



2023

INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

Michael Kirkness | Bakerview Centre for Learning

Tansi, I am First Nations from Tataskweyak Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. From a young age, I participated in various land-based cultural activities like fishing, hunting and camping. I attend Powwows, ceremonies, and family events. My father taught me how to do the Red River Jig when I was young, and ever since, I have travelled and participated in Jigging and Square Dancing with the TCM True North Stompers team that competes throughout Manitoba. Jigging is a huge part of my life that I enjoy sharing with other Nations and communities. I also plan to connect more with Jiggers around the lower mainland to pursue my passion for jigging. I had the privilege of attending the Strengthening the Circle Leadership Conference in the Fall of 2022, where I was empowered to follow the leadership styles my parents had already taught me. I serve in the local community as a Secondary Academy Firefighter every Wednesday evening. I hope to one day train a fire crew in my community in northern Manitoba. Over the past year, I opened up a lot more to myself, my family, friends and others around me. I've been open to self-improvement and seeking support as I need it. I realized in order to help other people, I need first to help myself. I'll be the first of my siblings to apply for post-secondary, and I want to make my family proud so that I can give back to my community in Manitoba. Take pride in your culture and learn as much as you can from your Elders; they hold a lot of knowledge!



Indigenous
Education