

Dear Sponsor of the TD Bank Group Bursary:

I am Desirae Ahnassay and I currently am pursuing my Bachelor of Business Administration with emphasis in Finance at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and am currently in my 4<sup>th</sup> and final year. My goal down the road once I am out of school it to obtain the designation for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

I have been working with the Federal Government in the department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in Edmonton, Alberta. I also work casually as a Personal Grocery Shopper with InstaCart, where I grocery shop at various stores within Edmonton and deliver the groceries to the customers doorstep. This casual position allows me to make up any extra income needed for living expenses and also filling my need to help others.

Once I graduate, I am torn between staying with the Federal Government or leaving to try and pursue a job with a Chartered bank or investment firm. If I were to stay with ISC, I could continue to learn more about my culture at the same time as helping First Nations in my province. On the other hand, if I leave to work at a Chartered bank or investment firm, I can still help people, but it would love to find a position to be able to focus on helping others with their personal finances. In general my goal in career and life goals is to be able to help others. I come from a reservation, Bushe River, part of Dene Tha' First Nation in northern Alberta where a majority of the people struggle with finances. And also my past work experience was working in the oil & gas industry, which I worked through the 2014 downturn of the industry. This downturn resulted in people I personally knew ending up in bankruptcy, losing their homes, and families being split due to the stress of finances. I want to be able to help people get their finances in order and plan for their future retirement and goals.

With this bursary I will actually be using a good portion of it up on getting dental work done that isn't covered by either of my health benefits fully. The money really did come in the nick of time when I was stressing out on figuring how to pay for the work to be done. The remaining money left over after the dental work will be put towards living expenses, so I don't have to worry as much about working extra hours when I should be using my time to study.

Thank you so much for your generous support,



Desirae Ahnassay