

For Immediate Release
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go2 BURSARIES HELP TOURISM STUDENTS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN HIGH-GROWTH OCCUPATIONS

VANCOUVER, BC – go2, BC's tourism industry human resources association, is pleased to announce the recipients of their annual bursary program for post-secondary culinary training, tourism and hospitality management.

"With revenues of \$9.98 billion generated in 2006, tourism is outpacing mining, agriculture, and fishing as a leading industry for our province. This growth is expected to create 84,000 new jobs in the next decade as we face increasing labour shortages. Our bursaries are one way we support students that we hope will fill the many job openings in these high growth areas," said Arlene Keis, CEO go2.

Eight students from across the province were chosen to receive the \$500 bursary which recognizes their commitment to the industry, strong academic performance and financial need.

Tamara Luciw will graduate from Vancouver Community College's Hospitality Management program in 2008. This talented young woman sought a career change after learning that she had a degenerative vision disorder that would prohibit her from continuing her administrative career.

"I spent a number of years researching career possibilities," she said. "I chose hospitality because there were so many opportunities for me and so much to choose from." After closely interviewing a number of tourism professionals, Luciw has decided to focus her career in Tourism Human Resources. She is excited by the future she can now see for herself: "There's creativity in the tourism industry, no matter what part of it you are in. By keeping myself open, I am seeing that there's more opportunity out there than I had imagined."

The other award recipients include:

Omer Ali is also studying Hospitality Management at Malaspina University College and he will graduate this September. Ali's passion for travel and the wide open ocean drew him to the industry. "Tourism is all about people. Wherever you go, wherever you travel, it is the interaction with people that makes you feel welcome," he says.

Richard Giele will graduate with a Bachelor in Tourism Management with a major in Recreation at Malaspina University College. The program sparked his interest in the community development side of tourism and in working with communities that are planning for the future: "I can see the potential on northern Vancouver Island, it is a really undeveloped tourism product—it's a diamond in the rough."

Jenni-lynn Hewitt will be completing her Hospitality Management Diploma at Vancouver Community College this spring and will continue on to do her Hospitality Management Bachelor's Degree. After working with Fairmont Hotels and Resorts and completing VCC's Culinary Arts Program, Hewitt knows she has chosen the right industry: "I enjoy meeting people from all over the world, and working within this industry allows me to do so."

Phoebe Hur of Vancouver is studying to become a Chef at the Art Institute of Vancouver. After she graduates in September of this year, she aims to find an apprenticeship within a fine French restaurant or a top hotel. "People love to eat delicious food," she says. "And I feel so proud when I can make them happy."

Jessica Joy is studying Ski Resort Management at Selkirk College in Castlegar. She sees tourism as an opportunity to make a career out of her love of skiing and after she graduates in April '08 she hopes to work as a supervisor at one of BC's ski resorts. "There can be no greater business than giving people the opportunity and resources to do something they love," she says.

Cecil Law recently graduated from chef program at the Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver. He loves the hard work and creativity that professional cooking affords and he looks forward to beginning his career at one of Vancouver's many fine restaurants. The sense of accomplishment he gains from putting beautifully prepared food on the table is matched by the kitchen's camaraderie: "I love the feeling of working side by side with your fellow chefs to accomplish something special," he says.

Chrystal Stone of Nanaimo recently completed her degree in Tourism Management at Malaspina University College. She began her career working in recreation with people with disabilities and found that the Tourism Management program would help her move up in her career. "The tourism industry is so dynamic," she says. "I love being involved in an industry that focuses on human well being, whether that is to satisfy a motivation to travel, or some other interest in maintaining an active and experiential lifestyle!"

About go2

Established by the BC tourism industry in 2003, go2's mission is to assist the tourism industry address challenges in attracting employees and retaining its workforce in order to support industry growth. For more information about go2, visit www.go2hr.ca (search 'go2 bursary program' for more about go2's bursaries).

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