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NAAF e-newsletter

Message from the CEO

Greetings,

The encouraging promise of the new life of Spring coming towards us, the new era opened by the magnificent presence of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in the Olympic ceremonies, and the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards gala presentation ceremony in Regina on March 26 - three events to give us hope, energy, inspiration and confidence for the future!



The Foundation is also buoyed by its own achievement: our historic total has gone past the \$37-million mark in bursaries and scholarships to more than 9,800 recipients! Just in the year past, more than \$5-million was distributed to students, and still growing! We are proud of these accomplishments, humbled and motivated to action by the many unmet needs that continue to challenge. The Foundation's worthy task of helping aboriginal students convert potential to achievement invites us all to work even harder in the months to come.

That's our springtime call to action! See you in Regina on the 26th, or on your TV sets for the later telecasts on Global and APTN of this spectacular annual event to celebrate our achievement!

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

GOLD AND SILVER PACKAGES SOLD OUT!

Visit naaf.ca to purchase your tickets



2010 Awards headliner Buffy Sainte-Marie

spends time on *The Hour*



Buffy Sainte-Marie appeared on *The Hour* with George Stroumboulopoulos to promote her performance on the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, as well as her new album, *Running for the Drum*. Stay tuned for air date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New Partners

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation is pleased to announce the following new partners of the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards:

- **Province of Saskatchewan**
- **Rio Tinto**
- **Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan**

We invite many more companies and foundations to find out how they can help NAAF 'Enrich Canada by Advancing Aboriginal Achievement' into the future.

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



RioTinto

PotashCorp
Helping Nature Provide

Job Board

DID YOU KNOW:

- Over 40 employers are currently posting jobs on the Job Board
- Three new jobs have been posted in the last month
- Over 2200 students are currently registered on the Job Board

communications@naaf.ca naaf.ca

Blueprint for the Future Career Fair a success in Thunder Bay

NAAF's Blueprint for the Future national student career fair drew in over 400 Aboriginal youth from across Northwestern Ontario to the city of Thunder Bay for a day packed with educational resources, access to career professionals and dynamic entertainment.



In the photo: Rodney Sheppard, President (Bruce Power), The Society of Energy Professionals; Grand Chief Stan Beardy Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN); Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of NAAF; Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Chris Bentley; and Michelle Byck-Johnston, Unit3 Director Hydro One, The Society of Energy Professionals.

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

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE CAREER FAIRS

PRINCE GEORGE - May 11, 2010

Visit naaf.ca to download your forms

Recent Bursary Recipients

Jennifer Dubois

First Nation

Saskatchewan

Second year of a two year Administration program at the First Nations University of Canada

"I grew up in a low poverty community in Regina. With the way I grew up it pushed me to want to be successful with education and how important it is. I hope to contribute to First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities by proving that you can come out of poverty by working hard and getting the proper education, with having the dedication, cultural values and beliefs and support from not only your family but many Aboriginal communities."



Kenneth Chakasim

First Nation

Ontario

Final year of a two-year Master of Architecture program at Ryerson University

"In the future I hope to contribute to First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities by further developing interdisciplinary research/design methods that address the urban aspirations of our peoples. Moreover, continue to encourage university settings, to help re-contextualize Aboriginal cultural values and traditions, which will in turn create an enduring intellectual space for the Aboriginal person for years to come."



[2009/2010 Scholarship Recipients](#)

Fast Forward >>

An update with NAAA Laureate

Elder Noel Knockwood 2002 Culture, Heritage & Spirituality Recipient

Noel Knockwood the 2002 National Aboriginal Achievement Award Culture, Heritage & Spirituality recipient began the task of restoring and building the Native spiritual movement in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the 1970s. Its foundations again strong, Elder Knockwood has



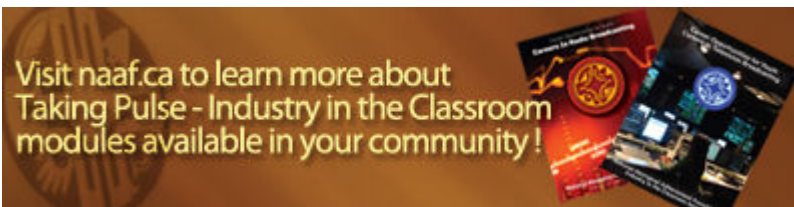
now had Native Spirituality recognized as an official religion in Nova Scotia.

Elder Knockwood continues to inspire his community and the country through his culture, language and tradition. Most recently he was acknowledged by the Union of Nova Scotia Indians for his work with Spirituality. Today he leads Aboriginal name giving ceremonies and can now legally marry couples under the Solemnization Act of Nova Scotia.

When asked what receiving a National Aboriginal Achievement Award meant to him Elder Knockwood stated, "Receiving the National Aboriginal Achievement Award was a positive acknowledgment in that the Aboriginal Community at large is awarded rather than criticized. In the past many awards gave off unconsciously negative implications. The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards are necessary so we can stand as equals, not secondary in importance."

Elder Knockwood continues doing translation and interpretation work in the courts in Mi'kmaq and English most notably testifying during the Donald Marshall Inquiry and translating helping explain testimony being presented in Mi'kmaq.

For NAAA recipients, visit naaf.ca.



2010 Dance Zone Winner

Kendra Bellegarde

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards held an open call for dancers in Regina January 16, 2010 for its 2nd Annual Dance Zone. Dance submissions are chosen to be a part of the 17th annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards broadcast on APTN and Global TV and one lucky performer was selected to receive two tickets to the Awards show and hotel accommodations. This year our winner is an energetic, young jingle dress dancer from Saskatchewan. Congratulations. Kendra Bellegarde is 8-years old and already has six years of dancing under her belt. She is a member of and resides on Little Black Bear's Band in Saskatchewan. She likes to play with her friends, loves to read, and travels to various communities throughout North America. Watch for her on the Awards.



Winner of the trip for two to the NAAA!

We are pleased to announce that the **2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards nomination contest winner** is **Mary C.**



Deer. We congratulate Mary and look forward to seeing her and her husband William at this year's gala event in **Regina, Saskatchewan on March 26th, 2010.**

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