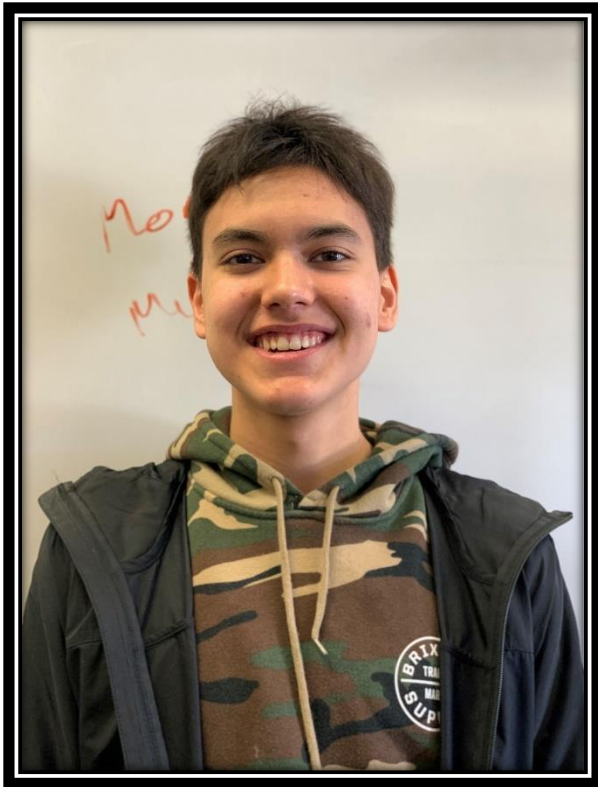


Morgan McKay

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL 2020



Morgan is a proud member of the Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc). He is a grade 11 student at Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus). Two subjects that reflect his academic achievement are Pre-Calculus 11 with a 'B' and Physics 11 with a 'C+'.

Chief Willie Sellars shares that he has "known Morgan since he was quite young and he always impresses me with his work ethic and positive nature. He often volunteers within our community, assisting Elders and others in need. Morgan is involved in many sports, making the choice to live a healthy lifestyle with enthusiasm. He participated in Youth Leadership, mentoring those younger whenever the opportunity arises. Morgan comes from a very well respected family within our T'exelceme Community. He has strong beliefs in our culture and represents us well. He participates in our ceremonies and is dedicated to learning our traditions".

Justeen Sellars, Recreation Manager for Williams Lake Indian Band shares that Morgan is very involved in her youth program. "He is always an amazing help to me. Morgan is one of the strongest youth and has always exhibited a great example of character, work ethic and commitment. Morgan is gifted in many areas and I am

confident that he will become someone great and make a difference anywhere he goes. His strong work ethic, combined with character and sensitivity to the needs of others all create the potential for a wonderful role model for kids".

Morgan's strong Shuswap culture is very important to him. He knows that his First Nations Culture teaches him to do his best at everything he does. Morgan is proud to lead a healthy and active lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol.

Morgan is grateful to his family for teaching him the traditional ways of his people. "My family from T'exelc community is the Sandy family, who have shown me the traditional ways of our people by travelling the pow wow trail through the summer. The pow wows taught me how to show respect for the land and the drum. At funerals my family taught me how to pray since my family was always willing to lead the prayers. I have helped out at many funerals by helping to cook for the family and ceremonies, but also tending the fire. The first time I was asked to tend the fire was for my Uncle Ken's funeral. It was an honor to be asked because that was the first time I was seen as a man. In our tradition only the men can tend to the fire".

Morgan says that as a First Nations Role Model, "I will bring great respect not only to the name of First Nations Role Models after me, but great respect to the Cariboo district by attending many traditional events. I will obtain respect by still helping out with the younger youth in my spare time, supplying wood for the Elders, fish for the community and having a summer job that allows me to clean up the trash around the community and to maintain fresh looking lawns throughout the community".



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
First Nations Education Department
First Nations Education Council

Wrenn Yano

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL 2020



Wrenn is a proud member of Spuzzum First Nation on her Father's side of the family and she is also a proud Métis on her Mother's side of the family. Wrenn is a grade 11 Honor Roll and Work Ethics student at Peter Skene Ogden Secondary School. Two subjects that reflect her achievements are Biology 11 with an A and 20th Century World History 12 with an A.

Science Teacher Lori Meville shares that "Wrenn has consistently shown strength of character and strong academic ability throughout the semester. Wrenn maintained a strong academic record with her interest in Science taking her to the UBC Summer Science Camp for Aboriginal Youth. Wrenn is developing her interpersonal and leadership skills through her involvement in the PSO Environmental Club and Drama productions; both of which require dedication and energy. It is for this reason that I believe that Wrenn would make an excellent First Nations Role Model".

Social Studies Teacher Ken Heales shares that Wrenn is a positive contributor to the classroom environment. She consistently is involved in the variety of discussions and activities in class. Wrenn is a positive role model for her peers, both in her attitude and how she interacts with others. Wrenn is very proud of her First Nations culture and has involved herself in several Pow Wows. Wrenn has been a big help volunteering with the annual First Nations Art Show at 100 Mile Elementary School. She often makes gifts for Elders to show her appreciation after class presentations. Wrenn is positive, articulate and keen to act on behalf of First Nations students throughout the district. It is with pleasure that I highly recommend her as First Nations Role Model".

Teacher Tai St. Pierre shares that "Wrenn exhibits numerous qualities that exemplify her as role model for First Nations youth. In addition to her strong academic record, Wrenn has a deep understanding and sense of empathy for others. She is a champion of equality rights and actively works toward making her school and community more inclusive through volunteering and educating others. She is also a mentor for the Big Brothers and Sisters Program. Wrenn is also active in the PSO Justice Club, which runs a daily breakfast program for all students. She has co-organized fundraisers for club initiatives and World Wildlife Fund sponsorships. Wrenn is an exceptional candidate for First Nations Role Model!"

Wrenn is very proud of her heritage and acknowledges both her Métis and First Nations lineage as part of who she is alongside her European and Japanese descent. Wrenn is always interested in learning more about her culture and heritage. She went to a fish camp put on by her Band to learn about the traditional ways to catch, prepare and dry salmon, as well as net making and cooking. She always enters the Aboriginal Day Poetry Contest in School District 27. Wrenn believes that being grateful for her lineage is a good showcase for her pride in her First Nations and Métis ancestry. She recognizes that it is her culture that teaches her to be the best she can be in all that she does.

Wrenn says "being a role model would mean a lot to me and I would enjoy knowing that I could inspire the younger generation of First Nations children the way I was inspired when I was young. I want those kids to try to become the best version of themselves that they can be".



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