build some of the relationships she still has today.

So, what do her future plans look like? Lindsay is currently working on a restaurant concept where she can offer tasty menu options and grow microgreens onsite. She wants her company to be a voice for mental health and a safe place to work. “My goal is to have a company that can employ others that need a path for healing because growing food has been so healing for me on my grief recovery journey.”

When we asked her what she might tell someone considering going back to school and applying to the BBMA, she says, “I would tell them it was life-changing for me. It gave me a sense of pride and determination.”



2009 Recipient



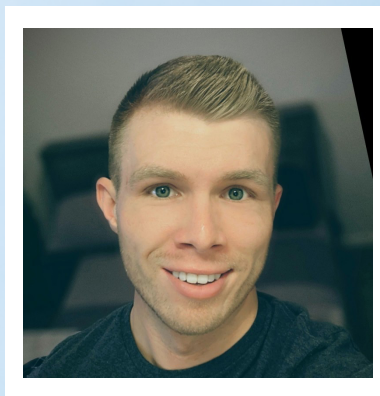


2014
Recipient

Cole Burns

Ecologist, Biologist, Botanist

On his family farm near the small rural hamlet of Wildwood, Alberta, Cole developed a love for plants and ecology. Given that his family home was some distance from the University of Alberta, receiving funding from the BBMA program was essential to completing his undergraduate



degree. He then pursued his Master of Science, where he designed a field research project and not only finished the program early but was hired into a professional position before he even defended his thesis.

Cole eventually went on to environmental consulting and is now switching his career to horticulture, where he can pursue his passion of working with plants more directly. He is hoping to open a horticulture business or work as a horticulture scientist in the future.

When he talks about pursuing his passions and career goals, Cole says, "It wouldn't have been possible without the support of BBMA. Being the youngest of five children in a farming family located far away from the University of Alberta campus, I didn't have a lot of financial support from my parents and had to live on my own."

Before joining the ranks of BBMA recipients, Cole never had a strong sense of Métis identity. He says that his participation in the program resulted in him building a stronger relationship with his mother, from whom he inherited his Métis ancestry. He also started connecting with Métis culture, volunteering at the BBMA ceremonies and several Indigenous events held at the University of Alberta. Since receiving his first sash from a Métis Elder at the BBMA Sash Ceremonies, he now readily identifies as a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

2016
Recipient



Raynelle Sabiston-Cisek

Environmental Planner

Raynelle is early in her career and has worked with Stantec Consulting Ltd. for over two and a half years. She loves conducting rare plant surveys, wetland assessments and fish assessments. Her fieldwork also includes completing bear den surveys, breeding bird nest sweeps, and amphibian surveys. "I enjoy writing environmental impact assessments, wetland assessment, and impact reports to analyze the effects of proposed developments."

Some of the work she's most excited about completing are the projects that included innovative applications for ecosystem restoration and surveys for at-risk species that focused on mitigating the effects on their habitats.

"The BBMA has helped me to feel even more proud of my heritage..."

"I am extremely grateful for the BBMA for providing me with a scholarship during a very difficult time for my family. I plan to continue to contribute to my community in any way I can, and my dream would be to contribute to a future BBMA recipient someday."

She has fond memories of the BBMA sash celebrations and was on the planning committee. "The BBMA has helped me to feel even more proud of my heritage because of the sense of community. Every time a BBMA community member accomplishes something, like becoming a lawyer or a doctor or graduating from University or College, I feel a great sense of pride to be Métis and to be a BBMA recipient."

ENVIRONMENT



Honouring our Elders



A special thanks to all the Elders for their ongoing support of the BBMA program and Métis students.



Herb Belcourt



Homer Poitras



Jerry Wood



Laura McLaughlin



Marge Friedel



Ray St. Germain



Thelma Chalifoux



Betty Letendre



Doreen Bergum



Bailey Oster

Author & Manager of Regional Youth Coordinators



2004 Recipient

In her position with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Bailey works with Métis youth across Alberta, connecting them to programs and events. Her position is part of the MNA's Youth Programs and Services Department, where she works to ensure Métis youth stay connected to their culture.

In her spare time, she writes. Along with Marilyn Lizee, Bailey recently published a book through Durville and UpRoute Books entitled, *Stories of Métis Women: Tales My Kookum Told Me*. "Our goal was to share the stories of the incredible Métis women across the province who have built our Nation." Their book has been a great success and is currently available in bookstores across Canada and has been featured

by the CBC, the Globe and Mail, Windspeaker and more.

The BBMA gave her family peace of mind to know she'd be successful at whatever career she chose because she didn't have student loans to pay back. "The funding from the BBMA's allowed me the freedom to move into the job market without debt. This gave me the opportunity to search for jobs out of school that I was genuinely passionate about, rather than only focusing on salary and whether or not it would cover any student loan payments. Ultimately, it allowed me the opportunity to focus on what was important in my life."

While she has always been involved in Métis culture and grew up learning what that meant, she received the first sash she was ever given at the BBMA sash ceremony. "It was one of the first times I had felt truly accepted by the Alberta Métis community as a whole, and I felt like I really belonged there."

Her advice to youth and future students is to do the things that you're scared to do. "In my life, there have been numerous projects or ideas that I wanted to do, but I was terrified of because I was scared of failure or embarrassment—but I did them anyway. Almost all of these are now the things in my life that I am the most proud of. You don't learn much by staying in your comfort zone and being scared of something but doing that thing anyway can often be the place where you learn the most."

Shawn McKay

Director of Métis Identification & Registry



2011 Recipient

This BBMA recipient graduated with his Bachelor of Management. After vacationing in the Rockies, Shawn decided to make Alberta home. He says that receiving the award allowed him to meet new friends and business contacts, which helped connect him to the local Métis community.

While waiting in line to receive his sash at the BBMA banquet, he met someone who influenced him to consider working with the Métis Nation of Alberta, where he now works. "I now work to help Métis on a daily basis. I was raised in a Métis community where my grandparents were involved in. The Métis community has always given to me, and now I have the opportunity to give back."

In his spare time, Shawn goes on nature walks with his dogs and volunteers as a big brother working with Métis youth in the Edmonton area. His advice to students entering post-secondary is to "...enjoy the experience. Look for opportunities to become more involved with the Métis Nation by attending meetings, events and social gatherings. The more you attend, the more you will see the same people and become part of the community."

Noelle Antonsen Midwife



2018
Recipient

with Indigenous people. “I am so honoured to be a part of the important work of returning birth to our communities,” she says. “I have been informally mentoring Métis and Indigenous midwifery students, and I plan to become a clinical preceptor as soon as I have enough experience as a midwife.”

• • •
“I now have the tools to learn more about my Métis identity and culture.”
• • •

Noelle works in a midwifery practice that focuses on working

Noelle moved to Alberta for work and then stayed here for

school as a young adult. She attributes having the time to focus on her studies and get through the program to the funding she received from the BBMA. “I do not know if I could have completed my schooling in four years without the financial support from the BBMA.”

To her, the BBMA is more than a scholarship fund—it was a life-changing experience. “I now have the tools to learn more about my Métis identity and culture. I proudly participate in Métis cultural events and mentor other Métis students. Receiving my sash from an Elder was very emotional, and it is a memory that I cherish.”

Veronica is a modern-day pioneer.

Meet Veronica. As one of Syncrude’s first female process operators, she paved the way for dozens of women who have followed in her footsteps. While much has changed over Veronica’s quarter century at Syncrude, one thing hasn’t: her commitment to keeping the pipelines and pumps running safely and reliably.
Learn more at syncrude.ca

The Syncrude Project is a joint venture undertaking among Imperial Oil Resources Limited; CNOOC Oil Sands Canada; Sinopec Oil Sands Partnership; and Suncor Energy Inc. (with the Suncor interest held by Canadian Oil Sands Partnership #1 and Suncor Energy Ventures Partnership, both wholly owned affiliates of Suncor Energy Inc.).

Dr. Jill Galipeau,



2007
Recipient

Family Physician and Assistant Clinical Professor

This Fort McMurray born doctor always knew she wanted to be part of Indigenous healthcare and approached the BBMA in her last year of high school about funding her education. To Jill, the financial support the BBMA provided was vital to her success. It allowed her to focus all her time on getting the

grades she needed to get into medical school.

Today, she works as a family physician at the Indigenous Wellness Clinic in Edmonton and recently assisted the Métis Nation of Alberta in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “I was excited to collaborate with the Métis Nation of Alberta during their

Urban Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics and hope to collaborate more in the future.”

While Jill has always been connected to Métis culture, she appreciated how the BBMA annual banquets brought everyone together to celebrate student successes. She says, “It was fun to see all the other BBMA recipients and hear about their stories.”

Her plans for the future include continuing to work in Indigenous healthcare and mentoring Indigenous medical students.

She wants the funders of Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards to know that their financial support is crucial to the success of Métis students getting into competitive programs like the one she took. She hopes future Métis students can count on their support for many years to come.

TAWNSHI AANIIN
HALUUQTUQ
TSUKAEO
Pédlânet'é
HADIH
DRIN GWINZII
BONJOUR HELLO
NEZU DÁGÓTS'É
tân'siWA-É ÀK-WÉ
ABA WASHDEDOSIYAMasi



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards

Thank you for helping the many BBMA recipients in the U of A community to realize their potential through education.

Find Your Purpose

uab.ca/fnmi



2003
Recipient

Jennifer Kelley Community Support Worker

For the past 11 years, Jennifer has been working with residential school survivors, families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and day school survivors in her role as a Community Support Worker with the Hinton Friendship Centre. She says, “This job has given me so much insight into Indigenous Culture and how strong Métis People are.”

The BBMA funding she received in her first year of university gave her the confidence to move away from her hometown of Hinton to Edmonton, where she attended the University of Alberta.



“You give someone hope when you give them a vision that things can be better. All we ask is that our people be proud of who they are, and in some way give back to the community.”

—Orval Belcourt, 2011

Since graduating with her diploma in business administration and receiving her sash at the BBMA ceremony, Jennifer has made an effort to connect more with her Métis roots and has even taken up jiggging. In her spare time, she gives back to the community by helping Métis students complete their applications for the BBMA program. She hopes to see them walk across the BBMA stage and be welcomed into the Métis family of scholars that she is fondly a part of.

“For students struggling with their course load, keep being proud of who you are and embrace where you come from. Métis people are beautiful and resilient. You’ve got this.”

2006
Recipient



SARAH STEPHENS (RAU), Registered Nurse

Sarah’s career has spanned over 15 years in healthcare, and she has completed her Master of Nursing. As a Registered Nurse, she’s worked in cardiology, neurology and in an Indigenous community health centre.

She worked briefly as a Nurse Practitioner before transitioning into the role of a Clinical Nursing Instructor with a number of Alberta universities. “I realized that part of the reason I wanted to be a Nurse Practitioner was to influence people’s understanding of health and health literacy. Health promotion is a pillar of my practice, and I’ve seen the benefits it can have on individuals, families, and communities. I wanted to share this with nurses in training.”

She says completing her master’s degree was more than just a goal. “The BBMA helped me to shoot for a dream I did not think was possible. Their financial support was a huge contributor to me having the confidence to seek out a career I was going to find

meaningful and fulfilling.”

In an effort to fight the current pandemic, Sarah has put her education and skills to use, vaccinating thousands of people against COVID-19.

She has many fond memories of the BBMA sash ceremonies and still feels honoured to have delivered the 2008 event’s keynote speech about her struggles and triumphs with mental illness. “I am a better person in all aspects of my life because I have the support of mental health care professionals who continue to help me learn and grow into the example I want to be for my family and community.”

Nowadays, Sarah is enjoying life as a public health nurse and valuing the time she gets to spend with her husband and son. She looks forward to bringing her son to a future BBMA ceremony where he can meet all his Métis aunties and uncles as she has come to see BBMA recipients, Elders, founders, and committee members part of her extended family.



Christie-Dawn Ladouceur Psychologist

Christie-Dawn is a psychologist whose career has included working for public school boards, Metis and First Nations not-for-profit organizations and Children's Services. She is passionate about providing services for the Métis community and regularly advocates for additional support to meet the needs of the people she works with. She says, "Privately, my counselling work focuses on supporting the healing and growth of our community members, whether it is with children, adults or families."

"The experience has brought a lot of joy as I have been able to return the kindness that was done for me."

When she began her career, there were few Métis Registered Psychologists. "What I am most proud of in my career is that I am able to provide culturally sensitive counselling and assessment to my community members. My title has often resulted in opportunities where I have been able to advocate for resources and be

actively involved in social justice to improve the overall well-being of our community."

One of her favourite BBMA memories is when she received her sash from Elder Marge Friedel. "Marge supported me throughout my community work with the Metis Nation and supported my decision to return to school to pursue a graduate degree. Receiving my BBMA sash from her was a real honour." When she decided to go back to school, the BBMA was there for her. She says, "Without the BBMA, I would not have been able to complete my educational journey and launch into my chosen career. I will forever be indebted to the BBMA. Their support was the first step in my amazing career journey."

Over the years, Christie-Dawn has volunteered to help plan the BBMA sash ceremonies and even emceed the event in 2018 and 2019. "The experience has brought a lot of joy as I have been able to return the kindness that was done for me. Furthermore, it allows me to remain connected to my community and provide support and mentorship to new learners."



Miranda Lisowski Registered Occupational Therapist

As a registered occupational therapist, Miranda's goal is to provide meaningful, culturally safe care within Indigenous communities. The first to graduate from university in her family, she completed her master's capstone project on "How to translate healthcare knowledge to Indigenous clients in a culturally safe way." By sharing this information, she hopes to change how healthcare professionals provide care for Indigenous Peoples.

To Miranda, the BBMA funding not only supported her academically but also encouraged her to explore her Métis roots and build connections. "Over the years, this award led me home to the truth of who I am. Throughout my education, the BBMA enriched my life immensely by enabling me to participate in Indigenous community."

Throughout the time she attended university, Miranda volunteered with the Canadian Native Friendship Centre and First People's house at the University of Alberta. Later, when she enrolled in a master's program, she began proudly identifying as Métis and was part of an Indigenous Focus stream at the University of Alberta. She says that BBMA's funding allowed her to give back and seek these

opportunities out because she wasn't forced to work to pay for her courses while she went to school.

When she attended the BBMA sash ceremony, surrounded by other Métis students, she was overwhelmed by a sense of belonging—something she had never experienced before. “I learned I am what Métis looks like. I am what Métis sounds like. And yes, I am on a journey to finding my way back to tradition and culture, and while on this journey, I am completely and beautifully Métis.”

When it comes to the impact winning the award has on her, she says, “The BBMA’s financial support has radically changed my life. Your money not only uplifted my education and gave me a meaningful career, but it also helped build our Métis nation. These awards encourage youth to give back to their communities. When you lift one of us up, you lift us all.”

Chelsea Boucher Student-at-Law

This student-at-law is excited to continue working in family law after she completes her articling. Her career aspirations don't stop there. Her long-term dream is to be called to the bench.

With the support of the BBMA, Chelsea has completed two degrees, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Native Studies from the University of Alberta and a Juris Doctor in Law from the University of Victoria. “The BBMA program allowed me to engage with members of the Métis community in Alberta and provided me with a sense of community while out of province. I believe that connections made within the program positively impacted my educational journey and allowed me to seamlessly transition back into the Edmonton community and workforce.”

She participated in the University of Alberta's Aboriginal Student Council for three years, first as the VP External and then President. While at school, she volunteered on numerous committees: Council of Aboriginal Initiatives, Aboriginal Focus Group, Arts Aboriginal Student Council, Political Science Student Association, Campus Visit Program, Faculty of Native Studies Faculty Council, Aboriginal Student Discovery Day, Aboriginal Health Horizons Days, The REDress project, Aboriginal Student Services and Bridges Aboriginal Orientation. So not surprisingly, when the BBMA asked for her help at the annual sash celebrations, she volunteered for that too. “I thoroughly enjoyed



SHAUN EMES LAWYER

BBMA alumni and lawyer Shaun Emes is from the Métis community of Lac Ste. Anne. He is from a lineage of fishermen, which taught him to work hard and think big. He states, “I don't put myself out there as a role model because we're taught to be humble, but I realize others might just be inspired.”

Shaun says that if someone had told him when he was younger that he would be a practicing lawyer living in Toronto, he would've told them they were out of their mind. That was never going to happen. Somewhere along his path, a seed was planted, and the dream of being a lawyer began.

But big dreams don't come easy. After exhausting all federal and provincial loans available, Shaun was at risk of not completing his degree. He says the BBMA funding allowed him to get over the finish line and through his courses. Shaun encourages students to keep putting one foot in front of the other, and they will complete their degrees too.

Today, Shaun practices criminal, labour and administrative law and is called to the bar in Alberta and Ontario. He has worked as a crown prosecutor and currently works for the Ontario Nurses' Association in Toronto.



attending the BBMA celebrations and volunteering as a stagehand at the events. The celebrations are so full of love and energy, and the atmosphere is indescribable.”

She says attending the celebration did more for her than just being there to receive her sash—it deepened her connection to the Métis community. “Attending the celebration allowed me to engage with Métis students, community members and Elders from around the province. This engagement fuelled my desire to learn more about my cultural heritage and to continue to engage with the community throughout both my degree programs.”

For Chelsea, the BBMA program was a life-changing experience. “The program goes beyond just financial support for post-secondary education—it creates a sense of community and an extension of family for all who engage with it. Any financial support funders provide will not go unnoticed.”

JUSTICE

MEDIA

Daniel Barker-Tremblay Broadcasting Student



At Enbridge, we believe today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

Enbridge Fueling Futures supports programs and projects that are inclusive and help bring out the best in people. We focus on programs empowering young people through education, leadership, culture and tradition. That's why we partner with the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards, supporting Métis Albertans with scholarships for post-secondary education.

Enbridge Fueling Futures helps energize Alberta youth, improving their quality of life for today and tomorrow.



Star bright.

Funding from Edmonton Community Foundation supports the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund and provides the means for our city's creative community to grow its cultural roots. As gifts expressing respect and recognition, Andrea Bellegarde-Courchene's star blankets wrap the recipient in the rich past and bold promise of the indigenous culture.

ecfoundation.org works with donors to give, grow and transform.

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Charity begins at Home.

Daniel credits growing up in Lac La Biche for shaping him into the man he is today. Currently, he is attending his final year at SAIT in the Radio Television and Broadcast News program and is pursuing a career in broadcasting.

"The BBMA has turned my dream of starting this journey into a reality," he says. Daniel still recalls meeting BBMA staff, Theresa Majeran, for the first time at a J.A. Williams high school event. "Right then and there, I knew I was on the fast track for school. The people at the BBMA cared about my dreams and passions, and they were there to help."

After he completes his diploma, he plans on working in his chosen career of broadcasting with hopes of travelling to places he's never been to before.

When we asked Daniel what advice he has for future students and BBMA applicants, he said, "People won't flock to someone who gives up on the world because things don't go the way they want them to. People won't help those who run away and do nothing. As long as you don't give up, there will always be salvation. So keep your dream alive, continue working away on it and one day, it just might come true."

2019
Recipient



Erin Callihoo

Associate Producer & Instructor

The career of this past BBMA recipient has come full circle from where she began her education in Radio and Television at NAIT. Erin now works as an instructor with the program she graduated from and is an Associate Producer and Technician with CBC. She is an award-winning video editor who also helped edit Global Edmonton's "Fort McMurray: The Road Back" after the devastating wildfires in 2016, which won the Canadian Screen Award in 2017 for Best News Segment.

For Erin, receiving an award from the BBMA allowed her to complete her education and provided an opportunity for her to make the

connections that started her career in television. Being part of the program gave her the confidence to reach her goals and to go after her dreams.

"The BBMA is about so much more than financial help."

The ongoing support from the BBMA community isn't something Erin has experienced from other scholarship programs, and she considers BBMA staff and award recipients part of her extended family. Through her participation in the program, Erin says, "The BBMA

has made me even more proud to be Métis and kick-started my journey into learning more about our people's history." One of her favourite memories from participating in the program includes coming back to volunteer at the awards ceremony, where she offered words of support and encouragement to those graduates about to give a speech on stage.

Today, she's thrilled about how her career has fallen into place and what her future has in store. She believes the cultural and financial support the BBMA provided made all the difference in achieving her dreams and career successes. She says, "The BBMA is about so much more than financial help. It's truly about connection to a unique community of ambitious students and helping them to change our communities for the better."

Lisa Ducharme

Director of Online Content

Lisa grew up in Smokey Lake, Alberta. She is excited to work in a career that supports and represents all Indigenous Peoples within Canada.

Shortly after graduating from the University of Alberta with her Bachelor of Commerce, Lisa was hired by APTN, where she started her marketing career as Manager of Research. Five years later, she was promoted to Director of Marketing and is now APTN's Director of Online Content.

"I now work with producers and storytellers and really love the work that I've found myself in. I love leading my team, and I am happiest when I feel like my team is at their best and have all that they need to be successful."

After becoming a BBMA recipient, she had the opportunity to meet Dr. Herb

"This program gives the students so much more than financial support. It gives them community and confidence and support that has longevity."

Belcourt and shook his hand at one of the BBMA sash celebrations. "I was so inspired that an Métis organization was helping me, I felt compelled to work and invest myself in Indigenous organizations—that's what



I said to him that day as I shook his hand." Lisa later came back as the emcee for the 15th annual BBMA celebrations.

The award is more than just a scholarship, she says. "They created a community, and having Theresa call us back every year to celebrate with the new recipients really made you feel like you were a part of something more."

Lisa encourages donors and sponsors to keep investing in the BBMA. "This program gives the students so much more than financial support. It gives them community and confidence and support that has longevity."



Orval Belcourt,
Founder



Georges Brosseau, Q.C.,
Founder

The BBMA Today

Students are selected based on a holistic assessment.

AWARD CRITERIA:

- Financial need
- Connection to the Alberta Métis community
- Focused career goals
- Personal circumstances



Lisa Higgerty,
Panel Chair



Brenda Bourque-
Stratichuk

OUR BBMA PANEL

The BBMA Panel is comprised of Métis Albertans who share the vision of the three Founders and are committed to their enduring legacy. The BBMA Panel guides the BBMA program and reviews applications for awards.

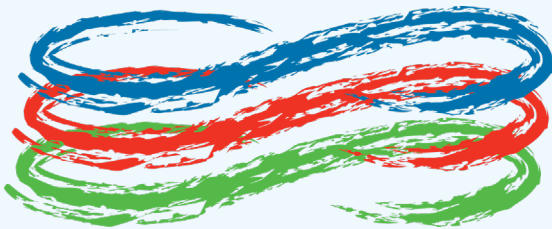
The awards panel reviews applications and makes award recommendations. It is comprised of Métis Albertans from a range of backgrounds and from across the province.



John Brosseau



Kathryn Brosseau




“ You must have firm roots — roots that are embraced by the gentle earth of family, community, and faith. This foundation is all that you will have to hold you fast when the storms of life rage about you. ”

Herb Belcourt,
Founder



2012 Recipient

Elder Betty
Letendre &
Travis Jones



Travis Jones

Small Business Advisor

Travis grew up playing a variety of sports but discovered he excelled at curling. In 2013, he won the national CCA curling championship, and today, he coaches the game for junior to elite curlers.

Before starting his post-secondary studies, Travis took a year off to be a “keeper of the Olympic flame” and a member of the Indigenous Relations team for the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver. When he returned to school, he studied marketing and later completed his MBA. Since

beginning his career, Travis has worked in banking, marketing, consulting and finance. His message to students starting their academic studies is that “post-secondary is a journey. The path you choose can change multiple times before you reach your destination. Always learn and utilize those

“The award allowed me to focus on my university studies and athletics without the worry of financial burden.”

experiences in everything you set out to accomplish.”

He puts those words

into action, and throughout the pandemic, Travis has focused on helping local small businesses successfully navigate the economy in his job as a small business advisor at Scotiabank.

He attributes part of his success in completing his Bachelor’s degree in four years and becoming a national curling champion to being a BBMA recipient. “The award allowed me to focus on my university studies and athletics without the worry of financial burden. It also allowed me to be part of a unique network of award winners and contributors that to this day I continue to connect with.”

BUSINESS

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Scotiabank.



2013 Recipient

Naomi Withers (Rau) Procurement Manager

Over the 12 years, Naomi has negotiated hundreds of contracts, saving millions of dollars for the companies where she's worked. Her career in supply chain management has taught her the importance of spending money wisely.

She says, "I've learned the value of relationships in business and have built a career by understanding the needs of my stakeholders."

Since becoming a BBMA recipient, her connections to Métis culture and community have deepened, and she proudly wears her sash and ribbon shirt to events, showcasing her heritage.

"The BBMA showed me I was a part of a family. Each year at the annual banquet, I meet past and present recipients. At these events, we support each other and boost one

another to push forward and achieve our dreams. The BBMA teaches us that education is a stepping stone to so many other milestones and achievements."

Thankful for what the BBMA did for her family, Naomi decided to give back by starting the Rau Family BBMA Award to provide

"The BBMA teaches us that education is a stepping stone to so many other milestones and achievements."

Métis students within Alberta an opportunity to attend postgraduate studies.

"Funding the family award allows me to demonstrate to my community that we are there for each other. With an

investment in the BBMA, you are investing in the future of our province and are making a meaningful difference in the life of a recipient."

BBMA BEHIND the SCENES



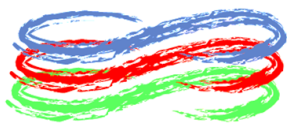
Theresa Majeran,
Communications Manager

Please direct questions about the awards, applications, presentations and sponsorships opportunities to Theresa.

Email: communications@bbma.ca
Phone: 780-977-5515
Website: www.bbma.ca



*Application deadline
is March 31st
every year.



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