

Alicia William

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL 2019



Alicia is a proud member of Xeni Gwet'in First Nation. She is a grade 11 Honor Roll and Work Ethics student 'With Distinction' at Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus). Consistently on the Principals list, Alicia takes pride in all her subjects. Two that reflect her achievements are Biology 11 with an A and Hockey 11 with an A. The highlight of Alicia's grade 11 year was her opportunity to take part in the **"Encounters with Canada"** Program in Ottawa. She spent a week learning Medicine and Health from those whose inspiration is to care for others. She was busy touring medical facilities and laboratories where she was able to study genetics and health research and explore medical ethics. Alicia is thankful for this amazing opportunity.

Alicia has a strong understanding of her Chilcotin culture. She recognizes that it is her First Nations culture that teaches her to always do her best in all that she does. Alicia has a love of the land and the animals of the beautiful Nemiah Valley she calls home. She gives thanks to her parents and grandparents for teaching her the traditions of dipnetting, hunting, preparing and preserving food. Alicia shares that her family taught her that "women are strong and at a young age our strength and traditions/prayers can be used to help to restore wild berries to regrow where they have stopped growing". Alicia shows respect to her Elders by serving them first at Pow Wows and feasts. Alicia listens to the words of her Elders and is thankful for the lessons they have taught her. Alicia understands that being culturally aware and knowing her traditional background will help her through life and to later raise her own children and it will teach her how to survive on her own. She gives back to her community by helping with the annual Xeni Gwet'in wagon trip at stampede time. She is a positive mentor to the youth by showing them how to care for the horses and the land. Alicia helps to fund raise for the yearly youth group trip to attend the "Gathering our Voices" conference. In 2018 she was awarded the Gathering Our Voices **"Indigenous Youth Champion Certificate of Achievement"** for excellence within culture, volunteering, sports, culinary, fundraising and Professional Development. In the summer Alicia works as a summer student with the local Daycare in her community. Xeni Gwet'in Chief Jimmy Lulua, Band Administrator Dalton Baptiste and Eniyud Health Youth Support Worker Pam Quilt are all very proud of Alicia and the young woman she has become. Each believe that she has the qualities to make an excellent First Nations Role Model for School District 27.

Alicia believes that a First Nations Role Model must live up to very high standards. They must be trustworthy, respectful, culturally aware and above all, a positive example to others. Alicia shows respect to her parents, grand parents, teachers and coaches as "they are molding me into the person that I am".

Alicia is proud to lead a healthy lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. She stays physically active through playing a variety of sports such as hockey, soccer and horseback riding. She started playing hockey at the age of five and is a member of the Williams Lake Minor Hockey Association in her second year of midget division. Alicia volunteers weekly at the Williams Lake Veterinary Hospital where she does odd jobs such as cleaning kennels, instruments, and occasionally shadows the Veterinarians as they care for the animals.

In the future Alicia plans to attend University and become a veterinarian.



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Cheiro Guichon

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Cheiro is a proud member of the Alexis Creek Indian Band (T̓i Del Del). He is a grade 11 student at Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus). Two subjects that Cheiro feels reflect his academic achievement are Physics 11 with a C+ as it shows the challenge that it was. Also Foundations of Math 12 as he is proud to be bumped up a full grade in math.

Teacher Moray Kennedy from T̓i Del Del School shares that “Cheiro is a delightful young man who has a good mind and is destined for greatness”.

Chief Otis Guichon Sr. shares that “Cheiro is a natural leader here in our community. When he lived and went to school at T̓i Del Del his peers looked up to him and were excited to participate in whatever it was that he was doing. He continues to be a great role model in our community. He can do anything he sets his mind to; for example he taught himself how to play guitar in just two weeks”.

Cheiro’s rich Chilcotin culture is very important to him. He knows that his First Nations Culture teaches him do the best at everything he does. Cheiro shares that “the most important lesson that he has been taught from his culture is the ability to adapt to almost any change. Back when Aboriginals were a nomadic people, they had to adapt themselves to changing seasons, which led them to have different teachings to each season. From this, I try and adapt to changes that are happening around me. There are never constant conditions, so you always have to adapt”.

Cheiro is proud to lead a healthy and active lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. He enjoys the martial art of Jiu Jitsu. He finds it to be humbling and great for overall fitness. In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar. He finds both guitar and Jiu Jitsu have helped him form new relationships and healthy competition. From the choices he has made; he has acquired healthy relationships and a healthy lifestyle.

Cheiro believes that a role model is “being the individual that people look up to; to gain courage from and to help people make positive changes in their lives”. One major choice that he is faithful to is to remain drug and alcohol free. He shares that it was his late mother’s wish that she did not want her children to live out their lives under the influence of alcohol. “In respect to her, in respect to my family, and in respect to anybody who has put their faith and trust in me; I refuse any such offer to drink and smoke. Hard choices require strong wills” Cheiro says.

Cheiro gives thanks to the people in his First Nations community who encouraged him to run for First Nations Role Model 2019.

In the future Cheiro plans to attend University and possibly receive a music degree.



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