

## Leading by Example



Graduating is a major accomplishment and there's great joy in donning your cap and gown and receiving your parchment. It's a day when you look back on the challenges you've overcome - the late nights studying, driving through storms to get to class, and remembering the people you met along the way and the fun memories you've made. For Tanis Flett, a graduate of the Social Work Diploma program in June of 2017, it is also proof that her hard work and determination has set her up for a successful future.

Tanis Flett is a 29 year-old, mother of four who lives in Sucker Creek First Nation with her husband. Flett was a stay-at-home mom for eight years, and when her youngest child started kindergarten she decided it was time to return to school full-time. Flett credits her husband and his support in her success. She chose to study with Northern Lakes College because of accessibility. The High Prairie Campus is only 20 minutes away from where she lives, and it was easy to travel back and forth.

During her studies at Northern Lakes College, Flett was involved with several committees including the Student Union, the Student Association, Academic Council, and the Community Education Committee. Flett appreciates the support, "I had incredible instructors. The people in the Student Association and staff at the College were great. I really appreciate their support. It was a really good four years."

Flett was very excited and relieved when she made it to graduation day. Graduating alongside her sister, Kim Flett-Letendre was a proud moment. Flett recalled when she was attending a convocation ceremony a few years earlier and watched a Social Work student being called up to receive multiple awards. This was an awe-inspiring moment for her and she set a goal for herself to be that person one day. Her hard work paid off; on her graduation day Flett received three awards, including the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medallion for highest academic achievement. "I hope that my children will see my hard work and effort as an example for themselves to succeed in life. I

believe in leading by example. If you work hard, you can achieve anything you want,” she said.

Today, Flett works for the Social Development Department at Sucker Creek First Nation. In her work, Flett continues to aim high and says that her education has given her the skills and tools to handle challenging situations that life has in store.