



## Victoria Pitsiaeli

2023 4-H Canada Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction Recipient, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security

Victoria Pitsiaeli of Port Coquitlam, BC joined the Golden Ears 4-H Community Club at the age of eight. Little did she know the impact this would have on her life over the next 10 years.

Growing up in an urban area, Victoria credits 4-H with providing a link to agriculture she would have otherwise missed out on. She quickly developed a passion for agriculture and sees 4-H youth as catalysts for the future of sustainable agriculture and food security.



Victoria loves sharing her passion for agriculture with the next generation of 4-H members, which led her to Ambassador roles with 4-H British Columbia and the Pacific National Exhibition. She is also an active and engaged student and was named Valedictorian for the Class of 2023. Plus, she was honoured with the Julie Chetty Award, handed out in recognition of remarkable service to others with a spirit of joy and selflessness.

The communication and leadership skills Victoria built during her time in 4-H – which included top placings at the Provincial Communication Finals three years running – have led to many other roles in her community, including editor of her school newsletter, peer tutor, and camp counselor. She also volunteers her time with numerous organizations, from Operation Christmas Child to the BC Conservatory of Music. Victoria also dedicated many hours to the Ocean Wise YouthToSea Leadership Program, creating a website to help spread awareness of sustainable aquaculture and food security. In recognition of her efforts, Ocean Wise provided Victoria with a Service Award for completing over 200 volunteer hours.

Victoria is excited to continue exploring her passions at the University of British Columbia, where she plans to major in Sustainable Agriculture and Environment. She plans to use her post-secondary education to launch a career helping farmers and food producers integrate sustainable practices, while also educating urban youth on the importance of agriculture. She also plans to give back to the 4-H community in future by launching and running her own 4-H club.

