



**CONGRATULATIONS
2023 SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES**

TENNILE ERMINESKIN

NEYASKWEYHAK (ERMINESKIN CREE NATION) TREATY 6 TERRITORY

Tennile Ermineskin, whose Cree name is Peycitahk Piyaso Iskwew (Thunderbird Woman), is an Indigenous woman of Nehiyaw (Cree) descent from Ermineskin Cree Nation (Neyaskweyahk) within the geographic border of Treaty 6 territory in Canada. She comes from a bloodline of hereditary Chiefs and can trace her lineage back to Chief Big Bear.

Tennile has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by Indigenous children, youth, and families in Canada. She has dedicated her career to working with Children Services and advocating for the advancement of Cree values, principles, and language through policy development. Her experiences have shaped her perspective and guided her direction of work towards advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Tennile's journey began with a Social Work degree in 2013, which led her to work as a front-line worker in Children Services in Alberta. Through this experience, she gained valuable insights into the overrepresentation of Indigenous children, families, and youth in the sector. She witnessed how Indigenous trauma has been commodified through laws and policies within the Child Welfare sector, with Indigenous women bearing the brunt of inequality.

She worked under The Act Respecting First Nation, Inuit, Metis Children, Youth and Families, where she engaged in various tasks such as gathering data, creating surveys with a focus on traditional Nehiyaw language, and advocating for the rights of Ermineskin children and youth.

Tennile recognizes the importance of applying Canadian laws within an indigenous lens to achieve better outcomes for the children, youth and families. Tennile's work in policy development has been focused on capacity building, development of restorative justice mechanisms, creation of Law Lodge frameworks, and the development of Ermineskin's child welfare laws, policies, and frameworks. She has also been involved in the creation of a child information system database, and preparation of coordination agreements with Government(s).



SHIANNE EWENIN

VANCOUVER, BC

My name is Shianne Ewenin. I am Nehiyaw (Cree) from the Kawacatoose First Nation and French but I have been living, learning and growing on the unceded and ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

With my MSWi I plan to continue my learning journey and practice into the field of counselling. I am currently working at the Battered Woman's support services and passionate at supporting survivors.



EDWARD A. MARTIN

ELSIPOGTOG, NB

Edward is a proud L'nu from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, Quebec. Edward completed his BSW requirements on July 31, 2023 and was hired 10 days later as a Mental Health Clinician for the Elsipogtog Health & Wellness Centre located in Elsipogtog, New Brunswick. Accompanied by his loving husband William Corbiere of nearly 16 years, the two drove across the country in 8 days. Edward is confident with his new BSW degree to build a strong practice using his Indigenous knowledge and as he has stated for the last 5 years. He plans to work for his people, Elders and communities being surrounded by the 4 sacred medicines to help people move forward in life.



CYNTHIA OLUCHUKWU NWIHIM

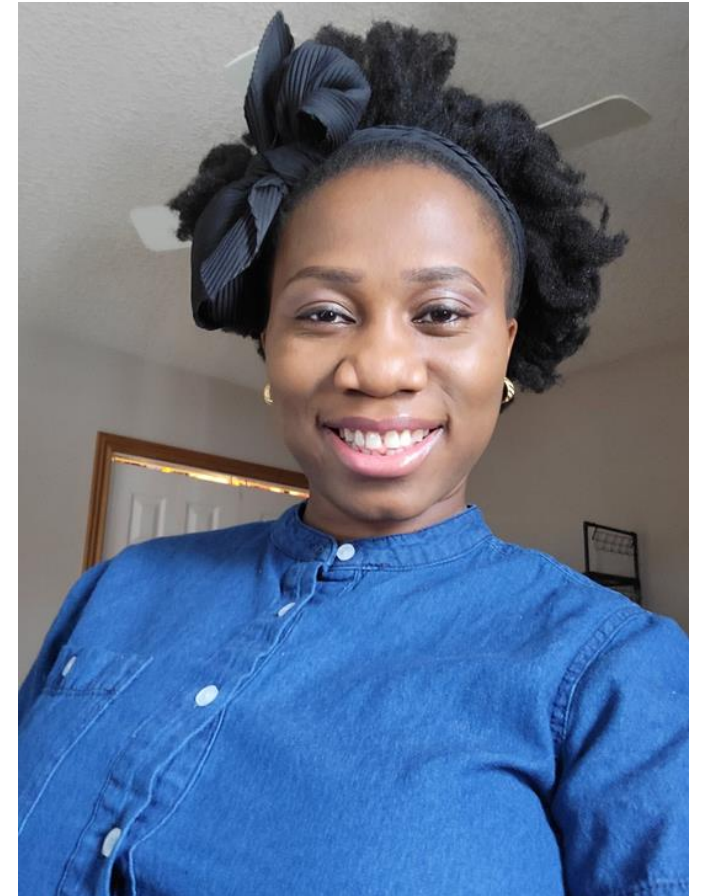
FORT ST. JOHN, BC

Home of Origin: Imo State, Nigeria. (Igbo Tribe).

Where I call Home now: Traditional Territory of the Dane Zaa First Nations People (Fort St. John. BC).

Goals: While taking my BSW program, I hoped to work with the Health Authority upon my graduation. My dreams came through, I currently work for Northern Health Authority, and I am very excited and passionate about my job. I like how everyday is different, as it gives me more opportunities to gain more practical experiences in my career. I hope to continue to learn and grow, while walking alongside my clients, and supporting my community.

Congratulations to all graduating Students, I wish you all good luck in your careers.



DANA PELADEAU

WINDSOR, ON

After working for the last 15 years in child welfare as a Child and Youth Worker, I decided obtaining my social work degree was essential in better advocating for and serving my border-city community. I am committed to remaining a learner in my field and hope to complete my MSW after spending some time of rest with my family. I am so grateful to my husband and children, who supported me going back to school - this degree is certainly a family achievement!

Congratulations to my fellow graduates, I am proud to work alongside you as a UVic grad!

