

My name is **Kaitlyn Diamond**, and I am running for re-election as your **Student Representative** on the **Planning Council for Open Learning (PCOL)**.

I want to begin by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people, with whom I share these lands, and recognizing that Thompson Rivers University is situated on the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.

In 2020, I faced personal challenges, becoming a widow and the sole parent of my stepchildren. Despite these hurdles, I began pursuing my dream of earning a Bachelor of Commerce, beginning my studies in Fall 2022 at the age of 33. This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of the obstacles faced by non-traditional students, and I am committed to advocating for inclusive policies that ensure all students, no matter their life circumstances, have the support they need to thrive.

As a volunteer firefighter and the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) representative for my fire department, I have gained invaluable experience in public service, teamwork, and problem-solving. These roles have helped me develop **resilience, adaptability, and a collaborative mindset**—skills that are essential in fostering a supportive and progressive educational environment.

Additionally, my professional background as a Health and Safety Coordinator for a ready-mix company has given me expertise in strategic planning, decision-making, and regulatory compliance. These skills directly translate into my approach to education—one that is **forward-thinking and focused on creating an environment that fosters success for all learners**.

I believe that my life experiences, combined with my commitment to serving the community, equip me to contribute meaningfully to the Planning Council for Open Learning. I will continue to advocate for a supportive, inclusive, and adaptable learning environment that meets the diverse needs of students.

I am eager for the opportunity to continue representing your voice on PCOL.

**Vote [Kaitlyn Diamond](#) – Student Representative,
Planning Council for Open Learning.**