

Jennifer Campeau, MLA

Saskatoon Fairview

Jennifer Campeau was first elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature in the 2011 provincial election.

Prior to entering politics, Jennifer was an instructor at the University of Saskatchewan as well as a PhD student in the Department of Native Studies. Her research focused on entrepreneurship, economic development, nation building and governance. She also works with the Saskatoon Tribal Council as a Junior Achievement Coordinator.

Jennifer holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan and a Business Management degree from the University of Lethbridge.

Jennifer's extensive experience working with government, the business sector and several First Nations groups gives her a broad perspective of challenges in Saskatoon Fairview and across the province.



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Ahneen/Tansi:

Six years ago I was working as an assistant in a library at a university in Texas. I was living paycheck to paycheck and was a single mother to a young daughter. I moved every two years because I was restless. I had an unhealthy on again- off again relationship with my ex-husband. I had turned 30 and realized that I wanted to make some major changes in my life. I came home to Saskatoon and moved in with my mother. This was hard for me, as I had left home when I was 16 years old. I was very independent and moving back home seemed like a failure to me.

Six years later, I am starting a PhD program and am working as a Sessional Lecturer at the Edwards School of Business.

Factors of Success

One of the main things I attribute to my success in school is my returning to my traditional ways and values I grew up with. I started participating in ceremonies once again, and I feel that it brought me clarity and helped ground me whenever I felt like I wanted to give up and just go back to the workforce.

My daughter was a big influence in why I wanted to succeed, I would tell her how important education was and how it was the pathway to a better life. How could I give her this advice and not be educated myself? I wanted to show her that if I could do it, then she could do it.

Another factor was adopting a healthy lifestyle, eating properly and exercising on a regular basis. My overall health improved and I was able to deal with the stress of school in a healthy way.

Letting go of friends and family who are unhealthy for us, I know nobody ever talks about this, but there are some influences in our lives that are not always positive. Surround yourself with people who want to see you succeed and who will support you through your educational journey.

Sometimes the path to success is a little lonely, but your real friends will realize that you need a little space to do what you have to do to finish school. Going to the library and burying your nose in a book is not always fun, but it needs to be done in order for you to succeed.

Set aside a study schedule and stick to it, and even when you are on a break from school keeping those hours specifically to read will do wonders with your conversational skills. You will find yourself going to events related to business and the more well-read you are, the easier it is to strike up a conversation with a complete stranger while you are networking.

Get involved! Either join a student group, or advocate for a cause you believe in, this will introduce you to people you would have not otherwise have talked to. This also increases your profile in the community and will help you make connections. These connections will be useful once you are finished school and out in the workforce. The event management of the student groups is also good experience and can be used on your resume.

Remember failure is not always a reason to give up! I attempted to return to school twice before and I gave up because I felt I didn't belong and wasn't capable. This time was going to be different. I was determined to succeed this time and laid out a plan and broke it out into smaller goals. Each time I reached a goal I crossed it off and then started on the next step. My biggest educational goal was to achieve a Master's Degree in Business, and once I got that I still wasn't satisfied. I never thought I would be in a PhD program and am thrilled at the thought of being challenged once again.

Chi-Migwetch,

Jennifer Campeau