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Dear Sponsor of the *Mycroft Holdings Indigenous Award*,

My name is Jana Percival; I am proud to be a Nisga'a citizen from the beautiful Nass Valley in British Columbia. Out of the four communities within the Nass Valley, I hail from the village of Gitlaxt'aamiks. I come from the house of D'uuk wilps Gitwilnaak'il, and my family tribe is wolf (ksim laxgibuu níiy.) I graduated from the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, B.C, in the spring of 2021 and earned my Associate of Arts degree. The following fall, I transferred to the University of Northern British Columbia, where I began my academic journey to major in First Nations Studies. I am proud to say I am in my final year at UNBC and on track to graduate in Spring 2023 with my Bachelor's in First Nations Studies.

As a mother of two sons and a wife to my hard-working husband, winning this award will significantly reduce the financial pressures of going to school, working part-time, and completing an internship, while caring for my family. I can say with certainty that this award has given me peace of mind with financial security.

My future aspirations include keeping full-time attendance at university as I work towards completing my final two semesters at UNBC. Once achieved, my next goal is to attain work through the internship connections I am forming within our city. I am confident that I will elevate Indigenous voices for better programs and services geared toward helping our Indigenous populations. Looking further into the future, I am beginning the early stages of planning time to attain a Master's degree. I have received great encouragement from my professors over the last four years that I would make an excellent candidate for a Master's program. I will plan carefully to work successfully towards making that my next academic accomplishment.

Again, I would like to thank you for your generous support, which has supplied more than just financial security; this award has been a solid reminder of my academic capabilities and that my efforts are recognized and celebrated. Navigating through the covid-19 pandemic and all the societal changes that have resulted has been trying for all of us. However, winning the *Mycroft Holdings Indigenous Award* demonstrates the community support we have for one another as we grow together as a stronger society.

T'ooyak<sub>s</sub>iy níiín – Thank you,

Jana Percival