

Agenda

The Esquao Awards recognize the achievements and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women from across Alberta and raise awareness about the challenges and obstacles they face.

5:00 PM Opening Ceremony

Opening Prayer from Jackie Bromley Greetings from Lisa D. Weber, President

Greetings from Carol McBride, President Native Women's

Association of Canada

5:30 PM Dinner

6:15 PM Message from Presenting Sponsor - Western Varieties

Award Presentations
Joyce Beaver

Melissa-Jo Belcourt Moses Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes Audra Foggin (Moyah)

Louise Gadwa

6:45 PM Break

7:00 PM Award Presentations

Deborah Green (Gopher)

Marni Hope Lori Anne Houle Echo Kehewin Rebecca Kragnes

Entertainment - Sandra Sutter

7:40 PM Award Presentations

Karen MacKenzie

Savannah Poirier Hollander

Lori Pritchard Margaret Quintal Karen Turner

Entertainment - Acahkos Designs Fashion Show

8:20 PM Circle of Honour Induction Ceremony

Regena Crowchild, Muriel Stanley Venne Leadership Award

8:40 PM Closing Remarks from Marggo Pariseau, Vice President/

Esquao Awards Co-Founder

Entertainment - Stirling John

9:00 PM Event Concludes

Tag Us Please!

When posting comments and photos on social media, please use the hashtag #esquaoawards2023

About Us ····

Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), is a non-profit organization that recognizes the role, value, and achievements of Indigenous women in society and raises awareness around the challenges facing them.

We offer culturally-respectful programming in violence prevention, achieving justice, financial literacy, healthy relationships, housing capacity building, and leadership development for Indigenous women and girls.

Our projects, services, and programs are developed by, and for, Alberta's Indigenous women, and serve Indigenous women living on and off reserves, on and off Settlement lands, and within rural and urban settings.

Serving as a conduit to government, boards, academia, funders, and the public, we are at the forefront of breaking down systemic barriers—as leaders, experienced in taking on larger issues, shaping policy, collaborating with our partners, and developing positive outcomes and opportunities, for the women we serve.

Founded in 1994 by Muriel Stanley Venne CM, AOE, BA (Hon), the organization strives to empower all Indigenous peoples in the reinforcement and rediscovery of their language, culture, and spiritual practices.

Esquao is the stylized version of the Cree word for woman.

President's Message



Message from Lisa D. Weber,

President, Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

Welcome to the 27th Annual Esquao Awards Gala, celebrating strong, incredible Indigenous women nominated by their communities. We are delighted to be here enjoying the hospitality of the beautiful Grey Eagle Resort and Casino at Tsuut'ina First Nation.

Tonight we recognize and honour the achievements and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women from throughout Alberta. This year's recipients are change-makers doing extraordinary work in their communities, with a passion for justice, business, education, health, and the promotion of traditional Indigenous culture. This year we will also be honouring Regena Crowchild with the Muriel Stanley Venne Leadership Award and inducting her into the Esquao Circle of Honour.

Congratulations to all of tonight's recipients, you inspire us by making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for all you do. Enjoy the evening.





Patron ••••

The Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD

18th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta (2015-2022)

It is my honour to welcome everyone to the 2023 Esquao Awards. I extend my sincerest congratulations to the inspiring women being recognized. The recipients exemplify strength, determination, courage, and a desire for communal development. Through their achievements, these women have built communities, instilled respect, and provided benefits to the quality of life for generations to come.

I would like to thank all of those involved in hosting these annual awards and for bringing awareness and support to these deserving women.



Low mitchell

Presenting Sponsor ••••

Western Varieties

Western Varieties is a proud sponsor of the 27th Annual Esquao Awards. We aspire to be a helpful bridge that connects people to culture through our retail goods, community engagement, and employment opportunities. Western Varieties has been serving Indigenous communities throughout Alberta for over 15 years and are honoured to celebrate the achievement of those community leaders today!

Diligence, sacrifice, resourcefulness, and determination – we recognize the tremendous effort the 16 recipients invested in their communities for them to be strengthened. The generations to follow will benefit from the good work you have done. Bravo!

Thank you to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women for organizing a delightful gathering. We look forward to discovering the bright future of IAAW and are pleased to be a partner in it.





Lowa Beebe

Lowa is a proud Blackfoot woman from the Piikani/Kainai First Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. She is well recognized for her work in public relations, advocacy, media, social media, communications, and leading and developing Indigenous Awareness sessions in the private and public sectors.

Following her graduation from the Administrative Admin program at Lethbridge College, Lowa went on to study in the Business Administration Degree program at Athabasca University. She is currently a candidate in the MBA program at Cape Breton University and set to graduate in spring of 2023.



For over 25 years, Lowa has served Indigenous communities locally, provincially, and nationally with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in many capacities, including: policy, communications, custom election codes, engagement, governance, consultation, and strategic planning. She currently works as Manager, Indigenous Services with MNP LLP and recently founded The Path Forward—a 100% Indigenous womenowned firm providing corporate education on reconciliation and intercultural competency through the delivery of courses, events and expertise.

In addition, Lowa worked with the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) as the lead for Indigenous Cultural Competence—assisting the CER in aligning with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Other career highlights include working with Xerox Canada, Telus Communications, Telus Mobility, The Assembly of First Nations, Scholastic Canada, Eagle Law Group, and Windspeaker Radio where she hosts her own show Friday mornings, and many non-profit community organizations.

Lowa is a speaker, facilitator, consultant, writer, radio host, business person, a past Esquao Award recipient, and an authentic leader with a vast amount of board of director and volunteer experience.

Debbie Houle

Debbie Houle is a Métis mother of two from the Elizabeth Métis Settlement. She has been working as an artist and community builder in Edmonton's Indigenous community for over 30 years. As one of five founding members of Asani, she has been composing, arranging and performing original compositions in English and Cree since 1997. Asani has released two CDs, earning a Canadian Folk Music Award, Indian Summer Music Award, and a Juno nomination. Debbie is a past recipient of an Esquao Award for her work in the performing arts.

In 2017, Debbie produced Darlene Auger's *Cree Women in Lullaby* project, a collection of traditional Cree ballads sung by eight Cree women from Alberta and Saskatchewan. She has contributed harmonies to songs by Maria Dunn, Terry Morrison, and Sherryl Sewepagaham.



Debbie currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Edmonton Arts Council and continues her musical journey with several music projects: Nîpîsîy (an Indigenous women's trio), Maria Dunn, AV & the Inner City and Mercy Funk.

2023 Esquao Award Recipients ••••

Amplifying the spirit, strength, and resiliency of Indigenous Women in Alberta

Co-founded by Marggo Pariseau and Muriel Stanley Venne, the Esquao Awards highlight the significant role Indigenous women hold in their home, in the healing and development of their communities, and in the building of Alberta. This year's honoured Esquao Award recipients include leaders in trades and technology, education, and business; teachers of traditional Indigenous culture and holistic health; and advocates seeking justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Joyce Beaver, Edmonton

Lifetime Achievement

Joyce is a strong, beautiful Métis woman from Wabasca, Alberta who continues to serve the community at the young age of 81. A community builder, storyteller, knowledge keeper, Métis artisan, and Cree language keeper—she has been both a teacher and a counsellor, and now teaches Indigenous Arts to anyone wishing to learn. Joyce embodies the preservation of culture with her kind, genuine and youthful spirit. She can be found almost every weekend in the Edmonton area—sharing her immense knowledge of making moccasins, gloves, drums, rattles, ornaments, ribbon skirts and more, as well as treating her students to stories, moose meat sandwiches and laboom tea.



Melissa-Jo Belcourt Moses, Edmonton

Culture

A driving force in the Indigenous artist community in Edmonton, Melissa-Jo is a kind, knowledgeable teacher who holds her Elders' teachings and knowledge at the core of her artistic journey. Her traditional artwork has been exhibited far and wide—from the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. to the Art Gallery of Alberta where she serves as Adjunct Curator of Indigenous Art, focusing on the inclusion of work by contemporary Indigenous artists. Her pride in her history and culture are what drive her to continue learning about traditional arts and ways of being in an effort to pass them on to the next generation of Indigenous young people.



Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes, Calgary

Justice & Human Rights

Cheryle is a proud Nehiyaw Esquao (Cree Woman) and member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, Treaty 6. Cheryle has been an Indigenous activist within Calgary and area for the past two decades, speaking, marching, singing and drumming for women—MMIWG2S+, Sisters in Spirit, Justice for Jackie Crazybull, Indigenous Justice—championing the environment and equality, and speaking up for those who cannot. She possesses a deep commitment to social responsibility, with a high level of ethics and accountability, and is recognized as a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Cree Elder and Pipe Carrier. Upon request, Cheryle provides service sharing Indigenous protocol, Territorial Acknowledgements, Medicine Wheel Teachings, Indigenous cultural teachings and stories, prayers and ceremony.



Audra Foggin (Moyah), Calgary

Education

A member of Frog Lake First Nation, Audra is a strong Indigenous woman who positively contributes to society through honouring respect, dignity, equality, sharing, and cooperation. Her role as a social work practitioner in the field and as a faculty member in the Department of Child Studies and Social Work at Mount Royal University—combined with her lived experience as a Sixties Scoop survivor—has allowed her to share her hard-earned wisdom and knowledge for others to learn. Audra is passionate in supporting student success, creating a community of learners in her classroom and advocating with students when their needs are not being addressed.



Louise Gadwa, Bonnyville

Health & Medicine

Louise is a member of Kehewin Cree Nation and has worked in the health field for over 25 years. Along the way she earned three degrees, including her Masters Degree in Social Work. Throughout her career, Louise has tirelessly collaborated with First Nations communities and Alberta Health Services stakeholders—including the Bonnyville Healthcare Centre where she serves as a board member. Louise believes in working in the medicine wheel holistic concept that addresses physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of patients. Six years ago, she took the opportunity to work for her home community and currently heads up the Maternal Child Health Program for Kehewin Health Services.



Deborah Green (Gopher), Calgary

Justice & Human Rights

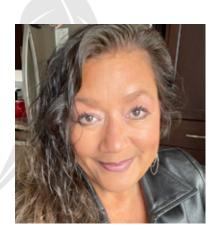
Deborah (kâkike manitohkân iskwew - Forever Spirit Woman) is a Nehiyaw (Cree) woman from the Piapot and Kawacatoose First Nations in Treaty 4, Saskatchewan. Those familiar with her advocacy work refer to her as a fierce 'Warrior Woman' who works tirelessly for social change. Deborah uses her voice and takes action for others that cannot or are unable to raise their own voice. She can be found at the front lines of many MMIWG2S+ events, advocating for justice for her murdered sister and so many others. Deborah has held various board and committee positions on non-profit, provincial and federal advisory committees for change to systems, policing, government and more.



Marni Hope, Lethbridge

Community Involvement

Marni (Miisomii'kitsikaakii - Long Time Offering) is a proud Siksikaitsitapi woman and very involved within her Indigenous community. In her role as Student Support and Events Coordinator in the Indigenous Services Department at Lethbridge College, she develops and delivers cultural workshops and programs that emphasize Indigenous culture, language and history as a means of creating self-worth and confidence in students. Marni sits on the board of the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta (SSISA), representing the Kainai Nation and Southern Alberta, where she shares her deeply personal story of healing as a survivor. Currently, Marni is working towards her Masters degree in Education to further enhance her knowledge.



Lori Anne Houle, Calgary

Community Involvement

As founder and CEO of Métis Calgary Family Services, Lori has devoted her life to supporting the healthy development of urban Indigenous parents and children. Her path is one that demonstrates resiliency, perseverance and passion towards a vision of hope and healing that transcends generations. An innovator and community activator, Lori's personal beliefs guide her actions in promoting respect, dignity, equality, sharing and cooperation between individuals and organizations. For over 35 years she has shared her courage, cultural accountability, and tenacity with Indigenous children, youth and the community, and her influence has stretched across Métis communities in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and British Columbia.



Echo Kehewin, Edmonton

Culture

Echo is a member of the Kehewin Cree Nation who takes great pride in her Indigenous heritage. As a role model for many young people, she encourages them to connect with their culture and language, as she did. Despite being subjected to abuses that were sadly a common byproduct of the Residential School System, Echo found her culture to be the true path to healing and she lives and walks that road daily. Taking up traditional dancing again later in life, Echo participated in ceremonies, round dances and powwows, and has become a highly regarded champion dancer in Canada and the U.S.



Rebecca Kragnes, St. Albert

Trades & Technology

A proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Rebecca grew up on a trapline in northern Alberta where her family lived a traditional lifestyle. Today, she is a Red Seal Electrician with many years of experience working in the construction industry and a strong advocate for Indigenous women in the trades. Rebecca is currently the Manager of Indigenous Business Relations at Bird Construction, and serves on the boards of Women Building Futures and the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. Rebecca deeply understands and champions the importance of strong role models and the removal of barriers for Indigenous peoples and women.



Karen MacKenzie, Edmonton

Business

Karen, whose family hails from Grouard, Alberta, is a proud Cree-Métis woman, member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Co-Founder and President of the Indigenous-owned international consulting company, MacKintosh Canada. Having held numerous academic and senior management positions, she is a proven leader, skilled consultant, and empowering coach—bringing traditional knowledge of Indigenous ways into the contemporary workplace. Karen is a highly respected authority on individual, team, organizational and community change, as well as the development of strategic alliances, governance and strategic planning. Karen is a Senior Advisor and mentor to the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership, Coady Institute, St. Francis Xavier University, and was recently appointed as one of two members for Alberta to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments.



Savannah Poirier Hollander, Calgary

Education

A spirited, determined woman, and member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Savannah (Amisk Ospwakan Iskwew) speaks proudly of her roots and encourages her Métis students to know and take pride in their culture. Earning bachelor degrees in both science and education, Savannah went on to pursue both her passions—working at the University of Calgary Biogeoscience Centre in Kananaskis and teaching Science to Grades 7-12 students. Together with Exshaw School and Stoney Elders, she developed a unique curriculum which imparts traditional knowledge while teaching the natural science behind the how and why of the traditional way of doing. She also developed and teaches BIO 212, Braiding Indigenous and Biological Knowledge at University of Calgary.



Lori Pritchard, Calgary

Education

Lori is a proud Métis woman whose family originates from the historic lands of Batoche, Saskatchewan. She serves as Education Director of Indigenous Education for the Calgary Board of Education, the largest school district in Western Canada. Lori helped establish the Calgary Board of Education's Chief Superintendent Elder Advisory Council in 2010 with Elders representing all Nations in Treaty 7. She is connected to Elders, knowledge keepers, Indigenous leaders in school divisions across Alberta, and the Indigenous community at large—and considers her contribution is to kick down doors and make space for Indigenous students and families. Lori's actions, presence and leadership have certainly advanced the field of education within the province of Alberta.



Margaret Quintal, Conklin

Community Involvement

Margaret is a passionate community volunteer and successful Métis businesswoman who has made significant contributions to her community. After working at Conklin Community School for 32 years, she pursued her dream of owning her own business and started Quintal Contracting. It wasn't long before her potable water hauling business expanded to take on janitorial services contracts for various energy companies and employed as many as 72 people. Margaret has been instrumental in providing leadership and guidance within her community, serving on the Community Health Council and advocating for better health services. She is a role model for other Indigenous entrepreneurs and is committed to improving local employment opportunities and ensuring that education, housing, and economic growth are at the forefront of community priorities.



Karen Turner, Leduc County

Business

A member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Karen has committed her life to creating environments for children and families to thrive. Working in the childcare field for almost 30 years, Karen spreads her knowledge and experience across the province as an early childhood coach and consultant, bringing to life the theories and hands-on knowledge of best practices. Outside the direct influence she has had on the lives of the children, Karen's passion has inspired many to follow down that same path, pursuing careers in education and continuing her legacy of providing exceptional care.

Circle Of Honour Inductee ····

Regena Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation

Muriel Stanley Venne Leadership Award

Regena was the first woman ever elected as a Council member for the Tsuut'ina Nation and has gone on to serve multiple terms, beginning in the 1970s and most recently being re-elected in 2022. She has worked on numerous special projects for the Nation, including the casino portfolio and as co-chair overseeing the environmental clearance of the returned military lands. A tireless promoter of Nationhood, she has been instrumental in the development of the Tsuut'ina Nations' laws, policies, and regulations.

As a child Regena attended residential school on the Blood Tribe lands for nine years, before finishing high school at St. Mary's in Calgary. Regena earned her diploma in Business Management at Henderson's Business College in Calgary and went on to work in the business sector, First Nation governments, Indian organizations, and the provincial and federal governments.



Regena's passion has always been the Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights of Indigenous peoples. She has advocated on Indigenous issues regionally, nationally and internationally, and has been to the UN twice to lobby for Indigenous rights. Over the years she has sat on numerous boards and committees. Regena served as Vice President of the Indian Association of Alberta, representing people from Treaties 6, 7 and 8, and in 1990 became the first woman elected as President of the Association.

Regena states she was very fortunate in having the opportunity to learn from her father and Elders about our peoples' oral history and their relationship with the many levels of government. These teachings assisted her, and continue to assist her, on her distinguished political career.

A proud mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Regena and her spouse, Sidney Starlight, enjoy their 10 children and numerous grandchildren.

Circle Of Honour ••••

Each year, Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), Board selects an Indigenous woman in a leadership position to honour with the Muriel Stanley Venne Leadership Award. This award celebrates the accomplishments of a truly deserving recipient, as well as recognizes Muriel's legacy and her contribution in making the organization the success it is today. Dr. Colleen Klein first coined the phrase, "Circle of Honour" and was brought into the Circle by our Elders in 2001.

Inductees:

2023	Regena Crowchild
2022	Muriel Stanley Venne CM, AOE, BA (Hon)
2021	Regional Chief Marlene Poitras
2019	Lisa D. Weber
2018	Chief Brenda Kehewin-Vanguard
2017	Chief Bernadette Sharpe
2016	Ashley Callingbull
2015	Maria Campbell
2014	Dr. Marie Smallface-Marule
2013	Marilyn Buffalo
2012	Mayor Melissa Blake
2011	Dr. Maggie Hodgson
2010	Beverly Jacobs
2009	Dr. Cora Voyageur
2008	Kathleen McHugh
2007	President 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

Entertainers ••••

Featured Performer



Stirling John

With roots going back to the Saugeen First Nation in Ontario, inspirational country artist Stirling John proudly calls Alberta home. Residing just outside of Edmonton, he takes great pride working alongside the First Nations communities across Canada, particularly in helping Indigenous youth. In 2022, the four-time Country Music Alberta Award nominee, invested much of his time and efforts into recording a new project. During the process, he dug deep into his soul and drew upon what he is most passionate about, giving back to the community—and in doing so, he found himself. The title track of his new album, Where I'm Meant To Be, is an awakening, a realization of what means the most.

Music has always been close to Stirling's heart. However, after growing up singing in church with his mother and siblings, music began to take a backseat to life. After high school, he chose to become an RCMP officer and start a family. Over the next few years, his path took several turns, eventually leading him back to a place of comfort and passion—inspirational country music.

Stirling John is committed to putting light on the topics that matter most to him, real-life people and events. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Paul Brandt, The Newsboys, Chris Tomlin and Rascal Flatts, Stirling's introspective music carries his listeners down a path of emotion.

Stirling spends time volunteering and helping develop music programs for Indigenous students at underfunded schools. His main focus is on travelling to reserves in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan and educating through speaking and music on substance abuse, mental health, gang awareness, and domestic violence.

His passion for helping others has seen him honoured as the first Ambassador to the Veterans Association Food Bank in Alberta, and in November 2022, Stirling received an Okimaw 7 Teaching Award for Honesty.



Acahkos Designs Fashion Show

Rhonda Johnson hails from the Treaty 8 Territory in northern Alberta. Her design roots originate from our most natural source, her great-grandmother. Rhonda grew up on the reservation with her great-grandparents, grandparents and mother, who were the largest influences in her life. Learning only in her Cree language from a very young age, she was handed down traditional skills—from hide making, treadle machine sewing, beading, bone crafts, and beyond—this was where her passion for the arts and textiles took root.

Rhonda eventually moved to Edmonton and pursued her education and graduated from Fashion Design & Apparel Production in 2006. She spent many years refining her design skills as well as caring for her children, before embarking once again on her design journey. Rhonda designs traditional and contemporary clothing, regalia and couture fashion. She combines new and old techniques to create innovative designs and functional fashion with an intelligent, cultural design aesthetic.







Entertainers ••••



Sandra Sutter

Sandra Sutter is an award-winning Cree-Métis recording artist, songwriter, musician, and filmmaker who writes, records, and performs in multiple genres encompassing roots music – including Native Americana, folk, country, pop, jazz, blues, and rock.

Raised in a loving non-Indigenous family, Sandra affirmed and embraced her ancestral and cultural roots later in life. Like many displaced Indigenous people, honouring her proud cultural roots is important to a woman whose birth heritage was lost through time and circumstance. Sandra's culture influences her every step through life and she has grown into an active and passionate advocate for Indigenous traditions and rights. Her life journey in both the non-Indigenous and Indigenous worlds has given her a unique perspective and opportunity to bring people together through her songs of reconciliation.

Sandra earned 21 industry nominations in the past five years, including wins for two 2022 ISSMA's (Best Folk and Best Spiritual), a 2021 SSIMA (Best Métis Artist/Group of the Year), a 2018 NAMA (Best Americana), and 2019 IMA (Best Producer/Engineer). She is a past Esquao Award (Arts) winner, an Aboriginal Role Model of Alberta (Arts) Award winner, and a recipient of a WXN Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada Award.

Song of Heaven, one of the songs from her album Cluster Stars, was featured in a short film by Tito Gomez and Barb Briggs called The Healing, which also featured Sandra's acting debut. Indian in the Child, another Cluster Stars piece, is featured in the theatrical production New Blood, the Dance Show. One of Ms. Sutter's reconciliation-focused poems, She Is, is published in Sheri-D Wilson's 2020 legacy poetry book, YYC Pop.

Sandra is the Aboriginal Partnerships Manager for PTW Energy and sits on several Indigenous-serving boards and committees across Canada. She lives and breathes the concepts that she thinks, speaks, and sings about every day.



Nîpîsîy

As part of the Circle of Honour ceremony at the 2023 Esquao Awards, Nîpîsîy will perform a drum song in keeping with the spirit of the ceremony and the significant impact of the work and contribution of the Elders being honoured.

Nîpîsîy is an Indigenous women's ensemble blending Indigenous tradition and contemporary vocal harmonies with rhythms in the spirit of happiness, health and healing. Nîpîsîy, meaning willow in Cree, perfectly embodies the authentic intention of combining four veteran vocalists to create a powerful and melodic collaboration which intertwines the strength of women's voices. Nîpîsîy is Debbie Houle, Donita Large, Cindy Paul and Sherryl Sewepagaham.



Turning Robe Drummers

The Turning Robe Drummers are a fifth-generation drum group consisting of family and friends. Drum-keeper Randy Turning Robe Sr. was bestowed the role from his father the late Frank Turning Robe Sr., who in turn had received it in a ceremony when he 12 years old from his predecessor Joe Turning Robe who was drum-keeper since 1905. The group continues to perform its unique Blackfoot style of songs, voice and drumming, composing their own songs and travelling across Indigenous country sharing their music.

Past Recipients ••••



Bertha Clark-Jones, Athabasca Nellie Carlson, Edmonton Marge Johansen, Edmonton Strasbourg Alvena, Edmonton Clara Woodbridge, Edmonton

1997

Thelma Chalifoux, Edmonton Eva Bereti, Edmonton Delia Gray, Edmonton Florence Parenteau Evelyn Webb Theresa Whiskeyjack

1998

Christine Daniels, Edmonton Victoria McDonald Elsie Quintal Alice Steinhauer Rose Yellowfeet

1999

Charmine Letoureau, Edmonton Ernestine Ridsdale, Paddle Prairie Mary Ann Swan, Athabasca Hazel Wheeler, Cold Lake Lillian Marie Wuttunee

2000

Karen Acuna, Calgary Christa Big Canoe, Calgary Ruth Scalplock, Cluny Paulette Campiou, Drift Pile Nellie Carlson, Edmonton Edith Dalla Costa, Edmonton Patricia (Trish) Kumpf, Edmonton Donna Leask, Edmonton Marion Sinclair, Edmonton Jane Woodward, Edmonton Lilian Parenteau, Fishing Lake Sophie Powder, Fort McKay Paula Bailey, Fort McMurray Ruby Cardinal, Fort McMurray Justina Jones, Fort McMurray Karen Abraham, Frog Lake Chief Helen Bull, Hobbema

Darlene Thompson, Kikino Crystal May Arcand, Morinville Julia Auger, Paddle Prairie Loretta Parenteau, Paddle Ruth Kidder, Peace River Valerie Dennehey, Saddle Lake Clara Yellow Knee, Wabasca Shannon Loutitt, Wetaskwin Karen Bruno, Edmonton Theresa Lafferty, Edmonton Linda Laliberte, Edmonton Carol Paquette, Grande Prarie Stella Reynolds, Edmonton Elizabeth Scout, Standoff Evelyn Smith, Fairview Pat Waite, Calgary

2001

Pearl Auger, Atikameg Jessica Clark, Calgary Brenda Holder, Canmore Bonnie Belhumeur, Edmonton Sheila Courtoreille, Edmonton Nora Flett, Fort McMurray Emily Hunter, Good Fish Lake Delilah Dwyer, Kikino Esther Giroux, Kinuso Joyce Parenteau, Paddle Marge Mueller, Sexsmith Amanda Boisvert, Slave Lake Evelyn Norberg, Slave Lake Eleanor Sawan, Slave Lake Stephanie Jensen, Taber Annette Cutknife, Westaskiwin Nicole Bourque, Fort **Mcmurray** Ginny Lee Collins, St. Paul Marie McLeod, Edmonton Leona Bealieu, Edmonton

2002

Lynn Gauthier, Bonnyville Lorraine Borroughs, Dead Wood Theresa Campiou, Edmonton Donna Decoteau, Edmonton Chief Rose Lameman, Edmonton

Elaine Ward, Fishing Lake Donna Cyprien, Fort Chipewyan Margaret White Knife, Fort Chipewyan Clara Wilson, Fort McKay Louise M. Loyie, Fort McMurray Noreen McAteer, Fort Vermillion Jenny Laderoute, Gift Lake Shirley Hunter, Good Fish Lake Bev New, Slave Lake Joyce Metchewais, Grand Centre Jackie Sanders, Grouard Cheryl Sheldon, Kinuso Sandra Catherine Cardinal, Lac La Biche Chief Victoria Arcand, Morinville Krista Hunter, Morley Cora Fedyk, Red Deer Eva Stang, St. Albert Tantoo Cardinal, Vancouver Joely Big Eagle, Calgary Barbara Laderoute, Edmonton Freda Lynn Prince, Edmonton Margaret Styles, Athabasca Caroline Von-Grad, Edmonton Doreen Wabasca, Edmonton Elsie Winnipeg, Siksika Heather Poitras, Edmonton Audrey Poitras, Edmonton Donna Cyprien, Fort Chipewyan

2003

Ramona Kuhn, Calgary
Yvonne Pratt-Potrias, Calgary
Angela Lightning, Calling Lake
Carol Carifelle-Brzezicki,
Edmonton
Dorothy Elizabeth Chapman,
Edmonton
Marilyn Merasty, Edmonton
Barbara Faith Modeste,
Edmonton
Mabel Pepin, Edmonton
Cecilia Courtoreillie, Fort
Vermillion

Lola Ducharme, Fort Vermillion Denise Lesley Lightning, Maskwacis Terry Lynn Cook, Kinuso Doris Mary Anne Domak, Kinuso Adrienne Laurette Yellow Dirt, Morinville Aura Calahasen, Sherwood Park P. Gayle McKenzie, Spruce Grove Jamie Medicine Crane, Standoff Cst. Sarah Clear Sky Kropp, Stony Plain Bonnie Clark, Edmonton Angie Crerar, Grande Prairie Adeline Grandbois, Cold Lake Valerie Kaufman, Edmonton Kathy McKinnon, Edmonton Josephine Beaver, Athabasca Sharon Small, Calgary Judy Belourt, Peace River Florence Wanuch, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement Jeanette Todd, Gunn Linda Rema-Bull, Sherwood Park Vie Spang, Edmonton Helen Wilson, Fort McMurray Bonnie Lehr, St.Paul Brandy Johnston -Twinn, Kinuso Jean Anderson, Fishing Lake Métis Settlement Barbra Trottier, Edmonton Mildred Suvee, St.Paul Rose Potts, Brocket Margaret Waterchief, Siksika Dorthy MacDonald, Fort McMurray Pauline Cardinal, High Level Donna Webster, Lac La Biche Laura Vinson, Edmonton Dorothy Simon, Hobemma Janice Larocque, Calgary

2004

Shirley Dion, Alberta Beach Autumn Eagle Speaker, Calgary Josie Nepinak, Calgary Gerri Many Fingers, Candston Chief Rose Laboucan, Drift Pile Leona Carter, Edmonton Peggy Roberts, Edmonton Ruth Suvee BSM, MA, CEAT, Edmonton Wendy Walker, Edmonton Margaret Simpson, Fort Chipewy Mabel Goulet, High Prairie Ida Bull, Hobbema Theresa C. Wildcat, Hobbema Lynda Dwyer, Kikino Priscilla Morin, Lac La Biche Emma Martineau, Paddle Prairie Felice Gladue, Sherwood Park Natasha Calf Robe-Ayoungman, Siksika Anne Marie Auger, Slave Lake Carol Crowe, Calgary Betty Hamilton, Edmonton Betty Nordin, Edmonton Cynthia Tracy Smallboy, Hobbema Melvina Arcand, Mornville Linda Boudreau -Semanganis, St.Paul Lorraine Deschambeau, Lac La Biche Eva Laboucan, Drift Pile Helen Piper, Grimshaw Linda Stephan, Cold Lake

2005

Murleen Crossen, Alberta Beach June Cardinal-House, Boyle Kathleen Cardinal, Edmonton Edna Rain, Edmonton Isabel Longmore, Edson Nora Chapdelaine, Faust Lee Willier, High Prairie Yvonne Oshanyk, Hinton Laurie Lee Thompson, Lac Lac 2007 Biche Edna M. Arcand, Morinville Mary J. Brown, Slave Lake Isabel Auger, Smith Ricky Lyn Stepien, Spruce Grove Alice Reid, Wabasca Sophie Dion, Edmonton Elsie Stenstrom, Slave Lake Annie Bare Shin Bone, Wabasca Dorothy Chartrand, Edmonton Rose Auger, St.Albert Olive Manitopyes, Calgary Wendy Walker, Edmonton Velma Dumont, Calgary Beatrice LeBoeuf, Grande Cache Margaret Simpson, Fort

2006

Chipewyan

Marion Dick, Calgary Eve MacMillan, Calgary Marcella Cunningham, Drift Flora Willier, Enilda Peggy McGillis, Fishing Lake Vie Hunter, Fort McMurray Lilian Mildred Shirt, High Prairie Yvonne Sound, Kinuso Evelyn Brertton, Lamont Roxanne Davis, Lethbridge Marlene Arcand, Morinville Sophie Cardinal, Slave Lake Florence Gaucher, St. Albert Claudine Claire Cardinal, St. Paul Taz Johnson-McGillis, Edmonton Rose Findlay, Grande Cache Sandra Flamond, Cold Lake Florence Gaucher, St.Albert Margaret MacDonald, Fort McMurray Linda Manuel, Edmonton Rachelle McDonald, Grande Cache

Audrey Franklin, Ardmore

Doreen Cardinal, Edmonton Susan Cardinal Lamouche. Edmonton Christine Frederick, Edmonton Laura McLaughlin, Edmonton Claudette Rain, Edmonton Pauline Thompson, Edmonton Doris Courtorielle, Edmonton Margaret Cardinal, Joussard Doreen Lameman, Lac La Biche Laverne Arcand, Morinville Barbara A. Courtorielle, Slave Lake Dr. Betty Bastien, Standoff Mary Kappo, Valleyview Peacha Atkinson, Edmonton Lena Bumstead, Legal Lucile Cook, Slave Lake Alma Desiarlais, Frog Lake Rubeye Lacombe, Frog Lake Marion LeRat, Red Deer Michelle Morin, Enoch Leigh-Ann Sheldon-Houle, Slave Lake Claudia Simpson, Fort Chipewyan

2008

Vera Potts, Brocket Doreen Roy, Calgary Martha Campiou, Edmonton Sherryl Sewepagaham, Edmonton Violet Campiou, Faust Vina Roberts-Marten, Fort McMurray Maria Vermillion, Fort McMurray Margaret Quinney, Frog Lake First Nation Darlene Collins, Good Fish Lake Dora Courteorellie, Morinville Nora Calliou, Paddle Prairie Sharon Bourgue, Sherwood Park Kari Thomason, Edmonton Germaine Anderson, Lac La Biche

Crystal Janvier, Edmonton Victoria Whalen, Edmonton Lorraine Boucher, Edmonton Doreen Moyah, Edmonton Chasare Cardinal, Edmonton Susie Fischer, Keg River Antoinette MacDonald, Enoch Angela Ferguson, Edmonton

2009

Grace Auger, Calgary Carla Saunders, Fort McMurray Myrtle Calahaisn, Edmonton Lorraine Cunningham, Drift Pile Rosie Day-Rider, Edmonton Hazel Derange, Fort McMurray Dolores Flett, Edmonton Brenda Bourque-Stratichuk, Lac La Biche Jonelle Gladue, Medicine Hat Shelly Hamelin, Valley View Lana Hill, Fort McMurray Debbie Houle, Edmonton Bernadette lahtail. Edmonton Deborah Lloyd, Medicine Hat Doris MacDonald, Grande Cache Hazel McKennitt, St.Albert Isabel Louise O'kanese. Edmonton Pauline Ominayak, Edmonton Alvina Price, Slave Lake Lise Robinson, Edmonton Susie Robinson, Sherwood Park

2010

Jocelyne Bauman, Bon Accord Gloria Short, Calgary Janet House, Duffield Beverly Allard, Edmonton Marcella Delorme, Edmonton Virginia Lazarre, Edmonton Irene Morin, Enoch Melody Lepine, Fort McMurray Elsie Yanik, Fort McMurray Dorothy Courtereille, Hinton Karen Young, Lac La Biche

A. Mae Steinhauer Bouvette, Raven Crystal L. Clark, Rocky Mountain House Florence Large, Saddle Lake Shirley Shillinglaw, Sherwood Park Freida Hook, Slave Lake Brenda Laboucan, Slave Lake Laura Auger, St.Albert Tamara L. Brown, St.Albert

2011

Donna Many Grey Horses, Calgary Donna Leeking, Drumheller Kav Half. Edmonton Malvina Moore, Edmonton Phyllis G. Steeves, Edmonton Valerie Findlay, Edson Cecilia Morin, Enoch Kayla Fayant, Fishing Lake Leona Boyer, High Prairie Melissa D. Issac, High Prairie Verna Wittigo, High Prairie Karen Telford, Myrnam Alice Strawberry, Rocky Mountain House Corey Wells de Cortez, Sherwood Park Rita Auger, Wabasca

2012

Linda Newsome, Carstairs Darlene Callioux, Edmonton Elaine Cardinal. Edmonton Rosalie Cardinal, Edmonton Carrie Kohan, Edmonton Theresa Majeran, Edmonton Dr. Cora Weber-Pilwax, Edmonton Lorna Morin, Enoch Clara Sigurdur, Enoch Patricia Campiou, Faust Susan Barthel, Fishing Lake Margaret Supernault, High Prairie Algina Monias, Lac La Biche Luci Johnson, Samson Cree Nation Cheryle Wong, St.Albert Cst. Kim Mueller, Stony Plain

2013

Eileen Booth, Calgary Kristen McArthur, Edmonton Juanita Murphy, Edmonton Michelle Nieviadomy, Edmonton Brianna Olson, Edmonton Betty Lafferty, Edmonton Dr.Phyllis Cardinal, Edmonton Blue Eyes Simpson, Fort Chipewyan Elizabeth Ann Ferguson, Lethbridge Sage Roan-Arcand, Morinville Jody Kootenay, Morinville Jean Johnson, Oyen Colleen Chalifoux, Peace River Ursula Faval, Raymond Ruby Fermaniuk, Red Deer Dora Palmer. Sherwood Park Charline Cardinal, Valleyview

2014

Annette Ozirny, Bonnyville Janet Janvier, Calgary Pearl Potts, Edmonton Charmaine Willier-Larsen, Enilda Margaret Villebrun, Fort Chipewyan Tanis Willier, Joussard Linda Gadwa. Kehewin Dr. Linda Many Guns, Lethbridge Shelly Ann Wieringa, Lloydminister Ilene Nepoose, Maskwacis Jeannette McKay, Redwater Shirley Eashappie, Rocky Mountain House Roxanne Scout. Standoff

2015

Gladys Richards, Calgary Noella Wells, Calgary Lorie White, Edmonton Theresa Strawberry, Edmonton Lillian Crier, Edmonton Barbara Dumigan-Jackson, Edmonton Priscilla Lalonde, Faust Annie Stanley, Frog Lake Farrah Mitchell, Grande Prarie Tonesha Walke-Twin, High Prairie Jamie Haggerty, Jean Cote Danika Littlechild, Maskwacis Louise Omeasoo, Maskwacis Gwen Crouse, St. Albert Shawna Ghostkeeper, Paddle Prairie Maria Campbell, Saskatchewan

2016

Delores Pruden-Barrie, Athabasca Cheryl Williams, Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Shirley Reid, Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Beatrice Carpentier, Drayton Rhonda Metallic, Edmonton Joanne Pompana, Edmonton Angeline Gutierrez-Rain, Edmonton Krista Laboucane, Edmonton Lisa Ground, Enoch Michelle Wilsdon, Enoch Holly Fortier, Fort McKay Ona Berteig, Fort McMurray Mildred Alvina Supernault, High Prairie Dorothy Joyce Hunt, Joussard Priscilla Sharpe, Rocky Mountain House Eva Cardinal , Saddle Lake Ashley Callingbull-Burnham, Enoch

2017

Connie Morin, Kehewin Theresa (Corky) Larsen-Jonasson, Red Deer Blanche Bruised Head, Lethbridge Gabrielle Dawn Jubinville, Enoch Florence Gladue, Slave Lake Kimberly Pelletier, Edmonton Gail Clark Gallope, Fort McMurray Stephanie Harpe, Edmonton Jade Tootoosis, Edmonton Sgt. Stephanie Ward, Enoch Shana Dion, Edmonton

2018

Sarah Pocklington, Edmonton Lisa Marie Bourque, Fort McMurray Denise Lambert, Onoway Darcie Vielle, Standoff Lana Wotherspoon (Howse. Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Jacquelyn Cardinal, Edmonton Jaclyn Carson, Pickardville Angela James, Wabasca Corie Flett, Fort McMurray Clarice Anderson, Edmonton April Eve Wiberg, Edmonton Mary Louise Cardinal, Wabasca Gwen Muskwa, Edmonton Laurie Gloria Collins, Cold Lake Lena Heavy Shields Russell, Standoff Mary Francis, High Level Jackie Artmissia Bromley, Calgary Nancy Hollman, Fort McMurray Marlene Orr, Sherwood Park Shannon Alexis-Thomas, Enoch Rose Aastveit, Lac La Biche Lowa Beebe, Calgary Diane Ludwig, Lac La Biche

2019

Doreen Bergum, Olds Mackenzie Brown, Edmonton Gladys Cardinal, Wabasca Geraldine Carriere, Edmonton Paulette Dahlsaide, Cold Lake Marilyn Gladue, Edmonton

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2021

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2022

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Métis Settlement
Shannon Lust, Spruce Grove
Denise Rathbone, Wabasca
Jackie Davis, Cardston
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Lake
Dr. Florence Glanfield,
Edmonton
Dorothy (Dot) Anderson, St.
Albert

Skye Durocher, Sputinow
Elena Gould, Fort McMurray
Wilma Cardinal, Paddle Prairie
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Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women























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