

Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders Today in Thunder Bay

Thanks to the generous support of the **Kiwanis Foundation of Canada**, the 2025 Western Canada District Convention in Thunder Bay launched with a powerful **Rising Leaders Showcase**—giving youth voices center stage as they shared how Kiwanis programs have shaped their leadership journeys.

One of those voices was **Anna Kentner**, a Grade 12 student from Dryden High School, who opened the convention with the Wildflowers Drum Group. Anna is a passionate advocate for Indigenous youth and cultural representation. As the first Indigenous Student Trustee for the Superior-Greenstone District School Board, she has worked to advance truth and reconciliation and create meaningful pathways for Indigenous students. A participant in the **Connections program** sponsored by the Westfort Kiwanis Club, Anna shared how Kiwanis mentorship has empowered her to grow as a leader and amplify Indigenous voices.

The showcase also featured youth from other **Service Leadership Programs** supported by the Foundation:

- **Builders Club** leaders Aarohi (President) and Isaac (Treasurer) reflected on teamwork, leadership growth, and the impact of service.
- **K-Kids** members Nathaniel and Aubree proudly shared their Pollinator Garden project, which attendees toured earlier in the day.
- **Circle K International (CKI)** Western Canada Governor **Noor Ul-Ain** and member **Faryal Qureshi** inspired participants with stories of their service and leadership at the university level.

Through their stories, each speaker highlighted how Kiwanis programs foster confidence, leadership, and a passion for service. The Rising Leaders Showcase embodied the convention theme—**Tomorrow's Leaders Today: Inspiring Generations of Change**—and reminded us all why investing in youth leadership is central to the Kiwanis mission.