

November 12, 2018

Dear sponsors of Indspire and The Slight Family Foundation Indigenous Student Awards,

My name is Sophia Elliott and I am a member of the Cowichan Tribes located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. I'm currently a third year student at Vancouver Island University majoring in Indigenous and Xwulmuxw Mustimuxw (First Nations People) studies. Last year was my first year back from academic suspension but despite my performance in the past I obtained a 4.02 GPA for the fall, spring and summer semesters. With awards such as this I feel very proud of my accomplishments and feel that I can continue to strive for academic success without the additional stress of financial burden. Coming from a single income household not including short term seasonal positions my studies suffered when I would miss school in order to pick up extra shifts to help ensure our monthly expenses would be paid. With my new found sense of drive and motivation upon completion of my Bachelor's degree I plan on pursuing a Master's in Community Planning. My future career goal is to find my place within my community where I can make a positive difference for future generations whether it is in a coordinator capacity or a role in advocacy for my Quw'utsun mustimuhw.

*Huy ch q'u*  
Thank you

Sophia Elliott

