

## **RBC ANNOUNCES 2009 ABORIGINAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND AFTER-SCHOOL GRANTS PROJECT RECIPIENTS**

**TORONTO, October 28, 2009** — As part of its ongoing effort to support Aboriginal youth learning, RBC today announced the recipients of the 2009 *RBC Aboriginal Student Scholarship Awards* and the *RBC After-School Grants Project*.

This year, the *RBC Aboriginal Student Scholarship Awards* program granted 10 deserving students with scholarships, up from eight in 2008. RBC also donated a total of \$90,000 to programs serving Aboriginal youth through the *RBC After-School Grants Project*.

“We understand the crucial role a good education plays in helping Aboriginal youth achieve success in life,” explains Kirk Dudtschak, senior vice-president, Strategy and Human Resources at RBC. “Our commitment to Aboriginal youth and to Aboriginal communities is to offer our support at every stage of a child’s education, from early childhood through college or university.”

The annual *RBC Aboriginal Student Scholarship Awards* provide \$4,000 annually, for a maximum of four years, to selected students pursuing a post secondary education. These funds can be used to offset the costs of tuition, textbooks, supplies and living expenses during the academic year. Since the program was launched in 1992, 88 students have received the award, and \$1,000,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded. RBC also considers scholarship recipients who are interested in careers in financial services for summer and post-graduate employment.

RBC’s *After-School Grants Project* offers a wide-range of activities including organized sports, art classes and computer tutoring-activities that help address the wide-range of what a child needs to develop fully, while bridging the gap between school and home. RBC has supported the *After-School Grants Project* since 1999 and has donated a total of \$19 million in funding to more than 198 organizations across Canada.

“We feel it’s important to support a wide range of programs that help kids to stay in school and flourish,” adds Dale Sturges, national director of Aboriginal Banking, RBC.

### **2009 RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program Winners**

- **Alyssa Whiteduck**, *Pikwakanagan First Nation*, Ottawa, ON
- **Amanda Carling**, *Métis*, Winnipeg, MB
- **Chelsey Shortman**, *Mikisew Cree First Nation*, Goodsoil, SK
- **Cinthia Jean**, *Métis*, St-Leolin, NB
- **Greg Campbell**, *Moose Cree First Nation*, Timmins, ON
- **Judy Klassen**, *St. Theresa Point First Nation*, St. Theresa Point, MB
- **Kevin Hall**, *Status Indian from Lake Babin Band*, Vanderhoof, BC
- **Nicolas Sky Lee Johnson**, *Métis*, Vernon, BC
- **Renée LeBlanc**, *Métis*, Wedgeport, NS
- **Sarah Scout**, *Status Indian from Blood Band*, Calgary, AB

### **Aboriginal recipients of the RBC After-School Grants Project**

- **St. John's Native Friendship Centre**, St. Johns, NL
- **Centre d'Amitié Autochtone de Val-d'Or**, Val'd'Or, QC
- **Native Child and Family Services of Toronto**, Toronto, ON
- **YMCA of Sault Ste Marie**, Garden River First Nation, ON
- **Saddle Lake Boys and Girls Club**, Saddle Lake, AB
- **Side Door Ministries**, Yellowknife, NT
- **Kia-how-eya Aboriginal Centre of Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society**, Surrey, BC

For more information, including eligibility criteria for the annual RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program, visit [www.rbc.com/careers/aboriginal\\_student\\_awards.html](http://www.rbc.com/careers/aboriginal_student_awards.html). For more information about the RBC After-School Grants Project, visit [www.rbc.com/careers/stay\\_in\\_school.html](http://www.rbc.com/careers/stay_in_school.html).

### **About RBC and Aboriginal Canadians**

RBC has a proud history of strong relationships with Aboriginal peoples. We are committed to serving Aboriginal governments, communities, organizations, businesses and individuals by creating opportunities for sustainable economic development through: access to banking and capital; community and social development; employment, education and training; and procurement. RBC also provides donations and grants that support Aboriginal interests in three key areas: the environment, specifically water; youth literacy and education; and culture and heritage. RBC invested over \$1.9 million in support of Aboriginal community initiatives. For more information about these programs and more, visit [www.rbc.com/publications/](http://www.rbc.com/publications/) and click on "A Chosen Journey".

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