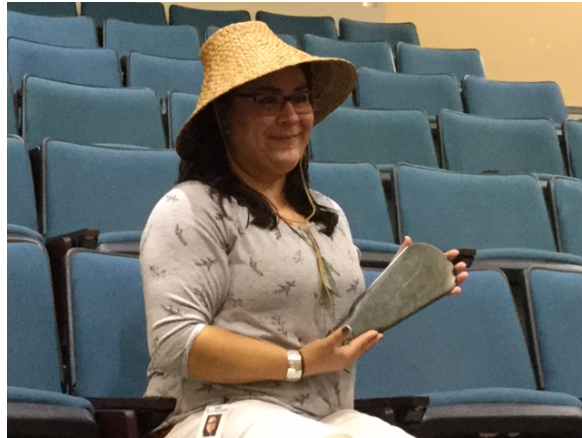


2019 Pounamu Taonga Award Recipient



Dr. Jessie King, Hadiksm Gaax

Dr. Jessie King is the 2019 Recipient of the Pounamu Taonga Award. Jessie is Tsimpsonian, with matrilineal ties to Gitxaala (Kitkatla). She grew up in Prince Rupert and moved to Lheidli T'enneh territory in 2005.

Jessie has earned three degrees at UNBC. She completed her B.A. in Psychology in 2008, her M.A. in First Nations Studies in 2011 and she has just completed her Ph.D. in Human and Health Sciences. The title of her dissertation is: *Decolonizing and Deconstructing First Nations Status Identity: 'Niit nüüyu gwa'a*.

As a student at UNBC, Jessie served as a Research Assistant on three different research projects and she was a Teaching Assistant in First Nations Studies. Her volunteer work at UNBC included being the Lead Coordinator of the *Women Warriors: Indigenous Voices Conference* and President of the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society. Jessie also served as a student representative on a variety of committees across the university.

Since completing her MA, Jessie has served as a Sessional Instructor, teaching several courses in the Department of First Nations Studies and one in the School of Health Sciences. Since 2015, Jessie has been employed by Northern Health as the Lead in Research and Community Engagement for Indigenous Health.

Over the years, Jessie has been invited to share her knowledge and her research as a guest lecturer in various courses at UNBC and at national and international academic conferences. Her work has also been published in leading academic journals in the discipline of Indigenous Studies.

Dr. King is presently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Northern Medical Program at UNBC.