

2025 Pounamu Taonga Award Recipient-UG

Sean Robinson

Prince George, B.C. – With a voice rooted in the strength of his ancestors and a vision shaped by global experiences, Sean Robinson represents the kind of future leader UNBC strives to inspire – one ready to lead meaningful change.

Sean – Yagabax̣ to his Nisga'a family – is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in History and, in many ways, his journey reflects the University’s mission to serve the North, to connect communities and to embrace a diversity of worldviews.

The son of a Métis mother and Nisga'a father, and a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation, Sean says, “UNBC was a place for the people in my family.”

His parents Andrew and Dr. Rheanna Robinson both earned their graduate degrees at the University. Today, his mother serves as an Associate Professor in the [Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities](#).

“UNBC’s connection to the region, its communities, to the Indigenous Peoples living here and its ability to draw people from around the world to share in this connection – that’s what makes it such a special place to study,” Sean says. “Being from this part of the earth is a big part of my identity, and I didn’t have to move away to get my education.”

This sense of belonging has propelled the Class of 2025 Valedictorian through an extraordinary undergraduate journey – one that highlights his intellectual curiosity, leadership and fierce dedication to inclusion.

Sean is the undergraduate recipient of this year’s [Pounamu Taonga Award](#), an honour that will be bestowed at the First Nations Centre graduation ceremony on May 29 in recognition of his academic achievement and community service. He is also set to receive the [Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation](#) during UNBC’s Convocation on May 30.

Sean exemplifies the values at the heart of these honours. A community builder both locally and globally.

As a leader in the UNBC History Club, Sean reinvigorated student engagement in the post-pandemic era, organizing inclusive events that created space for connection, learning and community. His illustrations in a children’s book project through the [Health Arts Research Centre](#) housed at UNBC explored disability in Indigenous communities, bringing art and storytelling together to foster understanding. Sean has also been active in the Prince George cultural scene from a young age, singing at a number of venues throughout the city and performing public readings from his works of fiction at the Omineca Arts Centre.

His contributions to democracy have truly spanned the globe, as he sought to embrace every opportunity for academic enrichment.

