



# THE RING

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community newspaper*

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# Scholars recognized for community engagement

B A E . L A I A D  
K I A B E H E

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Over the course of both their careers, health geographer Denise Cloutier and business professor Brent Mainprize have been deeply engaged with communities—creating better lives for older adults and Indigenous youth across British Columbia.

As the 2019 recipients of the Provost's Engaged Scholar Award, Cloutier and Mainprize's commitment to





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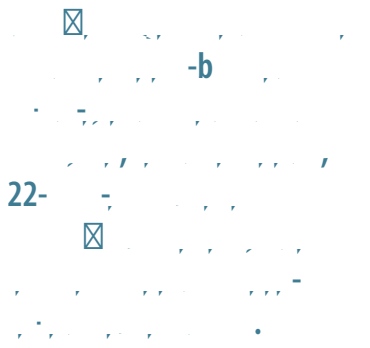
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# Competitive spirit propels student rower to Russia—to ski



I think it's how a lot of people feel in their first year of university—'oh, wow, this is *real* now.'" He laughs again. "I got my butt kicked."

Walker decided not to return to school the following year and instead focus entirely on skiing. After a summer spent re-aging, he was in great shape for the upcoming ski season. Then he came down with ho-

## B K I D I A

Skiing has always been part of David Walker's life. He was born and raised in Smithers, BC, which he slyly notes is "the Revelstoke of the northwest." His parents—both skiers—had him on skis by the age of two. "They got me up in the mountains from day one," Walker recalls with a smile. "There are photos of me all bundled up in a backpack. They used to tow me in this little toboggan behind them."

This continued all through high school. "Skiing just kept on being the common denominator in everything I did. Like, I'd play team sports, then go to ski practice. I'd go running, then go to ski practice."

While in high school, Walker managed to balance school, sport and work with relative ease, consistently placing in the top 10 in his age category and receiving a national skiing title by grade 12. Even with sport taking up so much of his time, he always made school his priority, determined to attend post-secondary education. After graduating, he went straight to Okanagan College in Kelowna.

How did it go? Walker laughs before replying. "It was a *disaster*," he says. "I'd also just jumped up a category skiing, so there was actual legit competition. Yeah, it was hard."

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