



## 2025 UPEI Inspiring Young Alumni Award Alexia Riche (BA 2020)

Alexia Riche moved to PEI from Mauritius in 2016 to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Diversity and Social Justice Studies; by her second year, she had added a second major in Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture.

In 2017, the loss of her brother in a car accident became a turning point for Alexia. Determined to honour his memory, she resolved to excel academically and deepen her involvement in the community. Her dedication led her to receive the Dr. Vianne Timmons International Student Award in 2018, the International Scholastic Achievement Prize in 2018, the Academic Excellence Award in 2018 and 2019, the UPEI Student Union Campus Leadership Award in 2019, the Bonnie L. MacPherson Award in 2020, and the UPEI Senior Class Spirit Award in 2020. And she was named to the Faculty of Arts Dean's Honours list in both 2019 and 2020.

While she was a student, Alexia applied what she was learning in class to her many paid and volunteer positions outside the classroom, both on campus and in the community. She tutored and mentored international students, first-year students, and newcomer youth—helping them to succeed through challenging transitions to life in Canada and to university study. She worked as a student assistant in the International Student Office, Work-integrated Learning, and the Writing Centre. She volunteered as a Campus Life Advisor, Student Refugee Program Coordinator, President of the UPEI French Society, and tutor with the Immigrant and Refugee Services Association of PEI.

Alexia graduated from UPEI in 2020 and launched her career as a marketing specialist with the Canadian Police Knowledge Network. She also worked as a diversity training coordinator with ResourceAbilities (formerly the PEI Council of People with Disabilities), continuing to build a unique and diverse skillset in the non-profit sector. Committed to giving back, she also volunteered her time on the boards of directors for the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and Actions Femmes Î.P.É.

In 2022, Alexia again faced a tragic personal loss when her father suddenly passed away from a heart attack. That same year, she drew upon her resilience and channeled her grief into purposeful action when she became the inaugural Executive Director of the nascent Community Sector Network of PEI. In this role, she has drawn upon her background and expertise in diversity, social justice, communication, and leadership to grow the impact of CSNPEI through collaboration, shared knowledge, and advocacy. Leading a vital organization at such a young age demonstrates Alexia's passion and skill for helping others as well as her desire for continued learning and growth.

In addition to pursuing a Master's degree in organizational leadership, Alexia currently supports several non-profit organizations such as Women's Network of PEI, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the provincial Comité consultatif de la communauté acadienne et francophone as a volunteer board member and advisory council member.

In recognition of her inspiring ability to help and advocate for others while overcoming personal tragedy and for her laudable work to strengthen the non-profit sector in PEI, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Alexia Riche, BA 2020, with a 2025 Inspiring Young Alumni Award.