



**Breton Lalama**, Sprout Scholarship Finalist & Notre Dame Student  
**Jeremy Hagt**, Financial Services Specialist at PenFinancial Credit Union



**Marina Rose**, Sprout Scholarship Winner & Welland Centennial Student  
**Jason Vokey**, Financial Advisor at PenFinancial Credit Union



**Andrew Giroux**, Sprout Scholarship Finalist & Brock University Student  
**Matt Price**, Financial Services Specialist at PenFinancial Credit Union

## PenFinancial invests in the future of Niagara

*Local students awarded a total of \$4,000 in scholarships through Niagara based video contest*

**Niagara, ON- July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013-** What do an educator, a performer, a physiotherapist, a video editor and an environmentalist have in common? These are the aspiring careers of our finalists for the Sprout.ca Video Scholarship Contest! The contest recently wrapped up and all of the finalists are trickling into our branches to collect their scholarship prizes. The five finalists are:

**Marina Rose** is a graduate of Welland Centennial Secondary School and is set to attend Brock University in the fall to study Kinesiology.

**Michelle Burger** is currently enrolled at the University of Waterloo in Environmental Studies, and recently completed her Ecosystem Restoration diploma at Niagara College.

**Andrew Giroux** is a Brock University Student who will be entering Teachers' College in the fall.

**Breton Lalama** is a graduate of Notre Dame in Welland and will be heading off to University of Toronto to study Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

**Aaron St. Louis** is a graduate of Stamford Collegiate and will be attending Niagara College in the fall to study Broadcasting: Radio, Television & Film.

The Sprout.ca Video Scholarship Contest launched on March 1<sup>st</sup> and encouraged Niagara students entering or returning to post-secondary school to submit short videos explaining what they want to be when they grow up and why. 14 video submissions were received from students all across Niagara in a variety of career disciplines. To help

with the selection process, PenFinancial Credit Union recruited a panel of judges from the community to narrow the selections down to five finalists which were then put to an online public vote. Marina Rose was crowned the winner, and received over 40 percent of the online votes to win the scholarship contest and in turn \$2,000 towards her post-secondary education.

Marina says “I’m very grateful for this opportunity to get my story out and share my passion with others.” She continued on to say “What I enjoyed most about the contest was watching all of the other video submissions and see how great they were. It was really interesting to see how passionate other Niagara students are in pursuing a career in completely different fields.”

PenFinancial Credit Union CEO, Bob Watson says “This contest was created in hopes of bringing attention to the wealth of talented students we have living across Niagara, and to support them financially with their post-secondary schooling. Judging by the incredible videos that were submitted, and the amount of votes that were cast, we think the contest was a success.”

The Sprowt.ca Video Scholarship Contest was launched by PenFinancial Credit Union in 2010 to provide Niagara youth with a platform to express their passion about their post secondary and career aspirations. In addition to providing scholarship funding, Sprowt.ca No Fee Student Banking offers youth FREE banking products, unlimited debit transactions as well as free mobile and online services.

All of the other submissions can be found here <http://sprowt.ca/scholarship-winner>

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*The Sprowt.ca Video Scholarship Contest began in 2010 and since its inception has given away over \$10,000 in scholarship funding to students living in the Niagara Region. In 2013, 14 video submissions were received from students living across Niagara, which were all centered around the theme of ‘what I want to be when I grow up and why’. The video submissions were then narrowed down to the top 5 by a panel of community judges, who grade the videos based on creativity, passion and overall appeal. Once the top five videos were established, they were then put to a public online vote to determine the winner.*

*PenFinancial Credit Union has been nurtured for almost 60 years right here in Niagara. With 6 branches serving over 15,000 members, PenFinancial delivers a full range of financial services and advice tailored to meet every member’s needs. Membership is open to anyone looking for a financial institution that provides superior service and reinvests in local communities to help build a stronger and more vibrant Niagara.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Josh Juhlke

Marketing & Communications Specialist

PenFinancial Credit Union

289-820-9744 ex. 247 Cell: 905-328-7431

[Josh.juhlke@penfinancial.com](mailto:Josh.juhlke@penfinancial.com)