



**Melissa Brown - Winnipeg,
Midwifery Student - UCN**
WATCH MELISSA'S STORY:
http://youtu.be/g4_AgetDO0I

Q & A

Q: WHAT IS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF MANITOBAABORIGINALHEALTHCAREERS.CA.

A. I wish this website/tool was around 15 years ago when I was in school trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life & career. It answers all the questions I had back then but I had to search so many different places for the answers. Here you can find everything from, types of health careers, where to go for your education, where to find scholarships or funding, how to write a resume, how to apply for a criminal record check. If you are even curious about a career in health, this is the place to come. Not only is there information but inspiration!

Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE OTHERS WILL TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR VIDEO PROFILE?

A: Growing up I didn't really know any Indigenous role models in health. I thought about nursing and medicine but didn't know anyone. It wasn't until I had an Aboriginal midwife care for me, that was the first time I was like, wow, I can really see myself in her, if she can do it, I can do it. The video profiles are so diverse, all ages, everyone with challenges and tragedies but the greater message is - you can find a way to heal, get stronger, come from a positive place, set goals and achieve your goals., If someone out there watches my story and can see just a little bit of themselves and it gives them that confidence to say - If she can do it, I can do it too, that would be just great!

Q: YOU DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, BECAME A YOUNG MOM. IN YOUR STORY YOU SPEAK TO THAT JUDGEMENT FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS AND STRANGERS, "YOUR PREGNANT, NOW THERE GOES THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND GOALS.

A: I didn't really like some of the reaction but i could understand it. What I knew in my heart was that I wanted a future, a career, to go back and get my education. I knew it wouldn't be easy, it wouldn't be in a straight line and I would have to work very hard, and go through other obstacles and tragedy. It may have taken me longer to get to where I am today but I'm here because I never lost focus of my goal. You need to expect obstacles and challenges. Reaching your goals may take you years longer, but that is okay. Your goals will change and evolve but having a dream and a plan is the first step and surrounding yourself with people who support your goals are very important. It's never too late to go back to school to get your education. Mary's story is a perfect example of that.

Q. YOU'VE SAID EDUCATION IS THE NEW BUFFALO, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

A: For the longest time the buffalo kept our people going. Elders would say, follow the buffalo and we did, it kept us clothed, fed and warm. Elders are now saying that education is the new buffalo, that in order for us to sustain ourselves and our culture, now and into the future, we must trust in education. Education will allow us to feed, cloth ourselves and provide shelter for our families. Grade 12 isn't enough anymore, the expectation must be set at a post secondary education, a diploma or degree, will provide you with opportunities to support yourself and family in a career you love. You can have a career in health in rural and northern Manitoba but staying in school or going back to school is the first step.

THIS COULD BE YOU.

BECOME A
HEALER

