

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

RE: Indspire: Building Brighter Futures Bursary

To the team at Mejuri,

My name is Amelia Jones, and I have so gratefully accepted the Indspire: Building Brighter Futures Bursary, which I've come to learn was so generously sponsored by the Mejuri Bursary. I am writing this letter to express my gratitude, and for you to get to know me a little bit better.

I am a 22-year-old Inuk woman from Forteau, on the southern coast of Labrador. I am currently living in Newfoundland and Labrador's Capital City, where I am in my final year of studies in Biology and Behavioural Neuroscience at Memorial University. Right now, I'm working on collecting data for my Honours thesis, where I am evaluating the role of glucose metabolism in an animal model of Alzheimer's Disease. The goal of my laboratory is to build evidence in support of a new animal of Alzheimer's Disease that supports the latest findings in Alzheimer's pathology. Once this new model is established, it will provide the ground zero for all future pre-clinical Alzheimer's research, and it is a project I hold near and dear to my heart.

Coming from a northern Indigenous community, I faced several barriers in moving to the city to complete my educational goals. From navigating an entirely different culture and climate, to finding ways to support myself financially, to dealing with the systemic and social discrimination of being both a woman and an Indigenous person in STEM, I have had to find unique ways to thrive in the face of adversity. The support of Indspire and its many donors played a pivotal role in allowing me to not only persevere through the struggles I've faced, but to significantly contribute to the rapidly growing field of neuroscience.

Going forward, I hope to extend my educational pursuits into the field of Medicine. I have recently sent off applications to several Atlantic medical schools, and I am (anxiously) awaiting interview notifications, which should come out later this fall. It is my dream to one day become a neurologist, allowing me to melt my passion for the human mind and helping others into a fulfilling and satisfying career.

I am truly, truly thankful for your support to Indspire, as none of this would have been remotely possible without their help. To me, and to every other young Indigenous Canadian, the highest honour we can receive is a belief that we are worthy of your support.

Nakummek,

Amelia Jones