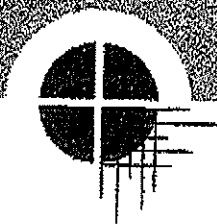


AFOA

Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada

Association des agents financiers autochtones du Canada



NOTIFICATION OF INTEREST

"1st Annual Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Conference Awards"

Name of school: Children of the Earth High School

Community: Winnipeg Manitoba

Address: 100 Saiter St

Province: Mb Postal Code: R2W-5M1 Phone: (204) 589-6383

Email: lebrown@wscl1.org

Teacher or contact name: Leigh Brown

Student's Name: Jordan Scott Grade: 11

If you are planning on making a submission for this award, please fill out this form and fax to AFOA at (613) 722-3467

For more information, please contact AFOA at 1-866-722-2362

Grant Thornton



Children of the Earth High School

Where Our Students' Spirits Soar...



Mr. L. Belmore
Principal

100 Salter Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 4J6

Tel. 204.589.6383
Fax 204.589.4822
Email lbelmore@wsd1.org

FAX COVER LETTER

December 13, 2006

To: Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada

From: Leigh A. Brown

Re: Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Conference Awards

Dear Sirs:

Attached please find the submission for the Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Conference Awards from Jordan Scott of Children of the Earth High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Thank you for your consideration of this fine young man for your awards. We believe that you will not be disappointed in him should he be chosen to attend your conference in Vancouver in February.

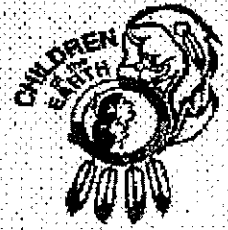
Leigh Brown
Teacher
Children of the Earth High School

Total pages: 9 (including cover)



Children of the Earth High School

Where Our Students' Spirits Soar...



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Principal

100 Salter Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 4J6

Tel. 204.589.6383
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December 15, 2006

Jordan Scott
Age 18
Grade 11
6-18 Tyndall Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2X 0Z2
Telephone: (204) 586-7853
Jean Henderson (Aunt/Guardian)
Lorne Keeper (Uncle/Guardian)

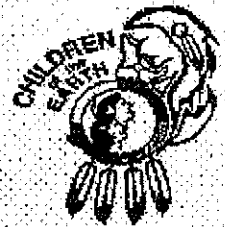
Children of the Earth High School
100 Salter Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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Telephone: (204) 589-6333
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Leigh A. Brown
Teacher
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Children of the Earth High School

Where Our Students' Spirits Soar...



Mr. L. Belmore
Principal

100 Salter Street
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Tel. 204.589.6383
Fax 204.589.4822
Email lbelmore@wsd1.org

December 13, 2006

Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada
1066 Somerset Street
Suite 301
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 4T3

Dear Sirs:

Please accept this letter as a recommendation for Jordan Scott, a student in Grade 11 at Children of the Earth High School.

Jordan has attended Children of the Earth High School for two years. He has exhibited strong academic skills and has participated extensively in extra-curricular activities. During a visit from Canada's Governor General, Jordan was one of the students who spoke personally with Mme. Jean. Currently, Jordan is a member of a four person team developing a Social Justice project in conjunction with the Transition Year Program of the University of Manitoba. "U and Me" is a student lead project to promote and support Aboriginal participation in post-secondary education. Jordan and his team mates will be doing presentations at all the area high schools to encourage community members to pursue a university education, and to take advantage of the TYP at Children of the Earth as a means of entering university in a more intimate and friendly environment.

Jordan is also a second year member of the E-Spirit program at Children of the Earth. He was instrumental in his group winning two runner-up prizes at the 2005 competition, and even in the short amount of time that his group has been together for 2006, he has shown a strong desire and ability to work co-operatively to develop ideas and create a thorough and well planned project. Jordan has many unique and interesting ideas that he shares freely to ensure the success of the whole group.

Jordan's creativity and strong literacy skills are evident in the work he produces, both for the business competition program and for all his other courses. He is currently maintaining an overall average of approximately 90% and has expressed a desire to improve that number over the balance of the current term.

I believe Jordan is a strong student and an effective team member who would be an asset to any organization of which he may be a part. It is my pleasure to recommend him for your Finance Management Conference program.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leigh A. Brown".

Leigh A. Brown
Teacher

The Point of Knowing

"Try to do something for your people - something difficult. Have pity on them and love them." These are the opening words of a Winnebago lesson that teaches about leadership within a community. I take these words to heart as I contemplate writing this paper. Our ancestors, in the traditional ways, always thought and acted for the good of the community group first, and for themselves, last if at all. This is very contrary to how things are done in this modern age, when individuality and personal gain are foremost in people's minds, rather than community development and the good of the whole. So it is to these words and others like them, that I turn when thinking what I would do to make a difference, not only in, but also for my community.

My name is Jordan Scott and I am eighteen years old. I live in Winnipeg's North End; and low income, primarily urban Aboriginal community close to the heart of downtown Winnipeg. I am in Grade eleven at Children of the Earth High School. My school is the first and only school of its kind in Manitoba, in that it is the only publicly funded Aboriginal high school in the province. Attending this school has taught me a great deal about my cultural background and has helped me to understand the importance of striving for academic success, as well as the importance of using my personal success to help my community succeed.

I have not made a final decision regarding my plans for the future, but I am very interested in a career in business because I believe that would

provide me with both a secure future for myself and a strong opportunity to play a part in community development within Winnipeg's North End. Though at this time I can only dream about things I may be able to accomplish in the future, I think that the ideas I have are practical and can be accomplished. If community leaders work in partnership with community members, many good things can happen for the North End and for the Aboriginal people who make the North End their home.

As I see it, Winnipeg's North End has three significant issues that need to be addressed in order for the community to develop and improve its current socio-economic position. These issues are poverty, crime, and drug and alcohol abuse. This is not to say that all people in the area are drug-addicted, criminal alcoholics. For the most part, the residents of the North End are hard-working, upstanding citizens who, through no particular fault of their own, are marginalized because of race and ethnic background. Many of Winnipeg's urban Aboriginal people have moved here from Northern reserve communities, where unemployment reaches staggeringly high proportions in excess of 80%. Once here, they are unable to find jobs because of a lack of skills or education. Lack of work results in high poverty levels, which lead to frustration and despair. Often people turn to drugs and alcohol to escape the frustration in their lives. In turn, paying for these negative supports can and does lead some people to the criminal path, as the lack of work means a lack of financial resources to pay for the bad habits they turn to as an escape. It is truly a vicious cycle, and once a person is caught up in it, it is very difficult to get out.

I have seen the effects of unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and poverty in my community and in my family. If I were in charge, I would look for solutions to address the underlying causes of these three significant issues that affect my community, and try to find ways to improve the lives of people through economic development that specifically targets the needs of Aboriginal people in Winnipeg's North End.

Firstly, I would look for ways to improve education for children within the community. In particular, I would advocate for more schools that are aware of and sympathetic to the special needs of Aboriginal children. Often children are from single parent families, and high mobility and attrition are a significant issue. Education programs that accommodate children by offering flexible start and end times, accelerated programs, and "portable" programs that can follow a student to any school he or she may attend would greatly improve the completion rate, thus providing people with a stronger educational background that potential employers are looking for.

Secondly, I would develop partnership programs with post-secondary institutions, and business and industry to target Aboriginal people specifically to provide education and training in job areas where there is a high demand. People from the community would be sponsored to attend these training programs and would have the opportunity to be "fast-tracked" into job placement upon completion of their studies.

Thirdly, I would work with community based programs to provide adequate facilities for drug and alcohol treatment and counselling. These programs would be run in conjunction with employment programs, so that

people could get clean and get a job, and have the personal self-esteem to avoid falling back into negative and destructive habits.

Fourthly, I would petition and lobby the government to adopt a fairly hard line on criminal offences that are drug related. However, I would try something different for youth from unstable family conditions who turn to crime as a means of expressing their anger about situations they are in but have no control over. I would increase and adequately fund the number of youth drop-in centres where young people can go and talk to others who have been through the same sorts of problems and who can give them reassurances and hope that life can be different. Keeping young people off the streets by giving them a place to go will help to reduce crime and help the young people to make something of their lives.

These are some of the things that I would like to see happen in the community in order to help children, youth, and adults. Perhaps it is naive to think that these things could be done. Perhaps it is naive to think these things would make a significant difference. However, I believe that is exactly what would happen. People, generally speaking, want to be self-sufficient. They want to have purpose and meaning in their lives. People who have these things do not turn to negative coping mechanisms. Additionally, when the people in a particular community are functioning and contributing to the growth and development of that community, the community itself prospers. A prosperous community is attractive to business and industry, and a new cycle of growth and development replaces the former negative cycle of despair, abuse, and crime.

Jordan Scott
Children of the Earth High School

Joseph Brant said "no person among us desires any other reward for performing brave and worthy action, but the consciousness of having served his nation." I believe that any action taken to help a community, or a nation, is rewarding in and off itself, for when the community prospers, all of us who are a part of that community, prosper. By helping others, we also help ourselves.

"When you see a new trail, or a footprint you do not know, follow it to the point of knowing." - Uncheedah, Grandmother of Ohiyesa