

# **ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021**



# EDUCATION IS OUR NEW BUFFALO

Since time immemorial the Plains Cree People lived in harmony with the Buffalo. The Buffalo is a great symbol and a great being to the Cree People because it provided all the necessities of life. The Buffalo provided food, clothing, shelter, tools, supplies and hunting implements.

Our way of life and our culture developed around this magnificent animal. We learned to hunt the buffalo skillfully with all of our members taking part in some way. We migrated northward with them in the summer and south again in the autumn to the winter camps. The Buffalo is most of all a Spirit

Being; blessing the people with everything they needed to survive. The Cree People loved the Buffalo and the Buffalo loved the Cree.

Today education is our New Buffalo. We now rely on our education to provide our food, clothing and shelter. We are now developing new skills from our education in order to survive and succeed in the modern world. Our educational training and university degrees shall sustain us, our families and our people in the same way the Buffalo sustained us in the days of our Ancestors.

The Onion Lake Education Trust Fund has been established and designed to provide for the present and future generations of the Onion Lake Cree Nation. The Trust Fund has been developed to assist us like the herds of Buffalo did for countless generations.

**The Buffalo are our brothers and sisters. They talk to us and if we listen, we can hear them.**



# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF HENRY LEWIS

In 2020 and beyond, our students demonstrated a tremendous amount of resilience and determination during an unexpected and challenging year created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Attending university or college requires a continuous commitment and is expensive. Costs go well beyond tuition and books.

The education of Onion Lake Cree Nation members is essential and plays a role in all of our lives. The key to our success, as a Nation, is to foster a highly educated work force in order to reach our goal of self-sufficiency.

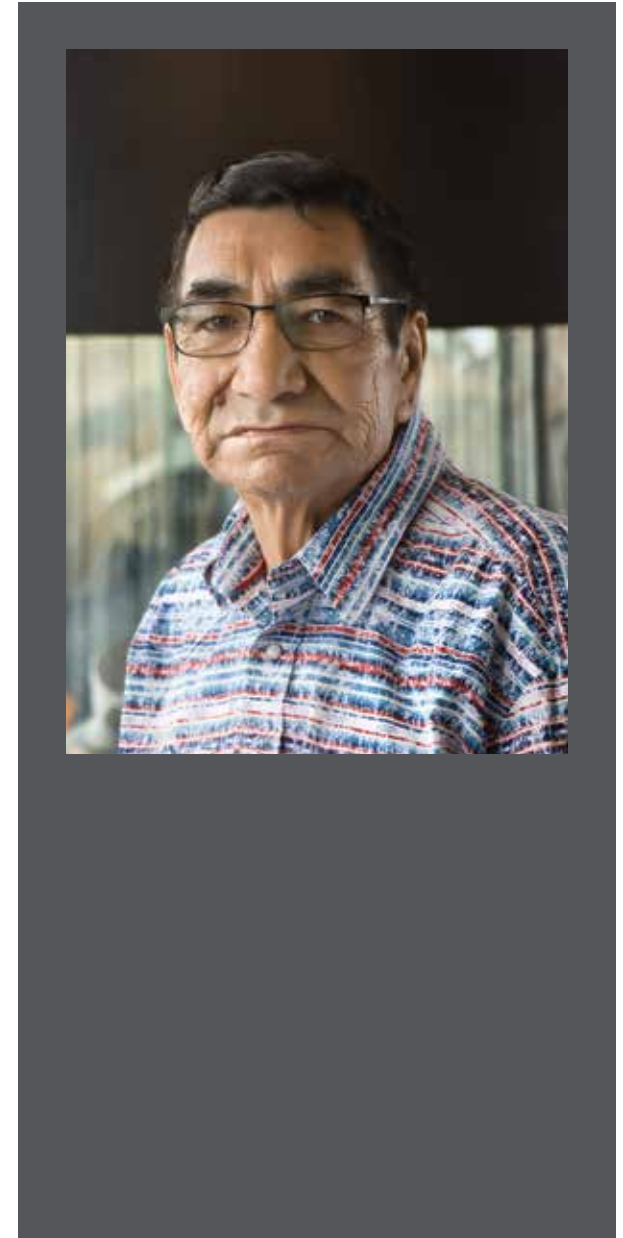
At Onion Lake Cree Nation, our people are our greatest asset and we continue to make investments in them that prioritize their well-being such as the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund. Through the awarding of scholarships and other incentives we hope

to provide the support and encouragement necessary for our students to realize all of their educational dreams.

Onion Lake Education Trust Fund is now in its third year of operation. Each year more and more of our student are focused on a post-secondary education. This ensures our Nation with a very promising future.

As Okimaw and on behalf of Council, I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their continued hard work and to congratulate all of this year's recipients of OLETF scholarships. The Onion Lake Education Trust Fund will help continue to provide much needed support in the education of our students, not only for the present but also for the future.

**Chief Henry Lewis, BEd, MEd**



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN MATTHEW FOX



As Chairman of the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund, it is my honour to report to the Onion Lake Cree Nation membership on the activities of the Board of Trustees for fiscal year 2020-2021, our third year of operation.

I want to express the Board of Trustees' best wishes to all our students and their families and hope that everyone is doing well. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us what is truly important – our health, safety and community well-being. We recognize the many challenges Onion Lake students faced during the year with uncertain schedules, virtual learning and travel and many other restrictions.

During the fiscal year 2020-2021, OLETF provided 95 scholarships to Onion Lake students with a value of \$73,750. Since OLETF was established in 2017, we have managed to provide 240 scholarships with a value of \$178,250.

In 2020, the Board of Trustees appointed the well-known investment management firm Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel to manage our Trust Capital. We are off to a great start and it is hoped that larger amounts of Trust Capital will flow to OLETF in the near future, to provide financial stability and a steady source of Trust Revenue for scholarships and awards for our qualifying students.

We continue to be a force of positive change for the encouragement of post-secondary education for our Nation members. With the very generous support of our corporate sponsors, we have been able to help achieve our goals for our people in the field of higher education. For this we are grateful.

I wish to acknowledge our students for their hard work and dedication to their educational goals in an exceptional and very challenging year.

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow Trustees and in particular Pauline Muskego, for all their good work since the inception of OLETF over three years ago and for all success they have created.

The Board of Trustees continues to deliver on the mandate and purpose set out in the OLETF Trust Deed. The OLETF was established to provide support, encouragement and financial assistance to qualifying Onion Lake post-secondary students through incentives and scholarships.

**Matthew Fox, Chairman**

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Onion Lake Education Trust Fund Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is required to administer the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund in the best interests of the Onion Lake Cree Nation and its members with care, skill and caution. The Trustees must act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Trust, keeping in mind the beneficiaries of the Trust are both present and future generations of the Onion Lake Cree Nation.

The Trustees' overall management and administrative functions are defined by the OLETF Trust Deed. These include the duties and responsibilities to carry out the purpose of the Trust and to encourage, support and provide supplementary financial assistance

to qualifying Onion Lake members attending full-time accredited post-secondary education institutions. The Board is responsible for all financial and administrative aspects of the Trust Fund and operates independently of Chief and Council, Onion Lake Education and the Onion Lake Administration.

The Board is made up of experienced individuals with expertise in education, board governance, policy making, finance and student needs.

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the five (5) Trustees serve a three (3) year term and are appointed by Onion Lake Chief and Council.

**Matthew Fox**

**Pauline Muskego**

**Delia Harper**

**Ivan Harper**



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Onion Lake Education Trust Fund represents a new beginning for the Onion Lake Cree Nation, a means of ensuring support and supplemental financial assistance for Onion Lake students attending post-secondary studies. The OLETF is a perpetual Trust that is established for both present and future generations of Onion Lake students.

Throughout the 2020-2021 fiscal year the Trustees were very active and carried out the following:

- Board of Trustees meetings were held in April, May, August, October, December 2020 and February, March 2021. Detailed minutes were taken at every
- meeting and copies are available to any Onion Lake member.
- The Board members discharged their duties and responsibilities as Trustees and focused on strengthening all administrative functions of the Trust. The Board continued its engagement with the experienced management consulting firm Munro & Associates Inc. to assist in the ongoing administration of the Trust with the financial assistance of the Onion Lake Cree Nation.
- During the year the Board reviewed and adopted comprehensive written policies to provide clear rules for the management of the Trust Fund.
- The Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of an OLETF database system. The database is an effective and efficient way to keep track of all the information on scholarship applicants and recipients each year. In addition, the database will contain information in relation to sponsors, amounts, stipulations and other information. This new and important tool will assist the Board and administrative staff to maintain continuity and consistency in its business and administrative affairs involving the Trust Fund.
- The accounting firm MNP LLP was engaged as independent external auditor for the 2020-2021 financial statements of the Trust.

“ Hold on to what is good even if it is handful of dirt.  
Hold on to what you believe, even if it is a tree that stands by itself.  
Hold on to what you must do, even if it is a long way from here.  
Hold on to life, even if it is easy to let go.  
Hold on to my hand, even if I have gone away from you.”

**Pueblo Blessing**

- The Board of Trustees OLETF's website was upgraded for students to apply online for scholarships and to provide all types of information about OLETF to Onion Lake members and the public ([www.oletf.ca](http://www.oletf.ca)).
- During the fiscal year the Board of Trustees awarded fifty (50) scholarships for Fall Semester 2020 and thirty-five (35) scholarships for Winter Semester 2021 to qualifying Onion Lake post-secondary students ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 each.
- The Board of Trustees set aside \$50,000 as Trust Capital during the first year of operation. Under the Trust Deed, Trust Capital can never be spent and only Trust Revenue can be used to operate the OLETF. The Board of Trustees retained the well-known investment firm Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel. This was done in order to set the stage to grow Trust Capital and create a revenue stream. During the fiscal year OLETF Trust Capital grew to a total of \$63,104 with a rate of return of 24.0% for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The Trustees are hopeful that additional Capital will flow to OLETF in order to grow the Trust to meet

the needs of students, keep pace with a fast-growing population and protect the funds from inflation.

- Since the beginning of OLETF, the Board of Trustees have encouraged and financially assisted Onion Lake Cree Nation students with 240 scholarships with a total value of \$172,250.
- OLETF was most grateful to secure additional funding once again through the Onion Lake Lands Department and their consultation process with third parties. Funds are provided for educational purposes to the Nation by various energy companies doing business on the traditional lands of the Onion Lake Cree Nation.
- Throughout the year the Board continued to develop a program to attract corporations and individuals to donate funds for student scholarships. The Board of Trustees has been able to secure annual and one-time funding from seventeen (17) generous groups totaling over \$168,000.



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Linette Fox was hired as OLETF's part-time administrative assistant and bookkeeper. Linette comes to OLETF with over fifteen years of experience in accounts payable, rent rolls, data entry and a wide variety of administrative matters. She assists the Trustees with student applications, student scholarships, database, bookkeeping and general management of OLETF. She is an important asset to the organization.

# LEADING THE WAY

## Major Scholarship Recipients



### **REANNA CHIEF**

University of Saskatchewan  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

I am extremely honored to be the recipient of the MKA Canada Post Secondary Scholarship. Your generous contribution has allowed me to pursue my Bachelor of Science of Nursing (BSN) at the University of Saskatchewan. Without donors like you, it would be hard for a student to stay afloat financially. In addition, for me, receiving this scholarship is rewarding for my hard work in my studies.

I have always wanted a career in the healthcare system; I just did not know in which profession. Previously, I worked at the Onion Lake Pharmacy as a pharmacy assistant which I enjoyed. However, watching the nursing staff at the health centre work tirelessly in health promotion for our

community motivated me to become a nurse. Now, I am in my 3rd year of the BSN program.

In addition, I would like to thank Onion Lake Education Trust Fund for their hard work and also arranging for donors to help Onion Lake students achieve their post secondary goals.

Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of the MKA Canada Post Secondary Scholarship.

Hiy Hiy



### **ANGELA WASKEWITCH**

University of Regina  
Bachelor of Social Work

I am greatly honoured to receive the major OLETF Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel scholarship. I am currently enrolled in my

last year of study for a Bachelor Degree in Social Work. I am the mother of eight children. I try to be a good role model for them and constantly remind all of my children the importance of a higher education. I want them to follow in my footsteps and fulfill their education dreams. The scholarship will assist greatly in completing my studies and to move on to a career in social work.



### **TIARA OPISSINOW**

University of Alberta  
Linguistics

2020 has been a difficult year for many people, including myself. Online classes and COVID-19 have taken a toll on me financially and mentally which is why my family and I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to CINUP-Johnston Group



for choosing me as the recipient of their scholarship, as well as supporting our community and our post-secondary students. The scholarship will help me tremendously this upcoming term, and allow me to continue my studies without financial stress and continue to work and study what I am passionate about.

I am currently in my third year studying Linguistics and East Asian Studies at the University of Alberta. I believe language is important as it shapes how you see the world. It can connect you to many different people and create new relations by just saying a simple word like “hello”, “tansi” or “konnichiwa”. My goal is to one day share with our people the importance and beauty of our Cree language through not only our culture but of the many different indigenous cultures around the world.

From the bottom of my heart, I am thankful to CINUP-Johnston Group and OLETF for their tremendous support for our community, and for working hard towards a brighter future for all our upcoming post-secondary students.

**CLINTON DILLON**

Lakeland College  
Pre-Medicine Program (Micro-Biology) Major

I am extremely honored and thankful to be chosen as a recipient for the major MKA Canada Post Secondary Scholarship. Thank you OLETF for your generosity. Financial problems are one of the main obstacles that many of us face as a student and a parent.



For myself personally, being the youngest of twelve and the second to graduate, education has played a critical role in my young life. Without education, I do not know where I would be. As post secondary students we need to set a strong foundation for our youth. They need to know they have community members that are working hard to make a difference in hope for them to follow our footsteps. I hope to lead the way with my goal of becoming the first of Onion Lake Cree Nation to obtain a Degree in Medicine.

Again, Thank you Onion Lake Education Trust Fund & MKA Canada Post Secondary Scholarship for the award.

Ay-hay, Nanaskamon!



**KAHTERAKS QUINNEY GOODLEAF**

Laurentian University  
Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for being one of the recipients in receiving your post secondary Quorex Construction Ltd. scholarship through OLETF. I am extremely happy and grateful to receive this scholarship and it will greatly help me in achieving my education goals in obtaining my Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree. I am currently in my final year of my studies at Laurentian University in Sudbury Ontario, and this coming April I will graduate with my degree! I then plan to enroll in a Masters of Indigenous Social Work program this coming fall from Wilfrid Laurier University, which is based out of Toronto. Thank you for helping me to reach my education goals, it gives me a boost of confidence and happiness to know I am being supported!

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## LEADING THE WAY

### Major Scholarship Recipients (continued)



#### **KIMBERLY DILLON**

University of Calgary  
Education

I would like to extend my immense gratitude to Onion Lake Trust Fund Board of Trustees for selecting me as a recipient for this prestigious Quorex scholarship. The support from my Nation is what motivates me to further to continue with my Bachelor of Education degree program. Upon completion, I hope to bring the passion I have for the sciences into the classroom.

I would also like to thank Quorex Construction Ltd for their generous donation towards the scholarship. My education journey has been a long one. I've been out of school for an extended period and decided to go back to school after being given the opportunity to

pursue my degree while also working. The scholarship has lifted a great financial burden as I recently had a baby and am no longer working. It has come at a time where it was needed the most. I will forever be grateful to Onion Lake Education Trust Fund for its support.

I am in third year at the University of Calgary and hope to return to the Onion Lake Cree Nation to work once my degree has been completed.

#### **CHANTELLE MARIE ANDERSON**

University of Calgary  
Thesis-Based Master of Science in Civil Eng.

It is a great honour to be chosen as the Fall 2020 Onion Lake Education Trust Fund recipient of the Royal Bank of Canada – Saskatoon Office Post-Secondary Scholarship.

As the first person in my immediate family to achieve an undergraduate degree and pursue a Master's degree, I strive to provide a positive and inspirational example to my friends, family and community to pursue any and all life goals. I hope I can be an example of how to never give up on your dreams no matter the obstacles you face. I was rejected from my first-choice graduate program because I did not meet all the program

requirements (I held a Bachelor of Applied Arts but I needed a Bachelor in Engineering, Science, and/or equivalent). However, I did not let this stop me. I worked tenaciously with my supervisory team exploring all options to find a home in another graduate program that would accept my academic background and allow me to pursue my research. Now, I am proudly enrolled as a Master of Science graduate student in Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary.



Thank you again RBC for your generous contribution to my education and future aspirations.



**LAYNEE MACDONALD**

First Nations University of Canada  
Indigenous Education

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund Board and the donor Quorex Construction for choosing me as the recipient of the Quorex Construction Ltd. Scholarship especially during these trying times of Covid-19.

I attend the First Nations University of Canada since I graduated from Eagleview in 2011. In the fall of 2014 to begin my teaching degree, finished 2 semesters and returned home to take care of my family. I didn't return until 2018 when my son was 2 years old to continue my degree. I will officially graduate in April of 2021. I begin my internship in Onion Lake in January of 2021. Without the support of Onion Lake post secondary staff and Onion Lake Education Trust Fund, I would not be as successful as I have been throughout my post-secondary education. I would like

to extend my deepest thanks to you all, including the donors of the scholarship.

Aiy-hiy!



**JOLAYNE WILLOUGHBY**

Concordia University  
Faculty of Science/Major Biology

As a recipient of the 2020 – 2021 “iA Financial Scholarship,” I want to personally thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I was extremely excited to discover that I was selected as the winner. I'm forever grateful for your support in my education.

I am currently in my last year of studies for my Bachelor of Science degree at Concordia University of Edmonton, and will be graduating this upcoming April. I'm majoring in Biology and minoring in Business. Once I complete my degree at Concordia I plan to further my studies to receive a lab technician diploma at NAIT, and work as a

Lab technician for the University of Alberta in order to help diagnose cancer patients, find matching organs for transplant patient, and help with containment of contagious viruses such as Covid-19. I'm currently working to finish up this current term online due to COVID-19.

Continuing my studies would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like yourself. I'd like to thank you again for making this possible.



**DANTE CARTER**

University of Saskatchewan  
Commerce

I am writing to thank you for your award of the generous MNP Accounting, Tax & Consulting – Saskatoon Office Post Secondary Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of MNP LLP scholarship.

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# LEADING THE WAY

## Major Scholarship Recipients (continued)

I am a second-year business student at Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan. I hope to declare my major in either Finance or Marketing. Upon graduating, I hope to attend law school and then pursue a career in policy.

By awarding me the MNP Accounting, Tax & Consulting – Saskatoon Office Post Secondary Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

### **JANA CHOUINARD**

Thompson Rivers University  
Juris Doctor (Law – 3 Year Degree Program)

Thank you to Maurice Law for their generous contribution for the Maurice Law Scholarship. It is heart warming and greatly appreciated. I am in my final year of law school at Thompson Rivers University. Becoming a lawyer is something that I always dreamed of, but never thought I would be able to accomplish. As this dream comes closer to becoming a reality, I can't help but reflect on the journey that brought me here.



My mom attended St. Anthony's as a day scholar and never had the opportunity to complete high school. When I was young, she always encouraged me to do well in school and supported my aspirations.

This scholarship will assist me in relocating back to Treaty 6 Territory where I am set to begin clerking and articling in 2021. I am a long-time believer in restorative practices and would love to develop a practice in family and criminal law that welcomes Indigenous traditions into the court room on both sides.

My sincere gratitude to assisting me and my family as we plan this transition – kinanâskomitin, hiy hiy.



### **CHATO DILLON**

First Nations University  
Indigenous Social Work

I am honored to be a recipient of the Cona Resources Ltd Post-Secondary Scholarship.

It has not been easy to live off a fixed income of a student allowance with the cost of living so high in the city right now, especially with the COVID 19 pandemic making life much harder on everyone having to be in isolation.

I am currently in my 3rd year with the First Nations University of Canada to achieve my Bachelor degree in Indigenous Social Work. I have one more year to attend and will be completed in the summer of 2022. I plan on helping as many people as possible struggling with all the traumatic effects of

colonization and residential schools from what I have learned at University and from my own life experiences.



**AMBER WHITSTONE**  
University of Lethbridge  
Bachelor of Nursing

I am beyond thrilled to receive the Cona Resources Ltd Post Secondary Scholarship. I would like to thank Cona Resources Ltd, Onion Lake Chief and Council, and Onion Lake Education Trust Fund Board of Trustees for awarding me this scholarship to aid in furthering my studies. I appreciate knowing my hard work and dedication towards my post-secondary studies is being recognized and supported.

I am a third year Bachelor of Nursing student at the University of Lethbridge who will be entering my final year in the fall of 2021. I plan to further my studies into Indigenous mental health. I would like to also create an

awareness around the affects that residential school had on Indigenous people. Recently I was elected the Indigenous representative for the Nursing Student Association at the University of Lethbridge.

I am grateful to have this support to help in my goal of becoming a registered nurse become achievable.



**RANDI ULANIE LEWIS**  
Lakeland College  
Aboriginal Teaching Education Program

First of all, I would like to say that I am so grateful and humbled that you chose me of all people to received this prestigious scholarship – Maurice Law Scholarship. You have no idea how much this means to me. The day I received an email stating that you chose me to received this scholarship, was the day I honestly felt so discouraged and defeated with my current life situation during the pandemic, however, you provided me

hope and also a much-needed reminder. You reminded me to keep on fighting towards my goals and “ahkakamaymok”, meaning in my Cree language to never give up. You gave me that extra motivation and determination to keep giving my 110% no matter what I may encounter in my life; so, for that, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. When I reminisce about my post-secondary career in the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program I will look back and remember you and this scholarship. About how you gave me hope at a time where I needed it most.

My elderly father does dialysis every week on Tuesdays and Fridays in Saskatoon. So, every now and then I drive there and back and I do my homework in the parking lot of the hospital until he is done dialysis. I am trying my best to make everything work, considering my circumstances.

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“ Our first teacher is our own heart. ”

**Cheyenne**

# LEADING THE WAY

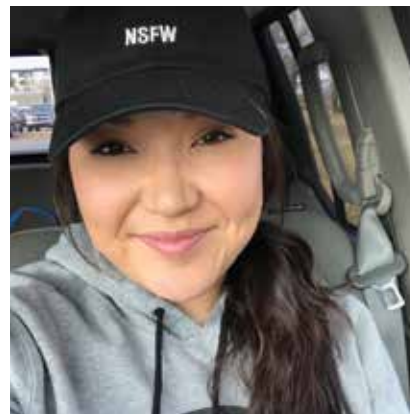
## Major Scholarship Recipients (continued)



**ELISA DILLON**  
University of Alberta  
Bachelor of Education

Tansi (Hello), I am very pleased that I have been chosen to received the Cona Resources scholarship. I am currently in the third year of my Bachelor of Education studies at the University of Alberta. COVID has put a hard toll on me financially, things have been very difficult especially having to be at home and not having the greatest technology for a better online classroom experience. I am very thankful for the generosity of the scholarship as it has helped me get a new laptop to help me with school files and Zoom meets. It has been challenging being a post-secondary student during COVID, but the scholarship has helped

me understand that you guys are here to help and give us a little financial support where it is needed. Thanks for making this semester remarkable.



**SHAYNA WHITSTONE**  
University of Saskatchewan  
Bachelor of Education (Elementary)

I am truly grateful to have been selected to receive the Scholarship from the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund, and to Cona Resources Ltd Post-Secondary Scholarship for their generous sponsorship. Being a university student comes with financial barriers and struggles, the scholarship has really helped a lot.

About myself, I am living in Saskatoon taking the Indian Teaching Education Program. I am near completion of my studies. There were many times that I wanted to throw in the towel, I've had a lot of obstacles and have been through a lot since starting university.

I pushed myself because I was raised to not give up and to keep going, and that these struggles will pay off. I am very proud of myself for how far I have come. When I am done, I plan on moving back home to work for my community and help educate our future leaders.

I hope that one day I can give back to the ones who are in the same position. I wish everyone many blessings.

Ay-hiy

**LEVI WOLFE**  
Lakeland College  
Education

My goals are to further my postsecondary education and to become a high school teacher in the near future. I have recently completed my 3rd year at Lakeland College in Lloydminster and looking forward to further my education journey at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

I want to become an educator. One of my many goals is to help expose the younger generations to our rich Cree history, culture, and language which is an important aspect in our lives as First Nations peoples.



I want to thank Cona Resources Ltd. for the scholarship. I am very thankful for being chosen for this financial assistance to help me along my journey. I wish the best for the company and hope the partnership will continue to grow in the future.

Ay-hiy (thank you),



**EVAN WASKEWITCH**

University of Saskatchewan  
Indian Teacher Education Program

I would like to thank the Connor Clark & Lunn Investment Management for the opportunity to be their 2020-2021 major scholarship recipient.

I am currently a third year College of Education (I.T.E.P.) student at the University of Saskatchewan. I will be conducting my first student teaching practicum next term in 2021 and the scholarship will benefit me in various ways such as the purchasing of school etiquette attires and investing into a new laptop for working on assignments. This kind gesture will be remembered.

“ Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our children. ”

**Indigenous proverb**

# LIST OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## FALL 2020

### **Connor Clark & Lunn Scholarship**

\$2,500 awarded to  
Evan Waskewitch

### **MKA Canada Scholarship**

\$2,500 awarded to  
Clinton Dillon

### **Quorex Construction Scholarship**

\$2,000 awarded to  
Laynee MacDonald

### **iA Financial Scholarship**

\$2,000 awarded to  
Jolayne Willoughby

### **Maurice Law – Calgary Scholarships**

\$1,000 each awarded to  
Jana Chouinard  
Sohmer MacDonald  
Randi Lewis

### **Quorex Construction Scholarships**

\$1,000 each awarded to  
Kimberly Dillon  
Kahteraks Quinney

### **MKA Canada Scholarship**

\$1,000 awarded to  
Reanna Chief

### **iA Financial Scholarship**

\$1,000 awarded to  
Tori Martell

### **CINUP-Johnston Group**

Scholarship  
\$1,000 awarded to  
Tiara Opissionow

### **OLETF Scholarship**

\$1,000 awarded to  
Shaylene Dillon

### **MNP Scholarships**

\$750 each awarded to  
Dante Carter  
Riley Perillat

### **Maurice Law – Calgary**

Scholarships  
\$750 each awarded to  
Jocelyne Chief  
Hannah Muskego

### **Quorex Construction Scholarship**

\$750 awarded to  
Michael Whitstone

### **OLETF Scholarships each \$750:**

Phoenix Dillon  
Jewel Heathen  
Jennifer Pahtayken  
Brayden Wells  
Keenan Gadwa  
Cheyanne Kraig  
Wahlea Harper  
Aaliah Wolfe  
RaeAnne Harper  
Cassandra Lewis  
Steven Speers

### **Maurice Law – Calgary Scholarship**

\$500 awarded to  
Keaton Johnstone

### **RBC Scholarship**

\$500 awarded to  
Chantelle Anderson

### **OLETF Scholarships each \$500:**

Jayden Chocan  
Tayson Pahtayken  
Preston Dillon  
Gunner Nelson  
Stewart Harper  
Larond Belly  
Ruth Frunchak  
Kurtis Pahtayken  
Elaina John  
Quinlan Carter  
Lynn Harper  
Shanita Pahtayken  
Jade Kehijekonaham  
Allison Chocan-Dillon  
Shayleen Lewis  
Ethan Tootosis  
Kira Pahtayken  
Kaylee Crookedneck  
Sonja Lewis



## **WINTER 2021**

### **Trustees of WSAPHTF Scholarship**

\$2,500 awarded to  
Ashley Howe

### **Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Scholarship**

\$2,500 awarded to  
Angela Waskewitch

### **Cona Resources Scholarships**

\$1,000 awarded to:

Chato Dillon  
Darrylene Littlewolfe  
Madison Jade Portas  
Amber Whitstone  
Elisa Dillon  
Tammy Lynn Naistus  
Sonia Waskewitch  
Shayna Whitstone

### **BentallGreenOak Scholarship**

\$1,000 awarded to  
Trish Carter  
Levi Kendrick Wolfe

### **InterPipeline**

\$1,000 awarded to  
Lola Tenielle Wolfe

### **Cona Resources Ltd. Scholarships**

\$750 awarded to:

Julian Chief  
Kaitlyn MacDonald  
Mariah Faith Heathen  
Kalista Chocan  
Christina Swaikoski  
Cindy Lynn Pahtayken  
Kyla Marie Lindsay  
Cassidy Dillon  
Tanisha Pahtayken

### **InterPipeline Ltd.**

\$750 awarded to  
Jason Lee Carter

### **Cona Resources Ltd. Scholarships**

\$500 awarded to:

Brooklyn Dillon  
Drew Marley Cardinal  
Evangelina Dillon  
Darlene Waskewitch  
Corrine Dieter  
Nicole Waskewitch  
Charlene Dillon

### **BentallGreenOak Scholarship**

\$500 awarded to  
Shannon Curtis Buchta

### **OLETf Scholarships**

\$500 awarded to:

Kara Gaboury  
Amanda Kishaynew  
Sadey Jimmy  
Jordyn Lee Larson

# MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Regarding the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund

### **Q WHAT IS THE ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND?**

**A** It is an independent Trust Fund established in 2018 by the Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief and Council to assist and recognize qualifying Onion Lake Students financially through incentives, scholarships and award programs at the post-secondary education level. The Trust Fund will provide funding in addition to other financial assistance received by students such as Indigenous Services Canada government funding, student loans, and parental contributions.

### **Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND?**

**A** The purpose and mission of the Onion Lake Education Trust is to assist and encourage in the educational development of the human resources of the Onion Lake Cree Nation with the view for members to successfully complete their education at the trades, college and university levels and obtain a profession, occupation or skill that will benefit themselves and in turn Onion Lake Cree Nation as a whole.

### **Q HOW ARE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED?**

**A** Under the trust deed, the Onion Lake Chief and Council have the authority to appoint individuals to be Trustees of the OLETF to three (3) year terms. Since the terms of the present trustees expire in 2021 Chief and Council will make new appointments and/or re-appointments for Trustees of OLETF.

### **Q WHAT ARE THE RULES THAT GOVERN THE ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND?**

**A** First and foremost is the OLETF trust deed which is the primary document that sets out the overall rules for the operation and must be followed at all times by the Board of Trustees. Copy of the trust deed is available to all Onion Lake members and posted on the OLETF website.

In addition to the trust deed, the Board of Trustees has and will develop detailed written policies in all areas of the administration and financial operations of the Trust including student incentives, scholarships and awards.

The Board of Trustees must also publish an annual report each year for distribution to the membership detailing their activity during the year and must include audited financial statements.

### **Q HOW MUCH MONEY DOES ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND HAVE AND CAN IT BE SPENT?**

**A** No, not all the money can be spent. The Trustees can only expend Trust Revenue generated from the Trust Capital. They can expend funds provided directly through donations for scholarships. The capital base of the Trust Fund, which is presently only \$62,500, is held forever in trust for educational purposes for Onion Lake Cree Nation members and can never be spent. It is hoped that Trust Capital of the OLETF will grow to millions of dollars over time in order to support all post-secondary students and take into account Onion Lake Cree Nation's fast-growing population.

### **Q ARE THE INVESTMENTS MADE WITH TRUST FUNDS SAFE?**

**A** The Board of Trustees manages the Trust Fund's investments to earn the best possible rate of return consistent with safety. The trust deed itself sets the strict boundaries and restrictions for the types of investments that can be made. Trust Capital of the OLETF is presently invested in a conservative portfolio of stocks and bonds with the well-known investment firm Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel. Quarterly reports from the investment manager are available to Onion Lake members.

**Q WHICH STUDENTS QUALIFY UNDER UNION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND POLICIES?**

**A** Onion Lake students who are accepted to or attending accredited post-secondary educational institutions on a full-time basis for technical trades, college and university programs. The student’s name must also appear on the membership list controlled by the Onion Lake Cree Nation to qualify under the Trust. Restrictions apply since the Onion Lake Trust Fund trust funds are limited, so only scholarships are provided at this time.

**Q DOES THE TRUST FUND PAY FOR TUITION, BOOKS, ACCOMODATION, TRAVEL AND SUPPLIES?**

**A** No. The Trust Fund will only provide general financial support through incentives, scholarships, and awards to qualifying Onion Lake students. The Government of Canada through the Department of Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada (“INAC”) has a first-line Treaty obligation and trust responsibility for the payment of tuition, accommodation, travel, books and supplies for Onion Lake students.

Funding from OLETF is only supplementary to any financial support from INAC through Onion Lake’s post-secondary office or elsewhere.

**Q ARE THERE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR UNION LAKE STUDENTS?**

**A** Yes. The OLETF has developed a scholarship program for Onion Lake post-secondary students. Through the generous support of its sponsors, the Board of Trustees has now secured funds for numerous scholarships from \$500 to \$2,500 that will be provided to successful applicants attending full-time accredited post-secondary institutions in Canada in the Fall and Winter semesters.

It is hoped that many more scholarships, awards and incentives for Onion Lake students can be offered in the future as the OLETF Scholarship Program grows.

**Q HOW CAN STUDENTS FIND OUT IF THEY QUALIFY?**

**A** Students need to read the policy guidelines and will also need to fill out a scholarship application form online. They may also be required to supply the Onion Lake Education Trust Fund with additional documents such as letter of acceptance, transcripts and other information in accordance with prescribed rules and deadlines.

Students can apply online for scholarships awarded during the Fall and Winter semesters. Application, deadlines, guidelines and policies can be viewed on the OLETF website at [www.OLETF.ca](http://www.OLETF.ca)

“ A very great vision is needed and the person who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky. ”

**Crazy Horse, Sioux Chief**

# 2020 – 2021 OLETF SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

The Board of Trustees thank our 2020-2021 sponsors for their generous support and dedication in creating scholarships for the advancement of our students and the betterment of the Onion Lake Cree Nation. Our partners are critical to our success, without them we could not fulfill our mandate. For more information please visit: [www.oletf.ca](http://www.oletf.ca)



Trustees of Wicekaskosiw Sahkahikan Askiwi-Pimiy Heritage Trust Fund  
Dr. Stanley Hamilton, Julian Leong, Bill MacLachlan, Justin Jimmy



# ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Members of Onion Lake Cree Nation:

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Onion Lake Education Trust Fund (the "Trust"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial statements have been prepared by management of Onion Lake Education Trust Fund in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Onion Lake Cree Nation Education Trust Deed (the "Trust Deed").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Trust for the year ended March 31, 2021, are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Trust Deed.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Trust to comply with the financial reporting requirements of the Trust Deed. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Members of Onion Lake Cree Nation and should not be distributed to, or used by, parties other than the Members of Onion Lake Cree Nation. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the 2021 Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. We obtained the annual report prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

*continued on next page...*

## **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Trust Deed, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the

economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
May 18, 2021

*MNP LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

# ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND

## Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	81,435	90,627
Accrued interest	–	1,082
Guaranteed Investment Certificate (Note 2)	–	50,000
	81,435	141,709
Investment (Note 2)	63,104	–
	144,539	141,709
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals	36,749	4,000
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Accumulated Trust Income (Note 1)	57,790	87,709
Trust Capital (Note 1)	50,000	50,000
	107,790	137,709
	144,539	141,709

Approved on behalf of the Trustees



Trustee



Trustee

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Revenue</b>		
Corporate donations	56,500	116,300
Change in fair value – investments	12,022	–
Interest	250	524
	68,772	116,824
<b>Expenses</b>		
Scholarships	73,750	86,750
Trustee honoraria	9,200	14,000
Supplies	5,409	8,026
Professional fees	4,200	4,200
Contract services	3,584	2,835
Travel and cost reimbursement	1,098	4,064
Bank charges and interest	837	620
Website	613	788
	98,691	121,283
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	(29,919)	(4,459)
<b>Accumulated Trust Income, beginning of year</b>	87,709	92,168
<b>Accumulated Trust Income, end of year</b>	57,790	87,709

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

# ONION LAKE EDUCATION TRUST FUND

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(29,919)	(4,459)
Change in fair value – investments	(12,022)	–
	(41,941)	(4,459)
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	–	2,500
Accrued interest	1,082	(492)
Accounts payable and accruals	32,749	(1,200)
	(8,110)	(3,651)
<b>Increase</b>		
Purchase of investments	(51,082)	–
<b>Decrease in cash resources</b>	(59,192)	(3,651)
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	140,627	144,278
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	81,435	140,627
<b>Cash resources are composed of:</b>		
Cash	81,435	90,627
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	–	50,000
	81,435	140,627

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2021

Onion Lake Education Trust Fund (the “Trust”) was established by the Onion Lake Cree Nation on January 23, 2018 to provide limited supplementary financial assistance to qualifying Onion Lake Cree Nation members through incentives and scholarships and to assist in other educational endeavours. This assistance is supplementary to the obligations of the Government of Canada. It is the position of the Trust that it is exempt from tax for income tax purposes based on advanced tax rulings for similar entities.

### 1. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out below to comply with the financial reporting requirements prescribed by the Onion Lake Cree Nation Education Trust Deed. The policies are:

#### Trust Capital

The Trust Capital is subject to the terms and conditions of the Trust which requires the Trustees to hold and preserve the Trust Capital and to apply Trust Income in accordance with the purpose of the Trust.

Trust Capital is defined in the Trust Deed as “all money and property of every nature and kind donated and conveyed or transferred to the Trustees for the Trust Purpose by Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief and Council, the Onion Lake Cree Nation, or by any other person, entity or government and designated by them as Trust Capital and includes all capital gains less all capital losses ever accrued or realized upon such Trust Capital.”



### **Revenue recognition**

Trust Income “means all income of every nature earned, accrued or realized upon the Trust Capital and all monies and property donated, conveyed or transferred by Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief and Council or by any other person, entity or government and not designated by them as Trust Capital.”

Trust Income is recognized on an accrual basis.

### **Investments**

Investments are portfolio investments recorded at fair value for those with prices quoted in an active market, and cost less impairment for those that are not quoted in an active market. They have been classified as long-term assets in concurrence with the nature of the investment.

## **2. Investments**

The Trust has investments of \$40,132 in equities, \$20,821 in fixed income and \$2,151 in cash and short term investments as at March 31, 2021.

## **3. Significant event**

In March 2020 a global pandemic was declared due to an outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) which has had a significant impact on businesses through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian, provincial and municipal governments regarding travel, business operations and isolation/quarantine orders.

The Trust could be affected as its ability to obtain corporate donations could be impacted due to the effects COVID-19 has had, and will continue to have, on the operations of its potential donors. The combined effect these two events will have on the amounts corporate donors will be able to contribute to

the Trust in future is dependent upon their geographic spread and duration. Reductions, if any, in corporate donations being received might result in a reduction of future scholarships paid.

## **4. Comparative figures**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

OLETF’s governance structure provides leadership, accountability and transparency to the management of the Trust Fund and its operations. Our governance framework serves the interests of Onion Lake members with the highest standards of responsibility, integrity and commitment to promote and enhance the post-secondary education experience of our students now and in the future. These standards are developed and implemented by our Board of Trustees.

“ Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world. ”

**Nelson Mandela (Madiba)**

## PARTNERS AGAIN

Our lives have been intertwined with this magnificent animal, the bison, for thousands of years. Through no fault of our own, the sacred paskwâwimostos was hunted to near extinction by outsiders to our country. We suffered greatly, however a new era emerges. The reintroduction of the buffalo to our lands.

In February 2021, thirty-three (33) plains bison were placed on the Onion Lake Reserve from Elk Island National Park. A ceremony was held by the Elders for the event. Okimaw (Chief) Lewis was in attendance and stated “to the student body, you have learned a lot about our traditional ways and how the buffalo provided for all of our needs, now

you will gain first-hand information visiting and learning from our herd. It will also provide food security to our Nation.”

It is truly meaningful for the community to have this noble animal living with us on our land once again. We’ve always been connected to the buffalo spirit stated Okimaw Lewis.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Onion Lake Education Trust Fund**

P.O. Box #54

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