



2026

## Indigenous Role Model

Anaiya Hink | Lake City Secondary

Anaiya is a proud member of Yunešit'in Govt.

She is a grade 11 student at Lake City Secondary School.

Anaiya is grateful to her family and community Elders who have taught her so much about her rich Tsilhqot'in culture. Anaiya believes that leadership begins with listening carefully to stories, learning from the experiences of others, and taking opportunities to grow. It is an honor to set a good example and share her knowledge with others.

Anaiya leads a healthy and active lifestyle, free of drugs and alcohol. Fitness is meaningful to her. She enjoys running and treasures the story of how the ancestors had runners who carried messages between the communities. She runs honoring them.

*"Nara Riplinger VP for Lake City Secondary shares that "Anaiya is one of the most highly motivated and engaging young adults I have worked with in more than 25 years in education. She is introspective and thoughtful in her interactions and walks with quiet pride in her Indigeneity".*

*"Karen Dillabough, Indigenous Support Worker shares "I have had the privilege of getting to know Anaiya this school year. She is a shining light in our school community; her determination and intrinsic motivation are an inspiration to us all. Anaiya's strong work ethic is evident in her outstanding grades and her enthusiasm for taking on extra activities such as joining the Indigenous Student Leadership Council as well as cultural activities with our Indigenous Support Team and our In-Residence Elder Aubrey Jackson".*

Anaiya knows that her indigenous ancestry teaches her to always do her best in all she does. It's her culture that gives her strength. In the future, Anaiya hopes to become an Indigenous Lawyer so that she can help protect the rights, lands, and future of her people. One day she hopes to serve her community of Yunesit'in as Chief!



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Landen Williams | Lake City Secondary School

Landen is a proud member of Ulkatcho First Nation. He resides with his family in the beautiful community of Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Govt. Having mostly grown up in Xeni, it is home to him.

Landen is a grade 10 student at Lake City Secondary School.

Landen is thankful for his rich Dakelh & Tsilhqot'in culture in helping to shape him into the person he is today; what he believes in, and in the way he gives back to his community. Landen is grateful to his parents and grandparents who taught him to hunt, fish, and gather medicine. They shared the cultural stories that he will carry on. His grandparents played a significant role in teaching him patience and to speak his Tsilhqot'in language.

*Chief Roger William from Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Govt. shares "I have known Landen all of his life. During that time I have witnessed his strong leadership, character, and commitment to his culture, family and community. His parents always took him out on the land fishing, camping, gathering berries, roots, and medicines. They have taught him to cut, prepare and dry food in our cultural ways. Landen consistently demonstrates respect, responsibility, and kindness toward others. He represents his community with integrity and is a positive influence for his peers."*

*Teacher Dena Baumann shares "Landen is an exceptional young man, who is clearly very proud of his culture and believes strongly in representing his family and community with integrity. What sets Landen apart from his peers is how authentic and hard working he is. His greatest strength is his unwavering willpower and the way that he pushes himself with unbelievable determination".*

Landen leads a healthy and active lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. He enjoys hiking in his homeland of the beautiful Nemiah Valley. It reminds him of the connection to his ancestors. "They walked those same paths, and I feel honored to continue that legacy".

In the future Landen hopes to lead his people one day, advocating for change and working towards a better future; as Chief.