Dear Sponsor of the Chief Harry St. Dennis Awards,

I am grateful for the support from those who have collaborated and supported the Chief Harry St. Denis Award to honour his legacy and his commitment to protecting our lands. I am also honored that I was accepted for the reason of my personal journey in secondary education for pursuing a career that lines with Chief Harry St. Denis's efforts and beliefs.

I am now in my second year in my program at the University of Vancouver Island in Nanaimo, BC. My program is the Resource Management Officer Technology Program, and it prepares students to become qualified conservation officers, park rangers and wardens, and wildlife technicians. My goal is to enter the Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection so I can enter a more science driven field and learn to monitor and maintain wildlife and forests. There are a lot of opportunities back home on my reserve in Fox Lake Cree Nation up in Northern Manitoba. I am also very interested in joining the Land Needs Guardians outfit because they do EVERYTHING that I want to spend my life doing, watching over our lands, protecting wildlife and forests, monitoring migrations, and keeping ecosystems healthy.

The program is really extensive and requires a lot of time to create reports, projects and also do field work. It is quite hard trying to balance school life and work life under such a demanding program, and my job as an aboriginal student mentor helps but not full time. I also have a son who is so proud of me going to university to get myself into something I feel passionate about.

It has been a testing year for sure and with the many things I am trying to balance, your support with this award will ease a major stress of trying to provide, keep home, and have bellies filled while I concentrate on getting my diploma and make all you proud.

So again, thank you for your support and kindness and know that It was you that had a major role in my success and of course, keep healthy, keep safe.

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James Beardy