

CFEC has had many success stories in the past, but particularly moving this year is the achievement of Caroline Antoine and her family from the Saik'us Nation. After a three-generation cycle of teen pregnancy and failure to complete high school, Caroline and her 19-year-old daughter Trisha graduated high school together in June 2011 and then went on to complete their first year of college/university. After five years enrolled in our Partners In Education (PIE) program at Britannia, Caroline is now finished a post-secondary Certificate in Family and Community counseling at the Native Education College. Trisha, Caroline's eldest daughter, is currently attending Capilano University in the Early Childhood Education and Development program.



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Monica, one of our first aboriginal graduates from the PIE program, has gone on to be a supervisor of family caseworkers for Aboriginal families in Vancouver. These are great milestones for these individuals and also for a small organization like CFEC. Caroline, Trisha and Monica were able to achieve their goals because of the ongoing support and program flexibility they received from CFEC and its community partners.

When we look at the 2011 completion rate for aboriginal students province-wide, they reached only 53.7 per cent, up from 50.4 per cent in 2009-10 (Minister of Education & The Vancouver Sun). An improvement no doubt, but perhaps with more innovative partnerships like CFEC, that address the intergenerational cycles of low literacy and poverty, the completion rates of aboriginal students in the future could increase significantly.



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CFEC has taken a greater role in supporting new immigrants to Canada in all of our locations. The Britannia location of PIE graduated two more parents from Latin America and celebrated with them as they accepted their high school diploma at the VSB commencement ceremony in May 2012. One parent has gone on to VCC to work on a two-year diploma in Para-Legal services. The following is an excerpt from an interview we conducted with her at the graduation of her son from the Britannia StrongStart program in June 2012.

*When I moved to Canada I did not speak English very well and I needed to improve my English in order to improve my life situation. I found CFEC through a relative who also attends CFEC programs. I have 2 small children and I needed to have good programming for them while I studied. CFEC offered all of this. I have no money and going back to school would have been a hardship without the support the program gave me.*

*I now have finished my high school diploma from Canada and have improved my English. CFEC gave me the confidence to believe that I could do anything I wanted to do and now I feel more confident when I speak English and I feel more secure within myself.*

*My future plans are to finish my Paralegal Program and to work in a law firm and one day to become a lawyer. I want to be a good mother for my children. I want to help people. I want to help women who have been in the same position as me. To show them that someone believes in them and cares about what happens to them. I want to show them that there is hope for a better future.*



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It takes long term sustainable funding to change lives. It is unwavering support and encouragement that takes an individual from despair to hope. It is essential that we invest in human potential and CFEC and its partners are doing just that, one family at a time.

