

## 2007 RBC ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The following eight aboriginal students from across Canada have been awarded scholarships by RBC this year. As winners of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual *RBC Aboriginal Student Awards* program, each of these students will receive \$4,000 annually for their education expenses, for a maximum of four years at university or two years at college.

This year's winners are:

- **Jonathan Melong – Nova Scotia**

Mr. Melong, a Métis from Havre Boucher, will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at Dalhousie University this fall. His dream is to become a doctor. He has already received many academic accolades, including the Lieutenant Governor's Award. A passionate athlete, he is actively involved in community sports and coaching.

- **Ashley Stacey – Quebec**

Ms. Stacey, a Kahnawake Mohawk from Chateauguay, is currently enrolled in her first year at Concordia University. Her goal is to become the first native Forensic Chartered Accountant in the community of Kahnawake.

- **Gary Mclvor and Tara Williamson – Manitoba**

Mr. Mclvor, a Treaty Indian from Wabowden, is a father of two and a first year nursing student at University College of the North, where he is currently the student association council president and a member of the Ininiwi Kiskinwamakewin Centre student advisory committee. In addition to a full course load, he works as an emergency on-call worker at Wabowden Community Health Centre and as an emergency medical responder with Wabowden Fire and Ambulance.

Ms. Williamson, from the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Manitoba and is currently enrolled in the concurrent Law - Master's of Arts program at the University of Victoria. She is actively involved in supporting and serving the Aboriginal community and volunteers at a number of organizations, including the Aboriginal Student Centre, the Native Women's Transition Centre, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and the University of Victoria Faculty of Law's Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Camp.

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- **Meghan Shannon – British Columbia**

Ms. Shannon, a Métis from Parksville, will start her second year at University of Victoria in September and is currently completing a BSc double major in Mathematics and Economics. She plans to pursue a career in banking and hopes to one day work for the World Bank.

- **Jerrett Lafontaine and Robert Daniels – Saskatchewan**

Mr. Lafontaine, a Treaty Indian from Yorkton, will be in his second year at the University of Regina this fall, studying Business Administration. He credits his participation in the Stay in School program and his cousin for inspiring him to achieve his dream of attending university. He hopes to be a positive role model for his younger siblings as well.

Mr. Daniels, a Treaty Indian from the Mistawasis band, has been accepted into the MBA Program at the University of Saskatchewan. He is a former social worker and the proud father of three children.

- **Melissa Elliott – Ontario**

Ms. Elliott, a Lower Mohawk from Ohsweken, has been accepted into York University to study International Studies – an area that has interested her since participating in the 2004 Elders and Youth Summit on Six Nations. She was also involved in negotiations with the federal and provincial governments over the former Douglas Creek Estates in Caledonia.

The RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program is offered to students currently enrolled in post-secondary studies. Recipients who are interested in pursuing careers in the financial services industry are also considered for summer and post-graduate employment opportunities with RBC. Selections are made by an independent committee of academics from the aboriginal community, and are based on personal and academic achievements as well as individual financial need. To date, RBC has awarded 69 scholarships totalling \$834,000 to Aboriginal students in Canada.

RBC has a long-standing relationship with Canada's Aboriginal Peoples and in 2006 donated over \$950,000 to support Aboriginal causes. In addition to the *Aboriginal Student Awards Program*, RBC also supports the Historical Foundation's heritage programs for Aboriginal students and donated funds to the Dominion Institute to support its Aboriginal Youth Writing Challenge.