

Urban Spirit Foundation



The Urban Spirit Foundation (USF) is a charitable organization that exists to further the success and self-reliance of Urban Indigenous people in the Metro Vancouver Region. Established in 2007 by the founders of ACCESS, and supported by ACCESS, USF ensures that all funds raised go directly to its purpose, with no administration fees. United in this mission, the Foundation works to expand philanthropic resources that create pathways to education, employment training, and self-reliance. This includes secondary and post-secondary scholarships and bursaries, as well as community-based programs and projects that help individuals move from poverty toward sustainable independence.

In a relatively short time, USF has strengthened its vision, built leadership, and deepened its connection to community—engaging supporters who are inspired by its purpose and contribute in meaningful

ways. Each year, USF supports initiatives such as the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre's Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program, ensuring children are equipped for the school year, and the Children's Christmas Party, where families receive food hampers and gifts. Signature fundraising events like the Giving Tuesday Chili and Bannock Lunch-To-Go, along with the Annual USF Charity Golf Classic Tournament, continue to grow opportunities while staying firmly grounded in community.



Since 2010 we have provided more than 243 scholarships totaling over \$222,000





Jayden Taggart

HAIDA GWAI

Jayden is a graduate from Byrne Secondary High School in Burnaby.

“To be chosen for this award means so much to me. I’d like to thank Urban Spirit Foundation for selecting me as their 2025 scholarship recipient. Being an Indigenous leadership student at Byrne Creek has opened my eyes to the possibility of staying connected to my ancestral roots in the city. In addition, working in peer tutoring further constructed my ability to work with youth. These are two big aspects in life that no money can pay for. With this scholarship money I hope I can become a Social Worker and continue helping the Indigenous youth in the lower mainland.”



Abigail Lee

CREE, COLD LAKE FIRST NATION

Abigail received the USF Health Science Grant, and she is a first-generation university student at the University of British Columbia, pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She is of Cree descent from Cold Lake First Nation and grew up in Coaldale, Alberta. She previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Alberta. At UBC, Abigail supports fellow students as Chair of the Indigenous Pharmacy Student Collegium while continuing to deepen her connection to her culture.

Driven by a lifelong desire to help others, Abigail has combined her passion for science with her commitment to community care. She has participated in a pilot program focused on urban, land-based learning in collaboration with Indigenous communities, including traditional medicine workshops, cedar harvesting, and sharing circles.

Abigail is dedicated to providing culturally safe care and aspires to practice pharmacy in a rural or Indigenous community.

Priscilla Lawson-Pires

HEILTSUK AND NISGA’A

Recipient of the USF Health Science Grant

In 2025, she completed medical school at UBC and began her residency in the UBC Family Medicine program in Vancouver. She is grateful to train in Bella Bella and the Nisga’a Valley during her two years of residency.

“I am deeply appreciative and humbled to be supported by the Urban Spirit Foundation during my residency training. This support allows me to continue giving back to my communities, which is why I chose to become a doctor.”



Leona Scarff (“Lou”)

NISGA’A, TLINGIT, AND SKWXWÚ7MESH
ÚXWUMIXW

Leona (“Lou”) received the USF Top Student Award upon graduating from the Global Makeup Program at Blanche Macdonald, recognizing their outstanding academic achievement and dedication. Inspired by a passion for makeup artistry that began at age 13, Lou has built a strong reputation for creativity and excellence, developing their skills through years of self-directed learning and hands-on experience with bridal, prom, and drag makeup clients.

The program strengthened Lou’s confidence and inspired them to continue growing in their field. Their goal is to bring together artistry, culture, and community through their work. As Lou shares, “Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week has been the dream. I love creating beautiful looks and helping people feel beautiful in their skin.”



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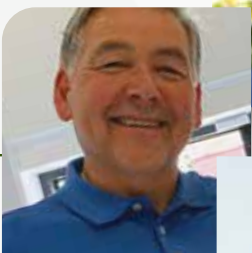
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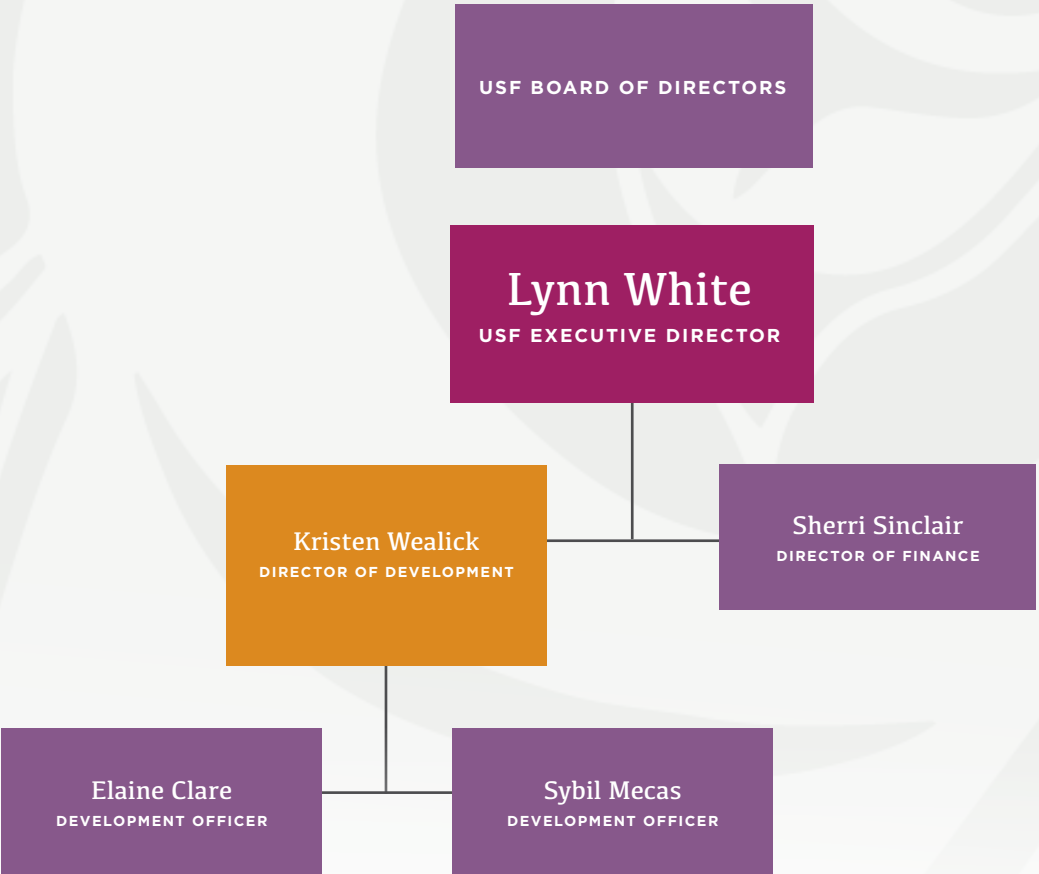


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Organization Chart



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