

What's Up With Me?



A thematic timeline of why I want to be a teacher.

By Alisha Gotro

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Thompson Rivers University acknowledges the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc within Secwépemc'ulucw, resides on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. TRU also acknowledges the territories of the St'át'ımc, Nlaka'pamux, T'silhqot'in, Nuxalk, T'exelc and Dakelh Peoples, on whose traditional territories we are privileged to live, work, and play.

- TRU Land Acknowledgement

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01

Moving Around





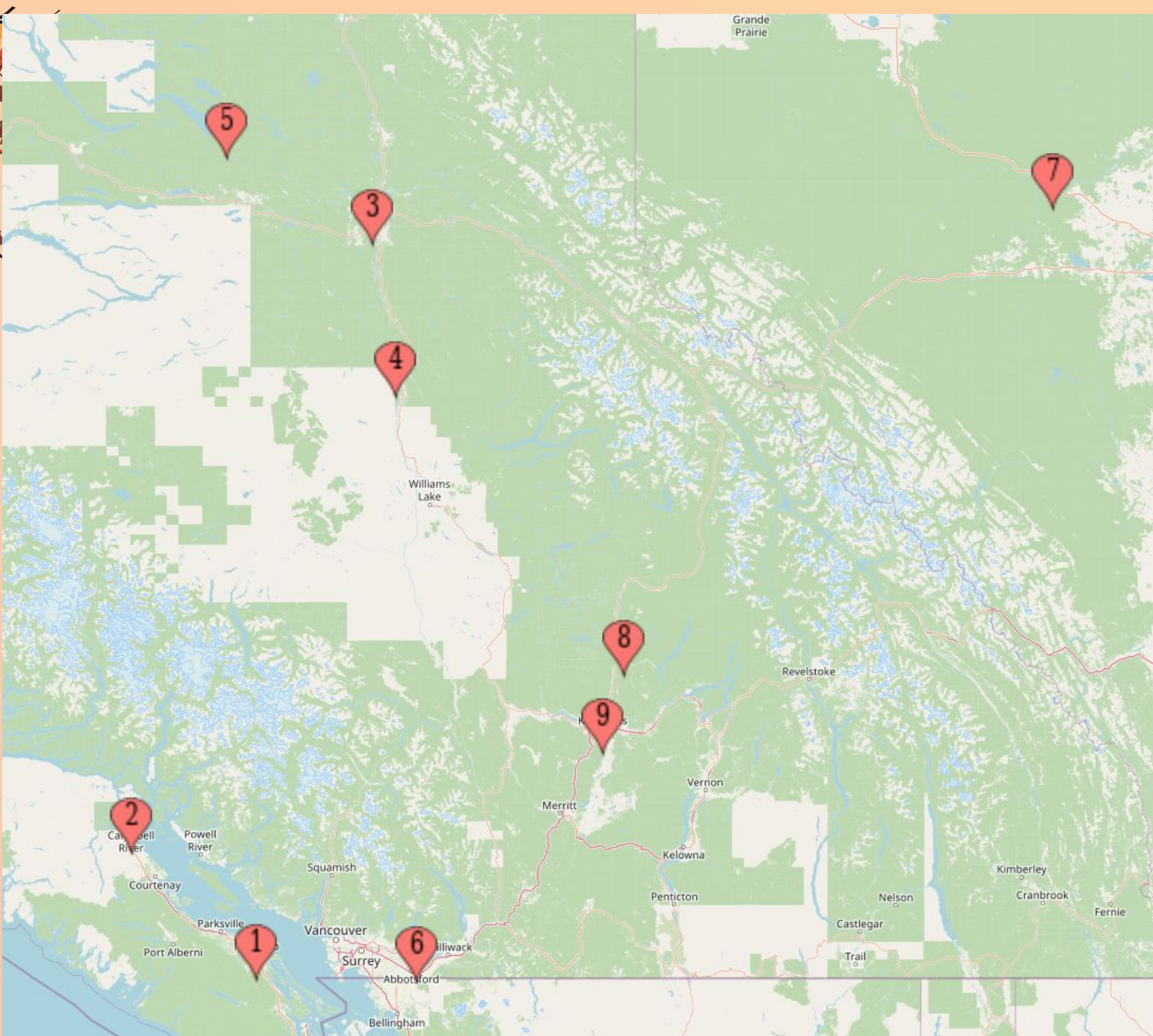
Why Was This Important?

From the ages of 0 until 8, I moved around a lot. At the beginning, it was because my parents were young and ambitious in their careers, and so we moved around as my dad got promotions.

This was influential because it affected my attitude about school which became indifferent. I didn't mind it but it wasn't something I loved going to. It also made me very close with my family.

I was in a different school each year from pre-K until grade 3. I experienced a variety of different teachers and the majority of them I felt indifferent to.





02

My Family

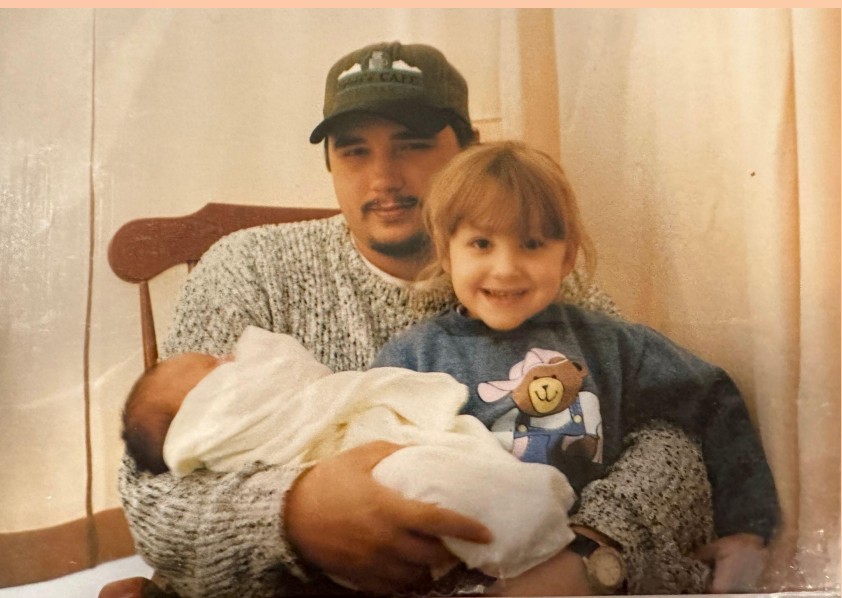


A Family That Teaches Together, Stays Together

My family has always been very supportive. My dad didn't love his job as time went on, and so he always told us to do something we loved. This was both a blessing and a curse (more of a blessing of course!) that it made me freeze with anxiety thinking about what I want to do for a career. I wanted to make my parents proud, but I wasn't sure how. Also, moving around so much made us all very close and I knew I couldn't live in a different city as them.

My grandpa and my sister are both teachers and pushed me to becoming a teacher too. It was something I initially resisted because I am stubborn and hate being told what to do, but as time went on, the idea of being a teacher became much more appealing. They both talk about how much they like the career and that was something that is important to me (liking your career).





03

Animals

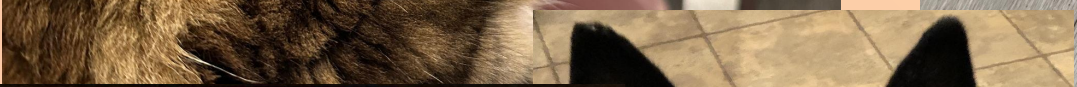




Love

I have always had a great love of all animals, but especially cats and horses. Animals can teach a person a lot about patience, compassion and empathy. They also teach you persistence and resilience. While animals didn't tell me I should be a teacher, I think growing up with them has greatly impacted my personality and the way I interact with the world and community. They have allowed me to become responsible and to think of others before myself. They have impacted my life so much I don't think I would be here now without them.





04

Healthcare and Children





The Path of Grief

By the age of 18, I wanted to be a pediatric nurse. I knew I wanted a career that helped people, and I liked kids, so it seemed like a natural path to take. However, between my first and second year of nursing, my dad died suddenly. As I have mentioned, my family was very close so this was devastating. I continued with school, however before this even happened I had pretty bad anxiety, and while in the hospital, I began developing severe anxiety and OCD tendencies, so I dropped out. I continued to work in healthcare, and my most recent position was with children. This solidified to me that I still wanted to work with children, and I wanted to help people. I began to look at teaching more seriously at this point.





05

History and Education





From Indifference to Interested

In elementary school and most of high school, I was indifferent to school. I did well, but I would rather be home with my family and pets.

In grade 11 and 12, I successfully completed the IB program at NorKam. There were two teachers who had a real passion for their teaching subject, and they started to inspire me to enjoy school.

They were Mr. Rustand and Mr. Pendergast. After my dad died and I left nursing, I started taking history courses just for fun, and that was the first time I really developed a passion for the subject. Part of that is because two professors were so passionate and it rubbed off on me. That would be Annie St. John-Stark, and Michael Gorman. This made me take an interest back in the school system and ultimately to teaching. All 4 of these teachers helped me see that school was cool and a lot of fun. I want to inspire someone like they did to me.





Thank You!

