



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

January 13, 2022

Reference Letter for Jason Valleau

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of reference for Jason Valleau. I got to know Jason as his supervisor for his PURE research project. The PURE is a project that preservice teachers take on in addition to their Bachelor of Education programming. The process is highly competitive and only the best projects are chosen. Jason's research project was focused on designing lessons and a unit based on his collaboration with Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina musicians. It was an ambitious project in which he was required to build trusting relationships and be aware of cultural sensitivities. Throughout the project, Jason demonstrated dedication, commitment and the ability to critically reflect on his learning in order to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous community members.

Jason demonstrated his commitment to the project by extending his learning through Stoney language courses, continuing to build relationships with Indigenous musicians, taking part in Reconciliation Day events and teaching grade six and seven students at Tsuut'ina Junior High School. Jason took on this additional teaching outside of his practicum. These classes were so successful that he was invited into other teacher's classes. Students in the class were so engaged that they lobbied their teacher to continue the lesson well beyond the time that was originally set aside. In observing his teaching, I witnessed how Jason was able to create a calm, safe and fun environment for students to engage with music and with one another.

For his final practicum, Jason chose to challenge himself by relocating to a remote Indigenous community in northern Alberta. Jason has shared some of his teaching experiences and a video demonstrating how he was able to engage all grade levels in a Christmas concert. I see that Jason's commitment and dedication has permitted him to not just survive but thrive in this practicum.

I have found Jason easy to work with and self-directed. He has the ability to engage students and keep them engaged. His calm demeanor and his commitment to students make him a good fit with any school community and an excellent addition to any teaching staff.

Sincerely,

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