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A NOBEL POSSIBILITY?

Pearson College UWC has been nominated for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize!

Well, to be *completely* accurate, the [United World College movement](#), of which Metchosin-based Pearson was the second school to join back in 1974, was nominated for the prestigious award and yes, while many are nominated (more than 300 in 2021!) only one individual, group or organization will be invited to accept the Nobel on the gilded stage in Oslo in the presence of the King and Queen of Norway this December.

So, while we're keeping it in perspective, we are still pretty stoked about the recognition of our commitment to students from around the world. The nomination by Norwegian parliamentarian Alfred Bjørlo was first reported in that country's media and the news has been making its way across the globe.

Bjørlo, a long-time supporter of UWC Red Cross Nordic (Pearson's sibling UWC school in Flekke, Norway), wrote in his submission, "Today I have nominated United World Colleges (UWC) for the Nobel Peace Prize 2022. Young people from all over the world meet, live together and take education in teams, at UWCs and this is one of the most important things we can do for peace and a better world.

"UWC schools provide high-quality education, with an emphasis on respect and understanding for other peoples and cultures, contributing to more peaceful values. More than half of UWC students are girls and it is especially important to give young women from countries less advanced in gender equality a chance to take further education." (*Google Translate*)

Bjørlo added, "the basic idea of UWC to use education as a tool to create peace and forge ties across borders is, in my view, entirely in the spirit of Alfred Nobel."

Faith Abiodun, the newly appointed Executive Director, UWC International said, responding to the nomination, "While we are still a very long way from being awarded the Prize, the nomination is such a wonderful recognition of UWC's mission and vision as we enter the 60th anniversary year of the UWC movement. It affirms the importance of education as a driving force for peace in today's world -- just as in 1962, when UWC Atlantic opened its doors to the first generation of UWC pioneers."

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Now, we at Pearson have a bit of experience with the peace prize. After all, our namesake and inspiration was former Prime Minister and 1957 Nobel Peace Prize laureate [Lester B. Pearson](#). We like to think, nearly 50 years after the founding of this school, that Mr. Pearson is somewhere nodding his approval of this Nobel nomination.

We are privileged to learn, work, and live on the traditional territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation. Pearson College UWC was founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College (UWC) of the Pacific in 1974 as unique pre-university school. Up to 200 students from across Canada and up to 160 countries around the world are chosen based on their promise, potential and demonstrated commitment to actively engage in creating a better world.

About Pearson College UWC

Founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (Canada) and located along Pedder Bay on the unceded territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation.

Pearson's mission is "to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future" through a two-year pre-university (equivalent to grades 12 & 13) school for up to 200 students aged 16 to 19 selected from up to 160 countries and across Canada offering the International Baccalauréat Diploma Program. This year, about 80% attend on full or partial scholarships. Nearly 4,300 students have graduated from Pearson, including 14 who have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars.

For more information, please see www.pearsoncollege.ca and our social media pages.

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