

December 12, 2019

Dear Indigenous Services Canada,

I am writing to say thank-you. I received great news recently that I will be receiving a \$2,000 bursary, Indspire's Building Brighter Futures Bursary, made possible by Indigenous Services Canada. I am of Inuk ancestry and I was born and raised in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL and I wholeheartedly embrace my culture and truly love Labrador. I am currently enrolled in the Fire Rescue Program at the Marine Institute's SERT (Safety and Emergency Response Training) Centre in Stephenville, NL. This is a nine-month program, and I have four courses left to complete and a work term when I return to Stephenville after the Christmas break. This program will allow me to achieve the necessary certification to become a professional Firefighter. I am optimistic that I will have opportunities to work as a Firefighter in Labrador. Becoming a Firefighter has been a long time dream of mine and more importantly, I am honoured to be able to follow in my dad's footsteps as he is also a Firefighter.

I am enjoying my course very much and getting excellent marks. However, I do find it difficult living away from my family and community. Stephenville, NL is very far from my hometown and I can only travel via airplane during this time of year and the cost associated to travel and this training is extremely high. Added to this expense, is the fact that I have to pay all the expenses that relate to living on my own. This award will significantly alleviate some of the burden for me and my parents, and I want you to understand how much I appreciate it. I will not forget your help. It means a lot, and I know it means a lot to many others like me in similar situations, so please continue to financially support Indspire in endeavours like this.

Nakkummek,

Jakob Keats