

September 23, 2003

Aboriginal bursaries supporting more students in health careers

Edmonton...The number of Aboriginal students funded through the Aboriginal Health Careers Bursaries has jumped 60 per cent since last year. This year, 84 Aboriginal students from across the province will share almost \$300,000 in bursaries, up from 53 last year. The bursaries are part of the Alberta government's Aboriginal Health Strategy.

"This increase in the number of bursaries in just one year represents a tremendous opportunity for Aboriginal Albertans to build successful careers for themselves," said Minister of Health and Wellness Gary Mar. "All of us will benefit as these students establish themselves professionally and form strong links between the health system and their communities."

The primary goal of the strategy is to improve the health status of Aboriginal Albertans and foster the provision of culturally sensitive health services. Increasing the numbers of Aboriginal health practitioners and developing their skills will help to ensure greater access to, and acceptability of, health services for the Aboriginal community.

This year's recipients are pursuing careers in a wide range of health professions, from medicine to chiropractic to kinesiology. Recipients are chosen based on criteria such as academic standing, involvement in the Aboriginal community, and financial need.

The Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary is funded by Alberta Health and Wellness and administered by Alberta Scholarship Programs.

"Alberta Learning is committed to helping Aboriginal students pursue their learning goals and play an active role in society," said Minister of Learning Dr. Lyle Oberg. "This year's record number of recipients is a real testament to the quality of Aboriginal students pursuing a career in health care, and I know they will continue to make an important contribution to their communities."

Stacey Lynn Eagletail, one of this year's bursary recipients, is finishing her third year in the nursing degree program at Calgary's Mount Royal College. Raised in Calgary but born on the Blood Reserve, Eagletail plans to gain experience in acute care centres after graduation. Then she plans to work with elders on the Tsuu T'ina Reserve.

"I want to develop a culturally unique adult day support program. So many seniors in society in general are not prepared for aging, and that's true on reserves too," said Eagletail. "Families have traditionally assumed the care of elders, but with a high level of poverty many of their social and emotional needs are pushed aside because families have to focus on making ends meet, which compromises their parents' well being. That support needs to be restored."

Eagletail said the financial support provided through the bursary helps her aim for a higher academic credential. "I might have just opted for a diploma and not done a four-year degree. But with a degree, I can really see a future role for myself to make policy changes, take on more responsibility, and play a leadership role on the reserve," she said.

This is the eighth year for the Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary. Since its inception in 1996, more than \$1.4 million has been awarded to 342 Aboriginal students. This year's recipients will share a total of \$298,000. Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis students interested in pursuing a career in health care who have been

residents of Alberta for at least three years should contact Alberta Learning for information about the Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary.

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Revised:

This news release was amended on September 23, 2003

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Backgrounder

Edmonton, September 23, 2003

Aboriginal Health Career Bursary Recipients - Names with asterisk are available for media interviews.

Town/City	Recipient	PROGRAM
Anzac	Jesse Tyler Woodward	Bachelor of Science
Calgary	Rene Chapman	Nursing
Calgary	Stacey Lynn Eagletail*	Nursing
Calgary	Holly Fritz*	Dentistry
Calgary	Brenda Kohn	Nursing
Calgary	Tracy McKenzie	Bachelor of Science
Calgary	Elyshia Katherine Pilon	Bachelor of Science
Calgary	Branden Reid	Medicine
Calgary	Kandi Michelle Sittler	Nursing
Calgary	Cheryl Sorell	Child & Youth Care
Calgary	Doremy Tyrrell	Social Work

Cold Lake	Delaney Irene Hill	Psychology
Didsbury	Elaine Sanderson	Bachelor of Science
Edmonton	Allan Zimmerman	Paramedic
Edmonton	Keenan Pascal	Bachelor of Science
Edmonton	Yvette Anderson	Social Work
Edmonton	Paula Bailey	Nursing
Edmonton	Christina Bayley	Bachelor of Science
Edmonton	Sherri Beauchamp	Kinesiology
Edmonton	Walter Douglas G. Belcourt	Social Work
Edmonton	Danielle Jo-Anne Berlinguette	Medical Laboratory
Edmonton	Graeme Brassard*	Medicine
Edmonton	Carol Brzezicki	Health Studies
Edmonton	Lee Burkholder*	Medicine
Edmonton	Janice Caouette	Nursing
Edmonton	Alexis Desrosiers	Dentistry
Edmonton	Yolande Desrosiers	Dentistry
Edmonton	Dustin Doderai	Dentistry
Edmonton	Harry Fuccaro	Social Work
Edmonton	Sylvia Gladue	Nursing
Edmonton	Shannon Gouda-Okeynan	Aboriginal Family & Child Services
Edmonton	Darren Gray	Bachelor of Science
Edmonton	Heather Hodgson*	Medicine

Edmonton	Nadine Kusiak	Bachelor of Science
Edmonton	Marlene Luck	Health Administration
Edmonton	Catharine MacLeod	Nursing
Edmonton	James Makokis	Nutritional Science
Edmonton	Danielle Maurice	Molecular Genetics
Edmonton	Nicole Neale	Holistic Health
Edmonton	Brenda O'Chiese	Nursing
Edmonton	Corey Tomlinson	Medicine
Fort McMurray	Jenny Coutu	Nursing
Fort McMurray	Corie Flett	Biochemistry
Fort McMurray	Rebecca Flett	Nursing
Fort McMurray	Crystal Ann Korethoski	Nursing
Fort McMurray	Lisa Marie Tuccaro*	Paramedic
Frog Lake	Valerie Faithful	Social Work
Glenevis	Katie Potts	Nursing
Grande Cache	Larissa Delorme	Human Services
Grande Cache	Teresa Hallock	Nursing
Grande Prairie	Jennifer Eliason	Nursing
Grande Prairie	Barry Manysiak	Social Work
Grande Prairie	Jennifer Olson	Nursing
Grouard	Karen Auger	Community Health
High Level	James McKay	Community Wellness
High Prairie	Sheila Zilinsky	Psychology
High River	Pamela Peters*	Nursing

Hythe	Jennifer Stickney	Bachelor of Science
Lac La Biche	Bobby-Jo Diesel	Combined Laboratory and X-Ray
Lac La Biche	Salleme Ferris	Social Work
Lac La Biche	Roxanna Lynn Ladouceur	Social Work
Lac La Biche	Janessa Nevill	Pharmacy
Lacombe	Lynda Elander	Social Work
Leduc	Mary Besler	Nursing
Leduc	Mary Elizabeth Luke	Nursing
Medicine Hat	Rebekah Schutzenhofer	Social Work
Okotoks	Lynn Ressler*	Nursing
Ponoka	Michael William McKnight	Environmental Health
Priddis	Jessie Fiddler	Psychology
Red Deer	Kara Andersen	Dental Assisting
Red Deer	Rodger Gouda	Rehabilitation Services
Red Deer	Roxanne McKenzie	Rehabilitation Services
Robb	Alvina Charlene Rattlesnake	Nursing
Saddle Lake	Melissa Mae Hunter-Cardinal	Nursing
Spruce Grove	Diane Balsdon	Nursing
Spruce Grove	Sarah Braun	Nursing
Spruce Grove	Tanya Smith	Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine
St. Albert	Candace Wishart	Aboriginal Family & Child Services
St. Albert	Teri L'Hirondelle	Nursing

St. Albert	Daniel McKennitt	Bachelor of Science
Stony Plain	Amelia Denby	Bachelor of Science
Strathmore	Tia Marie Nelson*	Dental Assisting
Valleyview	Heather Major	Kinesiology
Wetaskiwin	Bretton Baynes	Chiropractic Medicine

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