



Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women



*"Yours in
Strength & Beauty"*

Annual Report

April 2017 - March 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although our scope has expanded since we registered the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal women in 1995, at the core, we will always begin by honouring our women. We are determined and ready to stand together with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in addressing the prejudice and racism evident in their daily lives. Indeed, we stand together with women and girls all over the world. We believe that women's power will break cycles of abuse by shedding light on the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable. In the first place, we believe that recognition begins with awareness. Connie Deiter wrote the first of her two columns in the Edmonton Journal, "No Candlelight Vigil for our Women".

In the second column she listed the names of the

Aboriginal women murdered and no one charged and why this was happening. I read their names at Edmonton City Hall upon receiving the 1998 Alberta Human Rights Award. Instances such as the acquittal of Bradley Barton, the horrific treatment of Angela Cardinal in the courtroom, the resignation of former Justice Robin Camp and the ongoing murders and the disappearance of our women and girls in this province show that we have ways to go. However, through strong partnerships that we have made over the years with organizations such as LEAF (Legal Education Action Fund), and other "Angels Among Us", we are hopeful for the future of our women. The volume and intensity of these cases only reinvigorate our drive to fulfill our mandate -- to strive for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

Muriel Stanley Venne C.M., B.A.(Hon.)
President and Founder

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) is a non-profit organization based out of Edmonton that recognizes the role, value, and achievements of Indigenous women in society and raises awareness around the challenges they face. Major strategies to improve opportunities for Indigenous women include: training and support services to achieve social inclusion; empowerment and independence; and economic and social security.

IAAW projects, services, and programs are developed by and for Alberta's Indigenous Women and are open to all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women and their families. Projects are specifically dedicated to Indigenous Women living on and off the reserves, on and off settlement lands, and within rural and urban settings.

IAAW values the support and partnerships of its 500 individual and corporate members. To honour and ensure long lasting cooperative relationships, IAAW operates on the following philosophy.

- » Open and transparent decision-making processes
- » Building the capacity and independence of both individuals and communities
- » Established evaluative reporting procedures
- » Administrative accountability and financial reporting based on the principles of transparency and disclosure

MANDATE

To recognize and promote the leadership of Indigenous women in the province of Alberta. To be actively involved; and to assist Indigenous women to establish local representative groups; and to develop relationships which promote human rights and dignity for Indigenous women and their families; and to address economic, social, and political issues of concern at the provincial, federal, and international levels and as they impact Indigenous women in their communities.

INCORPORATION INFORMATION

Scope of Territory: Provincial/Territorial **Incorporation Info:** Non-profit Society

Charitable Status: Not registered as a charitable organization Date of Incorporation: September 29, 1995

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To establish, develop, and deliver educational programs and services that promote positive relationships.
- 2 With guidance from all our Elders, we recognize and respect and spiritual and the sacred nature of the role of women within Indigenous cultural traditions.
- 3 To develop and deliver support services to build the individual capacity of Indigenous women, their families, and communities.
- 4 To achieve social justice for Indigenous women by:
 - a. Research and development of resource materials
 - b. Identify opportunities to participate in policy development and decision making with the all levels of government
 - c. Challenge and eradicate discrimination of Indigenous women
- 5 Recognize and respect Indigenous women through celebrating their strengths and achievements.
- 6 To establish a forum and network for Indigenous women to exchange information and experiences.
- 7 To create an Indigenous Women's Centre in collaboration with other partners to increase the skills and abilities of Indigenous women.
- 8 To establish a social enterprise facility that provides Indigenous women the opportunity to become self-sufficient.
- 9 To build collaborative relationships with like-minded organizations to advance Indigenous women's issues.



Introducing the "Muriel Stanley Venne Provincial Building"

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Muriel Stanley Venne C.M., B.A. (Hon), President & Founder
- Marggo Pariseau, Vice President
- Irene V. Loutitt, Treasurer
- Vi Marten, Director
- Josie Nepinak, Director
- Chief Bernice Martial, Interim Director
- Lisa Higgerty, Interim Director

CIRCLE OF HONOUR ELDERS

- Mary Brown, Slave Lake
- Lorretta Bowen, Edmonton
- Myrtle Calahason, Edmonton
- Nellie Carlson, Edmonton
- Alma Dejarlais, High Prairie
- Marion Le Rat, Calgary
- Elsie Paul, Edmonton
- Lorraine Savard, Edmonton
- Linda Boudreau-Samaganis, St. Paul
- Beatrice Morin, Enoch
- Blanche Bruised Head, Lethbridge

IAAW MEMBERSHIP

Membership forms are available on all IAAW brochures. A payment of \$25.00 is requested, however there is a subsidized rate of \$10. Should the individual not have the funds, the membership cost is waived.



Bunny Swanson, Marggo Pariseau, Muriel Stanley-Venne attended Ethel Blondin-Andrew breakfast.



IAAW is names one of 100 best women's organizations in Canada. Muriel Stanley-Venne, Rachelle Venne, Irene Lontitt, Vi Marten accept the award in Calgary.

Financial Literacy



Having the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed financial decisions. It is about the confidence to make short and long term financial decisions and understanding the outcomes of these decisions.

IAAW

is proud to integrate culturally appropriate financial literacy education into its programming. It is an important component to building confidence and a major part of our overall goal of equipping Aboriginal women with necessary skills, tools, and support to uplift themselves. Workshops and support service are delivered by request in the community.

EMPOWER U

Empower U is a collaboration between 12 organizations in Edmonton that combines financial literacy programming with a 2:1 matched savings component. IAAW delivers this program and develop new skills that help them making informed decisions about their money.

The matched savings can be used for items that increase their earning potential, including further education, appliances, or training.

The weekly 2-hour group session is delivered over 16 weeks. During these sessions, some of the topics covered include:

- Budgeting
- Banking Information
- Managing credit
- Investments
- Awareness of Marketing Tactics
- Avoiding debt & Recovering your debt
- CRA Scam phone calls & emails

MATCHED SAVINGS

For every dollar saved by group participants is matched by two dollars from corporate and philanthropic sponsors.



PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS



"I really liked how the program is woman-based, and the small groups make it easy to feel comfortable. The environment was also non-judgmental, and I felt reassured that everything that was shared in the group was confidential. I was excited to save so much. It feels good to have something put away for my kids"

Winona Cardinal, 2018 • Empower U Graduate



"I learned strategies on how to develop better choices. I am learning to keep track of my money, put bills on calendars. I learned how to live below my means and be an educated consumer. I am accountable for my choices."

Pam Calliou, 2018 • Empower U Graduate

DATE	NO.	Completed with Matched Savings	Amount Saved by Participants	TOTAL
Feb 23 - June 8, 2017	10	4	\$1,540	\$2,800
Mar 15 - June 28, 2017	9	5	\$1,855	\$3,510
June 6 - Sept 19, 2017	9	5	\$915	\$1,830
Sept 6 - Dec 20, 2017	9	2	\$1,080	\$2,160
Feb 20 - June 27, 2018	7	5	\$1,560	\$2,880
TOTAL	44	21	\$6,950	\$13,180

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CHAMPIONS

IAAW is partnered with Bissell Centre and E4C on a multi- year project to expand delivery of proven financial empowerment intervention that improves the financial wellbeing of Edmontonians living in poverty or experiencing homelessness. The partnership launched last year and has been making strides since. The group explores ways to encourage and support municipal and provincial governments as well as other large service providers to include financial empowerment solutions into existing programming for low-income individuals. The organizations are working together to connect with vulnerable and marginalized populations.

They also collaborate with existing partners such as the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Financial empowerment Collaborative, Financial Pathways Collaborative and the United Way.

**Partnership with E4C,
Bissell Centre and IAAW
1 of 5 Prosper Canada Sites**

THE INITIATIVES IN THIS PARTNERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Financial literacy
- Coaching
- Housing supports
- Community collaborations
- Training of volunteers
- Fill service gaps in Edmonton

IAAW has a part-time financial empowerment coordinator who works alongside the E4C staff to develop tools, coordinate the implementation of Financial Empowerment interventions inside their organizations, and train partner organizations' staff.

This group includes people who do not have ID and have no consistent or stable income.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

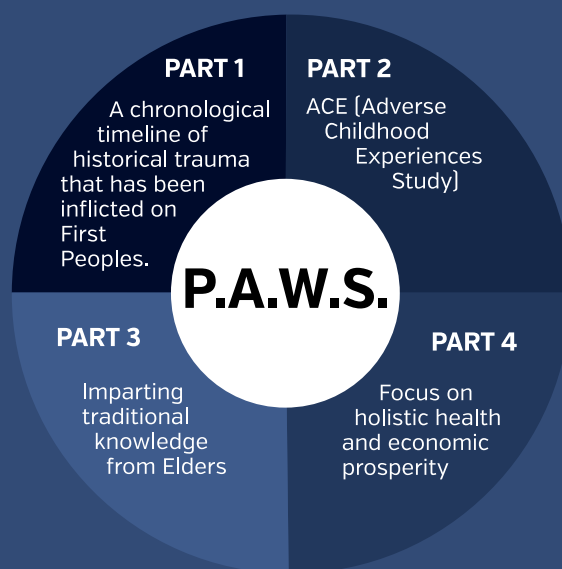
IAAW recognizes the need for financial literacy in the small communities on the outskirts of the larger urban areas. As a response to this need, IAAW provides services to groups of Indigenous women on request. In the past three years, we have worked in the following communities: Enoch, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, High Prairie Metis Settlement, High Level, Lac La Biche, and Lethbridge.

LINKING TRAUMA TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

After over eight years of observing financial literacy training for Indigenous women, it became apparent that participants are affected by historic intergenerational trauma. Through a partnership with the Status of Women Canada, and the facilitation of educator Dr. Pat Makokis, IAAW envisioned this as part of the P.A.W.S. (Preparing Aboriginal Women for Success) program.

We witnessed the powerful impact that positive reinforcement and encouragement had on the participants. They indicated feeling more empowered, having greater self-awareness about their attitudes and beliefs around finances and spending money. This workshop series showed the need for retaining and practicing cultural traditions and how the history of intergenerational trauma

affected and continues to affect generations of families. Women left the program with a plan and tools to build a better financial foundation for themselves and their children.



Empower U Graduates



Community Outreach



IAAW recognizes the need for financial literacy in the small communities on the outskirts of the larger urban areas. As a response to this need, IAAW provides services to groups of Indigenous women on request. In the past three years, we

have worked in the following communities: Enoch, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, High Prairie Metis Settlement, High Level, Lac La Biche, and Lethbridge.



OBJECTIVES

- Provide advocacy and individualized assistance to Indigenous women for access to service and programs.
- Enhance and/or build new partnerships with service providers to ensure information on services and programs are accessible and available to Indigenous women.



ELDER SERVICES

Elder services first and foremost provides women with individual supports and encouragement. It is not uncommon that Elder services are the first time that the women have received one-on-one, compassionate, and non-judgmental support. The elder works with women in many aspects of their life, and is flexible to meet each individual's requirement. The Elders' role is to offer Indigenous teachings and bring back some of the culture that has been lost or taken.

The seven sacred teachings that are introduced are:

- Respect
- Wisdom
- Love
- Honesty
- Truth
- Humility
- Courage



ELDER SERVICES PROVIDED

- Cultural medicines
[sweet grass, sage, fungus, rat root]
- Cultural discussions, practices, teachings.
- Personal reflections and discussions around culture and traditions
- Support for impacts of the residential school system
- Sage and Lavender are provided for smudge
- Taking the women to ceremonies
- Refer to Elders that have sweat lodges
- Refer women to other resources and encourage them to share stories

HOUSING DIVERSION PROGRAM

IAAW knows that one of the biggest barriers for women in Edmonton is housing. In working agreement with Homeward Trust Edmonton, IAAW is proud to offer housing services. To apply for the program, a woman must be participating in one of our programs (Financial Literacy or Self-Management Program) – we do not take clients on a walk-in basis.

The level of service is determined once the individual completes an assessment. The Diversion program is for participants that can financially manage and only require financial assistance on a one-time basis. IAAW pays for the first month's rent, damage deposit, and if required, a deposit for utilities and gas. We also pick up used furniture (except for beds which are new) from an Edmonton social enterprise, FIND. Homeward Trust then reimburses IAAW. Our ability to create a successful program is through the development of professional relationships with us. We are empathic and take time to listen to their stories. The women honour us by believing we will do our best to help them move up and forward.

SUCCESS

As defined by Home-ward Trust, success is when a family can live independently for six months and does not default on their rent.

TO DATE

We have successfully housed 19 women.

We are at a 100% Success Rate.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN LEAVING CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In partnership with Corrections Canada – Edmonton Area Parole Office, IAAW provides community connections, support, encouragement, and advocacy to Indigenous Women in Edmonton. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Canada reports that 90-99% of provincial jails and up to 45% of federal female prisons are comprised of Indigenous women. IAAW is committed to providing innovative, compassionate services to reduce recidivism. In

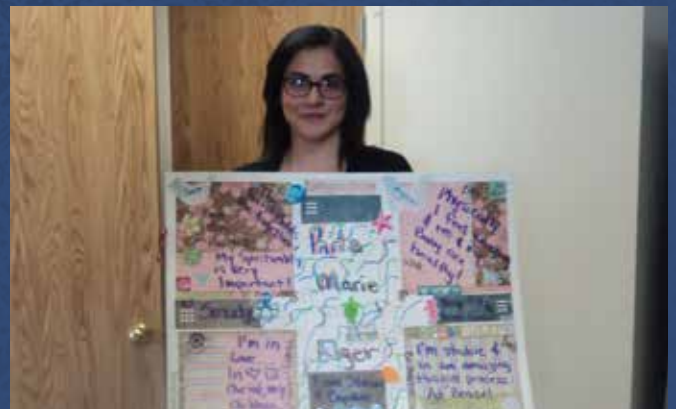
conjunction with other IAAW Community Services such as Elder Services, the program supporting women who leave correctional institutions is a chance to provide women the support they need in this delicate time in their lives. Women receive the right kind of support from respected Elders in the community, who help them transition back after their time in correctional institutions.

ABORIGINAL SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The program is a 12-week program for women re-entering the community after being released from the Edmonton Institution for Women. The program is a condition of release. In most cases, the women have taken the program several times, and are often wondering why they must re-take it. However, the program while incarcerated and the program during re-integration into the community is different. This includes the fact that they may have barriers in the community, and the teachings must be repeated in order to emphasize their importance.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Develop a service plan on each participant's unique needs [Elders contribute to a larger plan led by a facilitator]
- Provide path-finding assistance for women to help them transition to life after incarceration. The women are typically incarcerated from two to eight years.
- Provide spiritual and cultural teachings to participants
- Work with community organizations to better meet the needs of Indigenous women
- Work with courts to get visitation with children
- Attend parole hearings, as a support person
- Meeting with the judicator of residential schools



Reaching out to women at Buffao Sage Healing Lodge

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

The partnerships with the following organizations have helped to ensure that programs and services are available to

- E4C
- Bissell Centre
- Homeward Trust Edmonton
- Edmonton Police Services
- RCMP Aboriginal Policing
- Edmonton Parole
- Edmonton Institute for Women
- Edmonton Public Library
- City of Edmonton - Community Services
- Alberta Works
- Buffalo Sage (Native Counseling)
- Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

We believe that the Community Connections has benefited this objective through:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of partner organizations around Indigenous women
- Ensuring women learn to access services and how to seek out what they need in a new and positive way.
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of the women.
- Helping women come out of the corrections system and stay out.



ATB Financial is a community partner. CEO Rachelle Venne presents thank you gift to VP Sandra Huculak, Managing Director, Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprises.

Esquao Youth Leadership



A leader can be defined many ways, including the principal or main performer of a group. However, we also recognized a leader as someone who has influence for whoever they represent. This trait is often gained through respect, and exceptional communication skills. In matriarchal societies that were represented in many tribes, women were honoured for their wisdom and vision. Over the years, Aboriginal women have lost their wisdom and vision through the residential school process. At IAAW, we believe that Aboriginal women are pillars of their communities. When they are strong, their families also with experience more successful outcomes. Through a holistic approach, and in partnership Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton, IAAW aims to increase communication skills and improve opportunities for young Indigenous women to become involved in leadership roles.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

- 1** Capacity Building: Linking participants to community involvement opportunities helps community partners find engaged youth to support their programming, while simultaneously helping the participant increase their capacity by being exposed to new skills and knowledge.
- 2** Linkages with Elders: IAAW Elders are integral participants of the program. Elder stories often become part of participant projects. Elders are also interested in hearing presentations from participants about their experiences and learning. This also fulfills our mandate to incorporate intergenerational exchange in the program.
- 3** Outreach to Partners: Having guest speakers from community partners helps the participants learn about support systems available for young Indigenous women.



OUR MANDATE IS TO:

- **Increase the participation of Indigenous women in their communities through mentorship, training and intergenerational exchange.**
- **Prepare young women for future leadership roles in their communities, or for participation in leadership activities such as serving on boards and committees.**
- **Build confidence and foresight for young Indigenous women to utilize their leadership capabilities in partnered community service activities.**

The program design is focused on knowledge and a demonstration of leadership skills among participants.

Esquao Adult Leadership

As Indigenous women we have the power that women have to effect positive change in the community.

The rural series involved connecting with over 100 women, and gave the IAAW an opportunity to connect (and reconnect) with Indigenous women living in rural. Although, there may be services offered in the rural communities, the discussion that IAAW starts is specific to Indigenous women. Discussion is focused on how to increase their involvement and take advantage of opportunities to voice their opinion for the betterment of their families and community.



Through the leadership series events at our Edmonton office: We estimate that about half (or about 60) participants that attended the leadership series attended an IAAW event for the first time. This expanded the awareness of the organization within the community.

IAAW hosted the "Indigenous Women's Leadership Workshop" on November 16, 2017 in Edmonton (see poster above) as a central location for women from all over such as Kehewin First Nation, Frog Lake First Nation, Saddle Lake First Nation, Fort McMurray and even Sturgeon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. Most of the women were new to the IAAW and came to mainly hear the speakers. Youth had the chance to ask the leaders questions.



At the World Indigenous Games (WIN), July 3-4, 2017 IAAW participating in the two day forum by focusing on women from across Canada, the USA and South America. The presentations were focused on Indigenous Women's strengths and resilience that have assisted them in standing up for their rights and overcoming many of the challenges and issues that they experience.

SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND SAFETY DAY CAMP

In August of 2017, IAAW hosted a day camp in Edmonton focused around leadership and safety. The leadership development focused on things such as communication, community connections, cultural awareness, self-esteem and confidence. The camp was hosted at various venues

throughout the city: IAAW Office, Edmonton Native Healing Centre, Mile High Dance Studio, Alberta Indigenous Games at Rundle Park and East Glen High School, and the Edmonton Aboriginal Senior Centre. Donations from community partners helped provide supplies to the youth.

OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage young women to gain knowledge of and develop leadership skills.
2. Develop confidence in young women through mentorship, volunteering and training around personal safety.
3. Build networks of support for camp participants to increase leadership development and personal safety.

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PLAN



OBJECTIVES

- 1. To increase awareness of the Climate Leadership Plan through a campaign geared to Indigenous women**
- 2. Develop confidence in young women through mentorship, volunteering and training around personal safety.**
- 3. Build networks of support for camp participants to increase leadership development and personal safety.**



PROJECT PARTNERS

Renewable Energy Initiatives, Mother Earth Essentials, Solaire, Mantle Energy Business Link, Peter Cardinal



THE PROJECT BUILDS ON MINISTRY OBJECTIVES

- Indigenous peoples are included in all aspects of the plan
- Indigenous participation is the focus
- Indigenous communities and organizations will be empowered to:
 - Increase energy efficiency
 - Reduce emissions
 - Improve resilience of infrastructure
 - Contribute to community based [renewable] energy supply
 - Provide employment in and ownership of green businesses



THREE WORKSHOPS HAD DIFFERENT SUB FOCUSES

- Edmonton, Aug 3, 2017 - Peter Cardinal guest: Food security, agri-business/aquaponics
- Edmonton, Dec 17, 2017- Women helping Women: natural healing remedies, business start up
- Lethbridge, Sept 16, 2017- economic opportunities for Indigenous women

JUSTICE INITIATIVES

IAAW has extensive experience in collaborative action planning; building positive relationships with government, police and community through focus groups, engagements, gatherings and community development exercises.

CURRENT JUSTICE INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- co-intervention agreement with Women's Legal Action & Awareness Fund (LEAF) on the Bradley Barton appeal to seek justice for family of Cindy Gladue,
- participation in the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as a party with Standing,
- host in Edmonton for Circle for Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Men in partnership with Government of Alberta Family Information and Liaison Unit (FILU),
- contracted by Corrections Canada to provide Elder Services for women returning to the community after incarceration,
- provincial resource to Indigenous women and resource to stakeholders seeking Indigenous women with lived experiences.

The objective is to increase awareness of barriers for Aboriginal women, create opportunities to participate in decision-making and work together to improve our justice system.



LEAF PARTNERSHIP

IAAW partnered with LEAF (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund) to advance strong arguments against the systemic discrimination of Indigenous women in Canada's justice systems. The partnership is all the more important as many cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples remain unsolved, and the ones that make it to the courtroom are not given the attention and respect they deserve. LEAF's continued support of IAAW's mandate to advocate for Aboriginal Women and Girls, and in effect, recognize their equal importance in our society.



ESQUAO AWARDS 2017



BACKGROUND

IAAW has coordinated and hosted the Esquao Awards Gala for 22 years. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious events in Alberta, and one of the largest recognition events of Aboriginal women in the country. Over the years it has inspired Aboriginal women to become more active in their own communities, both on and off First Nation Reserves and Métis Settlements.

The Esquao Awards are unique in that there is no competition between the nominees. The nomination form is distributed widely and available through the IAAW office. When the community nominates an Aboriginal woman and provides three letters of support, she is then deemed to be a 'community champion' in a certain category and subsequently honoured with an Esquao Award. This policy has worked miraculously to reduce the division between women, recognizing our women as 'Angels Among Us'.



NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- Arts - Performing or Literature
- Business
- Children's Future
- Community Involvement
- Culture
- Education
- Environment
- Health & Medicine
- International Influence
- Justice
- Political Involvement
- Lifetime Achievement
- Dorothy Daniels Award for Justice
- Clara Woodbridge Community Involvement Award



THE EVENT

On the evening of the Awards Gala, a dignitary such as a Chief, a Métis leader, a Government Official, or a representative from a major corporate sponsor presents the recipient with the Esquao Award. The event also features local and national Aboriginal entertainers, including comedians, hypnotists, musicians and dancers. Through the Esquao Awards, IAAW promotes the self-determination of Aboriginal Women who contribute to the well-being of their communities, promotes the personal growth of the recipients and encourages other women in the audience.



CIRCLE OF HONOUR

Each year since 2001, a woman is also welcomed into the "Circle of Honour", a phrase first coined by Dr. Colleen Klein. The 2017 recipient Chief Bernadette Sharpe is from the Loon River First Nation. She is the first female Chief of the KeeTasKeeNow Tribal Council. As a member of a small community where everyone knows each other, she is proud to be a role model for the women in her community as well as the rest of the province. Her hard work and experience she gained by working with a variety of oil companies helped her become the successful leader she is today. Today, Chief Sharpe is proud to be a role model for all women as she brings her wisdom, expertise, and support to the members and colleagues of the Loon River First Nation.

CIRCLE OF HONOUR INDUCTEES

2017 - Chief Bernadette Sharpe
2016 - Ashley Callinbull-Burnham
2015 - Maria Campbell
2014 - Dr. Marie Smallface-Marule
2013 - Marilyn Buffallo
2012 - Melissa Blake
2011 - Dr. Maggie Hodgson
2010 - Beverly Jacobs
2009 - Dr. Cora Voyageur
2008 - Kathleen McHugh
2007 - Audrey Poitras
2006 - Grand Chief Rose Laboucan
2004 - Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrews
2003 - Hon. Senator Thelma Chalifoux
2002 - Hon. Pearl Calahasen
2001 - Dr. Colleen Klein



POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE EVENT

- Corporations and government leaders participate in recognizing positive work in the Aboriginal communities
- A connection is made to women who could be consulted on upcoming police and/or community involvement activities, thereby increasing their social inclusion
- A negative stereotype of Aboriginal women is counteracted with positive examples of how women play an important role in building strong communities
- Women and girls are inspired to make positive changes in their lives
- The Aboriginal community comes together to recognize the accomplishments of their local women
- An opportunity for communities to showcase, celebrate and embrace their beautiful cultures and traditions



PRESENTERS

- Richard Feehan, *Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations*
- John Prusakowski, *Suncor Edmonton Refinery*
- Arnold Viersen, *MLA Peace River / Westlock*
- Chief Billy Morin, *Enoch Cree Nation*
- Raymond Poder, *Ft. MacKay Councillor*
- Chief Brenda Joly, *Keehewin First Nation*
- Catherine C. Cole, *Commonwealth Association of Museums*
- Bob Phillip, *Alberta Human rights Commissioner*
- Dr. Bob Turner, *MLA Edmonton-Whitemud*
- Dave Rodney, *MLA Calgary-Lougheed*
- Lana Hill, *Syncrude Canada*
- Marianne Ryan



THE 2017 ESQUAO AWARD RECIPIENTS

CIRCLE OF HONOUR

Chief Bernadette Sharpe

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Gail Clarke-Gallup

Theresa [Corky] Larsen-Jonasson

Kym Pelletier

Jade Tootoosis

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Florence Gladue

EDUCATION

Shana Dion

CULTURE

Blanche Bruised Head

PERFORMING ARTS

Stephanie Harpe

SPORTS

Gabrielle Dawn Jubinville

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Connie Morin

SERVICES TO COUNTRY & COMMUNITY

Sgt. Stephanie Ward



ATTENDANCE

500 people attended this year's event including entertainers, crafters and volunteers. Families of the recipients attended from around the province and community leaders came from First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Alberta Métis Settlements. Members of Parliament, City and Town Councillors, and representatives from both corporate and social service organizations also attended.



PRODUCTION

Masters of Ceremonies: Nicole Robertson and Joseph Pimlott

Broadcasting: Shaw TV, CTV News

Support Staff: IAAW Staff prepared the program, and IAAW Volunteers assisted with other tasks on the day of the event.



ENTERTAINMENT

- The Nakota Sisters - A traditional singing and drumming group out of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation in Treaty 6 Territory. Members: Daphne Alexis, Lori Alexis, Shannon Alexis, Stephanie Alexis, and Melissa Potts
- Métis Child & Family Jiggers - A traditional dancing group
- Dallas Arcand - #1 in Canada for Hoop Dancing
- Howie Miller - Comedic actor and writer



OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES

- Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell
- Elder Francis Whiskeyjack
- Gerald Cunningham
- Minister Amarjeet Sohi



TICKET SPONSORS

- Acden
- Devon energy
- Dreamspeakers Festival Society
- Encana
- Fort McKay First Nation
- Husky Oil
- Imperial Oil
- Primco Dene
- Red Crow College
- Samson Cree Nation
- Shell Canada
- Sucker Creek First Nations Pengrowth
- Trans Canada



AUCTION DONORS

- Hon. Brian Mason, MLA Edmonton-Highlands
- Dr. Bob Turner, MLA Edmonton - Whitemud
- Deron Bilous, MLA Edmonton - Beverly
- Panther's Gym
- Ayla Modeste Massage Therapy
- Marriott Edmonton at River Cree Resort
- Chatter's Hair and Beauty Salon
- IAAW
- Enmax Corporation
- Dave Rodney, MLA Calgary - Lougheed
- Barbara Miller, MLA Red Deer - South
- Keren Tang
- LUSH
- Wingate
- Radisson Hotel Edmonton South
- Makami College
- Noorish Conscious Eatery and Superfood Store
- Syncrude
- David Shepard, MLA Edmonton -Centre
- Denise Woollard, MLA Edmonton - Mill Creek
- Tracy Balash, Assistant Deputy Minister Alberta Indigenous Relations
- Jon Carson, MLA Edmonton-Meadowlark
- Trevor Horne, MLA Spruce Grove - St. Albert
- Hon. Heather Sweet, MLA Edmonton - Manning
- Carrie Langevin (Mother Earth Essentials)



Thank You to our Sponsors & Funding Partners!

- **ATB Financial**
- **City of Edmonton**
- **Government of Alberta Indigenous Relations**
- **Government of Alberta Status of Women**
- **Prosper Canada (E4C Fiscal Agent)**
- **Status of Women Canada**
- **Suncor Community Foundation**
- **Syncrude Canada**
- **United Way of the Alberta Capital Region (Fiscal Agent)**



18104 – 102 AVENUE | EDMONTON, AB | T5S 1S7
780-479-8195 | TOLL FREE 1-877-471-2171

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