Date: Sunday, August 22st, 2022

To: Christine Donahue

From: Marc Daaboul

Computer Science Co-op Work Report

### Introduction

I was given the opportunity to work at Indigineous Services Canada (ISC) from May 16 2022 to August 19, 2022. I was supervised at the start of the co-op term by Jean-Pierre Lefebvre and it switched to Nadia Mehu-Jules in July.

### Employer Description

Indigenous Services Canada aims to (as stated in the ISC website) “[work] collaboratively with partners to improve access to high quality services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.”. They give them access to health benefits, social programs, improved housing and more.

### Position Description

I worked as a Junior Developer and primarily created proof of concepts and a base for apps or features that wanted to be built/deployed by other teams in the department. I also created forms that people could submit their tickets through. We had team meetings every week to give each other an update on what has happened, what we are working on now and what is planned for the future.

### Technical Environment

I was given an HP laptop running Windows 10. I was also given a mouse but did not use it, since I had no use for it. I had admin access on my device, so I was able to download all the applications that I need over the internet, such as Visual Studio 2022 and Postman (this process was recommended to me by my co-workers).

### Skills Used and Acquired

A skill I learned in my program and used at my workplace is to keep my code easy to understand for my client. In class we were working as a team to create a reservation system. Before I pushed my code I had to make sure I wasn’t overengineering anything I was supposed to work on. I did this to make sure my teammates could understand my code and be able to add to it without much trouble. This same thing applied to my co-op. My code would be given to a client as a base to work from. So it had to be easy to understand.

While we had those weekly status meetings, I had to learn to make the summary of the past week non-technical, short and easy to understand. For example I would have to replace a sentence like: “I was working on a POC for the Helix API to list all the projects and give the user a chance to create, edit and delete them. I was working on this in the HelixPOC git repo” to: “I was working on a POC for the Helix API for [insert team name] this last week.”.

Another thing I sharpened was my problem solving skills. They would give me instructions that were pretty vague and I had to try to figure out what was considered a minimal viable product for the proof of concept to be accepted.

### Evaluation of co-op experience

I believe I was well prepared for the co-op since we learned about mvc, c# and how to work as a team in school. The only thing I had to learn was to use a newer version of dotnet (core 6) and the new power platform from Microsoft (PowerApps and PowerAutomate). The team for the co-op term was a big highlight for this summer. They were really nice and helped me out when I needed it. There is nothing I could suggest that could realistically be improved in the program, from the problems that were stated earlier. One thing that could be improved from the co-op experience is how important the work I was doing could’ve been. I was really only doing the projects on the side that had less importance than the ones the other employees were working on. It made it a bit harder to relate to team members and made the work a little less ‘exciting’.

### Conclusion

Working with ISC has been very enjoyable in my opinion and would consider working with them again once I graduate. I would also recommend them to the next generation of students who may get the opportunity to apply for them.