



Joy SpearChief-Morris

Student | Advocate | Athlete

As an Indigenous Black Canadian, Joy has a lived experience that is enabling her to make a difference in the world through combining three of her 'joys' in life: education, politics, and sport.

A bit about Joy: She earned a BA with a major in History and a minor in Indigenous Studies in 2017. She is now completing her Master's in Political Science, specialising in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction researching Indigenous land claim settlements and reconciliation between Indigenous Nations and Canada. At the same time, Joy has been working as a [Program Coordinator Assistant](#) at Western's Indigenous Student Centre.

In addition to being a talented and hard-working student, she is a highly accomplished athlete, having competed as an undergraduate on Western's track and field team, which in part led to her winning the [2017 national Tom Longboat Award](#), one of the most prestigious awards for Indigenous athletes in Canada. In 2019, she represented Canada at the FISU World University Games, finishing 5th in the 100m hurdles. She is preparing to qualify for the 2021 Olympic Games (pushed back from 2020 due to Covid-19), which means we have yet to see what comes of her athletic dreams.

Joy is one of many graduates from our program who is integrating her academic knowledge with real-life situations and, in doing so, finding her place in broader society. Recently, she [reflected on her experiences of being Indigenous and Black in Canada](#). You can read more about Joy and what she's doing now on her [personal website](#).

We're proud to call Joy an Alumni of Indigenous Studies at Western.

