

# 2017 Pounamu Taonga Award Recipient



**Jennifer Pighin**

Jennifer Pighin is the 2017 Recipient of the Pounamu Taonga Award. Jennifer is Witsuwit'en and a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. She completed her MA in First Nations Studies (FNST) in June of 2016. The focus on her thesis research was "Four Lheidli T'enneh Families' Experiences and Expectations of Public Education." Jennifer is a highly respected artist whose work has been displayed throughout the city. She designed the medals for the Canada Winter Games that took place in Prince George in 2015. Jennifer is also a high school teacher, who teaches art at Prince George Senior Secondary School.

While completing her MA, Jennifer served as a Teaching Assistant within three of our FNST Experiential Learning Courses. These courses resulted in the carving of a Cottonwood Canoe and the building of a Dakelh Pit House. In this role, she assisted in bridging the Indigenous Knowledge of the Elders and Practitioners with the academic course requirements.

Jennifer has served the Lheidli T'enneh community as a Band Councilor. She has also played a lead role in the formation and continuing development of the Khast'an Drummers, a drum group who is asked to perform traditional songs at many community events.