

Dear Sponsor of the Slaight Family Foundation Bursary. I would like to express my gratitude for your generous donation to Indspire's *Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards* program. Your contribution plays a huge role in the steps it takes for students like myself to pursue our dreams. I am currently studying at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Langley, BC, in the Kwantlen First Nations territory. It is my second year as a music student at Kwantlen, and I plan to continue my studies to receive a Bachelor of Music. I study both classical and jazz music, and my primary instrument is the double bass. Upon completion of the degree, I plan to attend UBC for their Elementary School PDP Program, to become an elementary school music teacher. Exposure to the arts is essential in development in young children, and I hope to positively inspire children's artistic abilities through teaching. When I am not attending classes, I am working for a local shop by the name of Golden Ears Cheesecrafters. They are family owned and operated, and make cheese from their family's jersey cow farm. My role in the company is retail supervisor in their shop. When I am not working, I am home taking care of my elderly grandmother with alzheimers. Living with her the past seven months has taught me many things such as patience and understanding. I am grateful for everything she has done for me growing up, and I hope to return the favour through taking care for her. However, it has been financially strenuous being a full time music student. At the end of the day I have to devote lots of time to my studies, rehearsals, and practicing to become a better musician. So unfortunately my availability for work is limited. Moving into my grandmother's condo, and contributing to the mortgage has come with costs as well. By receiving this award, a lot of financial worry from my current situation has been lifted. Thank you very much for your generous support. Sincerely, Miranda Berard.

