

January 6, 2022

Dear Slight Family Foundation,

Weytk xwexwitep! Hello everyone ! Happy New Year 2022! I wish a healthy & happy year to everyone at Indspire. My name is Geoffrey CRAIG Adams, and I am the fortunate recipient of The Learning From The Past Foundation award through Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards program.

I am a proud member of the Neskonlith Band, which is one of the seventeen surviving bands within the Secwepemc (Shuswap) First Nation in the southern interior plateau of British Columbia. I am living in my Grandmother & father's ancestral home here in Turtle Valley which is near Chase, BC, and I know how proud they would both be about the language revitalization we are doing now. Additionally, we are beginning our first of 2 practicums, and I will be teaching students in a Grade K-1 classroom in a public school in Chase, BC.

I have been studying for many years towards becoming a Secwepemctsin (Shuswap Language) immersion teacher. It takes a long time to achieve a high level of speaking proficiency in our language to be able to teach in an immersion classroom. The 900 hours of mentoring from a fluent elder through the First People's Cultural Council Mentor/Apprentice Program, and the approximately 900 hours of teacher mentoring from an experienced Kindergarten immersion teacher through the First Nations Education Steering Committee Teacher/Mentor Program has given me the tools necessary to become a fully qualified immersion teacher. Moreover, The Learning From The Past Foundation's kind donation to Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards program has made it possible for me to continue with my studies .

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and respect to The Learning From The Past Foundation for their generous donation to Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards program, and I would like to thank Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards program for empowering me to cover my travel, accommodation, and meal requirements while attending 'face to face' courses on campus in Victoria. More importantly, being the fortunate recipient of this award helps me to continue on my path of becoming fully qualified immersion teacher which will strongly revitalize our language. Thank you very much for your generosity and supporting Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards program.

Sincerely,

G. Craig Adams