

May 22, 2021

**Subject: Award Nominations, Atuat Aliyak. Grade 11 Student**

I was Atuat's grade 7 teacher. Atuat had a difficult home life, which made her defensive and rough around the edges. Her and I often had conflicts throughout the year, but I always had a soft spot for her and wanted her to succeed. At the start of grade 7, her classroom behaviour was extremely disruptive (likely a manifestation of her life struggles). By the end of the year, her behaviour had made some good improvements. Although I haven't taught Atuat since grade 7, I know she has continued to improve. I have heard positive comments from colleagues about her improvements. What I would like to specifically mention is her interest in land based activities. Atuat is involved in the young hunters program here in Rankin Inlet. One of her current teachers told me that she is very involved in the program and proud of her achievements.

Atuat has come a long way from grade 7 and seems much happier at MUI. The progress she has made as a student is significant. I am also very proud of her for seeking out opportunities to take part in her culture.

Please let me know if any other information is required

Thank you!

*Kevin MacDonald*

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