

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Canada



WelcomeBC



Chris Tait lived in 30 different foster homes.
PHOTO – JENELLE SCHNEIDER / VANCOUVER SUN

Successful foster kids: Chris Tait

Chris Tait lived in foster care from the age of one. Tait is 22 years old now. He is an aboriginal youth.

He lived in one foster home until he was 13 years old. His five brothers and sisters lived with him.

At age 13, Tait moved to a new foster home. He was in grade eight. He left his family, friends and familiar school.

“It really wasn’t a good time for anybody. I was separated from my friends and my whole old life. It was pretty wild actually.”

He lived in about 30 different foster homes until he was 17.



Gathering Our Voices opening ceremony
PHOTO – COURTESY OF THE BC ASSOCIATION OF ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

At age 17, he got a job and left school. He was in grade 11.

Today he is going to Vancouver Community College. He wants to go to film school.

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Tait volunteers to help youth in foster care. In 2012, he received a Royal Bank of Canada Youth Achievement Award for his work.

He spoke at a session on foster children at the 2014 *Gathering Our Voices* conference. *Gathering Our Voices* is an annual aboriginal youth conference. This year it was held in March in Vancouver.

Tait is involved with the Adoptive Families Association of BC. The association started a group called the Speak Out Youth Group. Tait volunteers and speaks about his experiences.

He is a member of the Vancouver Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee.

"I think that youth in care who are successful are people who have permanent connections or even a team behind them," says Tait.

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

About this series

Successful foster kids is a series of four articles. You can read the other articles on our website:

www.thewestcoastreader.com

Links

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

Answer key

1. Chris Tait is 22 years old now.
2. Chris has five brothers and sisters.
3. He left his family and friends.
4. He lived in 30 foster homes.
5. He was in grade 11.
6. He left school and got a job.
7. He goes to Vancouver Community College.
8. He wants to go to film school.

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What do you remember?

Answer each question. Choose the right phrase to put in each blank.

1. How old is Chris Tait now?
 - a. Chris Tait is _____ now.
2. How many brothers and sisters does Chris have?
 - a. Chris has _____.
3. Who did he leave in grade eight?
 - a. He left _____.
4. How many foster homes did he live in?
 - a. He lived in _____.
5. What grade was he in at age 17?
 - a. He was _____.
6. What did he do at age 17?
 - a. He _____.
7. Where does he go to school now?
 - a. He goes to _____.
8. What does he want to do?
 - a. He wants _____.

22 years old	in grade 11
30 foster homes	left school and got a job
his family and friends	five brothers and sisters
Vancouver Community College	to go to film school