

# MABEL POKIAK BURSARY FUND

IN SUPPORT OF INUIT NURSING

**Mabel Pokiak Lumsden was a pioneering Inuvialuk nurse and educator whose life transformed health care and representation in Canada's North.**

Born in 1941 on Banks Island, Northwest Territories, she defied barriers facing Indigenous women at the time and became Canada's first Inuk nurse, graduating from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1963.

Mabel served in remote communities across the Northwest Territories and Yukon, where she was deeply trusted for both her medical skill and her ability to bridge traditional knowledge with Western medicine. **She championed culturally competent care and the empowerment of Indigenous peoples within health systems.**

In 1960, Mabel left her home in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, driven by a deep commitment to serve others through nursing, with a special focus on pediatrics and obstetrics. Her career led her to some of the most remote northern communities, where her impact was profound.

**Nationally recognized for her leadership, Mabel's life's work stands as a powerful testament to the value of representation, the importance of education, and the enduring power of perseverance in overcoming challenges.**

**Mabel left a legacy of strength, compassion, and advocacy that continues to inspire Inuit, First Nations, and Métis nurses across Canada.**

**DONATE NOW**

Click here to make a donation to the Mabel Lumsden Pokiak Bursary Fund



**Established by her classmates from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1963,**

this award honours Mabel's remarkable contributions and her lasting impact in Canada's Far North. Her life stands as a testament to representation, perseverance, and the power of education.

Through its ongoing focus on education, programs, and research, CNF is nurturing the next generation of nurses who, like Mabel, will strengthen health care across Canada.

**Invest in nurses.  
See the difference  
in healthcare.**

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