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TPG'S FINANCIAL AWARDS ARE A 'LIFELINE' FOR TOURISM STUDENTS

PRINCE GEORGE – The future is bright for post secondary recipients of Tourism Prince George's financial award program.

This Spring a student from University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and College of New Caledonia (CNC) were awarded \$1,000 to go towards their tourism studies.

“Being able to support these two students so they can realize their dreams in the tourism and hospitality industry is incredible and just one way we want to give back to the community, and our industry,” said TPG CEO Colin Carson.

TPG award program delivers help in more ways than one

“It feels like more than just a financial aid; it's a medal of recognition for my dedication to the tourism and hospitality sector,” said CNC scholarship recipient Sandeep Singh. “This acknowledgment inspires me to contribute even more to the industry, knowing that my efforts are valued and are making a positive impact.”

Singh, who came to Canada from India, holds a bachelor degree in tourism management and is currently in the Tourism and Hotel Management Post Diploma program at CNC. “This bursary is like a lifeline, helping me pursue my dreams in the tourism industry.”

For second-year UNBC student Kayla McNeil—the first person in her immediate and extended family to pursue secondary education—receiving this bursary goes beyond avoiding student loans and financial stress.

“This bursary is not just about the monetary amount but about the overwhelming support from the generous contributions for my education.”

UNBC and CNC offer tourism-related post-secondary studies

Singh enjoys hands-on learning. He aspires to use his creativity and passion for the industry to work in tourism marketing or destination development. “My favorite aspect of studying tourism and hospitality at the College of New Caledonia is undoubtedly the practical teaching approach.

“I've developed skills like developing marketing plans, crafting strategic plans, refining product development strategies, and adeptly handling events,” said Singh.

McNeil is specializing in leadership and outdoor education. She appreciates that UNBC's Bachelor of Arts in Nature-Based Tourism Management, has the opportunity to open many doors for her future.

“It is very difficult to pick a favorite part about studying outdoor recreation and tourism because it has so much to offer.

“The topics in tourism and outdoor recreation are always changing and with my degree I am given the freedom to explore relevant topics and participate in recreation and tourism in all of its different forms,” she explained.

McNeil plans to use her love for the outdoors and education from UNBC to eventually start her own tourism business.

Last year TPG expanded its financial award program to include a scholarship for CNC. In addition, TPG will be awarding a \$500 scholarship and \$500 bursary to two graduating School District 57 students working towards a career in tourism and hospitality.

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ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

Dr. Nicola Koper, Faculty of Environment Dean, UNBC: “Congratulations to Kayla McNeil on receiving this year’s bursary and thank you to Tourism Prince George for supporting post-secondary students who are considering careers in tourism management. Graduates from UNBC’s Bachelor of Arts in Nature-Based Tourism Management are helping to ensure that B.C.’s amazing outdoor recreation possibilities are sustainable, ethical, and just; we are delighted Kayla chose to join us on this challenging and rewarding journey.”

Dr. Amelia Merrick, Dean, School of Access and Continuing Education, CNC: “CNC has a strong connection with the tourism industry here in Prince George and across the Northern region. Our long-term partnership with Tourism Prince George provides students with financial support during their study and it opens the doors to future employment opportunities. Careers in tourism and hospitality are exciting - this is one of the most vibrant sectors in B.C.!”

Sandeep Singh: “Every bit of financial support really makes a difference. This bursary has lightened some burden and allowed me to focus more on my studies.”

Kayla McNeil: “The Tourism Prince George bursary has helped me to avoid student loans for my second year of studies. As I am the sole provider for my educational journey, donations like these help me tremendously to not worry if I will have enough funds to complete my degree.”

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