



Kelsey Yamasaki

New Member:
January 2017

Hometown:
Richmond, BC

Current Community:
Nanaimo, BC

Inspiration

I believe that strong, resilient communities are the result of people coming together to inspire community-driven change. I also believe that youth-serving initiatives play an important role in fostering community cohesion. Being part of the Youth Get It Community Council provides me a great opportunity to give back to the community.

Fun Fact

I completed a study abroad program in Seoul, South Korea, where I learned a lot about their unique culture and customs, and established many life-long friendships.

What do you hope to achieve on the Council?

I hope to learn more about local community organizations and initiatives in order to make a meaningful contribution to the grant allocation process. I also look forward to meeting and working alongside all of the other Council members.

What accomplishment are you most proud of to date?

As part of my undergraduate research, I had the opportunity with two colleagues to conduct a community-needs assessment for a local non-profit organization. I gained invaluable experience learning about the research process. Our findings helped the organization achieve their goal of becoming a leader within the community.

Bio

Kelsey studied language, history, religion, and culture through the Bahrom International Program before enrolling in Vancouver Island University (VIU). She has maintained her position on the Dean's Honour List for four consecutive years while completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

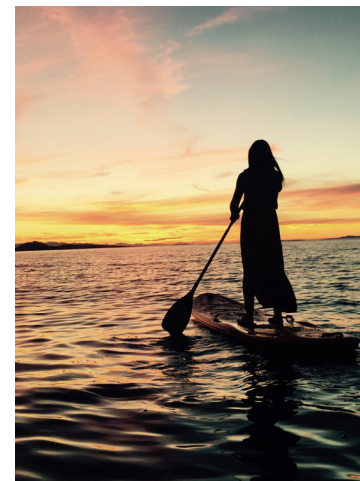
As a Student Ambassador at VIU, Kelsey had the opportunity to play an active role in the Welcome Week events that helped new students transition to university.

As part of her practicum, Kelsey spent time in a Grade two and three classroom where many students came from a lower socioeconomic background. This gave her a greater appreciation for the very real need for youth-focused organizations and the work they do.

She was inspired to teach the students about making healthy eating choices and learned how important it is for young students to receive proper nutrition so that they have the energy needed to focus in the classroom and reach their full potential.

Kelsey believes that healthy, vibrant communities are created when

community members have all basic needs met and are encouraged to share their ideas and to be a part of the dialogue.



Kelsey enjoying her favorite season, summer, while paddle boarding