



## Community Services Department July Highlights

**Date:** August 15th, 2011  
**To:** Chief and Council  
**From:** Community Services / Communications

**C**ommunity Services is a valuable asset in providing, as the name suggests, services to the Westbank community. Their programs run the gamut, from health, to youth services, to counselling.

**M**any of the programs run throughout the year, while some are offered on a special basis. This past year, the Education Department of Community Services was very proud to see three Members graduate from post-secondary education.

**T**he Education Department is dedicated to having all WFN Members succeed in school by providing guidance, communication, tutoring, and financial support. With this support WFN students are succeeding in their studies. Here are some of their stories.

**K**elly Fosbery attended University of British Columbia (Vancouver and Okanagan Campuses) and is currently employed with WFN as the Assistant to Council.

"Thank you to Westbank First Nation for supporting me through my years of school as I completed my Bachelor of Arts Degree. I began my post-secondary education at the Kelowna Campus of Okanagan College; I then transferred to UBC Vancouver for a year, and finally returned to UBC Okanagan to finish my degree. Throughout all of my transfers, late nights, and time away from home, my family and community have been a huge support to me. In addition to receiving financial support from the Education Department, I have also had the opportunity to work within WFN as a summer student. Being given the chance to share about our Nation during my First Nations courses was very enjoyable. Now that I am finished, I am gaining work experience in my position as WFN Assistant to Council, continuing to learn and plan for my future."

Kelly Fosbery

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Desiree Norman attended Okanagan College and is currently working for Westbank First Nation as Administration Support. Desiree obtained her Introduction to Office Administration while working full time. Desiree is a prime example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

"Hello, my name is Desiree Norman, and I am a Member and employee of Westbank First Nation. I have just recently graduated from Okanagan College in the area of Introduction to Office Administration. Westbank First Nation has been such a huge encouragement and support which has helped me through this successful achievement. I have to say that WFN has been a very helpful and resourceful environment for me with astounding staff that are always willing to lend a hand. Through this experience I have learned that no questions are unintelligent, and every question asked is something new learned. While continuing with my course I worked for WFN full time and understand the amount of pressure that us young graduates have under our belt. In the end, when everything is said and done, it is the most rewarding and remarkable experience."

Desiree Norman

Chris Derickson attended University of British Columbia (Vancouver) and has completed his Law Degree. Chris has proven to be a leader in our community, while studying at UBCV he worked with Westbank on the Community Plan and is currently a member of WFN's Allotment Committee.

"This past May I graduated from the UBC Faculty of Law with a Juris Doctor. Law school was a long and tedious journey that I could have never accomplished without the support of my family, friends and community. First, I want to thank my mom and dad (Carol & Raymond Derickson) for their unyielding support and encouragement to follow my dreams; you are my inspiration and my heros. Second, a great big thank you to my wife, Jordan, and son, Justin, for their support, patience and understanding as I toiled away in study halls, pulled all nighters and cluttered our house with books, papers and ideas; Justin you gave up your life in the Okanagan so that I could follow my dreams. I look forward to supporting you as you follow your dreams. Thank you to my brother, Aaron, for setting the example by earning two degrees, demonstrating that anything is possible! And thank you to all my friends who traveled to Vancouver, slept in our living room or bedroom, experienced our absurd water pressure and shared the culinary pleasures of Won More; your visits nourished our souls. Finally, thank you to Westbank First Nation for the financial support and constant encouragement to finish my degree! Lim limpt."

Chris Derickson

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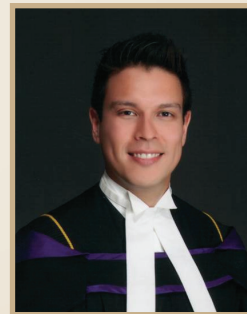
Jordan Ned is a recent high school graduate from Kelowna Secondary School. Jordan has proven herself as an athlete and an academic; she plans to continue her education in Victoria this fall.

"My final year of high school was a great experience and I made several friendships that I will never forget. Going to a new school in Kelowna and a long commute across the bridge was frightening and hard to get used to. I took many classes that were very challenging such as Math 12, Physics 12, Biology 12 and English 12, which were all tough to handle while playing senior basketball and AAA soccer. Taking these classes helped me find a balance in everything I accomplished because when I was stressed out I would put that subject aside and tackle the next one. Most of my close friends are athletes as well so they know and understand how stressed out school and sports can become.

My plan for the fall is to attend Camosun College in Victoria BC where I will be taking general arts for my first year and then transfer into the Bachelor of Commerce Program or Business the following year. I may attend either UVIC, UBC Vancouver or maybe even the States. While attending Camosun College I am excited to be playing basketball for the Camosun Chargers. I hope to play at the University level in the future. All my accomplishments in the past and my future goals in life, I owe to my parents. My parents enrolled me in every sport possible and drove me to many tournaments and paid for all the equipment. Their determination to get me to study and practice is the only reason why I have big dreams for my future. I am very grateful for all their time and confidence to let me keep my goal to play university basketball."

Jordan Ned

The Education Department Mandate is to improve education and educational outcomes for WFN Members. Westbank First Nation will administer its education budget and develop education policy that will assist Members to reach their educational goals and to encourage professional capacity within our own self-governing nation. Congratulations to the students who access our services and so realize their dreams.



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