



2023

INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

Fraser Smith | Yale Secondary

I am a proud member of Semá:th First Nation. I am an Honour Roll student and earned awards for Citizenship, Academic Achievement, and Athletic Ability. Next year, I hope to attend UFV's Bachelor of Arts Program with Indigenous Focus; I also plan to continue playing and travelling with the Thunder Rugby Team (Indigenous Provincial Rugby Team). Keeping my language alive is important; I have completed Halq'eméylem language lessons up to Grade 12. I actively participate in First Nations ceremonies, specifically drumming and singing. At my school and in my community, I have been asked to welcome participants to various events by drumming and singing; some examples of the events are Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Harvard University Visit, the Abbotsford Airshow, the Los Angeles Invitational, and the Abbotsford Arts Council Jam In Jubilee. My volunteer portfolio includes assisting with Wac'ipi C'ante Was'te Yuhapi (With a Good Heart Pow Wow), Mental Health and Wellness Advisory Committee (First Nations Health Authority) and the Sts'elemeqw Residential School Thrivers Society BBQ. Mentoring students with the Semá:th Youth Group is a passion of mine. I enjoy being a role model for other youth by sharing my knowledge of drum making, singing, drumming, canoe pulling, fishing, and crafts. For the past three years, I have gained work experience at Semá:th First Nations' doing Administration, Maintenance, and helping with Community Events. Advice that I would give to other Indigenous students is to support and encourage others with a good heart and a good mind.



Indigenous
Education