

Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta



Enoch Cree Nation Presents:
17th Annual Aboriginal Role
Models of Alberta Awards



Friday, October 5, 2012

River Cree Resort & Casino

Marriott Hotel, Enoch, Alberta

“Building the Future with Pride and Tradition”

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NATIVE COUNSELLING SERVICES OF ALBERTA

NCSA congratulates all the recipients of the Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards 2012, and acknowledges the important work and contributions they make to our community.

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*Enoch Cree Nation Presents
Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta 2012*

Master of Ceremonies

Richard Mirasty

Hostess

Irene Morin

Dinner Entertainment

Joseph McDonald

Welcome

Chief Ron Morin / Enoch Cree Nation

Keynote Address

The Honourable George L. Tuccaro

Drum Songs

Logan Alexis Singers

Award Category

Recipient

Arts

Michelle Thrush

Business

David Gabriel Tuccaro

Community Development

Judy Nest

Economic Development

Tsuu T'ina Nation

Education

Rosalie Cardinal

Health

Helen Littlechild

Humanitarian

Beatrice Arcand

Justice

Brian Calliou

Leadership

Clyde Goodswimmer

Lifetime Achievement

The Honourable George L. Tuccaro

Public Service

Cst. Phil Dahdona

*Preservation of Aboriginal Language,
Traditions & Culture*

Theresa L. Cardinal

Ed Poitras

Volunteer

Dale White

Youth/Academics

Billy Morin

Youth/Arts

Derek Jagodzinsky

Youth/Athlete

Kurt Ginther

Fortis Alberta funds the Youth Categories.



Arts Award - Michelle Thrush



Michelle Thrush has been working in film, television and theatre for over 25 years. Her first film role was at the age of 17. When she was 21, she moved from Calgary to Vancouver to pursue her dream of acting. She found an agent, Murray Gibson, and has been with him since. She currently has over 40 professional credits in the entertainment industry and has won numerous awards and special recognition. She won the 2011 Gemini “Best Performance by An Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role” for her character Gail Stoney on the hit APTN dramatic series *Blackstone*. As Gail Stoney she also received “Best Supporting Actress” in 2009 at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. She was nominated for Best Alberta Actress at the 2010 AMP Awards and nominated for Best Lead Actress at the Leo Awards in Vancouver. Michelle’s other television credits include: *Moccasin Flats*, *Mixed Blessings*, and *North of 60*. Michelle starred in numerous films, such as: *Unnatural and Accidental*, *Pathfinder*, *Don’t Call Me Tonto*, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and *Dreamkeeper*. Her most memorable film was “*Dead Man*” with Johnny Depp and Gary Farmer which achieved international status as a cult classic. In 1999 Michelle received “Best Supporting Actress Award” at the First Americans in the Arts Awards in Los Angeles for her role in the comedy western “*Ebenezer*”.

Michelle is an alumni member of Crazy Horse Aboriginal Theatre Company and was the Artistic Director. She writes, directs and produces theatre. Michelle appears in *Arctic Air* on CBC. She works with Dreamcatcher Foundation, mentoring aboriginal youth in drama and the arts. She teaches them something she knows firsthand, that no matter how tough life can be, you can make your own second act. Her work with youth and children has been the greatest passion of her career. Michelle has two daughters and her family resides in Calgary, Alberta. On May 12, 2012, Michelle received the “Rosie Award” for Best Alberta Actress at the Alberta Film and Television Awards for *Blackstone* Season 2. She has just completed a major feature film in the United States called “*AKA JIMMY PICARD*” in which she starred opposite the Oscar winning actor Benicio Del Toro! Michelle also plays Adam Beach’s sister on the CBC series “*Arctic Air*”. APTN is doing a bio on her life right now for the new series “*Catching the Dream*”.

Business Award - David Gabriel Tuccaro



David Tuccaro’s business motto rings true throughout his businesses “to create opportunities for Aboriginal people at every level of employment”. The goal of his companies is to achieve 80% Aboriginal employment. Dave not only backs the educational and training initiatives to ensure his own staff is fully qualified, but he also encourages other Aboriginal people to become entrepreneurs. David Tuccaro was born one of nine children to Gabriel and Therese Tuccaro in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. He spent his childhood in Fort Chipewyan. After completing Grade 9 at Bishop Piche School he attended high school at Grandin College in Fort Smith, NWT and graduated from Grade 12 in 1976. In an interview, Tuccaro admitted that he never excelled at his academics, but only attained the minimum to ensure that he could play collegiate sports. In his last year at Grandin College, Mr. Tuccaro won a gold medal in the Arctic Winter Games. After graduating from high school in 1976, David believed that Grade 12 was good enough to get a job; hence he did not further his education. At one point, David worked in construction and owned and operated a taxi. However careers like this did not satisfy him because he always knew he wanted to be his own boss. David Tuccaro has become a well known business owner in Fort McMurray and western Canada. David owns and controls Tuccaro Inc. which finances property rentals and commercial development. He is also president of Aboriginal Global Investments, Aboriginal Technical Services, Tuc’s Contracting and Neegan Development Corporation Ltd. all of whom deal with

anything from market investment, environmental engineering or heavy equipment earth moving. One of David’s greatest accomplishments was the creation of the National Aboriginal Business Association (NABA) in 1996. NABA is a not-for-profit business association that recognizes that creating sustainable Aboriginal enterprises is critical to economic growth. As president, David’s goal is to oversee and promote members’ involvement in bulk purchases as a way of saving on the cost of doing business. Mr. Tuccaro is also very active with his message of self-determination, taking it to regional high schools, “Don’t listen to those who say you won’t succeed....a lot of times people quit one day before they (would reach) success”. In April 1998 was included as one of the “Top 40 under 40” by the Financial Post Magazine. In March 1999 he was a recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for his contribution in Business and Commerce. Mr. Tuccaro’s volunteer activities encompass sitting on the Board of the Regional Health Authority and the Alberta Chamber of Resources. He spearheaded the formation of the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association. Mr. Tuccaro sits as a Director of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and co-chaired the 2004 Arctic Winter Games Committee. David was also honored in the July/August 2000 issue of Venture Magazine for being one of “Alberta’s 50 Most Influential People”. David lives in Kelowna.

Community Development Award - Judy Nest



Judy Nest was born and raised on Cold Lake First Nations in Cold Lake, Alberta. She raised five sons and has 9 beautiful grandchildren. Judy has dedicated her life to the people of her nation in various capacities for the past 30 years. She has been responsible for overseeing many projects in her community and has dedicated many hours to ensure success of these various projects.

During her reign, Judy represents her nation on numerous Boards and Committees. Some committees included: Tribal Chiefs Employment and Training Services Association; Cold Lake First Nations Primrose Lake Trust; Primco Dene Group of Companies; and Casino Dene. Building capacity and promoting a better quality of life for her people is something she is passionate about and close to her heart. She was a part of the team that worked on the Primrose Lake Trust Settlement. She was instrumental in developing opportunities for the Elders, the youth and general members of Cold

Lake First Nations. Some of her accomplishments include: building a playground in the core area of the nation for those children that lived nearby as well as building two ball diamonds in the sport and recreation sector as well as numerous other projects that she has organized such as Economic Development, Women's and Wellness Conferences.

During her reign as an Economic Development officer of Cold Lake, she was instrumental in developing the economic arm of Primco Dene Group of Companies, a company that is now successful and in creating wealth and employment. Primco Dene has expanded tremendously and currently employs over 550 First Nations and non-First Nations people from across Canada. She was also the first Executive Director of Cold Lake First Nations Casino Society, an organization that supports development and non-profit organizations from casino revenue funds.

In 2010, she was elected as Band Councillor for Cold Lake First Nations. As a team player, Judy continues to dedicate her time to the people and is still instrumental in creating opportunities that will ensure that quality of life.

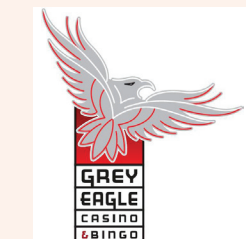
Economic Development - Tsuu T'ina Nation



The Tsuu T'Ina, which means "a great number of people" are a strong, proud nation possessing a remarkable cultural heritage. The current chief is Chief Sandford Big Plume. Descended from the Athapaskan speaking people, which include the Navajo and Apache of the south and the Dene and Chipewyan of the north, the Tsuu T'Ina have kept their traditions and culture has evolved into one that is unique to Athapaskan speaking people. A strong independent people, their beliefs are embodied in the circle symbolizing the eternal continuity of life; the circle forms the base of their emblem. The stretched beaver pelt is a symbol of the Beaver people and the two war bonnets represents the separation story of the Athapaskan and the Tsuu T'Ina people. The peace pipe means "peace with all people". The broken arrow means "no more wars".



Redwood Meadows Golf & Country Club was established in 1976 as a 9 hole course and was expanded to 18 holes in 1978. The Golf Club is owned by the Tsuu T'Ina Nation. The course has been recognized as one of western Canada's finest championship layouts and was rated by the players as one of the top two courses on the PGA Nationwide Tour. It has earned accolades from many well known names in golf including Lee Trevino whose belief that it could be part of the PGA Tour came to fruition in 2004.



The Tsuu T'Ina Nation partnered with Sonco Gaming (Alberta) Limited to build the Grey Eagle Casino & Bingo. Grey Eagle Casino & Bingo is 84,000 sq. feet with 65 table games, 600 slot machines, a poker room, restaurants, bar and a 500+ seat Bingo facility. This facility opened its doors in December 2007. The Grey Eagle Casino & Bingo operates in competition with six other existing casinos in the City of Calgary. As part of the agreement, the DIT'ONIK'ODZA Ltd. Partnership was created to receive charitable funds from casino proceeds. "First and foremost; revenue will go toward making life better for Tsuu T'Ina Nation members. Providing housing for members living in crowded conditions on the reserve is a priority. Our first issue is Housing, we want to build as many houses as we can. The band needs to build 300 houses immediately" said then Tsuu T'Ina Nation Council member Darrell Crowchild. The Tsuu T'Ina Nation has been building homes steadily over the past few years from revenue generated through the casino.

Education Award - Rosalie Cardinal



Rosalie has been the guiding light for Aboriginal education at Ross Sheppard High School for many years. Through her work, our FNMI students have found a home at our school resulting in many successes that would not have happened without her. Rosalie has hosted welcome gatherings for our students at which it was always important for her to ensure that our FNMI youth were kept informed of opportunities both at the school and in the community. She also organized and escorted our students on numerous field trips including symposiums and retreats, ran a school craft club and played a very important role in supporting our district's FNMI graduation ceremonies. Yet, even with all of those undertakings, it was at the school level that we really saw Rosalie as the warm humanitarian that she is.

(Chris Douglas)

Rosalie is a very knowledgeable individual who is a knowledge keeper, grandmother, and a strong Cree woman from the Saddle Lake reserve. She is a woman who believes in her traditional teachings, traditional parenting teachings and cultural practices. Rosalie is a keeper of traditional knowledge that she shares with her colleagues, parents and children that she works with on a daily basis. Rosalie is a woman who exemplifies what our traditional matriarchs are in our present day society. She is presently working on her Linguistics certificate through the CILLDI program at the University of Alberta and is excelling at this language retention program. She is employed at the Edmonton Public School Board as a consultant pertaining to the Diversity of our Children in our schools and from firsthand knowledge, she is excelling at this position.

Health Award - Helen Littlechild



Helen Littlechild was born at Enoch in 1949 to parents Alex and Violet Peacock. She attended the Stony Plain Indian School in Enoch for Grades 1 and 2. For Grades 3 to 12, she attended various schools in Jasper Place district in Edmonton. After graduation she worked at the Alberta Motor Association for 1 year. She entered the Misericordia School of Nursing in 1968 and graduated in September 1971. Helen married Wilton Littlechild in the fall of 1970 during her last year in nursing school. She has 3 children and eight grandchildren. After graduation she worked at the Misericordia Hospital in the Neonatal and Intensive Care Unit and the Newborn Nursery for 1 year. She then stayed home with the birth of her 1st daughter Teddi until January 1975 and returned to the same units. She enjoyed her job as she had extensive knowledge about newborns as she was the oldest daughter in a family of 10. In 1977 she moved to Hobbema and stayed home once again after the birth of her second child, a son, Neil, until October 1979. She started working for Health Canada, Medical Services Branch with Hobbema Indian Health Services now called Maskwacis Health Services. In 1983, she went on maternity leave for her 3rd and final

child, a daughter Megan. She returned in 1985 and has been working there to this day. Helen was awarded for Long Service in recognition of more than 40 years in the profession of registered nursing on March 1, 2012 from the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta for her dedication, compassion and professionalism over the past four decades. Health Canada has also awarded Helen with services awards at 15 years, 25 years and 30 years of service, acknowledging Helen's dedication to Community Health. Maskwacis Health Services has also given her recognition with a certificate and eagle feather for 25 years of service. In Hobbema she worked in Public Health in Community Health nursing. She has gained extensive knowledge about the community and appreciates working with other Health workers who introduced her to the community, taught her the history, protocols and culture of the communities of Samson, Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and Pigeon Lake. In July 2000, Helen became the Nurse in Charge and has been in this position to present. She attended the prestigious Dorothy M. Wylie Nursing Leadership Institute in Toronto, Ontario. The institute offered the most up-to-date resources, models of leadership and strengthening leadership competencies. As nurse in charge she was more involved with community development and community partnerships with the health directors and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Throughout her 12 years as Nurse in Charge, Helen has actively worked collaboratively with individuals, communities, service providers, with other health professionals and community partners to build capacity for health promotion and identify relevant health issues and needs. She has established strong and effective relationships with individuals, families and community. Feedback received by staff "She has developed strong, respectful relationships with clients and staff based upon trust and fairness". Helen plays an active role in supporting and encouraging her family in education and healthy life styles, especially sports. She enjoys spending time with family and continues in promoting health in all aspects of her life.

Humanitarian Award - Beatrice Arcand



Beatrice was born to Baptiste and Angela Courteoreille on September 26, 1938 in the Alexander Indian Reserve; she was the third child of six children. Beatrice was raised very traditional; her parents lived off the land and practiced a very traditional and spiritual lifestyle. Beatrice is a residential school survivor, while in residential school she contracted Tuberculosis which resulted in many years in the hospital. Her two bouts of Tuberculosis have left a lifelong residue of chronic pneumonia and bronchitis, even with this disability she managed to prevail. Beatrice met and married George Arcand (Speedy) on June 21, 1958. They proceeded to have and raise nine children. (Elizabeth Arcand - 3 children and 9 grandchildren; George/Michele - 3 children; Janet/Doyle - 4 children and 5 grandchildren; Herbert/Cathy - 5 children and 5 grandchildren; Faye/Julius - 3 children and 2 grandchildren; Theodore/Veronica - 2 children; Kenneth/Collette - 3 children; Clayton/Tracy - 3 children. Their marriage left a lasting impression on their children as some are now celebrating over 25 years of marriage. To date she has nine children, 26 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren Beatrice was a pioneer, she set examples for other women in the community to follow, she worked side by side with her husband to provide for their family, she entered the workforce and became involved in her children's education. Beatrice was one of the first Alexander Education Committee members; this committee was instrumental in challenging the government to take local control of education. The committee

succeeded and in 1984 Alexander was granted control over determining their education (this year Alexander had the largest group of 26 Grade 12 graduates) Due to the Education Committees hard work to improve education for the community, Alexander was recognized at the International Exposition of Rural Development in New Delhi India. Her passion and commitment for education is reflected in her family, with 12 grade 12 graduates; 2 post-secondary degrees and 5 currently in post-secondary; 4 college certificates and 4 journeyman tradesmen. Her eldest son George is currently the Regional Director of Indian and Northern Affairs Alberta Region, her second oldest son Herbert is currently the Chief of the Alexander Indian Reserve, and her remaining children continue to work as professionals in Administration, Finance, Industry Relations, Land Management, Recreation, and Child Care Services. Beatrice was a Teacher of the Cree Language and Culture, a Teacher Assistant for the primary grades and a Kindergarten teacher for the Kipohakaw Education Centre. This shy unassuming woman was also an actress and starred in the film "To Call an Eagle". Beatrice is currently involved in the Alexander Justice Committee (YTCCS), an Elder Advisor for numerous organizations, and is honored when asked to represent Alexander or Treaty Six at various meetings where Education, Health Care and our Treaties are being addressed. And Finally Beatrice and her husband became involved in the Cursillo movement, which she says took them from the alcohol and abuse that ran rampant within the community. Beatrice lost her husband and lifelong partner to cancer and has managed to preserve his memory and their passions and values with all she endeavors, more importantly she has passed these memories and values which are reflected within her children.

Justice Award - Brian Calliou



Brian Calliou promotes legal and social justice of the Aboriginal people of Canada by seeking the reformation of policies and laws. Being an Aboriginal lawyer, Brian represents Indigenous people in their fight for social and legal justice. Calliou is Cree from the Sucker Creek First Nation in northern Alberta. He spent most of his formative years at the Sucker Creek reserve with his beloved grandparents Elizabeth and Clement Calliou. His educational journey began later than most. While the father of 2, he decided to leave the security of his job as a plumber/pipefitter to attempt post secondary schooling. Although uncertain of his prospects, since he had not completed Grade 12, he persisted. The rest is history; Brian would go on to earn a University Transfer Diploma from Grande Prairie Regional College, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Bachelor of Law, and a Master of Law from the University of Alberta.

It turns out that some of the problems with post-secondary schooling were not all academic. While attending the University of Alberta Law School, Brian and other Aboriginal Law students dealt with many obstacles, including racism. It seems that some law students believed that the University had lowered its entrance requirements to admit Aboriginal students, and that somehow, the Aboriginal students were gaining advantages at their expense. The Aboriginal students, including Calliou, persisted and were able to complete their degrees. Calliou's masters of law thesis explored the social and environment surrounding the imposition of local and provincial game laws on First Nations people who had been promised unfettered access to the province's natural resources when they signed treaty only decades before. He worked as a lawyer for many years including running his own law practice. He taught Aboriginal Law at the Faculty of Native Studies and introductory Law and Society at the University of Calgary. He also served as a tutor for Aboriginal law students and as a mentor under the University of Calgary's Law Mentorship Program.

Brian is an active community member. He has served as the chair of the Aboriginal Section of the southern Alberta Canadian Bar Association, executive member of the Indigenous Bar Association, member of the Legal Archives Society of Alberta. He was the chair of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Board for 5 years and served on its board of directors for an additional 4 years. As AHRF chair, Brian helped monitor issues related to the preservation of Alberta's heritage including controversial issues such as the renaming of Ha Ling's Peak and renovations to Edmonton's Rosedale Power Plant. He also served as trustee of the Canadian Native Friendship Centre, chair of the Boyle Street Community Cooperative and member of the University of Alberta's School of Native Studies Advisory Council. He currently serves on a number of community and professional boards including the board of directors of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

Through Brian's research on Aboriginal legal and social issues he exposes the non-Aboriginal community to important issues that affect Indigenous people. He has published many academic and non-academic articles dealing with Aboriginal issues in Canada. He has spoken at academic and industry conferences across Canada, the United States, Britain and Europe. He is the current Director for the Banff Centre's Aboriginal Leadership and Management Program, which delivers training programs to Aboriginal agencies, organizations and reserve administrators across Canada, Brian lives at Bragg Creek with his wife Dr. Cora Voyageur. He has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Leadership Award - Clyde Goodswimmer



Clyde is a member of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation near Valleyview, Alberta. He attended elementary school in the community and went to high school in Valleyview.

He has always been keen on sports, especially baseball and hockey. He became involved in organizing teams as a teenager and continued as he grew older. He has always been community minded and when he was older he ran for reserve politics. He was a Council member, then the Chief and then a Council member again. Clyde brought Canadian recognition to the community of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation through his aggressive stand on issues that concern First Nations people.

Clyde was instrumental in the formation of the Alberta Native Hockey Provincials and this event saw its 18th year this spring.

Recently, Clyde was instrumental in getting the 2013 National Native Fastball Championships to Grande Prairie. "It's a major event for native communities all across Canada" said Clyde, Board member of the Muskwa Seepi Native Fastball Association. We believe that Clyde Goodswimmer is an ideal candidate for the Leadership award as he is very active as a Councilor of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and as an advocate for native sports. He is all around Leadership material.

Lifetime Achievement Award - The Honourable George L. Tuccaro



He is member of the Mikisew Cree Nation in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta.

In 1971, he began his long and distinguished career as an Announcer-Operator for CBC North Radio in Yellowknife. In 1979, he went to work for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada as a Communications Officer. In 1981, he returned to public broadcasting as a Coordinator of Aboriginal Languages Programming. He worked to recruit and develop aboriginal language talent, training Slavey, Chipewyan and Dog Rib language reports for CBC North Radio. He also produced an international award-winning radio documentary on teen suicide in Canada's north. In 1990, he worked as the Coordinator of the Cultural Industries Program and established a Northwest Territories booking agency for northern performing artists. He organized a variety of cultural events, which attracted performers for events in the north. Between 1990 and 2002, he returned to the airwaves as the host of the CBC North Radio afternoon program, Trails End. He also anchored Northbeat, the first northern daily current affairs television program. He retired in 2002, forming

GLT Communications, a company he founded to assist in hosting major events in the north. Since then, the company has grown to include workshop presentations on issues such as healthy lifestyles, grief and loss and the fallout from residential schools. He is a recipient of the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2006 for Media & Communication. He has also served on the Northwest Territories Arts Council, the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Cultural Enhancement Committee, as a Juno Awards juror and on the VANOC 2010 Opening/Closing Ceremony Planning Committee.

He and his wife Marilyn have two children, Daryl and Amanda and are the proud grandparents to Mikaela Rose.

In 2010, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed George L. Tuccaro as the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. He was sworn in as The Honourable George L. Tuccaro on May 28, 2010.

Public Service Award - Cst. Phil Dahdona



Phil was born in Edmonton at the Charles Camsell Hospital. He is a member of the Dene Tha First Nation. As a young boy he went to school in Assumption at the residential school where he completed his Grade 9. As a teenager he was billeted in a private home in Edmonton and attended high school at Archbishop McDonald and then Archbishop O'Leary. When he graduated he moved back to his reserve and worked at odd jobs. Later on he decided he wanted to go back to school to study and become an electrician. After spending more time in school, he decided to get a job working in a tire shop. He did this for 15 years and was Assistant Manager in Spruce Grove, when he made up his mind to do something he always wanted to do. He decided that he would follow his childhood dream, to be a policeman; a full-fledged member of the R.C.M.P. He went to the Regina Depot for 6 months and upon completing his training, his first posting was in Ponoka, Alberta where he was stationed for two years. He transferred to Hobbema and was stationed there for ten years. In 2005 he was transferred to Enoch, where he still is today. Phil volunteers in every community he has worked in, working with youth of all ages. He loves sports, especially hockey and bowling. He has been very involved in the community of Enoch. Both of Phil's parents are deceased and he appreciates the friendship he shares with community members and co-workers. Phil loves music, especially country and he loves to hunt and fish. Phil has participated in the Capital Ex Parade and in his Red Serge has been involved in the Indian Village at the Calgary Stampede. Phil is married to the lovely Pam. He takes a keen interest in Aboriginal traditions and participates in cultural activities.

Preservation of Aboriginal Language, Traditions & Culture Award - Theresa L. Cardinal

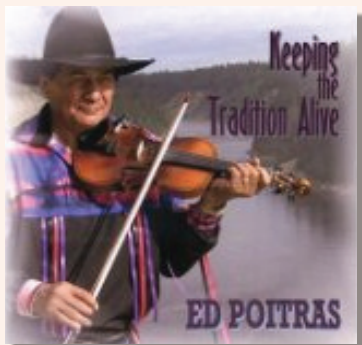


Theresa Lucille Cardinal (Maiden name Batoche) was born at the Old General Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta on March 12, 1931. Theresa was adopted by Paul and Isabelle Batoche at birth in Saddle Lake, Alberta. She grew up on a farm on the Saddle Lake reservation along with her adopted brother Walter Makokis. Theresa did not receive a formal education throughout her lifetime. At the age of 16 she married Peter Jr. Cardinal and they started a family of their own. She assisted her husband with the farm which had many animals and also worked in her large garden which helped sustain the family. She would help skin and pack wild game meat and transport it from the hunting site. She would fish on a regular basis and would pick berries in season to help support the family meals. She labored alongside her husband and would camp for weeks at a time with her family during the summer months working on stooking (harvesting wheat) and a sugar beet farm. Theresa was married to the late Peter Jr. Cardinal for 60 years, in August 2005 he passed on. Theresa is a Mother to 12 children, 2 of her children have passed on, 50 Grandchildren, 64 Great-grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren. Theresa has raised seven of her own grandchildren and other relatives. Theresa was also a caregiver to her late mother Isabelle Batoche and late Auntie Louisa Large.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation has recognized Theresa for her work ethic by presenting her with a plaque for 25 years of dedicated service and is the longest serving Saddle Lake Cree Nation employee. Theresa was an Elder representative of the Wahkotowin Child Welfare Society board for over 15 years. Theresa is an advocate of parenting, family values and promotes the significance of child-rearing and Cree culture. Theresa continues to stress the importance of obtaining a formal education to her children and grandchildren. Theresa is fluent in the Plains Cree language and is sought out by Cree language teachers and instructors for translation and interpretation. In June 2012, Theresa received an honorary Doctorate in Cree Language and Culture from the Blue Quills First Nations College to honor and acknowledge the importance of her contributions.

Theresa is an avid hockey fan and enjoys spending her evenings and weekends watching her grandchildren and great grandchildren play. Theresa continues to host large family gatherings on special occasions and also the Christmas and Easter holidays. She is a great story teller and enjoys telling stories about her life. Theresa is a respected Elder and a beautiful and compassionate Woman, Mother, Wife, Auntie, Kokum, Teacher and last but, not least a Role Model.

Preservation of Aboriginal Language, Traditions & Culture Award - Ed Poitras



The Poitras name in Alberta is synonymous with great country music. Ed was raised in a very musical family. He grew up listening to his relatives play fiddle and Métis dance music for house parties and dances. Becoming involved in sports took him away from music during his younger years. In his later years while working in Rae Edzo he pulled out the fiddle and began to learn the old traditional fiddle tunes. Upon returning to Alberta he became involved in local Jamborees doing backup and playing fiddle. His love of music is evident as he continues to encourage his children to develop their own musical careers. Ed is a strong supporter of youth in dance and music. He traveled with the Kikino Dancers providing back up music for the dancers as they traveled all over western Canada. Ed regularly travels with his family to many musical events to promote fiddle music and showcase his children's talents. He travels many miles hosting various Jamborees, encouraging and doing backup for other entertainers. He is a familiar entertainer at most talent shows competing in Fiddle, Vocal and Red River Jig. In May 2003 Ed released a family CD recorded locally to encourage his children to embrace their musical abilities. After that successful CD he encouraged his son to start his own recording business – opening Métis Sound Studios. In Sept, 2006 Ed released his own first solo album entitled “Keeping the Tradition Alive” On March 2007 Ed won the Best Instrumental Album of the Year at the Alberta Aboriginal Music Awards held at the River Cree Casino. Ed and his family have spent many hours volunteering at the local friendship centre teaching Métis dance and fiddle to the ones that want to learn. They have done workshops in schools across Alberta and B.C. and continue to offer to teach anyone that wants to learn. Ed is an accomplished Red River Jigger and the Senior Batoche Champion for the past three years. He has competed all over western Canada and taught his children to dance as well. Now starting over, encouraging his grand daughter to fiddle and jig... he hopes to pass his love of music onto the next generations. Wherever there are people gathered to play fiddle music, you will find this talented fiddler and his family.

Volunteer Award - Dale White



DALE WHITE is a proud Métis man who is constantly seeking ways to help his fellow Aboriginal people. He currently works as a Technician for the City of Edmonton. Dale has lived in Edmonton all his life. He has spent years and countless hours volunteering for different organizations, some of them are listed below.

CUPE (Canadian union of Public Employees)

CUPE Alberta (local)/Senator

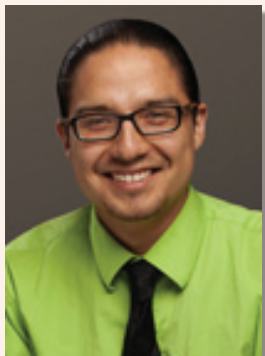
CUPE National Level/Senator

Involved in:

- Raising funds to send Aboriginal kids to the “AFL Camp” Alberta Federation Labor
- Participated in the Gay/Pride Days to support Aboriginal people with AIDS/HIV
- Met with the “Walk 4 Justice Walkers” and arranged a traditional meal, housing, travel and supplies for them. Through donations and fundraising we accomplished this. Media coverage was also arranged to bring awareness to this important issue “Highway of Tears”.

- These walkers came all the way from Vancouver and their journey was to continue to Ottawa so that there was public awareness of this issue. This was a 91 day journey. The age of the walkers were from 2 years of age all the way to 88 years of age.
- Fundraising to assist in the legal cost of the Battle of Algonquins/Barriere Lake Community. To ensure Canada and Quebec honor the Trilateral Agreement. A landmark resource- Co-Management agreement signed in 1991.
- In launching, developing and distributing 20,000 post cards to raise the awareness of “Have You Seen Our Sisters” (missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada).
- Involved in youth Symposiums for the City of Edmonton to attract Aboriginal Youth to work for the City of Edmonton
- Supporting campaigns Leonard Pelletier (Our Water Is Not For Sale)
- The Ted Dellaire documentary at the Ben Calf Robe School
- Mentor aboriginal youth hired within the city of Edmonton Fleet Services
- Participated in providing food and water on National Aboriginal Day Celebration at the Elizabeth Fry Society in Edmonton.

Youth/Academics Award - Billy Morin



Billy has always excelled academically from the first day he stepped into the Kitaskinaw School at Enoch. His teachers speak very highly of him; how he applied himself to all his classes and took such an interest in every subject. Billy graduated from Grade 9 at Kitaskinaw and attended Sr. High at St. Francis Xavier achieving honor role status and graduated from there at the age of 15. After graduation, he got a job at the North on 60 Convenience Store at Enoch; after making money that he never had before, he thought he would work there for a while until he decided what he wanted to do or be. He played sports but he knew that this would not be something he'd be able to make money at. With support and encouragement from his family, he made up his mind to return to school. He chose to go to N.A.I.T.

In 2011, Billy earned a diploma in Civil Engineering Technology from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and is continuing on to earn a Bachelor Degree in Technology Management. During the summer of 2011, Billy was employed at ATCO as Senior Forester Assistant, Engineering and Construction, Forest Operations, Supervisory and Standards Edmonton. When asked why he was interested in joining ATCO's Aboriginal Summer Student Program, he said "Atco is a prominent, established and successful organization. The chance to work with such a company was too good to pass up. Having a highly respected utility company on my resume will help me continue along my career path". Since April of this spring, he has been employed at Government of Alberta, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, Intern At Your Alberta. In the fall he will be studying for a Bachelor of Technology Management Civil Engineering Technology at N.A.I.T. and expects to graduate in 2013.

Youth/Arts Award - Derek Jagodzinsky



Creativity and a passion for lifelong learning have allowed Derek Jagodzinsky success in multiple areas of Fine Arts. Derek is a Whitefish Lake First Nation (# 459) band member. He is a graduate of the Bachelors of Design, Honors program at the University of Alberta and is enrolling in the Masters program of Design at the University; where he intends on focusing on aboriginal design and history. The choice to focus on aboriginal design is based both on personal interest as well as the need for there to be more First Nations designers in the main stream design circuit. To date, he is an accomplished photographer, sculptor, graphic and interior designer, fashion designer and youth mentor.

Derek is currently self-employed through his design label called LUXX Ready to Wear. Through his design label, he has successfully shown five seasons worth of designs that range from haute couture to ready to wear women's wear. Believing in mentoring youth, Derek also mentors First Nations Youth once a week and teaches them about art, design and history. Motivating others is one quality that separates Derek from others.

Taking chances and trying new things are two concepts that drive Derek to his current success. It was difficult to start a business and especially to choose going into the fashion industry; but through the support and love from his family, he feels fortunate to have gotten to where he is today.

Youth/Athlete Award - Kurt Ginther



Kurt Ginther is 15 years old and attends Spruce Grove Composite High School. He has been involved in martial arts for awhile, and over the past two years has become really competitive with it. He has taken Kyokushin Karate, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai kicking boxing and Judo. Judo is the most competitive martial art he has taken and he has gone to countless tournaments and training camps this year alone. He has also been studying Japanese for the past year and a half and has made friends with Japanese fighters from Japan at international tournaments and contacts them by email. Martial arts have kept him out of trouble, and he believes that martial arts are a great way for anyone to get their life back on track and keep it there. To begin, martial arts are very beneficial not only physically, but also mentally and spiritually. Often times “just having something to do” isn’t enough to keep people away from drugs and other substances that can have a negative impact on their life, and martial arts provide something deeper than just “something to do”. “Studying and competing in these arts teaches an individual discipline, confidence, respect, and a spiritual connection. Individuals who unfortunately fall into substance abuse often get the idea that they aren’t good enough or that there’s no future for them, but I know this isn’t true and this mindset can be changed by studying of martial arts.” As the individual sees progress in belt rank and competition results they begin to build self esteem and find out that they actually can accomplish anything they set their mind and heart to, and through this they lose the “I’m not good enough so why does it matter if I use substances” attitude.” “Also, the individual will begin to set goals in their martial art like their next promotion or a desired tournament result. This goal setting skill can then be transferred to real life and they can learn how to set positive goals for themselves. Along with this, the individual will gain respect and discipline from their teacher and mentor



as they develop a student-teacher relationship. For these reasons, I believe that studying martial arts can help anyone stay or get back on the right track in their life. It is never too late.” “As a martial artist and as a person, I have big goals in life personally. I want to continue to train and compete in martial arts and at least place in every competition, and so far I have accomplished that. With Judo nationals coming up I am training to make sure I do well and continue to make my family, relatives, and supporters proud. Eventually, I want to train in Japan where they have facilities that are open for training all day and 7 days a week, and I am studying Japanese extensively to prepare for that. My ultimate goal is to one day fight in the UFC and open a martial arts academy where I can teach other people the ideals that have kept me on a good path.”

Keynote Speaker - The Honourable George L. Tuccaro



Commissioner George L. Tuccaro is honored and proud to serve as the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Having served the public in his former capacity as broadcaster, he has gained an extensive knowledge of the people, culture and economy of the north. Visiting communities and being among the people is very important to him, and he travels extensively throughout the NWT and attends as many cultural events as possible. He

speaks to people about the importance of healing and personal well-being., The Commissioner's family is here with him tonight, his wife Marilyn, daughter Amanda, her husband and his granddaughter Mikaela Rose.

Message From Irene Morin



I want to thank all of you for purchasing tickets and attending the 17th Annual Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards. It is important to acknowledge the achievers in our communities. A special Thank You to Commissioner Tuccaro for his words of inspiration and for sharing his stories of struggle and how he came to be The Honourable George L. Tuccaro. Thank you to Martha Campiou for the prayer and Chief Ron Morin for the opening remarks, it is always a pleasure to listen to your words of wisdom. Thanks to our illustrious Master of Ceremonies Richard Mirasty, I have always enjoyed his sense of humour and admired his love for family and friends.

I also want to say thank you to FORTIS ALBERTA for providing support to the Youth Category. Volunteers are special people and heartfelt thanks go out to Hazel McKennitt, Liora Morin, J Blair Morin, Harvey (Bingo) Morin, Thomas Morin, Harley Morin, Cheri Jubinville, Gabrielle, Tony Alexis and Stephanie Alexis, Cole Morin, Teneil Whiskeyjack, Robbie Moosewah Cardinal, Lai Wah Chu, Monique Bulmer, Lanita Morin and Owen Morin for helping out with this year's event.

I am sure that you enjoyed the performance by Joseph McDonald on the piano and the special presentation by the Logan Alexis Singers featuring Aaron Potts Letendre. Please join us again next year and don't forget to nominate someone from your community for an award. Thank you for honouring all the recipients. See you all next year.

Irene Morin Chair/Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards

History of Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards

In 1994 I was invited to sit as a Board of Director at Crystal Kids Youth Centre, an agency whose main objective was to help keep kids off the streets and out of trouble. I had the privilege of working with Gordon Russell, Phil Kline (Ralph's father) and Ed Bean of Crystal Glass, plus other concerned people in the city of Edmonton. We all had to do our part to raise money for a building; Crystal Kids rented store front space along 118 Avenue and we wanted to buy our own building. I suggested to the committee that my contribution to the Building Fund would be to organize an event similar to the one started by John Kim Bell, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, to kill two birds with one stone, so to speak; honour aboriginal achievers and sell tickets to an awards dinner to make money for Crystal Kids youth centre. This idea came to mind after attending three funerals in that one year. People say wonderful things at the wake and in church when they do the eulogy; why not say these wonderful things to them while they are alive? To show them that they are appreciated and how proud we are of them. These awards have been going on for 17 years and we need to continue this event. Thank you to these agencies and businesses who have supported this event annually; Fortis Alberta, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, Peace Hills Trust, Enoch Cree Nation, Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Wynterose Consulting Group of Calgary, Enbridge Pipelines Inc., River Cree Resort & Casino, and McKay LLP/Edmonton.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2012 Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards. Your achievements make us all proud. Roy and Jan Whitney and staff.



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Congratulations to All the Recipients



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*Congratulations to the recipients of the Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards 2012.
Enjoy your evening.*

Chief Ron Morin
Harvey (Bingo) Morin
Craig Tabin

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