

# UPDATE

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie is sitting on concrete stairs. He has his arms outstretched horizontally, one to the left and one to the right, and is smiling broadly. The background shows more of the stairs and a building structure.

**A Magazine for UNBC  
Alumni and Friends**  
– Fall 2015

## **Northern Leadership** **Survey reveals grads are thriving**

Alumni Association of UNBC president Andrew Seabrook shares his thoughts about the alumni survey on the back cover.

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



# The Inside Scoop

**A message from UNBC President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. Daniel J. Weeks**

UNBC is at a unique point in its history. Now that the celebration of our first 25 years has taken place, **we are poised for a bold future.** The past is important; the future is critically more so.

In order for us to succeed, we must build upon all that contributes to our reputation as a young, award-winning, research intensive university, and strive towards even greater teaching, research and service. Key to this future is our alumni.

UNBC graduates now number close to 12,000. They contribute to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our region, province, and the globe. Our alumni are also shaping the future of UNBC, stepping forward as ambassadors and leaders. One need only look as far as our Board of Governors for an example. Ryan Matheson was one of the first students to attend UNBC. He graduated in 1999 and is now serving as Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors, a leadership first for UNBC's alumni.

Ryan is just one of many UNBC graduates influencing and shaping our future. In this issue of UPDATE, you'll read about the alumni survey results that quantify the positive impact our grads are having. You will also read about UNBC graduates who are serving our communities while achieving professional success and building the reputation of UNBC. The results don't lie – UNBC is the university its founders envisioned.



Alumni are our greatest ambassadors and grow the reputation of UNBC, yet our University is one of many in a competitive world where students have choices. This means we must become more innovative when it comes to attracting and retaining students. Take for example the \$2,500 tuition credit that we offered to Canada Winter Games athletes and officials. We had 11 people take advantage of this in the fall semester, with two of them from outside of Prince George. We anticipate this will continue to pay dividends; we have 81 people registered for the credit, which is valid until September 2019.

We must build upon success and make a UNBC education a truly life-changing experience for each and every student that comes here. An education from UNBC isn't just about earning a degree; it's about becoming an engaged citizen, a proud graduate and a champion for UNBC's future. It's about developing northern leadership.

Over the coming months, I will be connecting with our alumni and supporters across Canada as part of the President's Alumni and Friends Tour. I look forward to meeting alumni, and talking about a shared vision for UNBC's future.

After all, this is about our future together.

## President's Alumni and Friends Tour: Leadership and Engagement

Now that the 25th Anniversary has come to a close, UNBC's next generation has begun. Through this tour, President Daniel Weeks will connect with UNBC alumni and supporters across Canada to share a vision for UNBC's enhanced excellence in leadership and invite experience, perspective and involvement in its future.

## Tour Location & Dates

### 2015

Ottawa | November 16

Vancouver | December 10

### 2016

Prince George | January 19

Future dates are being set for Kelowna, Victoria, Calgary and Toronto

**For details, please visit  
[unbc.ca/president](http://unbc.ca/president)**



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**GREEN**  
UNIVERSITY™



**unbc.ca**



# Training Mind and Body

First Northern Sport Leadership Awards bestowed

In February, Jarod Algra set his sights on the target at the biathlon range during the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George and helped Team BC place fourth in the men's relay.

This fall, the Abbotsford product is back in Prince George with his skis in tow but, in addition to returning to the Otway Nordic Centre, Algra now has his sights set on a Bachelor of Science in Physics at UNBC.

Algra is the first recipient of the UNBC Northern Sport Leadership Award – the full-tuition scholarship that was created thanks to the successful fundraising campaign led by UNBC and the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club.

After his Canada Games experience, Algra was already considering UNBC as a possible destination for his post-secondary education, but the leadership award sealed the deal.

"I chose to come to UNBC because of the excellent biathlon facility at Otway, which provides me with the opportunity to train and study at the same time," he said.

Erica Kreitz, from Prince George, was already very familiar with both UNBC and the training facilities at Otway before she began her first year of studies this fall. A member of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Team, Kreitz was an alternate for Team BC at the Canada Winter Games and a guide for a blind skier in a para-Nordic event.

Kreitz was a member of the Junior National Talent Squad last winter and is the first recipient of a second \$1,000 Northern Sport Leadership Award.

A biochemistry student, Kreitz wants to pursue a career as a registered dietician and said it was an easy decision to stay close to home.

"UNBC has a beautiful campus, with access to so many great resources and great outdoor spaces," she said.

The initial fundraising target of \$150,000 was exceeded last year thanks to the many Caledonia Nordic Ski Club members who contributed, as well as a \$50,000 contribution from Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines. The endowed UNBC Legacy Fund welcomes donations, with the goal of setting up additional awards in future years.





# Giving Voice to Indigenous Health Perspectives

New book seeks to enrich classroom discussions



Dr. Margo Greenwood (left) and Dr. Sarah de Leeuw show off the new textbook they co-edited.

Art and prose paint a powerful story of Indigenous health experience in a unique textbook created by two UNBC professors.

Through *Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada: Beyond the Social*, Doctors Margo Greenwood and Sarah de Leeuw offer an up-close and personal look into the realities of health in Aboriginal communities.

"This is written by Indigenous people about Indigenous people and their viewpoints on health," notes de Leeuw, an associate professor in the Northern Medical Program, a partnership between UNBC and the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine.

"What is really exciting about this book is the inclusion of creative expressions such as poems and short stories that provide a serious reflection on health status. The cover features a house post totem pole by Northwest Coast carver Ya'Ya Heit which memorializes his clan brothers who died of AIDS."

The book seeks to move academic discussion beyond established social health determinants, such as income and education. It helps to explore impacts of other factors, including colonization and colonialism, environment, geography and culture.

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**"This is written by Indigenous people about Indigenous people and their viewpoints on health."**

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De Leeuw and Greenwood collaborated on the book with two colleagues, Dr. Charlotte Reading from the University of Victoria and Nicole Lindsay from Simon Fraser University.

"Where prior publications have included one or two chapters, this book is fully focused on the Indigenous health experience," says

Greenwood, an Education and First Nations Studies professor, and the academic lead of the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health housed at UNBC. "It fills a huge gap of information in the Canadian health education landscape."

The book features contributions from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis writers, with chapters ranging from scholarly papers to reflective essays and insights on well-being shared through Aboriginal community members.

"These stories document resilience, strength, and solutions from a health context, offering a richness of information far beyond discussions centred only on social health determinants," adds Greenwood. "These chapters contain a wealth of Indigenous experience that previously only existed as oral knowledge in our communities. In asking people to write this, we have, together, created a very special collection of material."



# Fantastic Fungi

Researchers seek out mushrooms with cancer-fighting traits

Mushrooms provide food for animals, help plants grow, and in some cases are even an international delicacy. Now a group of UNBC researchers want to find out if they have lifesaving cancer-fighting properties.

Biochemistry Professor Dr. Chow Lee is leading an interdisciplinary team of researchers who are gathering mushrooms from across Northern BC. They use solvents to extract and generate what are called crude fractions, which can contain many specific chemical compounds.

The researchers are looking for mushroom fractions that can either block cancer cell growth on their own or can help stimulate the immune system and act as a catalyst to help the body fight the cancer.

"History has taught us that there are many useful medicinal compounds from mushrooms," says Dr. Lee. "Yet, it is estimated that only 10 per cent of fungi on earth are known. This means that fungi are a major untapped source of new, potentially powerful and natural pharmaceutical products."

Working alongside Dr. Lee are co-principal investigators Chemistry Professor Dr. Kerry Reimer, and Ecosystem Science and Management Professors Drs. Keith Egger and Hugues Massicotte.

In July, Genome British Columbia awarded \$52,000 through its Strategic Opportunities Fund to help the researchers continue their study. UNBC is matching these funds, bringing the total to more than \$104,000.

"The research being conducted by Dr. Lee's team will enhance what's known about medicinal fungi and is an example of new and innovative ways to use genomic tools," says Dr. Alan Winter, CEO and President of Genome British Columbia. "Although at the early stages, exploring the medicinal properties of mushrooms for cancer treatment is fascinating."

Dr. Chow Lee (front) and Drs. Kerry Reimer (back row, from left) Hugues Massicotte and Keith Egger show off mushrooms used in their study.





# Encountering North Coast Flora

Students study local plants in Skeena River estuary thanks to donor support

**O**n the banks of the Skeena River estuary, two worlds collide. Fresh water from the Skeena, the second-largest river in BC, empties into Chatham Sound at an average rate of 1,760 cubic metres per second. The clash of fresh and salt water creates a rich marsh teeming with diverse species of plants, insects and fish.

This unique ecosystem is the perfect setting to study plant diversity, and that is what brought a group of UNBC students and instructors to Port Edward, just a few kilometres from the mouth of the Skeena.

Led by Dr. Darwyn Coxson, a UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management

professor, 18 students and two teaching assistants spent four days in August collecting data that will be critical to the biological monitoring of the estuary.

As an Undergraduate Experiential Service Learning course, Biology 301 takes students into the field to conduct practical learning exercises. In this case, the students surveyed the botanical diversity of the estuary, cataloging species as they went, using the same skills and knowledge as a field biologist.

“A student learns as much in a day on the marsh here as they would in a month of me telling them about it in a lecture,” says

Coxson. “It provides an opportunity to learn how to identify a range of species, and how as biologists they can quantify changes in plant communities.”

The course began with a week of lab-based work at UNBC’s Northwest Campus in Terrace, after which the group moved on to Port Edward, where they stayed at Cassiar Cannery and North Pacific Cannery. During the day they collected samples, learned the names and habitats of significant local species such as the Northern Rice Root (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*) and Sea Arrow Grass (*Triglochin maritimum*), measured environmental parameters, and preserved samples for the Cassiar Cannery herbarium.





"It's great being in the field instead of the classroom, because we get the hands on experience, as if we were actually working for an employer, instead of sitting in a lecture hall," says Reilly Walker, a Bachelor of Science (Integrated) student from UNBC's Northwest Campus.

Experiential learning courses would not be possible without donors. Funds in 2015 came from UNBC's Area of Greatest Need and Pacific NorthWest LNG, building on previous support from Cambria Gordon Ltd., ECL Environmental Solutions and the Skeena Wild Conservation Trust. Cassiar Cannery provided discounted meals and accommodation as an in-kind donation.

"We have to be very thankful to the people who gave us the opportunity to take part in these courses," says Neil Pilgrim, a teaching assistant for Biology 301. "The fact we can stay in a place like (Cassiar Cannery) and take part in the course is amazing." With the field work finished, the class returned to Terrace to complete their course work, taking with them the experience of doing important biological monitoring on the Skeena River estuary. "It's a real treasure for British Columbia, and one we don't know much about," says Coxson. "By bringing our class here, and collecting baseline data, the students are really making a contribution to the knowledge of this site."



Students used microscopes to examine coastal flora in a temporary lab at the Cassiar Cannery.





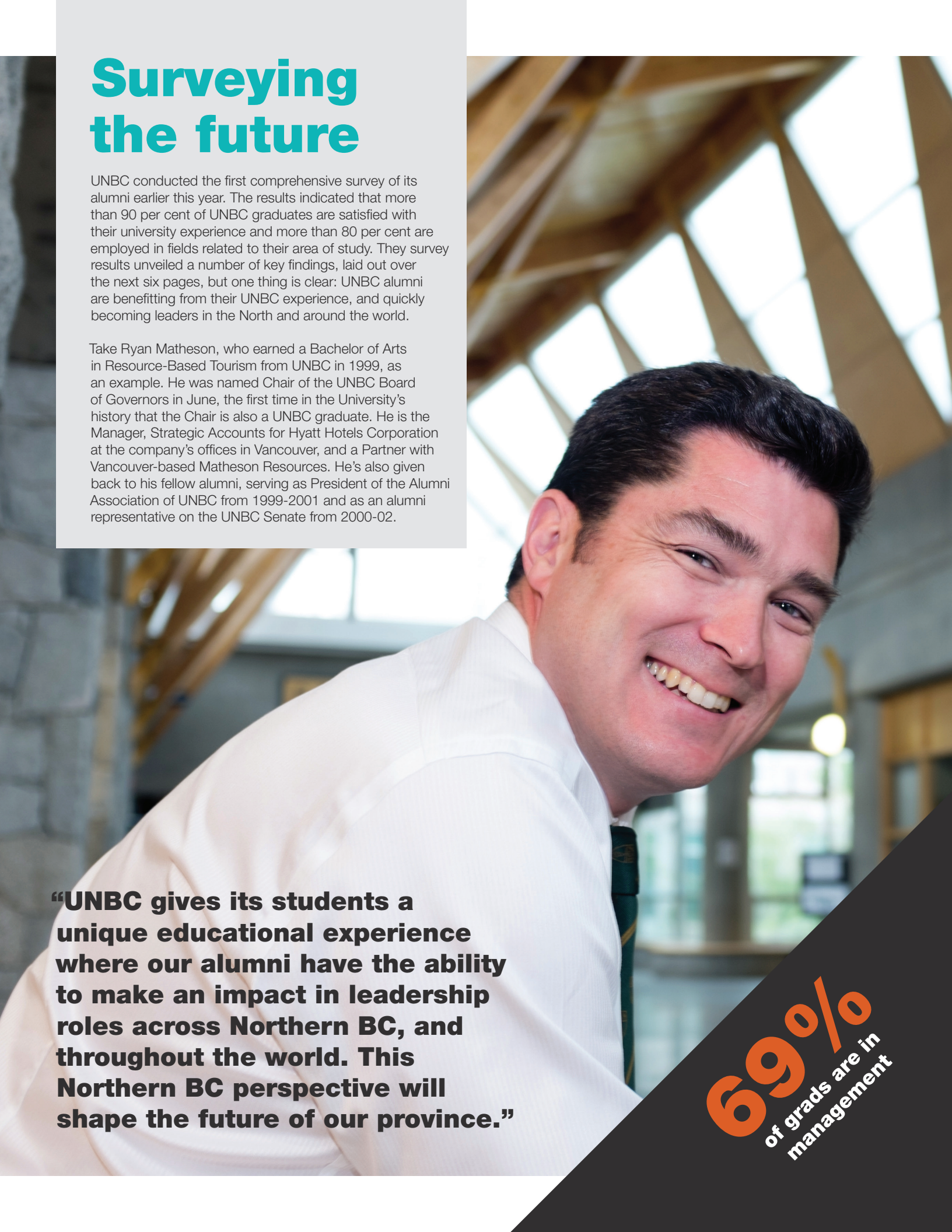
# Surveying the future

UNBC conducted the first comprehensive survey of its alumni earlier this year. The results indicated that more than 90 per cent of UNBC graduates are satisfied with their university experience and more than 80 per cent are employed in fields related to their area of study. The survey results unveiled a number of key findings, laid out over the next six pages, but one thing is clear: UNBC alumni are benefitting from their UNBC experience, and quickly becoming leaders in the North and around the world.

Take Ryan Matheson, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Resource-Based Tourism from UNBC in 1999, as an example. He was named Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors in June, the first time in the University's history that the Chair is also a UNBC graduate. He is the Manager, Strategic Accounts for Hyatt Hotels Corporation at the company's offices in Vancouver, and a Partner with Vancouver-based Matheson Resources. He's also given back to his fellow alumni, serving as President of the Alumni Association of UNBC from 1999-2001 and as an alumni representative on the UNBC Senate from 2000-02.

**“UNBC gives its students a unique educational experience where our alumni have the ability to make an impact in leadership roles across Northern BC, and throughout the world. This Northern BC perspective will shape the future of our province.”**

**69%**  
of grads are in  
management





**#1**  
Sector of employment  
for UNBC grads:  
Health & Medicine

**“When I was done my degree, I was ready to walk out of school and straight into a job with Northern Health. There are endless opportunities for nurses in the North.”**

Laine Becker (BSc Nursing, 2014) is one of many UNBC graduates working in health-related occupations in Northern BC. A registered surgical nurse working in Prince George and Vanderhoof, Becker chose to go into nursing because he wanted to find a stable career that allowed him to work closely with people.





**Current BC region of residence**



**56% Earn more than \$60,000 per year**

**Top 5 skills that UNBC helped develop**

- Critical thinking
- Ability to independently acquire skills & knowledge
- Comprehensive knowledge of a subject area
- Working under pressure
- Problem solving

**Top 3 factors**

- Class Size**
- Campus Location**
- Professors**

**98%**  
**Feel that UNBC makes a difference in the North**

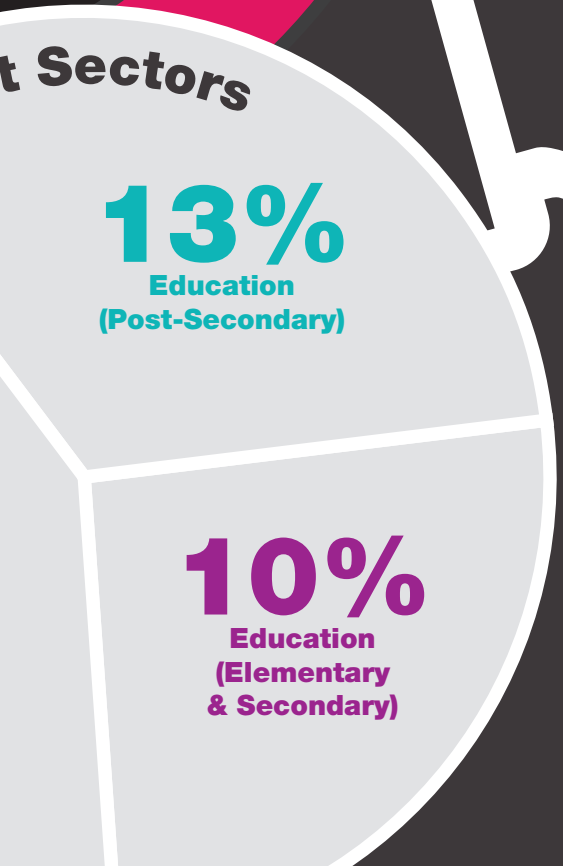
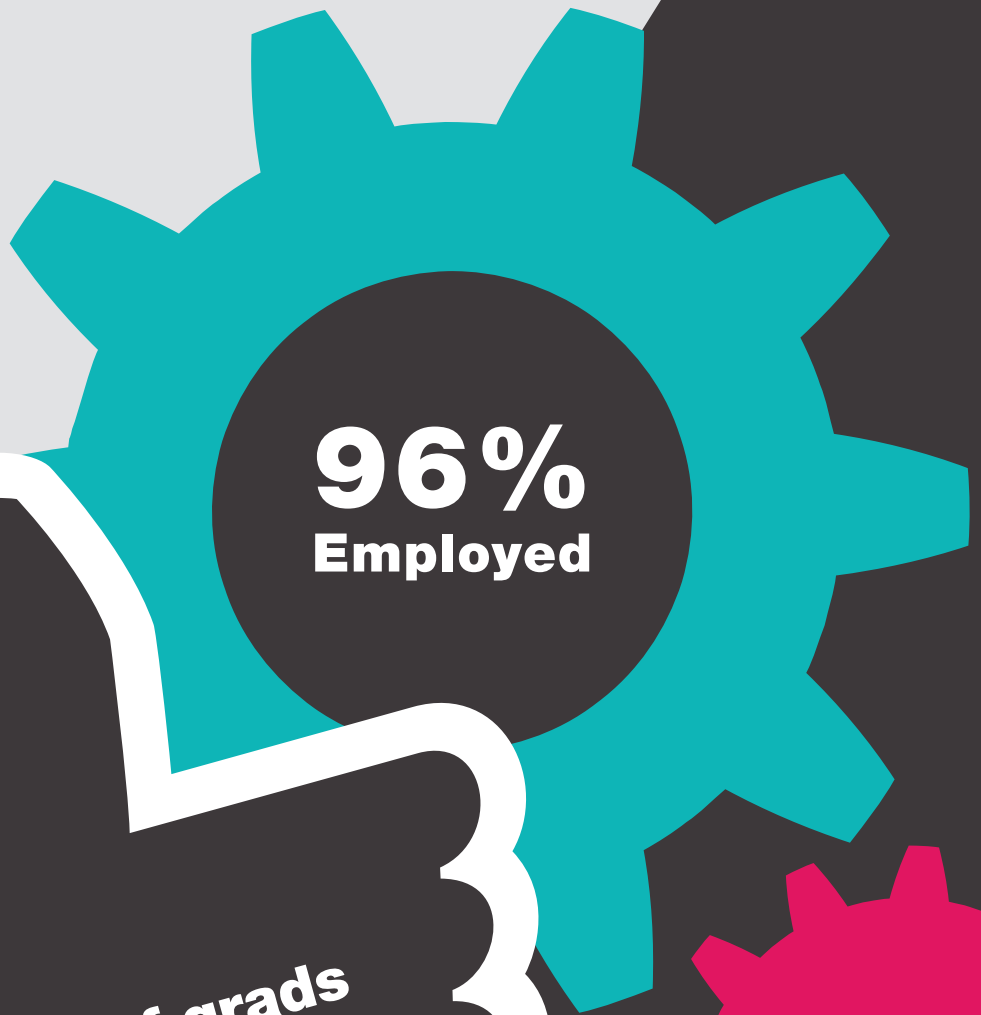
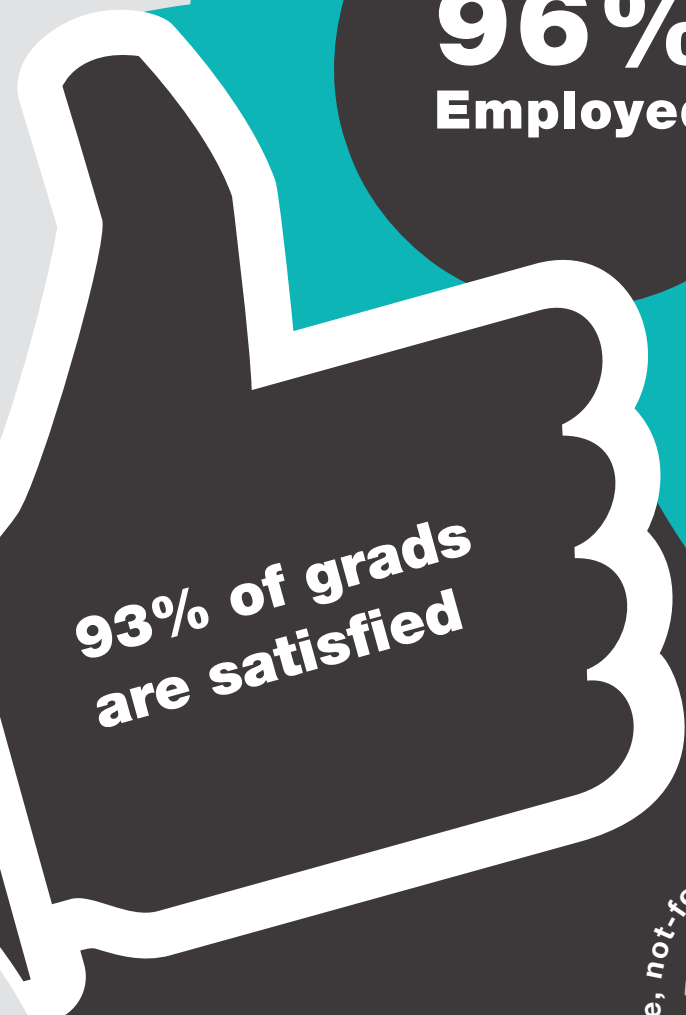
**Top Employment**

**16%**  
**Health & Medicine**

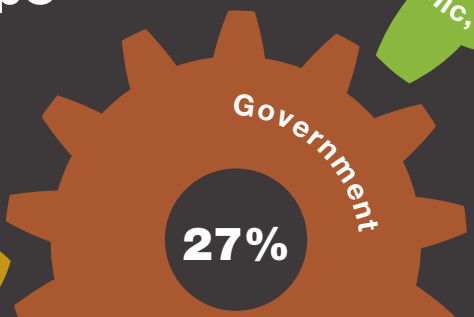
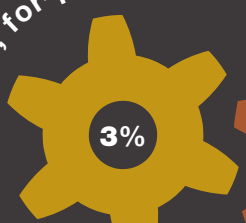
2015 Alumni Survey  
**1,490 Participants**  
**75 Questions**  
**This is what you told us.**

Full survey results can be found at [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni)





### Employment Type





**93%**  
of grads would  
recommend UNBC

Dan Wingham (BA Political Science and International Studies, 2003) is a self-described “fierce and passionate advocate for UNBC.”

For years, Wingham has shared the benefits of UNBC with his personal and professional network both here at home and nation-wide. One of his key UNBC learnings was that “the local is the global” in other words, acting locally has global reach. This philosophy is central to his ethic of driving change and connecting people to community as he develops his career and his organization as Manager, Partnerships & Business Development with Integris Credit Union.

**“UNBC has been, and continues to be transformative for students, our community and our region. It’s a unique place where people learn how to design and drive positive change.”**



**“The programs and faculty at UNBC are top notch and the opportunities to work in Northern BC can’t be beat. My job exceeds expectations and is better than any I had dreamed of.”**

Davee Palmantier (BComm Marketing, 2014) landed her dream job within months of graduating from UNBC. As the Community and Business Partnerships Director at Conifex Timber Inc., Palmantier liaises with communities and First Nations groups, works with environmental consultants, and manages the company’s social media campaigns.

“I was taught that a university degree will open doors to almost any job,” she says. “At UNBC I was exposed to great faculty who want to help students succeed.”



**84%**  
of UNBC grads are  
employed within  
six months  
of graduating



# UNBC In The News

UNBC people and stories making headlines



## Soaking Up the Sun

UNBC launched its latest green energy project this summer with the installation of 25 photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of the Conference and Northern University Student Centre.

The panels generate clean, renewable energy and serve as a teaching tool for both UNBC students and students from School District 57 (Prince George). The panels generate 5,000 kWh of electricity per year, enough to power a typical BC home for nearly six months.



## Professor Emerita

Dr. Antonia Mills retired as a Professor of First Nations Studies, but was bestowed with the title of Professor Emerita at Convocation. This is an honour given to a retiring faculty member who has provided exceptional service to the University and the larger academic community through research and classroom teaching. Dr. Mills joined UNBC in 1994 and has conducted field work with Northern BC First Nations communities since the 1960s.



## First Graduate Degree at WWNI

The Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute reached another milestone when Lori Nyce earned a Master of Arts in First Nations Studies this year. A longtime employee of the Nisga'a post-secondary institution affiliated with UNBC, Nyce became the first student to earn a graduate degree at the Gitwinksihlkw campus. Fittingly, she wrote her thesis on the history of Nisga'a education.



## Simonson Named Men's Soccer Coach

Steve Simonson took the helm of the UNBC men's soccer team on an interim basis this season. The former head coach of the Victoria Highlanders FC of the United Soccer League's Premier Development League joined the Timberwolves after the former head coach Alan Alderson left UNBC to pursue new opportunities.

"Steve's head coaching experience and leadership will help our men's soccer team continue to develop and excel in Canada West," says UNBC Director of Athletics and Recreation Loralyn Murdoch.





## Senior Advisor on Aboriginal Relations

Métis scholar and UNBC graduate Rheanna Robinson is the University's first Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Relations.

In her new role, Robinson will advance aboriginal programs at the University, work with the Senate Committee on First Nations and Aboriginal People, and help develop standardized aboriginal protocols at UNBC.

"I have a long history with UNBC and deeply value the long-standing institutional priorities related to Indigenous knowledge and community engagement," says Robinson. "I look forward to advancing key areas of strategic importance in this new role."

Robinson is originally from Smithers and began her post-secondary experience in 1995 at UNBC. She completed a BA in First Nations Studies and History in 2001, a master's degree in First Nations Studies in 2007, and is a PhD Candidate with the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education.

Robinson has worked in the UNBC Office of Research and as a sessional instructor for the Department of First Nations Studies. She will join the Department of First Nations Studies as an assistant professor in January.

"The conversation around aboriginal issues has shifted dramatically in this country and UNBC strives to facilitate and engage in those discussions," says Dr. Daniel Weeks. "By naming a dedicated senior advisor, I am signaling the importance I place on Aboriginal discussions happening at UNBC and in the communities we serve."



Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall (from left), Northern Undergraduate Student Society President Duncan Malkinson, UNBC World University Service of Canada representative Tegan Loti, and UNBC President Dr. Daniel Weeks announce new funding for Syrian refugee students.

## UNBC Responding to Refugee Crisis

UNBC undergraduate students have sponsored refugee students for 10 years through fees paid to the Northern Undergraduate Student Society.

With the refugee crisis in Syria reaching historic proportions, UNBC is acting this year to sponsor four Syrian refugees. The University is contributing \$180,000 through funds raised by donations to the Area of Greatest Need to help refugee students get a hand up while earning a UNBC education.

The UNBC chapter of the World University Service of Canada's Student Refugee Program administers the program and student volunteers work closely with the refugee students to help them integrate into life at UNBC.

## New Writer in Residence Named

Award-winning author Janet Rogers is the latest Writer in Residence. Rogers, a Mohawk/Tuscarora poet and performer, has authored four collections of poetry, performed on three poetry CDs, and produced two radio documentaries. During her time at UNBC Rogers plans to write her first radio play, which will inform the public and celebrate the unique history of Indigenous presence on the airwaves.

## Research at Quesnel Lake Featured

UNBC graduate students and faculty members presented their latest findings to a packed hall of community members at the annual open house at the Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre.

One of the many topics discussed was the ongoing UNBC research into the aftermath of the tailings pond breach at the Mount Polley Mine in August 2014.



# Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni) and tell us your story

## 1997

**Edward Epp, MED Educational Counselling**, is an accomplished artist and practicing clinician, maintaining a practice in Vancouver and Kitimat.



## 1999

**Peter Walsh, MEd Educational Counselling**, has just retired as the Director of Adult Education from School District 28 in Quesnel. Peter worked in education for 41 years.

**Sacha Wood, BSc Natural Resource Management**, is living out her dream profession as a teacher. She has been with the Edmonton Public School Board since 2001 and this year will teach Environmental Outdoor Education, Computer Science and Phys-Ed in Junior High.

## 2000

**Jillian Demontigny, BSc Biology**, went on to complete the medical program at McMaster University and is now a rural family physician in Taber. Working in a town of 7,500, she does clinic work at home and in neighboring communities, covers the emergency department in the local hospital, and offers training to medical students, residents and nurse practitioner students.

## 2001

**Neil Aartsen, BA Environmental Studies**, is a Chartered Professional Accountant and Senior Internal Auditor with AltaGas in Calgary. In this role he assists senior management with the achievement of strategic objectives by performing environmental, financial and operational audits, as well as identifying risks and risk mitigation strategies.

**Helen Domshy, MA Gender Studies**, and husband **Denis Domshy, BA International Studies (2009)**, have relocated to Penticton for their retirement. They are looking forward to spending more time relaxing and enjoying life in wine country.



## 2002

**Arian (AJ) Delisle, BComm Finance & Marketing**, is a senior account manager with Royal Bank in Burnaby.

**Nicholas St. Pierre, BComm Finance**, is the Manager of Engineering Finance for CP Railway's Head Office in Calgary.

## 2004

**Moezine Hasham, BA International Studies**, is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of AllStarHockey.Org in Toronto. AllStarHockey.Org is a non-profit organization aimed at removing barriers for new Canadian youth to play ice hockey, while providing skill development opportunities through their T.E.C.H. program (Technology, Entrepreneurship, Community, Hockey).





79%  
of UPDATE readers read  
Class Notes

## 2005

**Caitlin Nicholson, MA First Nations Studies**, is a teacher with School District 57. Caitlin is also a children's book author.



**Carolynne Burkholder-James, BA Political Science**, received a Juris Doctor from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa in 2014 and was called to the British Columbia bar this past May. She works as an Associate with Heather Sadler Jenkins LLP in Prince George.



## 2006

**William Thomas, MSW Social Work**, is the President and Owner of Thomas Training and Therapy Services in Winnipeg. He provides therapeutic intervention to individuals, children, couples and families in crisis. He is also the Indigenous Director for the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association.



## 2008

**Angelina Gauthier, MED Multi-Disciplinary Leadership**, is an elementary school Principal with School District 28 in Quesnel.

## 2010

**Tim Carmack, BComm Finance (2002) and MBA**, and his wife **Jennifer Quick, BA General (2002)**, recently moved back to Prince George. Tim is taking on a new leadership role with RBC as the Regional VP for BC North, where his primary responsibilities will be focused on the oversight of retail banking, financial planning and small business in Northern BC.



## Employment

### Are you looking for work?

Check out current job postings for UNBC students and alumni at [unbc.ca/alumni/alumni-jobs](http://unbc.ca/alumni/alumni-jobs)

### Do you have employment opportunities within your company?

Share them with UNBC students and alumni at [unbc.ca/alumni/submit-job-posting](http://unbc.ca/alumni/submit-job-posting)



# Class Notes

Be part of class notes: visit [unbc.ca/alumni](http://unbc.ca/alumni) and tell us your story

## 2011

**Melissa Barcellos, BComm Marketing & General Business**, and recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service, was recently named the first Manager of Economic Development for the City of Prince George.

**Jonathon Gray, BComm Finance & Marketing**, was recently promoted to an Associate role with Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a real estate services firm in Toronto. His work with the Tenant Advisory team focuses on acquisition and disposition of office premises, lease negotiations and consulting.



**Miranda Schmolz, BA Geography**, made history this spring when she was called to the BC bar. She is a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and is believed to be one of the first two individuals from this band to become lawyers. Miranda is currently practicing in Prince George with Jon M Duncan Law Corporation.

**Hassan Tahir, MSC Computer Science**, is working as an IT Manager for Westcana Electric. He and his wife Sidra (UNBC graduate student), have launched an IT company based in Prince George. i3Solutions provides a variety of services including website and software development, internet marketing and more.

## 2014

**Cameron Bell, BA Environmental Studies**, is an Economic Development Officer with Misty Isles Economic Development Society in Queen Charlotte City. He works with stakeholders across the islands to inform the MIEDS Board, and further the development of the economy and communities on Haida Gwaii.



**Caitlin Croft, BComm Marketing & General Business**, is the Customer Success Coordinator with AppDynamics, an application performance monitoring (APM) software company in San Francisco. She is involved in post-sales marketing with their online community and loyalty program. She also works in operations for the global education team who is in charge of training customers on how use and troubleshoot the software.

**Carmen Marer, BA Nature-Based Tourism Management**, recently moved to Winnipeg following a career opportunity for her fiancé, Clinton. She is a Corporate Sales Associate with the Viscount Gort Hotel, where she focuses on client services and representing the hotel at tradeshow, conferences and industry events.

## 2015

**Kylee Brown, BA Women Studies (2013) and BSW Social Work**, spent the summer back packing through the Greek Islands before relocating to Terrace where she is now working as a Child Protection Social Worker with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**Chelsea Dunk, BA Political Science**, is doing a year-long local government internship with Northern Development Initiative Trust in Wells and Quesnel.

**Taylor Kandler, BHSC Biomedical Studies**, is working as a Research Project Coordinator with the Harvard Medical School Massachusetts General Hospital. She is working on the ground with the "Every Second Matters – Ketamine" project, which is being implemented in five hospitals in Kenya.





## Top 5 Topics in UPDATE that Most Interest UNBC Alumni

1. News about UNBC research
2. Alumni updates and achievements
3. UNBC employment opportunities
4. Profiles of current faculty and staff
5. Upcoming events



### UNBC Board of Governors

Judy Mason, MBA 2009  
Ryan Matheson, BA 1999 (Chair)

### UNBC Alumni Senators

Andrea Palmer, BA 2001 & MA 2005  
Rheanna Robinson, BA 2001 & MA 2008  
Allan Stroet, BComm 2006  
Pam Tobin, BA 2005 & MA 2007

### Green University Planning Committee

Zarrah Holvick, BA 2011 & MA 2013

### Alumni Association Board of Directors

#### President

Andrew Seabrook, BComm 2009

#### Vice President

Jennifer Young, BA 2000 & BSW 2007

#### Treasurer

Dori Alger, MBA 2010

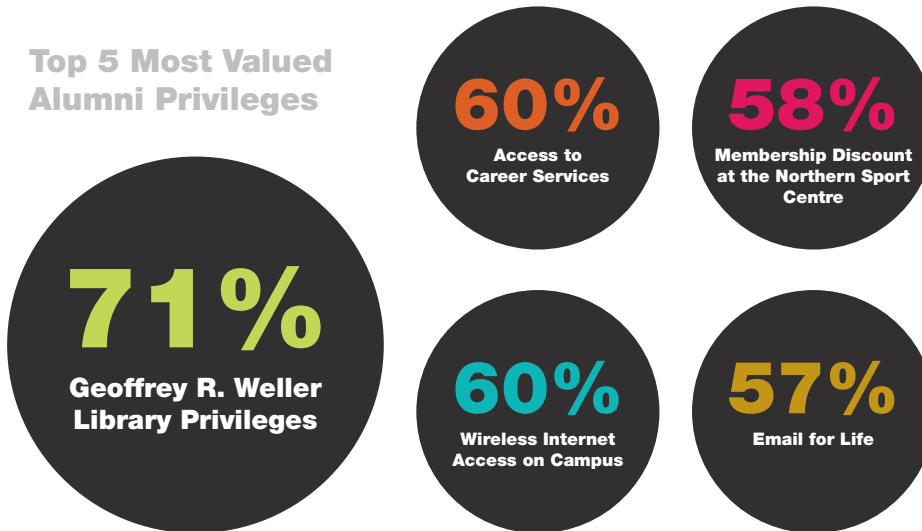
#### Directors

JoAnn Barclay, BSW 2013  
Carolynne Burkholder-James, BA 2005  
Tina Gillanders, BA 2006  
Suzy Merritt, BComm 1998  
Davee Palmantier, BComm 2014  
Joanna Paterson, MSc 2014  
Simon Pow, BComm 2005  
Terry Regner, BSc 2008  
Marianne Sprague, BA 2002 & BA 2008

#### Ex-Officio

VP External Affairs (NUGSS)  
NBCGSS Representative

### Top 5 Most Valued Alumni Privileges



# Masters & PhD Work Goes Digital at UNBC

The Geoffrey R. Weller Library is very excited to announce that in the next few months all projects, theses and dissertations produced by UNBC students will be available online in a new digital repository. The content will be full-text searchable and your thesis may find its way into Google and other search engine results. This means anyone with an internet browser should be able to download the full text of your thesis!

A thorough background on the development of this repository, along with answers to frequently asked questions, is available at [library.unbc.ca/collections/theses](http://library.unbc.ca/collections/theses).

If you have any questions or concerns related to your work being included in this repository, please contact James MacDonald, Digital Initiatives Librarian, at [james.macdonald@unbc.ca](mailto:james.macdonald@unbc.ca) or 250-960-6601.



# We are UNBC

By UNBC Alumni Association President Andrew Seabrook

As President of the Alumni Association of UNBC, I'm fortunate to be able to meet so many of our talented alumni. UNBC graduates in the North, across Canada, and around the globe are in leadership positions and making a difference. In this issue you met four graduates who are great examples: Ryan Matheson's involvement in UNBC's governance; Laine Becker's desire to help others as a nurse; and Dan Wingham and Davee Palmantier, who are succeeding in their careers and committed to being involved in their communities. These four graduates represent nearly 12,000 UNBC alumni who are using the knowledge and experiences they gained at UNBC to make a difference.

Earlier this year we conducted our first comprehensive alumni survey and we shared some of the highlights in this issue. I was not surprised at all to see our alumni give such high ratings of satisfaction with their experience while studying at UNBC. I

can't say enough about the tremendous experience I had at UNBC and how much it helped me grow and develop. It is fantastic to see the positive experience our alumni had translating into personal and professional success.

Over the past year we reflected on the first 25 years of UNBC and recognized the 16,000 petition signers for their crucial role in the creation of the university. My parents were among the 16,000 petition signers, and the impact of their decision is seen within our family alone. My sister and her husband are both UNBC graduates (Nursing and Education), as well as my wife and I (Commerce and Psychology). All four of us have stayed in the North and are using our education from UNBC to improve the companies we work for and the communities we live in.

The 16,000 petition signers showed incredible leadership in making the choice to support a northern university. Now is

the time for all of us as UNBC Alumni to recognize we are the next petition signers and the future of the University. It is our turn to show leadership and enhance the awareness and reputation of UNBC as an outstanding University. The success and influence we have post-graduation plays a pivotal role in the transformation of the University. Alumni can also support investment in the University's excellence through time, talent and treasure. Philanthropy will support student excellence, and the value of all UNBC degrees will appreciate along with it.

Let's stay connected and build our alumni family to be a community of great strength. Let's be known for maintaining the close sense of community we felt when we were students, and for being huge advocates of our great University and each other. I look forward to seeing you soon.



## About the Author

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