Maxine Bruce, a student in the Diploma in Indigenous Community Development and Governance program, graciously submitted her story:

Ama sqit Nsneknukwa7
(translation: Good day my friends and relatives)

Hello, my name is Maxine Joseph-Bruce, and I am a member of the Lil’wat Nation living in Mount Currie, B.C. I have two children, Kenny and Melody, both are adults and are living on their own.

I come from a large family of 10 siblings, my late parents are both of the Lil’wat Nation. My parents were very political; they served their community in many aspects; my mother served on the school board for many years as well as coordinated a cultural dance group and my father was an elected official for well over 30 years. Both parents passed-on in the late 1990’s.

I have learned much from my parents as they served and helped our community, I strive to do the same. I am currently an elected official in my community, serving my 5th term. As an elected official, my focus is around Economic Development and I tend to many other community needs. In addition, I am on my eighth year as the President and Chairperson of the Lil’wat Business Group’s companies. I enjoy working for my people, working for positive change.

I feel that the studies at SPA are indeed a positive impact to my personal and work life, and will benefit my community substantially as we move forward with Inherent Right to self-government.

Kukwstum’kalap (translation: Thank you to you folks)

Nilh ti (translation: That’s all I have to say)