

Dear Sponsor of the Building Brighter Futures,

My name is Thomas Hoggarth, I am 24 years old and reside just outside of Peterborough, Ontario. I am a Status Indian; I hold my membership with Fort McPherson First Nation, NWT, which is my great grandmother's community, I also have ties to my great grandfather's community of Old Crow First Nation, Yukon. On my father's side I also have Indigenous lineage, as he is a status member of Curve Lake First Nation. I am attending Fleming College in the Social Service Worker Program; it is a 2-year course which has been condensed into 1 year, and I am currently in my second semester out of four. After college I hope to expand my knowledge by attending University to attain a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Social Service work. I plan on using the knowledge I gain from my education within my everyday life, and hopeful employment with an Indigenous family service agency in order to offer my skills and care for the ones who need it the most. I have first-hand experience and understand the pain that Indigenous people have faced, which will allow me to provide assistance and nurturance through healing ceremonies and special traditions. I will also use the racism I have faced growing up in a more positive light and apply that to my work as a Social Service Worker as it was a big factor in my upbringing which made me proud to be Indigenous.

In my future career in Social Service Work I am hoping to work for Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services (DBCFS), an Indigenous child and family service agency. DBCFS is a multi-service Indigenous wellbeing agency. DBCFS expresses how the culture is a fundamental source of strength and an effective tool to heal and aid Indigenous people in rediscovering their self-respect, inner-strength and personal identity as proud Indigenous people. They provide culturally intelligent services for Indigenous people in ways that will enhance their strengths. They also collaborate with local community agencies to provide culturally appropriate treatment services. The principles they follow are the seven grandfather teachings, inclusivity and wholistic practice. My values align with this agency as I believe it is important to keep culture alive when approaching the youth because it allows them to stay true to their identity and provides them with support through the Indigenous culture.

Thank you for your generous support, it will assist in paying for my books, tuition, and rent for the year; I am very appreciative and thankful. This support will help me achieve my future goal as an Indigenous Social Service Worker to help Indigenous youth with their struggles.

Mahsi Cho, Miigwetch, and Thank-You.

Thomas Hoggarth