

## ALEXANDER'S TESTIMONY

My name is Alexander Keenan-Adank and I am originally from the municipality of Saint-François-Xavier de Brompton. I started my post secondary education in 2013 by completing a DEP in Nursing Assistance in the Lennoxville Vocational centre. Once I realized that nursing was my calling, I applied to Champlain college. My family owns a beef farm 1 hour outside of the Sherbrooke area, so I moved away from home to finish my DEC in nursing. My teachers at Champlain encouraged me to continue to university, so in 2017 I moved once again, this time to Montreal, to complete a BAC in nursing at McGill university. I worked as a nurse all through school to be able to pay and to gain experience in my field while I studied.

The J. Armand Bombardier scholarship played an important role in my academic path. This program supported my financial needs required for moving away from home. Because of the bursaries I received, I only needed to work part time on my weekends and was able to focus on school. Nursing school requires you to travel to several work sites for stages, so you need access to a vehicle, which further increases the costs of the program. Medical textbooks and uniforms representing each school also add to the overall cost. These kinds of bursaries help students handle the financial strain of full time school, which is of incredible help to us students.

One of the main challenges of coming from rural areas in the eastern townships is that you must move away from home to continue your education. The support offered by the J. Armand Bombardier organization allows students from outside the city to move in to pursue their education and to focus on their future.

One of the other challenges the region faces is the severe shortage of health professionals. By supporting students in the field of health, the Fondation J. A. Bombardier is supporting training of new health professionals, helping the shortage of medical personnel, and supporting the health of these communities, to which I have to say a big thank you from all students studying in the health field.