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## NAAF e-newsletter

### Message from the CEO

**Greetings,**

As we approach the holiday season and prepare for a new year, I would like to thank our generous supporters - public, private and individual, for their contribution to the work the Foundation does to encourage and empower First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth to convert their tremendous potential and aspirations into solid achievement and brighter futures.



With your generous support we continue to impact the lives of Aboriginal youth in countless positive ways, making their education a launching point for a brighter future.

May you and your families enjoy the warmth and peace of the holiday season and a happy and fulfilled New Year.

**Nya:weh,**

**Roberta Jamieson  
President and CEO  
National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation**

### GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

**17th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards  
Regina Conexus Arts Centre - March 26, 2010  
Early Bird ticket deadline is January 11, 2010**

**Visit [naaf.ca](http://naaf.ca) to purchase your tickets**

**SPECIAL  
MÉTIS HEALTH CAREERS  
BURSARY AWARDS**

**Deadline extended to January 13, 2010**

**You are eligible to apply if you are:**

- A Canadian resident Aboriginal individual with Métis status as recognized by the Métis National Council
- Enrolled as a full-time student at the post-secondary level in a program of study that is a minimum of two academic years - at an accredited university, college or CEGEP
- Studying health care career such as: nursing, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy

**\*Recipients of a NAAF 2009-2010 Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary are eligible to re-apply**

**Telephone 1.800.329.9780  
Email: [education@naaf.ca](mailto:education@naaf.ca)**

**[naaf.ca](http://naaf.ca)**

## **2010 NAAA recipients acknowledged at the House of Commons**



The House of Commons took time to celebrate the successes of 14 remarkable Aboriginal Canadians selected for the 17th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, taking place on March 26, 2010.

After being welcomed into the gallery, and acknowledged by all members of the House of Commons, recipients attended a reception afterwards, hosted by Speaker of the House Peter Milliken.

With hosts Raoul Trujillo (True Blood, Apocalypto) and Andrea Menard (The Velvet Devil, Rabbit Fall), the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards continue the mission of celebrating aboriginal Canadians who have made a profound positive impact in their communities, across Canada, and

worldwide.

Featuring performers include international music icon Buffy Sainte-Marie, Crystal Shawanda, Elisapie Isaac, Lorne Cardinal, Michael Greyeyes, Leemai Lafontaine, members of the Red Bull Drum Group and The Wanuskewin International Dance Troupe.

"Every year the jury selects an extraordinary group of recipients who reveal such outstanding talent and dedicated service." said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Visit [naaf.ca](http://naaf.ca) for full press release.

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## ***Feature: 17th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients***

### **William Commanda, OC - Lifetime Achievement Award**



With contemporary passion with ongoing national and international outreach and activities at the age of 96, William Commanda, prophecy holder and shaman, continues tirelessly to honour, share and promote his ancestral Indigenous heritage and wisdom with all.

### **Skawenniio Barnes - Special Youth Award**



Yale University student and Cosmo girl, Skawenniio Barnes transformed a passion for promoting literacy and a lack of a library in her home community into the founding of the Skawenniio Tsi Iewennahnotakhwa Kahnawake Library in her home community of Kahnawake.

To learn more about the 2010 NAAA recipients, please visit our [website](#).



**2010 NAAA Business and Commerce recipient, Ellen Melcosky and reception host and Speaker of the House, the Hon. Peter Milliken.**

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## NAAF President and CEO named as one of 'Canada's Most Powerful Women'

Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women at the 7th Annual Awards Summit hosted by the Women's Executive Network (WXE).

"Ms. Jamieson is well-deserving of this recognition," said Len Flett, Chair of the Board of the Foundation. "She is known in Canada and internationally as a strong advocate, a reasoned visionary, a powerful and convincing communicator and an effective promoter of indigenous artists. We value her leadership."



For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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## NAAF announces Cameco and SaskTel as major partners in awards gala



**Greg Meister, SaskTel Vice-President Customer Services - Technical Performance & Operations and Roberta Jamieson - NAAF President and CEO**



**Gary Merasty, Cameco Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility and Roberta Jamieson, NAAF President and CEO**

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) is excited to announce that Cameco and SaskTel will sponsor the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA). Cameco and SaskTel will donate \$50,000 each to the 2010 NAAA being held in Regina on March 26, 2010.

"On behalf of all Aboriginal youth in Canada, I would invite many more companies and foundations to find out how they can work with NAAF to help the organization 'Enrich Canada by Advancing Aboriginal Achievement' into

the next decade and beyond," said Roberta Jamieson.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).



## Recent Bursary Recipients

### **Kirk Dion**

*First Nation  
Alberta*

*Eight month Trades Advocacy program at Blue Quills First Nations College*

"I'm interested in pursuing studies in this program and to contribute from it. I believe it will help be more prepared and work ready and also help me with the apprentice ticket so I can pursue my goal of becoming a journeyman carpenter."



### **Vanessa Decker**

*Non-status First Nation  
Newfoundland*

*Second year of a three year Bachelor of Laws program at York University*

"When you are facing a financial situation as expensive as law school, it helps immensely when you have funding there to remove the stress. The funding that NAAF provided subsided stress about financial situations so that I was better able to focus on stress-handling techniques for my academic challenges."



[2009/2010 Scholarship Recipients](#)



**Fast Forward >>**



## **An update with NAAA Laureate**

### ***Waneek Horn-Miller 2000 Special Youth Award***

Waneek is Mohawk from Kahnawake Mohawk Territory located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River in Quebec, Canada, across from Montreal. She comes from a family of proud, strong and fiercely determined Mohawk women.

Waneek is currently the Coordinator of the First Peoples' House (Student Services) at McGill University. She has completed her Bachelor of Political Science degree at Carleton University, Ottawa in 2000. She travels extensively throughout Canada and the United States speaking to native and non-native about her experiences both in and out of sport. As Coordinator of the First Peoples' House, Waneek has developed the Eagle Spirit High Performance Camp to attract Aboriginal youth to higher education while teaching them the balance between sports and education.

Waneek was only fourteen as she stood strong amongst her Nation in what infamously came to be known as the Oka Crisis. It was at the end of the siege that Waneek was stabbed and struck to the ground by a soldier's bayonet. Through this life changing experience, Waneek used Water Polo as a self empowering focus as she made it onto the Canadian Women's Water Polo team; they won Gold in the 1999 Pan-American Games. Voted MVP, Waneek became co-captain and proudly led the Canadian Team at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"Anytime an Olympics takes place, all former Olympians feel a part of it, remembering getting ready for your big day. Mine was multifaceted in that it was the first time for women's water polo at the Olympics and as the co-captain and the only Aboriginal woman, I felt the weight of the responsibility. I was the lucky one; the Olympics serve to remind me of all the work and sacrifice we need to continue to do to provide the same opportunity for more of our people," said Ms. Horn-Miller.

Waneek was awarded a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2000, which stands as one of Waneek's proudest achievements.

"Having won a National Aboriginal Achievement Award is a wonderful honour, nothing equals being honoured by your own people. Since winning it's motivated me to further my career and goals."

She continues to inspire young people and encourages them to pursue their dreams.

For NAAA recipients, visit [naaf.ca](http://naaf.ca).

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## NAAF on the Gemini Red Carpet



**NAAF President and CEO, Roberta Jamieson and Lloyd Martell, Manager of Aboriginal Partnerships, Nexen Inc. attended the 24th Annual Gemini Awards Broadcast in Calgary on November 14. The 16th Annual NAAA was nominated for two Geminis this year.**

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