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**Indspire**

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Thank you, Indspire's *Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards* and sponsors: BMO Capital Markets Equity Through Education Award and Government of Canada.

I learnt a while back that small businesses make up 98% of Canada's employer businesses. Around this exact same time I listened to a TED Talk by Shadeed Wallace Stepter called *The New American Hustle*. At minute 7:48 he said " You see, I have come to believe that entrepreneurship is the vehicle that can allow all street hustlers to successfully transition out of the street life." A lot of what he said I could relate to growing up on a reservation. At that moment I knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur and I knew I wanted to consult for First nations businesses and startups.

To describe my situation I would say I was in an ideally stressful position. I got admitted to school two weeks before it started. Naturally, I was driven and devoted because I refuse to accept defeat. During this time I was building a business. It was only when I got the money from a house I recently sold, I found my grounds. Currently, I have a beautiful apartment downtown which I starved myself for months and sold books and coffee mugs to pay bills and food.

Thanks to your contributions I can continue to study Business at UNB Fredericton. A huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders and I can proceed on making a huge difference in my community and eventually across Canada. I hope success finds everyone who needs it the most.

Thanks again,

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Darren Peter-Paul

