



Buela Say at the 2016 TEAL Charitable Foundation Awards Ceremony

## Buela Say Wins the 2016 TCF Refugee Award

Buela Say is this year's winner of the 2016 TCF Refugee Award. Buela was born in Mae Ra Moe Refugee Camp on the northern Thai/Burma border. In 2008, Buela's family arrived in Canada as Government Assisted Refugees and spoke no English. As refugees, Buela's family faced huge challenges: ongoing medical issues, housing problems and difficulties adjusting to life in Canada. Buela's family is very large – she is the sixth oldest of twelve children. Four of her siblings have a genetic blood disease called Thalassemia. In 2011, one of her sisters passed away after spending eight months in BC Children's Hospital. She was just eleven years old. Buela hopes to become a model for her little sisters by being the first person in her family to go to university. She writes about going to university, ***"It will be very challenging. I worry about tuition payments, transportation, working, taking difficult classes and balancing university with my family responsibility."***

Buela has been on the Honour Roll since grade six and graduated from Langley Secondary with a B average in 2016. Buela's volunteer and community involvement are also exceptional. She is an active member of the Students for Change Club, the Social Justice Club, the Multicultural Youth Circle, Evergreen Camp, Langley Home Church, Karen Community of BC, PuCks Program and the Terry Fox Run.

Buela plans to study at Kwantlen Polytechnic University with a major in Business. Her long term goal is to work in a bank. Buela currently works part-time at MacDonal'd's and is also very interested in marketing and human resources. Buela writes, ***"Having a scholarship will make a big difference and help me open the door to achieve my dreams."***