

Friend, advocate, volunteer, educator—these are just some of the words that can be used to describe UPEI alumnus Bobby Cameron.

A strong believer in the value of a liberal arts education, Bobby graduated from UPEI in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in history (honours) and political studies; and from Ryerson University in 2011 with a Masters in Public Policy and Administration and in 2019 with a PhD in policy studies.

While studying at UPEI, the Hampton, PEI, native became involved in several programs and activities to assist newcomers to Canada as well as international and Aboriginal students. Bobby impacted the lives of students on campus in many ways, through his friendship, volunteer work, openness and respect for different cultures. He re-established a program called "Students for Literacy" at UPEI to help students improve their English language skills. He coordinated a project with Aboriginal students through which they identified challenges they encountered in post-secondary institutions. In partnership with the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, Bobby helped to develop curriculum for parents and children who speak English as an additional language.

He has also been involved with numerous organizations including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Farmers Helping Farmers, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Huntington Society of Canada, the World University Service of Canada (Student Refugee Program), CUSO, Allied Youth (Peer Education Program), the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada.

In 2008 he taught English to asylum seekers and refugees at a shelter in Malta. That same year, he volunteered with "Students for Development" as an intern with a business cooperative in Kenya. After he returned to Canada, Bobby was a delegate at the 2009 Global Youth Assembly in Edmonton, an international gathering of youth involved in current global issues.

In 2010 Bobby was honoured with the PEI Red Cross Young Humanitarian Award and the Dan McIntyre Human Rights Award, which is awarded to "a Ryerson student who has demonstrated a commitment to human rights and justice reform through community service involvement."

In 2014 he joined the Government of PEI and is now the Manager of Policy, Planning, and Federal/Provincial/Territorial Relations with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Land. In this role Bobby has created a 14-week Policy Capacity Development and Mentorship program for interns and new employees.

Through the mentorship program he created for the province, and his ongoing and enthusiastic engagement with UPEI's arts students, Bobby is helping identify career paths and graduate study options.

In 2016 Bobby became chair of the PEI Early Learning and Childcare Board and in 2018 an adjunct professor with UPEI's Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture (AACL) program. Drawing upon his academic experience and professional career, he provides students in the AACL program with valuable insights about NGO and public sector employment and making the most of an undergraduate degree at UPEI.

For his dedication and leadership in literacy promotion, international development, volunteerism, and advocacy, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Dr. Bobby Thomas Cameron with the 2019 Inspiring Young Alumni Award.