



2024

INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

Louis Calhoun (Haisla Nation) | Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

I am adopted, and my first introduction to my culture was attending a Powwow when I was six years old. I started to connect with my Indigenous culture in grade 10, and I have now participated in drum groups, medicine circles, powwows, weaving, and canoe trips. I also learned the cultural teachings of cedar, canoes, paddles, drum making, Coast Salish art, and Slahal when I attended Indigenous Summer School. I have volunteered for the Fraser Valley Métis Association, Reach Gallery Museum events, and Powwows. At school, I drum and sing and share the land acknowledgement. School has not been easy for me, but applying the Seven Sacred Teachings (Wisdom, Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility, and Truth) has helped me grow and engage and has made me feel much more confident and optimistic. I even had the courage to march in my first ever "Climate for Change" protest! I love expressing my Indigenous culture through art, especially beading, and this is something that I want to pursue long-term. Getting my driver's license is important so I can take a road trip to Kitimat with my sister; we both long to meet family and learn more about our Haisla Nation.

Words of Wisdom: Feel great about your accomplishments but remain humble and kind.



Indigenous
Education