



## **Brittany Jade Sanderson**

### **Peguis First Nation (Selkirk)**

After graduating from high school Brittany thought, “I’m going to take some time off and perhaps continue my schooling next year”. Well 5 years whipped on by and 2 children later, Brittany found herself between a rock and a hard place. Continuing her studies was not going to be an easy road after all and she found herself on Social Assistance with two little children.

“I wanted to pursue my studies again for a number of years but just couldn’t do that because I had to work odd jobs just to get by supporting my little ones,” she said. “I ended up on social assistance and the future wasn’t looking so bright.”

Thankfully, Brittany kept her goal alive to carry on with schooling in spite of the difficult position she was in. That’s when she went to see Troy Mercer at the Provincial Employment and Training office in Selkirk. He helped her to seek out possible avenues for funding and fortunately Brittany’s home community of Peguis First Nation was able to come through with their ASETS funding. In 2014, Brittany enrolled in Red River’s campus in Selkirk, Manitoba to become an Educational Assistant and less than a year later she achieved her EA Certificate.

She recalls the overwhelming struggles she had before her time at Red River College: “I really tried to go back to school a number of times but I quit because I had no daycare,” she said. “I had to work a number of different jobs - at a call centre, as a bookkeeper, and bar tending on weekends - to support myself and my children.” But after being approved for funding from Peguis for her tuition, books and daycare, she was then able to return to school.

She credits her son’s uncle with providing incredible support by babysitting her children for the entire duration of the program while she attended school. Today, Brittany has taken a bit of a detour with a job supporting people with disabilities at a caring agency. She is still pursuing an Educational Assistant position with a local school; but! She now has a new longer term goal: to become a full-fledged teacher! Somehow, we think she’ll get there.

Good luck, Brittany!

*BRITTANY JADE SANDERSON*

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