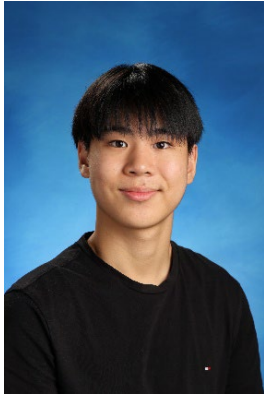


2025 Indigenous-Racialized Youth Scholars Biographies



Hello. My name is Lucas Shin. I am an 18-year-old student studying medical sciences at Western University. With the freedom Christ has brought me, I live my life for Jesus and I love expressing myself through many different avenues, such as acting, sports, and music. As a person of South Korean-descent, born in the United States and raised in Canada for the large majority of my life, I have experienced the harsh yet subtle realities of microaggressions in our daily lives. Through this project, I will be delving into the effects of microaggressions on stress, cortisol, and mental health levels in East Asian people. This topic lies close to my heart as I have experienced and seen others suffer from both “positive” and “negative” stereotype-driven microaggressions. I hope that the research I partake in will help those who do not understand to learn a little more and resonate with those who do.



Good day! My name is Samantha and I come from the Six Nations territory. I currently work as a Personal Support Work in the city of Hamilton. Previously, I represented the Indigenous Ministries as a youth representative in the World Council of Churches that took place in Germany in 2022. I am currently assisting the General Council Youth Forum as a Community Life Group leader for GC45 in Calgary in August 2025. My topic of research is learning and providing practical tools to heal the identity impacted by microaggressions.



I am Natasha Luke, a 25-year-old of Kenyan descent, living in Hamilton, Ontario. I have an academic background in biochemistry, and a deep interest in community-based research and service. I am an active member of New Vision United Church in Hamilton where I have found both refuge and purpose. My current research explores themes of displacement, settlement, and the coping mechanisms used by Black asylum seekers in Canada, with a focus on challenging the microaggressions they face during their resettlement journey.



I am Kaylee Wood, a Cree youth from Bunibonibee Cree Nation, currently residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I am attending the University of Winnipeg to pursue a career in education in theatre and film. It's my aspiration to work as a teacher in northern communities and provide spaces for Indigenous youth to learn and heal through creativity. The topic of my research will be about Indigenous education; the education gap between on- and off-reserve schooling, addressing Indigenous trauma in the classroom, and encouraging healing in the classroom through artistic expression. Through my family's experience, as well as my own, it has become clear to me that microaggressions pave the road for any Indigenous student on their journey through the education system.



My name is James Obi. I am originally from Nigeria, now living and studying in Ottawa, Canada. I currently worship and serve with Parkdale United Church where I continue to grow spiritually and socially as part of a vibrant and diverse congregation. I am a passionate advocate committed to truth, healing, and reconciliation. My topic explores microaggressions in faith-based communities from the perspective of a young, racialized scholar navigating predominantly White or culturally unaware environments. Despite the pain that microaggressions can cause—often delivered unknowingly through words or assumptions—I have also witnessed the power of good intentions, humility, and openness in these very same communities, even when they don't initially understand the impact of their actions or language.