

Crystal Smith di waayu, Gitgat'at di wil 'waatgu, Vancouver di wil dzogu, Gisbutwada de pdeegu. T'oyaxsut 'nüün Coast Salish, T'oyaxsut 'nüün. Luu aam goadu nwil needsn

I have introduced myself in the Sma'algyak language of the T'simshian people because I honour my protocol. My name is Crystal Smith and I am from the Git'ga'at village also known as Hartley Bay and my family crest is the Killer Whale. I would like to thank the Coast Salish Nations for allowing me to live and learn on their land. I am an Indigenous mother of two beautiful children, Ruby and Isaias. Ruby is currently attending the Aboriginal Focus school in Vancouver, which is why I am here.

I am a certified teacher, graduating in 2014 and have recently began working on call in the North Vancouver School District. I've decided to work on-call because I am pursuing my Masters in Educational Administration and Leadership, with a focus on Indigenous leadership at UBC, as well as balancing my creative writing endeavours. All of the work I have done and will do academically and creatively is for my children, the children I teach and people I interact with.

I have also been with DPAC for the past several months and I am committed to learning more about my role as a DPAC executive and bring back more to my community.