

2024 Pounamu Taonga Award Recipient



Trisha McCreery

Trisha is from the Tahltan Nation but was born and raised on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh. She is graduating with a BA in First Nations Studies.

The summer of her second year, Trisha worked as a research assistant for Aleza Lake Research Forest under Dr. Agnieszka Pawlowska-Mainville, creating interpretative signage for their trails. Inclusive of select Indigenous knowledges and importance, these signs showcase local and regional aspects for various plants and animals that can be found within the trail system.

Trisha was also a part of the Travelling Knowledges program in which she completed an internship on language and cultural revitalization in the Isle of Man, a small island in the British Isles where Manx Gaelic is spoken. With the help and guidance of Dr. Gary Wilson, Ruth Keggins Gell and others, she learned how the Manx language and culture is being protected and promoted in the community. During the internship, she was also able to share the Tahltan Nation's efforts to revitalize language and culture in a public presentation to community members.

Through these experiences, she also has been working towards a micro-certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization with UVic. The program has allowed Trisha to work with her grandma, Evelyn Jensen, to create personal website materials for Tāitān.

While university schoolwork was definitely a priority... making new friends and connections, within the FNC and UNBC as a whole, has been a most valuable experience. She is grateful for all of those who have helped to completely enrich the time of her undergraduate degree.