

April 2, 2020

Dear Sponsor of the Building Brighter Futures Program:

My heart is so full of gratitude for the support that I have been shown financially as I take this journey toward earning my Master of Social Work degree from Memorial University (on-line). I am a full-time student and I am very proud of my progress; at this time, I have completed two semesters and a total of 6 courses. I truly want to begin by saying nakurmiik which means thank-you in the Inuktitut language.

I am a member of NunatuKavut, which means “Our Ancient Land.” I self-identify as a Southern Inuit woman, mother, wife and social worker. I spent most of my childhood living in Black Tickle, Labrador. This community is quite isolated which has made the people resilient. In my culture, there was a great sense of community unity and we hunted, fished and gathered berries. My mother has very little formal education and my father is illiterate. However, I was taught about the importance of pursuing a formal education. I am the first person in my family to attend university and I will be the first to earn a graduate degree. Your financial support allows me to fulfill my academic and professional objectives. This support allows me to fulfill my parents dreams for me. I am teaching my son about his culture and the importance of education and giving back to our community.

I am motivated to work with Indigenous people(s) in mental health as a clinical therapist. I plan to earn my PhD in social work within the near future. Covid-19 is creating uncertainty, I hope my finances will allow me to continue with my plan of study which is as follow: in the spring semester 2020, I hope to complete the remaining course work and in the summer semester of 2020, I plan to complete the 500-hour practicum component. My convocation is scheduled for October 2020.

Thank you for your generous support,

Sandra MacLean