

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

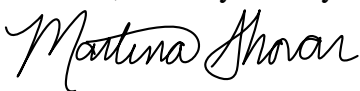
Dear Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS),

I want to thank you all for having me as a student in the organization for these past few months. It is disappointing to have ended my practicum on such abrupt notice, however I find comfort knowing the University of British Columbia and the Canadian Association of Social Workers have chosen to take preventative measures to the Covid-19 pandemic by terminating field placements.

My time spent at VACFSS and on intake was both eye opening and refreshing. It left me feeling hopeful about the future of child welfare and gave me perspective on what goes on behind the scenes of child protection decisions. I was not sure going into my practicum if child protection is something I could see myself doing post-graduation, however I have since changed my perspective. I feel privileged to have been a part of such a great team and to have witnessed true restorative child welfare practices taking place.

My intentions moving forward are to work with Indigenous people, in whatever capacity that is, and I hope to remain in child welfare. The urban Indigenous community is a client population I hold close to my heart as I am an urban Indigenous person myself, and have been away from my own community for six years. I'm thankful to have had the experience of witnessing your practices with Indigenous clients. It gave me hope for the future of Indigenous prosperity and wellbeing, and I feel like I am in a much better position to support Indigenous families and communities in both a child welfare and a community setting. I will be moving back to [REDACTED] where my family and I have settled. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime. My personal email is [REDACTED]. Thanks again for having me on as a student at VACFSS!

Take care, and stay healthy!!



Martina Shovar