

Michael and Patricia Carson Geophysics Scholarship for Indigenous Students

Announcement, Description and Inaugural Award

July 26, 2021, Toronto, Canada: The KEGS Foundation is very pleased to announce that, thanks to a substantial donation by Michael and Patricia Carson, it is establishing a scholarship to be awarded annually to an Indigenous student who is pursuing post-secondary studies in geophysics or geophysical technology at a Canadian university or college. It forms part of the Foundation's evolving efforts to advance geophysical education in Canada.

In making this important donation, the Carsons wish to establish a scholarship for Indigenous students is to help ensure they have opportunities to study geophysics and develop careers, bringing needed Indigenous perspective into this field.



Michael and Patricia Carson

Mike studied geophysics at Western, and also completed The Executive Program at Queen's University. He enjoyed a lengthy and productive career, beginning as a field geophysicist with Geotrex in Ottawa in 1972, rising to a manager at Geotrex and its various successor companies, including CGG and Fugro. After the formation of Fugro Airborne Surveys in the early 2000's, Mike was appointed President & Regional Manager, Americas and he led the successful effort to integrate many

formerly competitive companies into a single worldwide airborne geophysical company. After retiring in 2009, he continued to work as an independent management consultant. He also served as President of IAGSA (International Airborne Geophysics Safety Association) from 2006 to 2008.

Patricia Paul-Carson's career focused on social policy, including work in employment equity and intercountry adoption. She volunteered extensively in organizations dedicated to children and refugees, including co-chairing a committee that brought seven Syrian refugee families to Ottawa. She studied at Bishop's and at Carleton University, where she obtained a Master of Social Work degree. Mike and Trish have three children and one grandchild.

This scholarship initiative is intended to help renew Canadian capabilities in addressing a broad range of geoscience, resource, environmental and societal issues that impact Indigenous peoples. It is also intended to help increase the Indigenous presence in geophysics and its diverse applications, as well as to bring Indigenous concerns and perspectives to relevant geoscience and resource studies.

The availability of this scholarship will be publicized widely, both as part of the Foundation's general Canada-wide scholarship program and specifically in Indigenous communities and organizations. The student in geophysics or geophysical technology selected to receive the scholarship each year will be expected to identify as a First Nations, Inuk, Métis or other Indigenous person. Candidates selected by the Foundation will be reviewed by a senior Indigenous professional active in the geosciences. Awardees will be appropriately publicized in the Foundation's communications and by allied organizations and social media, and will receive further assistance to attend relevant professional meetings, and network with peers and established professionals.



Ray Guerard

The Foundation is very pleased to announce that the inaugural recipient of the Carson Scholarship is Ray Guerard, who is entering his second year as an undergraduate in Geological Sciences at the University of Manitoba, majoring in geophysics. Ray is a Métis student with family ties to the Ebb and Flow First Nation located along the western shores of Lake Manitoba. He displayed an extremely high level of academic achievement in his first year, and this summer received an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award to characterize seismic noise spectra and directionality of seismic waves in Winnipeg. Ray is also an accomplished classical pianist. The KEGS Foundation wishes to congratulate

Ray on the award of the scholarship and a very bright start to his budding career in geophysics.

Contingent on availability of funding, income generated by the endowment underpinning the scholarship may be used to support a relevant investigation or study connected to the earth sciences and closely tied to Indigenous issues or concerns, such as the ongoing search for and delineation of unmarked graves near former residential schools.

In connection with this initiative, the Foundation notes that Indigenous Canadians have formed the backbone of geophysical field crews for decades, and is seeking information from the Canadian geophysical community to learn about Indigenous Canadians who had prominent careers in the profession, to suitably recognize them.

The Foundation's Directors offer their deep appreciation to the Carson family for providing the major foundational donation for this important initiative, with the hope that others with similar concerns and interests will be motivated to build on their very generous gift.

Announcements regarding the KEGS Foundation's scholarship awards to all undergraduate and graduate students for 2021/22 will be circulated in the next few weeks.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Stephen Reford, Chair