

Dear **Indspire**:

I am writing in response to being awarded a bursary from *Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards*. I applied for this award as I have heard many great things about Indspire through word of mouth, information shared, and research conducted. I am Coast Salish from the Tla'amin Nation on my maternal side; and, I am Cree from the Saulteau First Nation in Moberly Lake along with Métis roots in Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. Recently I have finished my third year in the Bachelor of Child & Youth Care program at the University of Victoria where I am completing a double specialization in Indigenous Peoples' and Child Protection. This bursary will make a difference in my life because of the unexpected and financial burdens this tragic pandemic has brought upon us. I will put this towards the cost of living and necessities that allows me to live off-reserve in Victoria, British Columbia.

I plan to use my education to promote and advance the well-being of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities experiencing the child welfare system in Canada. This work is important to me as community, culture and identity are huge gaps that the foster care system is missing for Indigenous people. I want to bring authenticity and strength-based practice to the frontlines to help make a difference for the people enduring a colonial system. After graduating in 2021, my hope is enter the professional field and eventually enter the Master of Social Work program at the University of Victoria or Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I am humbled and honoured to receive the Soaring Futures Bursary. Thank you Indspire and the Government of Canada for making this opportunity to pursue my dreams and goals a reality.

Sincerely,

Adam Gauthier

