



2026

## INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

### **Brenson Merasty (First Nations: Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation) Yale Secondary**

My leadership journey as an Indigenous youth has developed through sports, community involvement, and cultural sharing. Each experience has taught me lessons about identity, responsibility, and the value of supporting others. Together, these moments have helped shape the kind of leader I hope to become—one who leads with respect, pride, and a sense of connection to community.

Thunder Indigenous Rugby has played a role in building my leadership. Playing with my team has shown me the importance of communication, trust, and commitment. I try to support my teammates, encourage younger players, and lead by example on and off the field.

After high school, I plan to attend the Northern Indigenous Teachers Education Program at UBC. My long-term goal is to work as a physical education teacher and coach, where I can inspire Indigenous youth to stay in school, feel proud of their culture, and see the value in their strengths. I want to create a supportive environment where students feel represented, encouraged, and motivated to succeed both in learning and in life, showing them that their identity is a source of strength and pride.

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**Aspire to be a leader who leads with respect,  
pride and a sense of connection to community.**