

29th ANNUAL
Esquao
AWARDS



June 13, 2025 | River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch, Alberta

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



Founded by Muriel Stanley Venne, CM, AOE, BA (Hon), and Marggo Pariseau in 1995, 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. Today, the awards are the largest recognition event for Indigenous women in Canada.

In Memorium



Muriel Stanley Venne
CM, AOE, BA (Hon)

1937-2024

Our founder and guiding star, Muriel was a trailblazing woman of vision, conviction, compassion, commitment, and a tireless champion of Indigenous and women's rights.



Marggo Pariseau
Vice President, Esquao

1952-2025

Thank you Kokum Marggo for being a shining light and providing kindness, compassion and advocacy in helping so many Indigenous women find a spiritual connection and success on their journeys. You have made a difference in all our lives.

Agenda

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM OPENING CEREMONY • Grand Entry

- Opening Prayer
- Greetings *Lisa D. Weber, KC, Esquao President*
- Greetings *Treaty Six Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais*
- Greetings *Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction*

2:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- Allison Meltingtallow-Syniak *Service to Country and Community*
- Bebe Buckskin *Arts*
- Diane Gardipy, BA *Community Involvement*
- Macyn listiniimaki Morning Bull *Sports*
- Mary Cardinal Collins *Lifetime Achievement*

2:30 PM ENTERTAINMENT • Celeigh Cardinal

2:40 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- Dawn-Lyn Blake (Johnson) *Service to Country and Community*
- Kayden Reves *Service to Country and Community*
- Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet *Arts*
- Roberta Giroux *Trades & Technology*
- Sandra Potts *Justice & Human Rights*

3:05 PM ENTERTAINMENT • Kikino Northern Lites

3:15 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- Lisa Dawn Richards *Culture*
- Pauline D. Gladue *Lifetime Achievement*
- Rita V. Arcand *Lifetime Achievement*
- Shannon Dunfield *Sports*
- Shirley Moocheweinies *Lifetime Achievement*

3:45 PM IN MEMORIUM • Honouring the legacies of Muriel Stanley Venne and Marggo Pariseau

3:50 PM CIRCLE OF HONOUR INDUCTION CEREMONY

with Esquao Board, Elders, Honour Guard and performance by Nîpisîy

Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, MLA Edmonton-Rutherford *Muriel Stanley Venne Leadership Award*

4:15 PM CLOSING REMARKS

4:30 PM EVENT CONCLUDES

Tag Us Please!

When posting comments and photos
on social media, please use the hashtag
#esquaoawards2025



Driver Training Program



Duchess Bake Shop
partnership workshop



Heavy Equipment Training Program

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, employment and training, 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.

Top photo: Partnerships, including those with CN and Bird Construction, allow us to provide uplifting programming and supports to Indigenous women, girls, and families across Alberta.

Middle photo: Duchess Bake Shop partnered with Esquao to share kitchen skills, teaching Indigenous women about food and good quality ingredients, and how to bake.

Bottom photo: Esquao's employment programs, workshops, and skills training helped Indigenous women prepare for and find meaningful work that changed their lives.

President's Message

Welcome to the 29th Annual Esquao Awards, celebrating strong, incredible Indigenous women from across Alberta.

A commitment to the arts, culture, community involvement, service to country and community, sports, trades and technology, and justice and human rights are just some of the themes being celebrated as 16 Indigenous women are honoured in this year's awards.

The Esquao Awards were created over two decades ago to recognize trailblazers... change-makers... advocates... and guardian angels... striving to make a difference in the lives of Indigenous people in Alberta.

We salute our 16 honourees... we thank you for never giving up... and for the incredible contributions you have made to Indigenous people in Alberta.

This year we will be honouring Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, MLA Edmonton-Rutherford, with the Muriel Stanelly Venne Leadership Award and inducting her into the Esquao Circle of Honour.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all recipients.

Lisa D. Weber, KC

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

**"We thank you for never giving up and
for the incredible contributions you have
made to Indigenous people in Alberta."**





Minister's Message



Message from Rajan Sawhney Minister of Indigenous Relations

For 29 years, Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, has honoured the accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit and Métis women. Today, we celebrate many achievements across the arts, culture, sports, technology, human rights and more.

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I extend heartfelt congratulations to this year's recipients of the Esquao Awards. This distinguished honour reflects an unwavering commitment and dedication to serving your communities.

Each of you plays a vital role as an advocate and change-maker. Your accomplishments are proof of the profound impact Indigenous women are having in their communities, in Alberta, and across the country.

Muriel Stanley Venne left a strong legacy. We honour her memory today and every day by supporting Indigenous women and taking action to address inequality and injustice. Muriel is profoundly missed.

We are proud to support Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, in their celebration of Indigenous women's excellence, resiliency and leadership.

You are an inspiration to us all.



Rajan Sawhney

June 13, 2025

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Message from Treaty Six Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Higher Power — our kind and loving Creator.

I wish to acknowledge and honour each and every recipient being celebrated, as well as all the mothers who walk with us today and around the world.

It is truly a blessing and an honour to share this space with all of you. On behalf of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and Frog Lake First Nation, I want to say you are all so deserving of these recognitions. You and your families are blessed on this special day.

It is vital that we uplift and acknowledge those doing angelic work while they are here with us on Earth.

In closing, we ask for blessings upon everyone in this room, upon those we love, and upon all First Peoples.

Kinanâskomitin. I am grateful.



Message from Josie Nepinak President, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

I am delighted to bring greetings on behalf of the Native Women's Association of Canada to the 29th annual Esquao Awards. I've had the privilege of attending for more than 25 years and have witnessed hundreds of Indigenous women receive recognition, honour and respect.

Since 1995, the late founders, Muriel Stanley Venne and Marggo Pariseau worked for an awards event that would bring women and community together to recognize Indigenous women's achievements. A beautiful legacy of honouring our women.

Congratulations to this year's recipients for your outstanding work. We stand proud with you. I wish all of you all a great evening as we honour the women who do amazing work in our communities.

Esquao, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the women in Alberta.



MCs

Lowa Beebe

Lowa Beebe, MBA, a former recipient of an Esquao Award, is a proud member of the Piikani/Kainai Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty 7 in Southern Alberta. She is recognized for her work in public relations, advisory services, advocacy, governance, media, strategy, and communications.

Currently, she serves as the CEO of the 2027 North American Indigenous Games, furthering her commitment to Indigenous youth and communities.

Over the years, she has worked with Indigenous communities locally, provincially, and nationally, including First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities, in areas such as Policy, Custom Election Codes, Engagement, Governance, Consultation, Strategic Planning, and more.

Lowa has extensive experience supporting public sector clients with engagement and Indigenous cultural awareness. Her career has included working with Xerox Canada, Telus Communications, Telus Mobility, the Assembly of First Nations, Scholastic Canada, Eagle Law Group, and the non-profit sector.

She was educated at Lethbridge Community College and Cape Breton University. She remains very active in the community as a volunteer and advocate for Indigenous rights in Canada.

Dan Cardinal

Dan Cardinal is a Cree language teacher who has taught at various schools, including St. Joseph Catholic High School, Ben Calf Robe—St. Clare Catholic Elementary/Junior High School, Concordia University Edmonton, the Canadian Native Friendship Centre, Red Deer College, and Portage College.

Dan also spent many years as the Vice President of the Métis Nation of Alberta. He has continued to be a pillar in Cree language teaching throughout Alberta since the 1980s and is a strong advocate for preserving the Cree language.

2025 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 the arts, culture, community involvement, service to country and community, sports, trades and technology, and justice and human rights.



Rita V. Arcand, Morinville

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

A respected Elder, social worker, and student counsellor/advisor, Rita is an inspiration to all. In her work with the Family Reunification Project, she delivered culturally-appropriate healing workshops. Her relevant real-world examples related to her struggles as a residential/day school survivor, and her experiences in overcoming that trauma, have given her insight into how to reach out to others and offer them support and encouragement. Rita's gentle, non-judgemental and spiritual presence creates instant trust in those she meets and assists.



Dawn-Lyn Blake (Johnson), Calgary

SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

A strong and accomplished Cayuga woman from Six Nations of the Grand River in Ontario-Haudenosaunee Confederacy-Iroquois, Dawn-Lyn carries her heritage with great pride. She began her law enforcement career with the RCMP, successfully serving for 12 years in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In 2010, she joined the Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service where she currently serves as the Inspector in charge of the Operations Section. Dawn-Lyn has played a pivotal role in creating impactful crime prevention strategies and youth-focused programs. In 2017 she received the distinguished "Officer of the Year Award" from the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association; followed by The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022; and being appointed to board of directors of the Alberta Law Foundation in 2023. Dawn-Lyn continues to advocate for Indigenous people by raising awareness and creating innovative opportunities by writing grants to supplement the financial inequities within First Nations policing.



Bebe Buckskin, Calgary (Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement)

ARTS

Bebe Buckskin is a celebrated Indigenous artist making a significant impact in her communities through her music. She is known for her powerful voice, inventive guitar, and dynamic stage presence, as well as her dedication to promoting positive change through her art. Born and raised in Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement, she has the spirit of a lion and the heart of a healer, becoming a successful blues rock musician who honours and respects her Cree/Métis heritage.



Mary Cardinal Collins, Riviere Qui Barre

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Born in onihcikiskwapiwinikh Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Mary was brought up on the reserve in the 1940s. She attended Blue Quills Indian Residential School from the age of 7 to 17 and retained her nêhiyawêwin language. Mary began teaching in Slave Lake and spent 30 years in Indigenous language programming development. She has been a leader in curriculum development, translation, resource development, and language teaching, and an advocate for the preservation and teaching of Cree and other Indigenous languages within provincial and federal K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions. Mary's advocacy, guidance, and teachings in Indigenous education has had an everlasting impact within school communities across the province and will continue to have an everlasting impact on future generations.



Shannon Dunfield, Grande Prairie

SPORTS

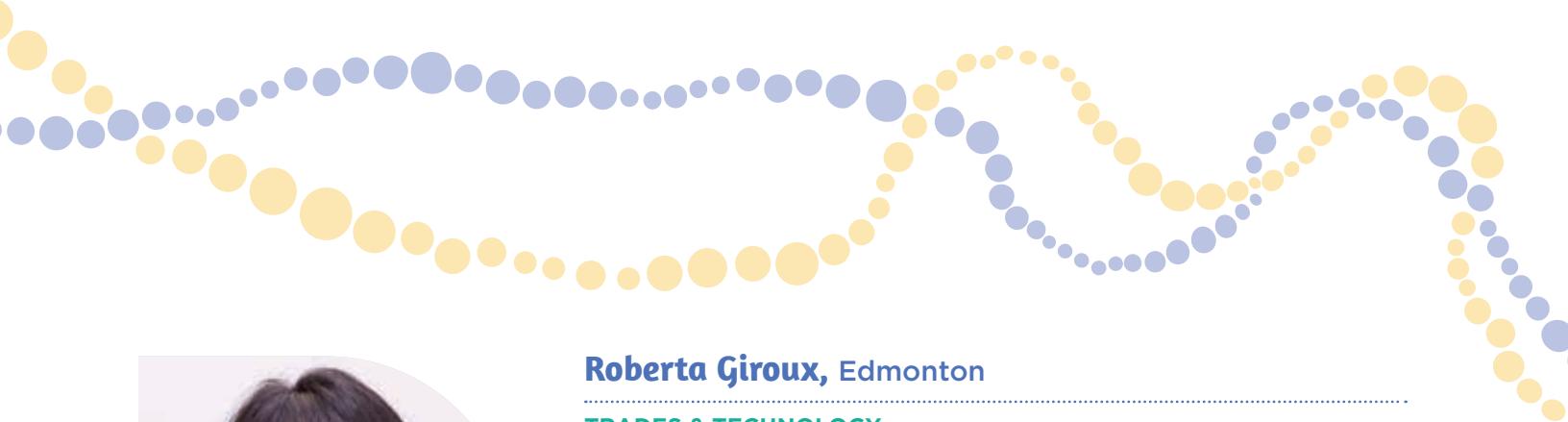
A strong and inspiring Cree/Métis woman, mother, daughter, aunt, volunteer, and community leader from the Indigenous community of Kelly Lake, Shannon's passion and love for family, friends, and community is evident in everything she undertakes. She sits on the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens' Council, on the board of the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta, is past president of the North American Indigenous Games Council, and has served on the University of Alberta Senate. Hard work, determination and self-discipline has brought her to where she is today. Shannon has developed a unique and distinct appreciation of her Métis heritage and does not hesitate to lend a hand to help and volunteer.



Diane Gardipy, BA, Red Deer

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Originally from Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation, Diane's selflessness, compassion, and hard work are an inspiration to all. She is very active within her community through her employment with the school division; in her role as president of the Red Deer Indigenous Dance Troupe; and as a committee member for Powwow Times Red Deer International Powwow. Diane works to facilitate Indigenous learning in the schools and to create a community for staff and students. She lends her excellent organization and leadership skills, along with her time and energy, to various community activities and events— from creating food bags for Elders and families in need to participating in Indigenous-based advocacy for women, children and men. Diane's contributions have made a real difference in the lives of those in need and have helped to build a stronger, more connected community.



Roberta Giroux, Edmonton

TRADES & TECHNOLOGY

As Indigenous Employment Coordinator for PME Inc., Roberta finds opportunities for First Nation, Métis and Inuit people in the construction industry. Her own journey to become an electrician began at age 28, overcoming cultural barriers of being both Indigenous and a woman. Following 15 years as a journeywoman electrician, she joined Trade Winds to Success Training Society and worked helping Indigenous men and women pursue careers in the skilled trades. Roberta is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta and an inspiring mentor and motivator who uses her experiences and abilities to help other Indigenous people become successful.



Pauline D. Gladue, Edmonton (Bigstone Cree Nation)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

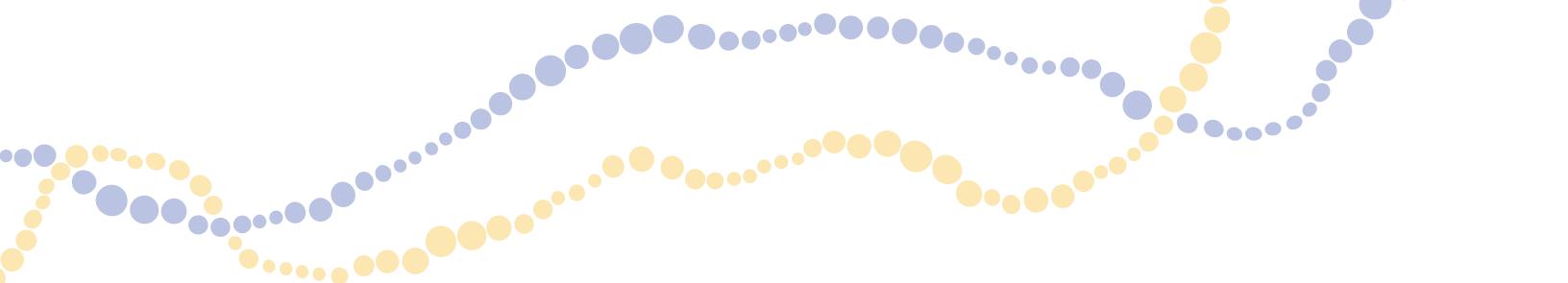
Pauline is a member of Bigstone Cree Nation, a registered social worker, mentor, residential and day school survivor, and a respected Elder who practices her Cree traditions and knowledge and uses Indigenous healing methods. After earning her Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Calgary, she worked in Wabasca at Bigstone Community Wellness for 17 years as a counsellor, manager and director. Pauline is a strong advocate for those dealing with mental health and addictions, and is known for her caring and her respectful and traditional ways of knowing.



Kiona Callihoo Ligtwoet, Edmonton

ARTS

Kiona is an artist practicing in amiskwaciwâskahikan, who grew up near Calahoo on a quarter section of land her moshom still cares for. Her family lines are Cree and Métis from Michel Band, as well as Dutch and mixed European. Her work draws from enfranchisement, but also from deep belly laughter and many visits home. Kiona has exhibited nationally, received the Lieutenant Governor Emerging Artist Award (2022), The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (2023), and her debut graphic novel, *We Were Younger Once*, was nominated for the 2022 Doug Wright Award for emerging talent. Kiona is co-organizer of Making Space, a visual-arts focused BIPOC peer mentorship collective.



Allison Meltingtallow-Syniak, Sucker Creek First Nation

SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

Sergeant Meltingtallow-Syniak is a dedicated officer who cares about the people she serves, and is a strong female leader/mentor in First Nations policing in Alberta. She began her career in 1995, and since 2010 has been with the Lakeshore Regional Police Service—serving Sawridge, Swan River, Driftpile, Kapawe’no and Sucker Creek First Nations. A proud member of Sucker Creek First Nation, Allison routinely engages with Elders, youth and community members while mentoring and encouraging youth to pursue a career in policing.



Shirley Moocheweiniies, Frog Lake

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Born and raised in Frog Lake First Nations, Shirley is a respected Elder who has dedicated her life to helping her community. She’s been a teacher, mentor, guidance counsellor, foster parent, community volunteer, support worker, and employment and training director. Shirley raised her six children and many grandchildren to be responsible, hardworking and compassionate citizens, and fostered over 50 children who she continues to be in their lives. She believes in the power of her culture to bring emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical healing to those suffering from intergenerational trauma, and utilizes her professional platform to integrate cultural teachings into the lives of her community members.



Macyn listiniimaki Morning Bull, Calgary

SPORTS

Macyn is an extraordinary woman and gifted athlete from the Piikani First Nation. Overcoming dyslexia to excel in academics, Macyn went on to receive Calgary’s Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award in 2018, Indigenous Role Model of Alberta in 2019, won the CCAA women’s basketball championship with Olds College in 2019, and was named ACAC First Team Allstar and member of the CCAA All-Canadian Team in 2022. She was named to 2023 CANDO National Youth Panel, and is on the board of the 2027 North American Indigenous Games in Calgary. Her humility and strong connection to her culture grounds her. In 2015, she received the name listiniimaki, “to capture the enemy in a wooded area,” which is also her great-great-great grandmother’s name. Macyn, now a mother of two, works in Finance at ATCO and continues to play and coach basketball.



Sandra Potts, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation

JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS

Sandra is a grandmother, friend, relative, and proud member of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. She has worked to alleviate the detrimental over-representation of Indigenous people in the judicial system, and has helped bring in Indigenous practices and ways of knowing into the justice system. In her roles as a probation officer, FASD mentor, and court worker, Sandra's commitment to connecting Indigenous justice system participants with supports and services helps ensure positive outcomes for them and the community.



Kayden Reves, Edmonton

SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

Although still young, Kayden is a poised, confident woman who demonstrates leadership, embraces her Indigenous culture, and provides cultural information sessions to her Cadet group. She is determined to join the Canadian Forces and became a Cadet at 12. Always keen to learn about and share her culture, Kayden is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta who loves the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and harvesting berries and medicines. She is a responsible young woman who's been instrumental in helping her single dad with her younger brother, and is a proud teen mother at 19 to her son Finnley.



Lisa Dawn Richards, St. Albert

CULTURE

Lisa is strong nehiyaw iskwew known for her advocacy, caring, and commitment to nêhiyawêwin (Cree) reclamation. She holds a Masters Degree from University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills and teaches her language and culture through St. Albert & District Further Education Association. Her passion for traditional teachings speak to her authenticity, competency and expertise. Lisa is particularly supportive of those who did not grow up with their culture, and is an inspiring and caring mentor, wife, mother, nohkom, and avid seamstress.



Circle of Honour Inductee

Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, MLA, Edmonton-Rutherford

MURIEL STANLEY VENNE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta representing Edmonton-Rutherford, Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse understands the importance of serving the people and advocating for the needs of all Albertans.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Jodi is a proud Cree-Mohawk woman from Michel First Nation, and has been recognized internationally for her anti-racism work with the Edmonton Shift Lab. Following in the footsteps of her great-grandfather Chief Michel Calahoo, who signed Treaty Adhesion 1877 in Treaty Six Territory, she strives to be a profound leader and change maker.

Prior to becoming an MLA, Jodi served as Executive Director for the Yellowhead Indigenous Education Foundation—working to support corrections, child and family services, health departments, and creating an emergency response system to support families during the pandemic. She also founded Miyo-Pimatisiwin Productions and was a producer and broadcaster of Acimowin, an award-winning Indigenous radio program. Jodi served two terms as a member of the council for Michel First Nation from 2006 to 2013, working on land claims, governance and citizenship. She was a collective member for Walking with Our Sisters from 2014 to 2023, and sat on the Edmonton Police Commission from 2021 to 2023.

Jodi worked with former Commissioner from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Chief Wilton Littlechild, to bring the second World Indigenous Nations Games to Edmonton, going on to serve as Executive Director for the Games. She worked with the University of Alberta in faculty development and community relations for the Faculty of Law, as well as serving as the community engagement and reconciliation adviser in the Office of the Provost.

Jodi holds an undergraduate degree in Native Studies and is completing her MSc with the Faculty of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta. She lives in Edmonton with her children and their rescue dog, and powwows, round dances, sun dances, night lodges and giveaways continue to play an important role in her life.

Each year, Esquao's 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.

Circle of Honour

Each year, the Esquao, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, 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. Colleen Klein first coined the phrase, "Circle of Honour" and was brought into the Circle by our Elders in 2001.

Inductees

2025	Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, MLA Edmonton-Rutherford
2024	Brenda Blyan
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	Colleen Klein

Regena Crowchild,
2023 Inductee



Brenda Blyan, 2024 Inductee

Entertainers

Kicking Horse

Established in 2014, Kicking Horse are from Alexander First Nation. The group have been performing together for numerous years, travelling and singing and making good music for people to enjoy across Turtle Island.



Celeigh Cardinal

With a magnetic presence, 2020 Juno Award winner and 2025 nominee Celeigh Cardinal captivates with her rich, soulful voice. Weaving emotion into every note, she brings healing and connection through song. A shining star in Canada's music scene, she continues to inspire and uplift with her powerful storytelling.

celeigh cardinal



Kikino Northern Lites

Formed in 1978, the Kikino Northern Lites are a Métis traditional dance troupe. Their name has its own significance, with “Kikino” meaning “our home” in Cree and “Northern Lites” being an old Métis belief that when the spirits of our loved ones pass on they join our Ancestors to rejoice in a spiritual dance in the northern sky. The group’s legacy and teachings are now initiated by lead dancer Trevor White, the youngest son of former lead dancer and manager Gerald White. The group continues to preserve and strengthen Métis culture through music and dance for future generations.

Nîpisîy σΛΥ

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



Past Recipients

Since the inception of the Esquao Awards in 1995, 558 women from close to 100 communities have been honoured in what has become the single largest recognition event for Indigenous women in Canada.

1996

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

1997

Eva Bereti Edmonton
Thelma Chalifoux 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 Abraham Frog Lake
Karen Acuna Calgary
Crystal May Arcand Morinville
Julia Auger Paddle Prairie
Paula Bailey Fort McMurray
Christa Big Canoe Calgary
Karen Bruno Edmonton
Chief Helen Bull Hobbema
Paulette Campiou Driftpile
Ruby Cardinal Fort McMurray
Nellie Carlson Edmonton
Edith Dalla Costa Edmonton
Valerie Dennehey Saddle Lake
Justina Jones Fort McMurray
Ruth Kidder Peace River
Patricia (Trish) Kumpf Edmonton
Theresa Lafferty Edmonton
Linda Laliberte Edmonton
Donna Leask Edmonton
Shannon Loutitt Wetaskiwin
Carol Paquette Grande Prairie
Lilian Parenteau Fishing Lake
Loretta Parenteau Paddle Prairie
Sophie Powder Fort McKay
Stella Reynolds Edmonton
Ruth Scalplock Cluny
Elizabeth Scout Standoff
Marion Sinclair Edmonton
Evelyn Smith Fairview
Darlene Thompson Kikino
Pat Waite Calgary
Jane Woodward Edmonton
Clara Yellow Knee Wabasca

2001

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

2002

Chief Victoria Arcand Morinville
Joely Big Eagle Calgary
Lorraine Borroughs Dead Wood
Theresa Campiou Edmonton
Sandra Catherine Cardinal Lac La Biche
Tantoo Cardinal Vancouver
Donna Cyprien Fort Chipewyan
Donna Decoteau Edmonton
Cora Fedyk Red Deer
Lynn Gauthier Bonnyville
Krista Hunter Morley
Shirley Hunter Good Fish Lake

Barbara Laderoute.....Edmonton
Jenny LaderouteGift Lake
Chief Rose LamemanEdmonton
Louise M. Loyie.....Fort McMurray
Noreen McAteerFort Vermillion
Joyce Metchewais.....Grand Centre
Audrey Poitras.....Edmonton
Heather Poitras.....Edmonton
Freda Lynn Prince.....Edmonton
Jackie Sanders.....Grouard
Cheryl SheldonKinuso
Eva StangSt. Albert
Margaret StylesAthabasca
Caroline Von-GradEdmonton
Doreen Wabasca.....Edmonton
Elaine WardFishing Lake
Margaret White Knife....Fort Chipewyan
Clara WilsonFort McKay
Elsie Winnipeg.....Siksika

2003

Jean AndersonFishing Lake Métis Settlement
Josephine BeaverAthabasca
Judy BelcourtPeace River
Aura Calahesen.....Sherwood Park
Pauline CardinalHigh Level
Carol Carifelle-Brzezicki.....Edmonton
Dorothy Elizabeth ChapmanEdmonton
Bonnie Clark.....Edmonton
Cst. Sarah Clear Sky KroppStony Plain
Terry Lynn CookKinuso
Cecilia Courtoreillie.....Fort Vermillion
Angie Crerar.....Grande Prairie
Doris Mary Anne DomakKinuso
Lola DucharmeFort Vermillion
Adeline GrandboisCold Lake
Brandy Johnston-Twinn.....Kinuso
Valerie KaufmanEdmonton
Ramona Kuhn.....Calgary
Janice LarocqueCalgary
Bonnie LehrSt. Paul
Angela LightningCalling Lake
Denise Lesley LightningMaskwacis

Dorothy MacDonald.....Fort McMurray
P. Gayle McKenzie.....Spruce Grove
Kathy McKinnonEdmonton
Jamie Medicine Crane.....Standoff
Marilyn MerastyEdmonton
Barbara Faith ModesteEdmonton
Bev NewSlave Lake
Mabel Pepin.....Edmonton
Rose PottsBrocket
Yvonne Pratt-PotriasCalgary
Linda Rema-Bull.....Sherwood Park
Dorothy SimonHobbema
Sharon SmallCalgary
Vie Spang.....Edmonton
Mildred SuveeSt. Paul
Barbra TrottierEdmonton
Jeanette ToddGunn
Laura VinsonEdmonton
Florence WanuchPaddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Margaret WaterchiefSiksika
Donna Webster.....Lac La Biche
Helen WilsonFort McMurray
Adrienne Laurette Yellow DirtMorinville

2004

Melvina Arcand.....Morinville
Anne Marie AugerSlave Lake
Linda Boudreau-Semanganis....St. Paul
Ida BullHobbema
Natasha Calf Robe-AyoungmanSiksika
Leona CarterEdmonton
Carol CroweCalgary
Lorraine Deschambeau....Lac La Biche
Shirley DionAlberta Beach
Lynda DwyerKikino
Autumn Eagle SpeakerCalgary
Felice GladueSherwood Park
Mabel GouletHigh Prairie
Betty Hamilton,Edmonton
Eva LaboucanDriftpile
Chief Rose LaboucanDriftpile
Gerri Many FingersCardston
Emma MartineauPaddle Prairie

Priscilla MorinLac La Biche
Josie NepinakCalgary
Betty NordinEdmonton
Helen PiperGrimshaw
Peggy RobertsEdmonton
Margaret Simpson.....Fort Chipewyan
Linda StephanCold Lake
Cynthia Tracy SmallboyHobbema
Ruth Suvee BSM, MA, CEAT...Edmonton
Wendy WalkerEdmonton
Theresa C. WildcatHobbema

2005

Edna M. ArcandMorinville
Isabel AugerSmith
Rose AugerSt. Albert
Annie Bare Shin BoneWabasca
Mary J. BrownSlave Lake
June Cardinal-HouseBoyle
Kathleen CardinalEdmonton
Nora ChapdelaineFaust
Dorothy ChartrandEdmonton
Murleen Crossen.....Alberta Beach
Sophie DionEdmonton
Velma DumontCalgary
Beatrice LeBoeufGrande Cache
Isabel LongmoreEdson
Olive ManitopiesCalgary
Yvonne OshanykHinton
Edna RainEdmonton
Alice ReidWabasca
Margaret Simpson.....Fort Chipewyan
Elsie StenstromSlave Lake
Ricky Lyn StepienSpruce Grove
Laurie Lee ThompsonLac Lac Biche
Wendy WalkerEdmonton
Lee WillierHigh Prairie

2006

Marlene ArcandMorinville
Evelyn BreretonLamont
Claudine Claire Cardinal.....St. Paul
Sophie CardinalSlave Lake
Roxanne DavisLethbridge
Marcella CunninghamDriftpile

Marion Dick *Calgary*
Rose Findlay *Grande Cache*
Sandra Flamond *Cold Lake*
Audrey Franklin *Ardmore*
Florence Gaucher *St. Albert*
Vie Hunter *Fort McMurray*
Taz Johnson-McGillis *Edmonton*
Margaret MacDonald *Fort McMurray*
Eve MacMillan *Calgary*
Linda Manuel *Edmonton*
Rachelle McDonald *Grande Cache*
Peggy McGillis *Fishing Lake*
Lilian Mildred Shirt *High Prairie*
Yvonne Sound *Kinuso*
Flora Willier *Enilda*

2007

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

2008

Germaine Anderson *Lac La Biche*
Lorraine Boucher *Edmonton*
Sharon Bourque *Sherwood Park*

Nora Calliou *Paddle Prairie*
Martha Campiou *Edmonton*
Violet Campiou *Faust*
Chasare Cardinal *Edmonton*
Darlene Collins *Good Fish Lake*
Dora Courteorellie *Morinville*
Angela Ferguson, *Edmonton*
Susie Fischer *Keg River*
Crystal Janvier *Edmonton*
Antoinette MacDonald *Enoch*
Doreen Moyah *Edmonton*
Vera Potts *Brocket*
Margaret Quinney *Frog Lake First Nation*
Vina Roberts-Marten *Fort McMurray*
Doreen Roy *Calgary*
Sherryl Sewepagaham *Edmonton*
Kari Thomason *Edmonton*
Maria Vermillion *Fort McMurray*
Victoria Whalen *Edmonton*

2009

Grace Auger *Calgary*
Brenda Bourque-Stratichuk *Lac La Biche*
Myrtle Calahaisn *Edmonton*
Lorraine Cunningham *Driftpile*
Rosie Day-Rider *Edmonton*
Hazel Derange *Fort McMurray*
Dolores Flett *Edmonton*
Jonelle Gladue *Medicine Hat*
Shelly Hamelin *Valley View*
Lana Hill, *Fort McMurray*
Debbie Houle *Edmonton*
Bernadette Iahtail *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*
Carla Saunders *Fort McMurray*

2010

Beverly Allard *Edmonton*
Laura Auger *St. Albert*
Jocelyne Bauman *Bon Accord*
Tamara L. Brown *St. Albert*
Crystal L. Clark *Rocky Mountain House*
Dorothy Courtereille *Hinton*
Marcella Delorme *Edmonton*
Freida Hook *Slave Lake*
Janet House *Duffield*
Brenda Laboucan *Slave Lake*
Florence Large *Saddle Lake*
Virginia Lazarre *Edmonton*
Melody Lepine *Fort McMurray*
Irene Morin *Enoch*
Shirley Shillinglaw *Sherwood Park*
Gloria Short *Calgary*
A. Mae Steinhauer Bouvette *Raven*
Elsie Yanik *Fort McMurray*
Karen Young *Lac La Biche*

2011

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

2012

Susan Barthel *Fishing Lake*
Darlene Calliou *Edmonton*
Patricia Campiou *Faust*
Elaine Cardinal *Edmonton*

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

2013

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

2014

Shirley Eashappie Rocky Mountain House
Linda Gadwa Kehewin
Janet Janvier Calgary
Pearl Potts Edmonton
Dr. Linda Many Guns Lethbridge
Jeannette McKay Redwater
Ilene Nepoose Maskwacis
Annette Ozirny Bonnyville
Roxanne Scout Standoff
Margaret Villebrun Fort Chipewyan

Shelly Ann Wieringa Lloydminster
Charmaine Willier-Larsen Enilda
Tanus Willier Joussard

2015

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

2016

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

2017

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

2018

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

2019

Doreen Bergum Olds
Mackenzie Brown Edmonton
Gladys Cardinal Wabasca
Geraldine Carriere Edmonton
Paulette Dahlsaide Cold Lake
Marilyn Gladue Edmonton
Candace Houle Spedan
Shawna Jean Chard
Sandra Lamouche Fort Macleod
Doreen Poitras Edmonton
Connie Rain-Cree Duffield
Bev Renaud Calgary
Sandra Sutter Calgary
Ruby Sweeterman Lac La Biche
Reymonde Thompson Sherwood Park
Lisa Weber Sherwood Park
Vickie Wetchie Wetaskiwin
Alsen White Saddle Lake
Monika Wilson Edmonton
Lisa Wolfe Edmonton

2021

Edna Blyan Cold Lake
Rosemary (Rose) Crowshoe Fort Macleod
Rain Desjarlais Calgary
Eva John Gladue Edmonton
Amanda Gould Edmonton
Donna Knebush Edmonton
Kristina Kopp Myrnam
Polyanna McBain Fort McMurray
Rosalie Nicholls Lac La Biche
Rosemary Nipshank Edmonton
Janice Randhile-Papastesis Edmonton
Andrea Rosenberger Deleeuw Clairmont

2022

Dorothy (Dot) Anderson St. Albert
Marie Borynsky Calgary
Candice Calliou Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Wilma Cardinal Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Doris Churchill Edmonton
Jackie Davis Cardston
Skye Durocher Sputinow
Dr. Florence Glanfield Edmonton
Elena Gould Fort McMurray
Rhonda Janvier Cold Lake
Shannon Lust Spruce Grove
Jo-Anne Packham Fort McMurray
Dr. Dayle Poitras-Oster Drayton Valley
Denise Rathbone Wabasca
Dr. Evelyn Steinhauer Saddle Lake

2023

Joyce Beaver Edmonton
Melissa-Jo Belcourt Moses Edmonton
Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes Calgary
Audra Foggin (Movah) Calgary
Louise Gadwa Bonnyville
Deborah Green (Gopher) Calgary
Marni Hope Lethbridge
Lori Anne Houle Calgary
Echo Kehewin Edmonton
Rebecca Kragnes St. Albert
Karen MacKenzie Edmonton
Savannah Poirier Hollander Calgary
Lori Pritchard Calgary
Margaret Quintal Conklin
Karen Turner Leduc County

2024

Joanna Rose Campiou Alexander First Nation
Terri Cardinal-Nyawatatic Saddle Lake Cree Nation
Barbara A. Courtoisielle Slave Lake
Cathy Cunningham Gift Lake
Beatrice Floch Edmonton
Patricia I. Goodwill-Littlechild Maskwacis
Sarah Houle Calgary
Sherri Houle Edmonton
Ruby Littlechild Maskwacis
Julia McDougall Fort McMurray
Melissa Nollski St. Albert
Mona Ominayak-Auger Slave Lake
Lorraine Raine Mountain Cree Smallboy Camp
Anna Stuffco Edmonton
Beverly Ward Loon River First Nation
Tara-Lynn Wardman East Prairie Métis Nation
Teneil Whiskeyjack Edmonton

2025

Rita V. Arcand Morinville
Dawn-Lyn Blake (Johnson) Calgary
Bebe Buckskin Calgary
(Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement)
Mary Cardinal Collins Riviere Qui Barre
Shannon Dunfield Grande Prairie
Diane Gardipy, BA Red Deer
Roberta Giroux Edmonton
Pauline D. Gladue Edmonton (Bigstone Cree Nation)
Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet Edmonton
Allison Meltingtallow-Syniak Sucker Creek First Nation
Shirley Mookcheweinies Frog Lake
Macyn listiniimaki Morning Bull Calgary
Sandra Potts Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
Kayden Reves Edmonton
Lisa Dawn Richards St. Albert

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Alma Desjarlais
High Prairie

Marion Lerat
Calgary

Vi Marten-Roberts
Fort Vermilion

Hazel McKennitt
St. Albert

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Edmonton

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Abalone Shines Photobooth

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Quentin Kushnerik

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our office is located in Edmonton, amiskwacîwâskahikan, on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and traveling route for many Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. As a provincial organization, we acknowledge this is the Homeland of the Métis and also includes Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 Territory. We also honour Mother Earth and give thanks to the animals and all life forms who made sacrifices so that we humans could build homes, roads and communities on this land.

29th ANNUAL
Esquao
AWARDS



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🔗 Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

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