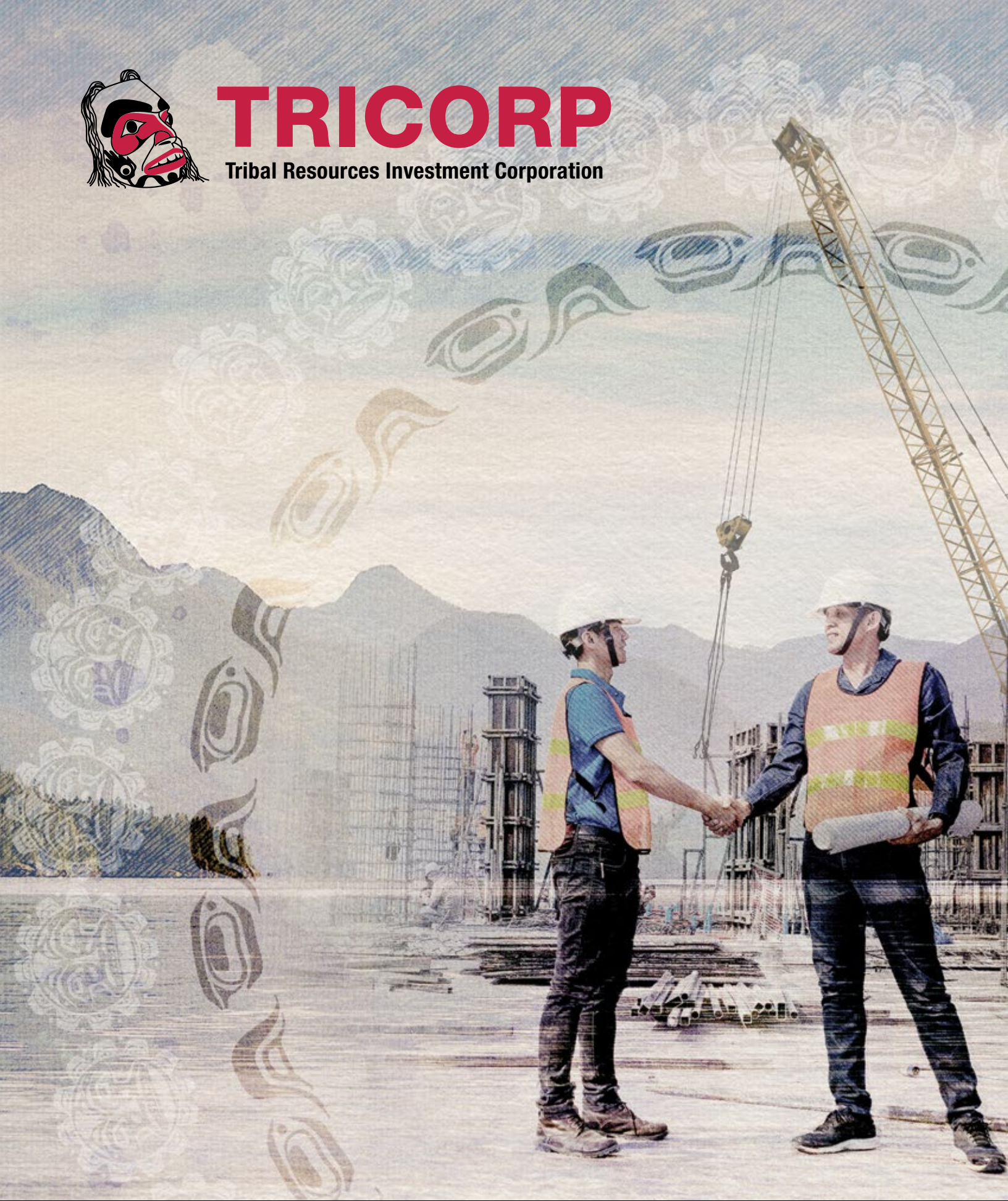




# TRICORP

Tribal Resources Investment Corporation



2019 | 2020 SUCCESS STORIES





*The past gave us experience and  
made us wiser so that we can create  
a beautiful and brighter future.*

**- DEBASISH MRIDHA**





# TRICORP SUCCESS STORIES

Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP) has been delivering numerous Employment, Skills & Training initiatives since April 2012. With our service area extending from the South of Hartley Bay (Gitga'at) to the BC/Yukon border (Taku River Tlingit), and from the West of Haida Gwaii to Houston, covering 21 Indigenous and 13 Urban communities respectively, TRICORP hosts one of the largest regions in BC.

TRICORP provides a variety of funding opportunities for the 21 Indigenous and 13 Urban communities we service in the Northwest. Our programs consist of but are not limited:

- to Individual course purchase;
- group industry certification training;
- youth-based work experience;
- community-supported training projects;
- essential skills;
- trades training; and
- assisting clients who are returning to the workforce with work/safety gear.

TRICORP is very proud of all its clients, whether they take training in a group or individually. Many of whom have overcome barriers and challenges to complete their training, and we feel it is essential that they get acknowledged for their achievements. Every milestone an individual accomplishes, big or small, takes them much closer to their goals or lifetime career. In this book, you will read about student's journeys that detail their barriers, struggles, and sacrifices, but you will also learn about their accomplishments and where it has taken them today.

TRICORP would like to congratulate all our students who are working toward their educational and career goals.



# TESTS PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

## Supporting local women

TRICORP supports local women as they pursue their dream jobs driving big toys. Some women want flowers on Valentines day, but Mary Lou Starrett got something better.

"I got to go on-site and check out the construction cranes on Valentine's Day. I was surrounded by massive cranes – it was awesome."



Mary-Lou Starrett (left) and Mary Stroomer (right) with their journeyman Heavy Equipment Operator certificates.

*Push yourself to try new things, be a sponge, watch and learn from those who already know. For years I was on the outside looking in, I'd rather be on the inside.*

– MARY-LOU STARRETT



## Mary-Lou Starrett

### CRANE OPERATOR

Mary-Lou Starrett came to TRICORP with an opportunity to take the Crane Operator course that had pre-requisites of a Class 1 Drivers License with Airbrakes and Heavy Equipment Operator certification both of which she acquired in prior years. She has now gained Full Time employment as a Crane Operator with NCSG Crane & Heavy Haul and is the only female in her company running crane. Mary-Lou was confident in her abilities and knew she would have to leave her home in Terrace for months at a time to reach her dream career. Mary-Lou has returned to her home in Terrace, with her Class 3 and Class 1 drivers license and fully certified as a Crane Operator. Now she's working down her industry hours so she can get back to the cranes at the Kitamat modular construction project. "I want to see it grow, I want to be a part of it," Starrett says.

Stroomer also found employers didn't take her work seriously, so when she saw a Facebook ad for TRICORP's WESTT Training she threw in her hat in the ring. The training qualified her for the Heavy Equipment Operator training in Maple Ridge, which led to her dream job with Bird Construction. Mary has a great piece of advice for those entering training,





## Mary Stroomer

### **PACKER OPERATOR**

"I thought you were calling to offer me a job."

Mary was surprised to be accepted to the Heavy Equipment Operator training through TRICORP because she applied so close to the deadline on the Facebook page. Mary really enjoyed the training facility and found exactly what she was looking for in the program. She completed on May 25th 2019 and immediately moved into a comprehensive job search.

One day she received a text from a local construction company that was addressed to somebody else. She called the number back to explain that the person wasn't ignoring them but that they had sent the text to her phone and not his. After a bit of a laugh and a short conversation Mary was asked to submit a resume.

She received a call back from the company and started as a packer operator with the company on July 18th 2019. Happy accident!

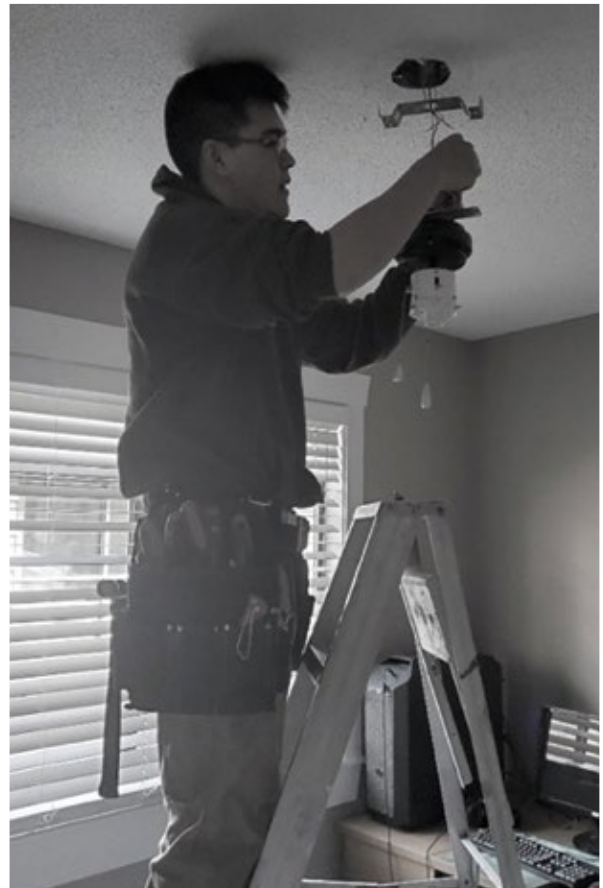
## Joshua Sawchuck

### **ELECTRICIAN**

Is from Prince Rupert and is of the Tsimshian Nation and graduated from Charles Hays. With cost share with his Band and TRICORP he went on to attend Vancouver Island University this past year and finished the 6 month course for "Electrician".

"Overall school was much more enjoyable than I thought it would be and I'm happy I went back. Funds were a big help too".

"In this picture I had a chance to swap out a light fixture and brighten up the room."



*If you're hesitant on returning to school, I definitely recommend it, it's worth the effort.*

**- JOSHUA SAWCHUCK**





## Skyler Collison

### MARINE PERSONNEL

"Coming from a small remote community on Haida Gwaii the resources were limited and the Colleges are far away. In 2014 TRICORP helped me obtain a Master 150GT Domestic Certificate. It opened doors for me to operate vessels immediately, all the while gaining invaluable experience. Then after meeting the sea time (hours) requirements they helped me to pursue and obtain my Master 500 GT Near Coastal Class 2 Certificate. This certification helped land me a dream career on world class vessels close to home. TRICORP helped make this career path more accessible in an industry that is constantly in high demand."

Skyler came to TRICORP prepared with labour market research, schedules and plans to make it all come together for himself. Being from a remote island in the Northwest, he also knew there would be some sacrifices that he had to be make to reach his overall training and career goals. There were periods of time that Skyler spent away from home, his family, travelling to Vancouver and even as far as Nova Scotia.

Today, Skyler is currently employed with Smit Marine and happy to be living close to home. Skyler is also paying it forward by assisting a fellow co-worker navigate through the applications for TRICORP and BCIT by sharing information and advice, making it a smoother process. Congratulations Skyler, we wish you all the best in your new career!

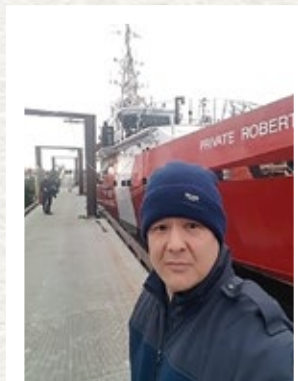
## Cory Fiddler

### COAST GUARD

I completed my certificates in MED Basic Safety, MED STCW Survival Craft, Marine First Aide. I have accomplished this with TRICORPS's help. I am Extremely grateful for everything you have done for me. I start my new posting with the Canadian Coast Guard and I have you guys to thank for it!

I am being posted on the CCGS Franklin it's an Ice Breaker Ship, based out of Victoria British Columbia. I'm going to be working as a chef for now as I have my red seal certificate. I plan to acquire a radio certificate and more importantly my advanced firefighting certificate with an over-all goal to eventually take a bridge watch course. I'll be in touch in the near future.

Thanks again!



*Advice to help the young people; Strive for greatness.*

**- CORY FIDDLER**





# Heather Bohn

## PROFESSIONAL COOK

Heather Bohn has completed the Professional Cook 1 Institutional Entry Course at Coast Mountain College.

She was accepted to take the Professional Cook 2nd year program but Covid 19 put that on hold. She is now waiting for details on how it will start this September. She is busy working with her band and working to complete her hours for the apprenticeship.

Heather would like to thank TRICORP for so much support and constructive feedback whenever I needed to vent about the process and education system.

Some of you may have noticed that Heather made the cover of the Coast Mountain College Trades Calendar. Her reply when asked was that it was a nice surprise and it's nice to be recognized.



# Sarah Peden

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

My name is Sarah Peden I am a part of the Kitsumkalum band in the clan Laxibuu (Wolf). I have an Associate Degree in Environmental Science that I graduated from Coast Mountain College with back in 2018. I am enrolled in the University of Northern British Columbia where I am working on my Bachelors degree of Science majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries with a minor in Physical Geography.

My future career goals have changed slightly as I worked as a student park ranger this summer and

really enjoyed it so I have now added Park Ranger to my potential careers I would like to pursue along with my original plan of becoming a conservation officer.

Through my years of schooling I have gained many important skills from getting to know my professors and taking extra time to learn as many new skills and techniques to put towards my future career. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, bird watching, photography, and basically just getting outside any chance I can.

I have been surrounded by many great role models in my life most of them being family, but a few others have come into my life through connections I've made at school through peers that share the same passions that I do.

Schooling is super important, and I definitely recommend getting into post-secondary school right out of high school even if it is just taking some basic courses till you can figure out what you want to do it just keeps everything fresh in your mind.

*Attending post-secondary school will help set you up for success in the future*

**- SARAH PEDEN**





## Chrissy Chapman

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Chrissy goes full speed ahead and obtains her Class One and Airbrakes. Located in the Smithers area Chrissy enjoys travelling and of course a good day's work.

Not afraid of work, Chrissy was able to apply herself and study hard and was completely focused on obtaining her driving certification.







## Myles Reece

### **TRANSPORTATION**

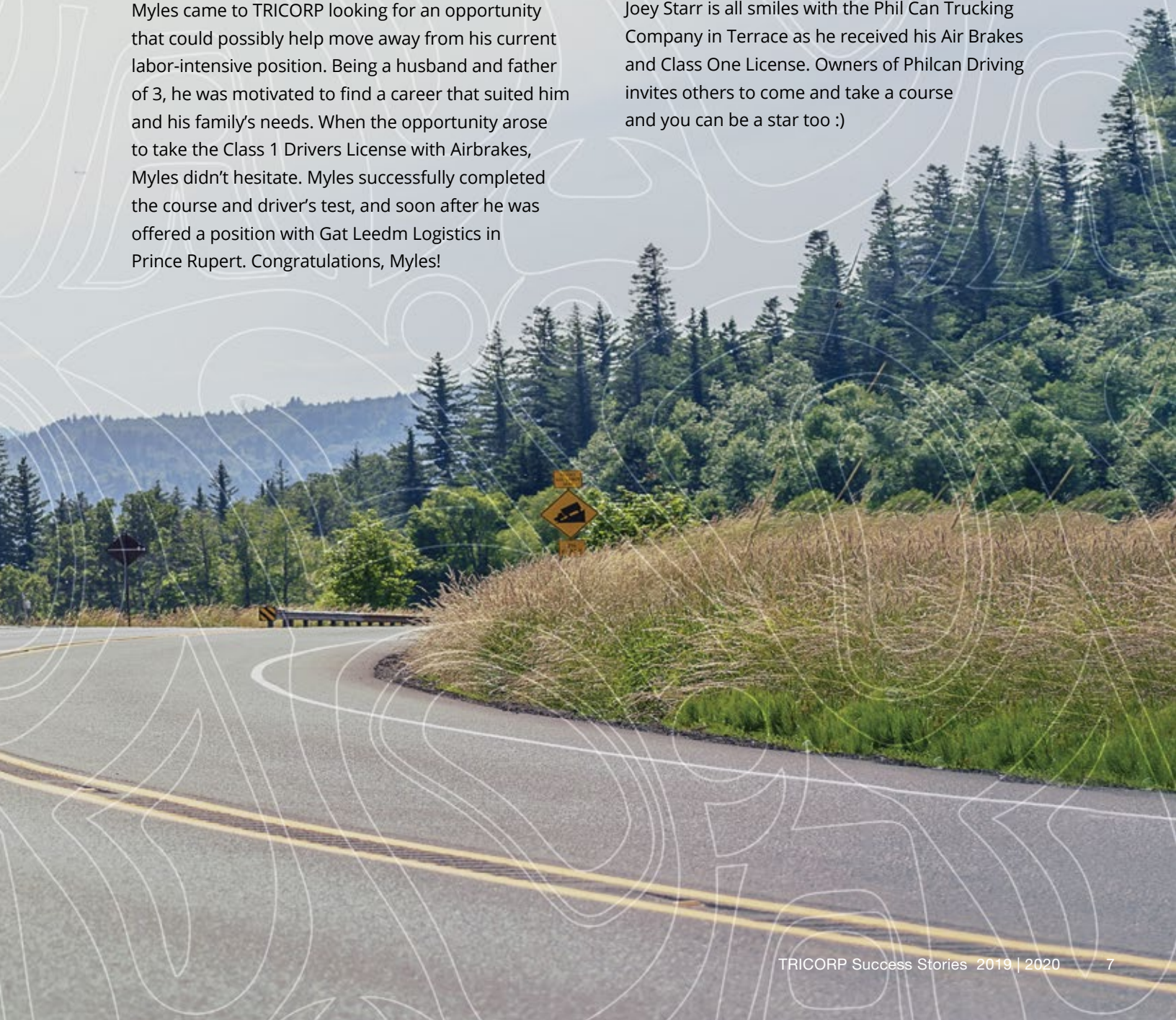
Myles came to TRICORP looking for an opportunity that could possibly help move away from his current labor-intensive position. Being a husband and father of 3, he was motivated to find a career that suited him and his family's needs. When the opportunity arose to take the Class 1 Drivers License with Airbrakes, Myles didn't hesitate. Myles successfully completed the course and driver's test, and soon after he was offered a position with Gat Leedm Logistics in Prince Rupert. Congratulations, Myles!



## Joey Starr

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Joey Starr is all smiles with the Phil Can Trucking Company in Terrace as he received his Air Brakes and Class One License. Owners of Philcan Driving invites others to come and take a course and you can be a star too :)





# Casey Sawchuck

## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

I chose this school as I heard about it from a friend who has the same job as me, and I was pressured by a few close friends/family to take the course and advance my knowledge in my field of employment. I am from Lax Kw'alaams in the Eagle – Laxgiik Clan.

"If you don't know what you want to do after high school, that's totally fine. Don't feel pressured into picking something right away because you might not want to commit to that career.

I didn't think I would be going back to school after graduation but years later I find that I really enjoy working in healthcare and the Pharmacy setting.



Casey Sawchuck, Pharmacy Technician

*Waiting until you find a career to suit you is ok. Just don't be afraid to go out and get it!*

- CASEY SAWCHUCK



# Kostan Levirs

## UVIC - ECONOMICS

"My name is Kostan Levirs and I am from the Haida Nation and I was born and raised on Haida Gwaii.

In 2016 I moved to Victoria to further my education.

I am entering my fourth and final year at the University of Victoria, pursuing an Economics Bachelor of Arts degree. Upon graduation, I plan on entering the finance industry to gain valuable experience.

Eventually, I plan on returning home to Haida Gwaii to showcase everything I have learned and worked for."

# Alannah Markert

## ESTHETICS

Alannah graduated from the six month course at Coast Mountain College Esthetics Program with sponsorship from TRICORP. This prepared her a solid foundation and with the basic knowledge needed to work in the spa industry.



Alannah has been hired by Sweet Dreams Esthetics & Laser Studio in Smithers utilizing our Targeted Wage Subsidy Program (TWS). This program will allow Alannah to gain some valuable on the job practical experience and allow her to showcase her skills and educational training.

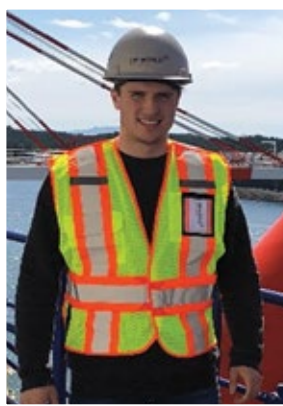
Daunne the owner of Sweet Dreams has been in the esthetics business for over 30 years and the shop offers a variety of services. Drop by and pamper yourself with "Sweet Dreams"



## Austin Weir

### **ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

Austin Weir came to Tricorp in 2015/16 to seek funding for a Mechatronics and Robotics training program at British Columbia Institute of



Technology. At the time Austin was considered a “non-status” Indigenous person. He was working on getting his Status back as his mother is Indigenous. When Austin first called Tricorp to see if he would be eligible for Tricorp Employment Skills & Training Services (TESTS) funding, he had already called two other places to seek funding and was not eligible because he didn’t hold a Status Card, even though his mother was Indigenous. He and his parents were worried that Austin would not be able to take the training program, as the it was not a cheap training program and he was determined to take this training. Austin filled out the TESTS funding application and when he received the news that Tricorp was able to assist him he was so happy. Tricorp and Austin’s parents shared the costs for Austin’s tuition & books. He was very grateful to Tricorp for the contribution to his education costs.

When he finished his first year of Mechatronics and Robotics he turned his focus to Electrical and Computer Engineering. When he finished his summer employment experience he came back to Tricorp to see if we can assist him with his tuition. Once again, Tricorp helped him with one trimester of tuition as Austin saved enough money from his work experience to pay for a portion of his tuition and his parents paid half the tuition. At the end of his Electrical and Computer Engineering training he received a certificate for making Dean’s Honor Roll with a GPA of 8.32 (9.0 scale). At the end of this training program, Austin worked as a Summer Engineering Intern with DP World Inc. Fairview Container Port in Prince Rupert. While working at DP World Inc. Fairview Container Port he was exposed to many departments such as Operations, Maintenance and Management. He

shadowed an ABB Commissioner to troubleshoot and commission new cranes. He worked with the main crane engineer on maintenance calls. He also organized and attended interviews for Apprentices and Journeymen (Millwrights and Electricians).

Austin is currently completing his final year of Electrical Engineering, when he is completed this, he will hold a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering (BEng). Tricorp is very proud of Austin and all his accomplishments while achieving his BEng.



## Reinelda Sankey

### **PARAMEDIC**

My name is Reinelda Sankey, I am Tsimshian from Lax Kw’alaams. I completed my Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training and licensing through TRICORP. I was later hired as an EMR in Terrace with BC Ambulance Service in July of 2019. Later on in November I began the online portion of the Primary Care Paramedicine Program through the Justice Institute of British Columbia, followed by in-class training in January of 2020 in New Westminster. This training was also sponsored through TRICORP. The program was initially scheduled to be completed in July. However, due to COVID-19 we are now expecting to finish in October. We transitioned to online training from March through June and have since returned to class to practice hands-on call simulations. While we are still learning to navigate the learning environment through COVID-19, the entire program has overall been a rewarding experience. I am hoping to complete the next level of Paramedicine and return to work in Northern BC.

Thank you TRICORP for all your help in helping me achieve my goal to be a Paramedic!







# TESTS PROGRAM EMPLOYEE FEATURE

## Jonathan Hill

### **THE LOAF OF BREAD COMMUNITY EATERY - GITXAALA NATION**

The Loaf of Bread (LOB) is a social enterprise restaurant providing community members in the village of Lach Klan with informal gathering opportunities, training and employment, and opportunities to use the space and the kitchen for their own money-making ventures. The food service side of the enterprise features a restaurant menu based on healthy and well-prepared foods, paired with opportunities to share traditional Gitxaala foods. The LOB is being operated as a social enterprise by the Gitxaala Nation. The Nation is grateful for funding support from TRICORP in the area of Employment and Training as well as small business development.

The development of a social enterprise community eatery is an opportunity to build more than a restaurant for Gitxaala people. The Loaf of Bread is an opportunity for employment, training, healthy meals, informal community gatherings and the development of partnerships.

Staffing is likely the most important feature at the Loaf of Bread. All Staff are Gitxaala Members with the exception of the

manager who was hired for his expertise and coaching talents.

Although we love and appreciate all Staff at the Loaf of Bread, we would like to make a special mention of our Janitor – Jonathan Hill. Jonathan has been working at the Loaf of Bread since it opened and even before when the Continuous Learning Centre ran its Professional Cook Level 1 program. We call Jonathan “Mr. Clean”. He is hardworking and always cheerful no matter what! You can tell that Jonathan truly enjoys his work. He is flexible and always willing to take on extra work. He takes pride in his job at the Loaf of Bread and is truly a pioneer staff member at our beloved community eatery.

Thank you Jonathan for all that you do!







## Monica Jeffrey

### COAST MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Monica Lisa Miriam Jeffrey is Gitxsan nation through my mother and her mother, and Tsimshian through her

father. Her traditional name is Lax Ts'ap (Village at either end). A name that suits me because I have my two homes. This name was given and announced in the feast house when I was young. It is tied to a piece of land on our Wilp (house) territory. I belong to the frog clan, Wilps Miluulak from Kitegas (ancient village). Miluulak is the hereditary head chief of the frog clan in Kitsegas.

The program I am taking is ACRM: Archaeological and Cultural Resource Management specialization program associate's degree with an additional Geoscience certificate

It was local and the only one offering specialized degrees and certificate with studies applicable to the area. This college is the only one known for the hands-on experiential learning through summer field schools that apply university credits to assist in fulfilling degree requirements.

I had living expenses covered with more ease with assistance from Tricorp for the courses tuitions, expenses, and books.

I was given a highest GPA award for first year university transfer. I received a few other awards and bursaries due to excelling in my studies.

I struggled with Statistics and GIS courses but persevered with academic and outside assistance.

I received an overall GPA of 3.859

*You're never too young or too old to learn. People are extremely supportive.*

- MONICA JEFFRY

Never hesitate to go back to school. Find a passion and talk to advisors about your studies with future goals. Take advantage of all supports available.

Do not be afraid of studies or grades, ask for help because you'll receive it. The aim is to help you pass the courses and gain the knowledge you need. You have options with this college and can take certification or degrees at your own pace or accelerated like I did.



## Kaarlene Lindsey

### FAMILY COUNSELLOR

Kaarlene is employed as a regular full-time employee for the North Coast Transition Society as Family Counsellor.

Kaarlene along with the Transition House was able to utilize our Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS) Program to get her started in her new career and allow her to follow her dream of working for her people.

Ravens Keep Transition House is for women and their children, the Safe emergency shelter open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; Includes meals, clothing and other personal needs 24 hours a day. Personal support, Life skills support available, Free emergency taxi, Referrals to supportive community agencies and resources, Information, advocacy and support to access housing, financial assistance, counselling and childcare, 24-Hour Help Line support for men and women.

## First Aid

TRICORP funded groups in Witset, Smithers and Houston to take the Non-Urban Occupational First Aid 3 (NUOFA 3) and Basic Security. The Non-Urban Occupational First Aid 3 (NUOFA 3) is a multi-level government accredited training program that meets the criteria as a 110 hour training standard. The program curriculum is a synthesis of the baseline knowledge and skills development objectives



contained in the Non-Urban Emergency Care 3 and Occupational First Aid Level-3 (WorkSafe BC) courses and is based in part on the Outdoor Emergency Care. A total of 40 individuals that took the courses of which 32 successfully completed. Sixteen are now employed within this field. Thank you to our EAS Worker, Karen Plasway in Witsset in helping to organize, and helping participants in completing their applications.



*First Aid Students*



*First Aid Training*



*Office Assistant/Bookkeeper class*

## Office Assistant/ Bookkeeper Program

With a number of large projects happening in the region and individuals leaving current positions for higher paying ones, we were seeing many companies looking to fill administrative positions, such as Receptionists, Clerks, Administrative Assistants, Accounts Payable Clerks, and more. We put a call out to the communities in our region to how much interest there was for those wishing to train in those particular fields. The response for the program was overwhelming. We set up training programs in Prince Rupert (18) Terrace (18) Hazelton (16) Masset (14), and Kitkatla (14). Two of the programs were successfully completed, with a few still working on the Accounts Payable and Sage portions. Due to Covid-19, the situation has made classes challenging, some were postponed for a short time until they could determine how to best continue. Instructors resorted to Zoom to teach students at a distance, and now students have resumed and near completion. Once complete and when business begin to open we will be setting up students with 2 weeks of work experience.



# WESTT PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES



## Joshua Morven

### **CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

Josh completed the Workplace Essential Skills Trades Training program at TRICORP as well as the Construction Equipment Operator certification facilitated by O'Brien Training in Prince George. In April of 2019 he was diagnosed with the autoimmune disease Systemic Scleroderma which cost him 50% of his lung capacity. This required Josh to use an oxygen tank whenever he is under exertion and to closely monitor his condition. "When I saw what TRICORP was doing, I wanted to give it a try." Josh received support from TRICORP staff and assistance with machine maintenance during the training from O'Brien. Having some previous experience but no certification, Josh was one of the two trainees to successfully certify on four machines; articulated rock truck, excavator, wheel loader, and grader. Truly an example of what an individual can accomplish when the reaction to challenge is to stand and face it.

"The WESTT program is a complete package with some certification and essential and soft skills training before going to O'Brien."

Josh is grateful for the opportunity to train and for the "amazing/ funny" people that he met during the program. He recommends the training to anybody that wants to change their vocation or try something new. Due to the COVID - 19 pandemic and his condition Josh has not been working and is currently awaiting a medical procedure. He is optimistic and looking to the future, "But I'll be back. I'd like to thank TRICORP and O'Brien for the opportunity to have this experience."

## Kyle Alexander

### **TRANSPORTATION**

"Driving is my passion and always will be."

With an attitude that learning is key to everything that we do, Kyle moves positively into new experiences or enhancing skills that he has already acquired. He enjoyed refreshing his numeracy and writing to better support the logistical requirements that transport truck driving requires. After successfully completing his Class 1 driver exam Kyle moved purposely into the workforce, gaining employment only three days later and a second job within the month. With a vision as safety being the focus behind the wheel of the larger vehicle, he shares the road with the smaller vehicles trusting in his training and his timing.







## Shana Robinson

### **WELDING**

"I have seen a change in myself. It was scary at first but now I'm like "I got this!". Definitely more confident."

Struggling to find employment due to lack of experience and training, Shana took a chance and entered an Introduction to Construction course that would be the beginning of a three year journey to change the direction of her life. After completing the course, she entered a Welding Foundations course through the Workplace Essential Skills Trades Training program at TRICORP. Receiving an application from her instructor to move on to the next level, she then completed the Welder B Extended program at Coast Mountain College in June of 2019.

"Making something from scratch, cutting and sizing out all the parts and pieces, then welding it together. Feels good to see the end result and having accomplished something."

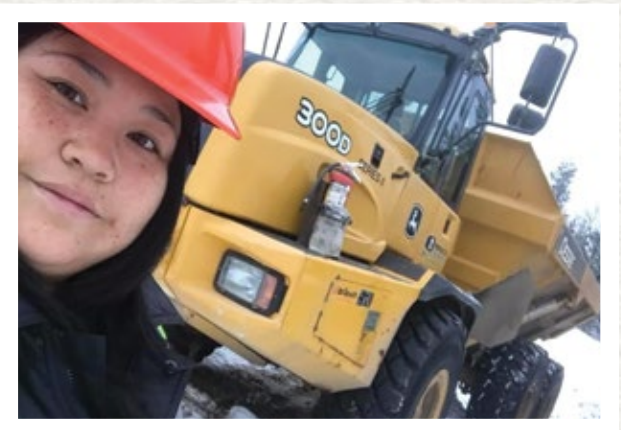
## Nicole Robinson

### **CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

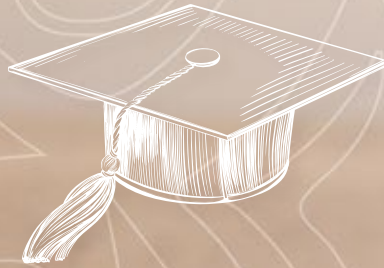
"If you can take the course, I'd recommend it."

Nicole is referring to the Workplace Essential Skills Trades Training Program (WESTT) coupled with the Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) training. "The instructors at TRICORP are absolutely amazing and helpful; as for the instructors in PG they were so patient and very encouraging." Wanting to show her two sons that with hard work you can accomplish anything, Nicole was determined to be successful in the male dominated field of heavy equipment. She says that the hardest struggle she faced was leaving her boys to go to Prince George for the CEO training but she knew that it was training that would benefit her family.

Nicole completed the WESTT program and then moved into the CEO training successfully becoming certified in Articulated Rock Truck, Excavator, and Wheel Loader. Moving into her job search she was aware that it would be very unlikely to be operating machinery with her limited seat time but she applied constantly with several companies. "But words of advice when applying for jobs, don't be discouraged when you apply for a job, and when they say they want experience." Nicole eventually received a call back with a general labourer position but her new employer informed her that if she proved successful in that position it would lead to being in the operator seat. Very thankful for the training opportunity and the life skills that she acquired, Nicole is excited to be in the trades and on to new opportunities to learn and develop her skills.







*Education is the passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to those who  
prepare for it today.*

- MALCOLM X











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