

4 May 2020

To whom it may concern:

I have been chosen as a lucky recipient of an Indspire bursary, made possible by the generous support of The Arthur and Audrey Cutten Foundation Award. At this time I would like to give thanks to those involved and provide a bit of history of who I am and where I hope to be.

As a Metis woman who has worked with families for more than twenty-five years, I have had the privilege of working to assist families in working to better the lives of their children and the adults who care for them. Many of these years were with Alberta Health Services and early intervention, including high risk home visitation. Being welcomed into the homes and lives of these families has been a honor as we reach goals together while improving the tomorrows of children.

Finding myself without the credentials necessary to keep working in the field, although I had many years of experience, I needed to return to college and obtain a diploma in human services. I chose the Community Social Work Diploma, as it has the flexibility to lead me in various directions once I complete the two year program. Graduating high school in 1990, it has been tough uprooting my life, as well as my family's lives, and going back to school, at times struggling financially and emotionally. Because of financial supports as the one I have received through Indspire, I can take a breath and keep going.

There have been many Indigenous families I have had the pleasure of working with, and I take pride in being an advocate, a voice, and a support to those who need such services. Unfortunately there are Indigenous people in the world we live in who don't have the confidence, the strength, or the knowledge to tackle issues and move forward, so I am only one person who has been there in order to strengthen the people who need support. I can say I have been there for many people and their children as we make our way to better tomorrows. Because of intergenerational trauma, the lack of love and respect, I to understand because I was one of these children who grew in a dysfunctional home.

It has been my desire to discover ways to help others, as I grow and learn myself. After obtaining my diploma, I will continue to make a difference in the lives of others in any way I can. Because of financial supports as this I am able to continue to make a difference, and from deep within my soul, I thank you.

With gratitude,

Jody Lehr Turco