



MOUNT ROYAL  
UNIVERSITY  
1910  
Foundation



# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2021/22

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## 2021/22

2021/2022 was a year of transitions, returning to campus and the start of great new initiatives. You – Mount Royal University's incredible supporters, including faculty, staff, alumni and the community at large, made it possible for MRU's students to persevere through some of the most difficult circumstances they have faced.

This year, well over \$7 million was raised to help students through funding scholarships and bursaries, sponsorships, mental health initiatives and so much more. Your commitment to investing in MRU students' future is making it possible for them to reach higher and achieve their goals. Thank you.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021/22

MRU's first Giving Day was a resounding success, with over \$262,000 raised through the generosity of 671 donors like you. Benefitting all MRU students with more than 80 areas on campus supported, that single day saw an increase of alumni donors by 125% with donations coming in from as far as Australia.



MRU's longtime supporters, Esmail and Safana Bharwani, established three new scholarships in support of students from marginalized communities, such as newcomers, single parents and Indigenous students. Their gift took the form of a challenge, inspiring others in the MRU community to give generously in support of students who are members of marginalized communities.

As a valued member of the MRU Foundation board of directors, Sharon Martens not only donates her time but has also created the Sharon Martens Scholarship for Design Excellence Endowment, which she supports both regularly and generously. The scholarship is a legacy that will live on in perpetuity, supporting a full-time student who will be enrolled in the second, third or fourth year of the Bachelor of Interior Design program.



Johnston Morrison Hunter & Co. (JMH) has once again stepped up with a generous, multi-year gift of the highly acclaimed JMH LaunchPad Pitch Competition. JMH's support allows top students the opportunity to pitch their entrepreneurial venture to a panel of experienced judges and a supportive audience for their share of \$70,000 in cash and services.

## 2021/22 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

# \$7,423,524 RAISED



**55%**

increase in  
amount raised



**1,769**

total gifts  
to MRU



**39%**

of donations  
supported  
scholarships  
and bursaries



**1,143**

students who  
received donor-  
funded awards



Dr. J. Richard Bird, PhD, president of the Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation generously gifted MRU with \$1.4M to help launch an innovative partnership between Mount Royal University and Siksika Nation's Old Sun Community College. The donated funds will establish a Chair position, to recruit an Indigenous academic leader in business who will co-ordinate and teach in the Indigenous Business and Economic Development concentration.



MRU President Dr. Tim Rahilly, PhD, and his partner have created the Phyllis Rahilly Memorial Bursary in Nursing in memory of his mother, Phyllis Rahilly. The bursary, which will go to equity-deserving groups such as members of the BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ2+ communities, is a fitting tribute as Rahilly's mother worked as a nurse for many years and advocated for the inclusion of underrepresented groups in her industry.



# YOUR IMPACT AT MRU



**Jaiden, a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program.**

My name is Jaiden Hourie and I am a proud Cree-Scottish Métis woman. I was born and raised in Mohkinstsis (Calgary), Alberta, where I currently study Education at Mount Royal University. I am writing today as I am a grateful recipient of awards and bursaries which are funded by community members like you who help MRU students.

It is a great honour and privilege to receive these awards, and I cannot begin to articulate my gratitude for the support and aid in my education. I was once a student who didn't believe she would be able to attend post-secondary due to financial limitations, but through the generosity of MRU donors, this narrative changed for me. Not only have I been able to attend University, but I have been able to strive for excellence. I was honoured to be elected as President of the Education Undergraduate Society for the 2021-22 academic year; allowing me to grow in my capacity as a leader. I have also had the opportunity to be published in the ATA HPEC Runner Magazine for a piece I wrote on "Movement Education: Delivering Physical Literacy." I am grateful to have been



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selected as a recipient of the National Student Leadership Award in Health, Community and Education, allowing me to represent MRU at the Canadian Association of Health Science Deans (CAHSD) meetings held at University of Ottawa in May of 2022. In addition, I received a 3.98 GPA for all 17 courses I attended between Fall 2020 through Winter of 2022.

I intend to dedicate myself to any opportunities available, such as my current pursuit of a career in education. I have so many things I want to achieve as an educator, especially as an Indigenous one. When appropriate, I wish to invigorate the thoughts of my students, to allow the beat of the drum to beat in their hearts as it does in mine, to acquaint them with the rich aromas of sage and sweetgrass and to bundle them in the love and relation that my peoples have to offer. I also intend to channel this dedication to pursue graduate studies.

This would not be possible without the generous and selfless contributions of MRU donors like you. As a student who is fully self-financing her education, having been granted these awards has ultimately and significantly eased my financial stressors, offered me the opportunity to progress within my education, to continue on my journey and to achieve my goals. For this I want to say an immense and deep thank you, maarsii.

Hiy Hiy, all my relations,

**JAIDEN HOURIE**