

One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world.

-Malala Yousafzai

Regardless of where you are from or where you are in your life journey, knowledge can become the key to a broader more meaningful existence. My name is Shawna Sutherland, I am a member of Xeni Gwet’-in First Nations on my late Mother’s side and Canadian on my late Father’s side. As a mature student, committed to lifelong learning, I believe that I can help the context of knowledge flourish in the University environment on the Planning Council for Open Learning. I believe that our collective mental health is connected to the learning process; what we feed our physical bodies can bring health or disease, what we feed our minds is also important. Whether through creativity, analytical processes or diligent fact checking, the exercise of our minds can make a difference in the community around us.

You may have heard of Bryan Stevenson? If not, I hope that you will find the opportunity learn about how this man used his education skills and training to help save a man’s life! The true story of Bryan Stevenson’s life can be seen in the movie Just Mercy. While not every student will match such grand achievement, pebbles can create ripple effects. Many pebbles can create a world of ripple effects.

Currently I am a student pursuing higher learning in health science career with the ultimate goal of becoming qualified in harm reduction models. I am not afraid of challenges and would love the opportunity to join others who value knowledge in making decisions that will affect students. Thank you for your time and I hope to have won your confidence and vote this election for becoming a member of the Planning Council for Open Learning at TRU.