

# Paying It Forward into the Four Directions

Nadya and Amira Gill,  
Nunavut Tunngavik



It's not enough to imagine or advocate for a better future, somebody has to build it.

With the support of donors to Indspire, Indigenous students are quick to seize the opportunity to become the creators who turn ideas into reality.

For an inspiring example of this, just talk to two current Indigenous engineering and law students, past Indspire recipients, and early-career donors in action – the dynamic sisters Amira and Nadya Gill.

*In a burst of innovation and the true spirit of giving, Amira, a second-year Master's Applied Science student studying civil and structural engineering at Queen's University – and her sister Nadya Gill, a second-year student at Queen's Law with an interest in criminal law – started a charitable online platform to sell face masks designed by Indigenous artists.*

The sisters thought that selling face masks was “a logical opportunity, since, given COVID-19, everyone needs a face mask,” said Amira. “In addition, the Indigenous artists who design the face masks receive royalties every time a mask is purchased.”

The venture, called Kanata Masks, ([kanatatrade.com](http://kanatatrade.com)) gives all of the profits back to Indspire for a student award.

*As Nadya says, “We received help from Indspire when we needed it most. Now is the time to give back. Many Indigenous students struggle and they really need this help to study and grow.”*

Amira adds, “we wanted to join other donors and work to remove barriers preventing young Indigenous students from attending college or university.

They need to experience first-hand that there are other options available. They need a chance at life.”

Nadya continues, “it might seem impossible to reach an entire community, but when you support education you can make so much happen.” She adds, “the most surprising thing about this work was seeing how many other Indigenous groups wanted to get involved and support us. And to help support Indspire as well.”

So far, the Gill sisters have donated over \$6,000 to Indspire!

Amira says that they also want to raise positive awareness, “we know the history of why Indspire exists to help Indigenous youth. We've seen the statistics about the number of students that have been supported over the years and we've seen the impact of donor gifts. We are the proof!”

Nadya adds, “we have both grown and changed with our education and that adds up to a great reason to give. We are very grateful for the help that we have been given. This is our chance to pay it forward into the Four Directions.”

*She continues that, “we want others to understand how important it is to donate to Indspire. We also encourage others to consider hosting a third-party fundraising event for Indspire. Everything helps! You can create a new future for students, communities, and the world around us.”*

**If you are interested in hosting a third-party event for Indspire, visit [www.indspire.ca/ways-to-give/donate/help-fundraise/](http://www.indspire.ca/ways-to-give/donate/help-fundraise/) •**