

Career Statement

A few years back, while fishing on the open ocean I had hooked a monster fish. It was a deep-sea marlin. This fish was bigger than me, and I fought with it for what felt like an eternity. I was determined to catch it. After pulling it over a kilometer I was about to give up. With it only 20 feet away I turned to my father and said, "I can't do it Dad take over for me." He looked at me, smiled and said, "no you can do it but let me help you." He put one hand over mine on the rod and I pulled the beast on board. In that moment, my father taught me that even when I want something more than anything, even when I give it all my attention all my focus, some things I cannot do on my own. But together, we can do anything. When we got home, my dad told me that the feeling of helping someone else achieve their goals was far better than the feeling of achieving his own dream. This is why I plan to attend the University of Victoria in the fall to get my Bachelor of Education and eventually get my teaching certificate, in hopes to secure a career in teaching at the elementary level.

In order to strengthen my ability to help people, I went to a leadership training program at camp Kawkawa. While I was at camp I learned how to work with different kids. While teaching kids how to shoot a bow or paddle a canoe, I learned how to be the kind of leader that also leads from the side by supporting my team of trainees while they learned how to lead kids as well. I also took courses that have taught me how to be a good leader. These include courses like leadership and being in student council where I am president. These courses showed me the difficulties of leading, how I cannot please everyone. More importantly, they taught me that I can always try harder to find a resolution that can leave those involved feeling content, whether I am planning team bonding exercises or hosting school wide pep rallies. I am also a part of the student engagement with the District's Superintendent where I am helping build the next 5-year plan for the school district. I am giving input from my school experience's and adding any ideas that I think can better school life from the student perspective. This opportunity especially made me realize that students need to be introduced to opportunities that will help them step outside their comfort zone and strengthen their ability to be outgoing in order for students to be more prepared for the idea of graduation and future careers. This is one thing I will bring to the table when teaching.

I also pushed myself by taking harder courses like AP Chemistry, Chem Honors, and Calculus 12. My main objective was to uphold my A honor standard, which I have. I also wanted to prepare myself for the jump between high school and university. After taking courses with such a heavy workload, I had to get better at time management. I feel more ready than ever, to take the next step towards my goal and face the new challenges of university head on.

While working weekends to help pay for university at Tim Hortons, I discovered the importance of honest work. Dealing with grumpy customers, I found the best way to get through a rough shift was to smile and be grateful for the work I had. Being able to brighten a stranger's mood with a smile, put my head down and get my job done is one of the more subtle, satisfactions in life. I want to carry that with me and use that while making my way through university life.

While coaching grade 1 basketball, I learned that it is not always easy to teach. During the practices I had a player who weighed himself down because he never made a basket, he kept telling me he did not want to be at practice. Despite so, I decided to focus on the whole teams shooting ability, however this meant I had to do drills that were extremely boring. I did my best to encourage them through the exercise. During the last shooting drill, he hit almost all his shots. His excitement shot through the roof. He ended up being the last player to leave. He told me how much fun he had, and how thankful he was. I learned that sometimes, the people I want to help might not be especially motivated, but if I stick with them through their struggle, they can be successful. The feeling I got from helping that one player made my day and I want to chase that feeling.

Through all these events that have taught me so much, I have decided that the best way to chase my passion for helping is to become a teacher. Not only what my dad taught me, but all the lessons I have learned throughout my life will always resonate within me and push me to achieve my goals. I now think that if I can let those around me know that I am right there for them to lean on as my father did for me, if I can provide just that little bit more that everyone needs to achieve their dreams, then my dream to become a teacher, will also come true.