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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CHOICE MUSIC AWARDS:  
First Round of Winners Announced**

Winnipeg, Manitoba (November 5, 2009) -- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards** celebrated the first round of winners at APTN First Night.

The event took place this evening at McPhillips Station in Winnipeg, with emcees Patrice Mousseau and Ray St. Germain. Eleven awards were presented, with entertainment from Billy Joe Green, Dalannah Bowen, Plex, and Ray St. Germain. APTN First Night was streamed live on aptn.ca.

And the winners are:

**BEST HAND DRUM CD**

**\*\*Eagle River – Campfire Blues (Alexis First Nation AB)**

Eli Secody – Sunrise Love (Phoenix, Arizona)

GON – Sweet & Low Drum Solos (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Reubin Buglar – Singing for Love (Red Pheasant First Nation SK)

**BEST GOSPEL CD**

Broken Walls – The Father’s Dance (Tyendinaga Territory ON)

Gouchie Family – Gospel Favorites (Edmonton AB)

Sadie – BoomBoxx Sounds (Winnipeg MB)

**\*\*Yvonne St. Germain – Turning My Day Around (Saskatoon SK)**

**BEST PEYOTE CD**

Brian Stoner – Journey Alone (Cando SK)

**\*\*Meewasin Oma – Great Spirit Hear Our Prayers (Saskatoon SK)**

Whitehawk & Crowe – Wikiwan Ahsin Vol. IV (Cando SK)

More on page 2...

**BEST ALBUM COVER DESIGN**

Chris Barker Band – Six String Highway (Dauphin MB)  
Da Skelpa Squad – Born To Do It (Winnipeg MB)  
**\*\*Inez – Singsoulgirl (Chilliwack BC)**  
Jon-C – Blood Sweat & Tears (Winnipeg MB)  
Will Belcourt – Obliterate (Edmonton AB)

**BEST TELEVISION PROGRAM  
PROMOTION OF ABORIGINAL MUSIC**

**\*\*Aboriginal Day LIVE 09 (Winnipeg MB)**  
Arbor LIVE (Winnipeg MB)  
Native Music Rocks (Hollywood, Florida)

**BEST INTERNATIONAL ARTIST**

**\*\*Andrea Menard (Regina SK)**  
Broken Walls (Tyendinaga Territory ON)  
Jaylene Johnson (Winnipeg MB)  
Shy-Anne Hovorka (Thunder Bay ON)  
Tonemah (Norman, Oklahoma)

**BEST PRODUCER OR ENGINEER**

Da Skelpa Squad – Born To Do It (Winnipeg MB)  
**\*\*Eagle & Hawk – Sirensong (Winnipeg MB)**  
Inez – Singsoulgirl (Chilliwack BC)  
Plex – Brian Storm (Toronto ON)  
Will Belcourt – Obliterate (Edmonton AB)

**BEST ABORIGINAL MUSIC RADIO STATION PROGRAM**

Métis Hour Times Two (Winnipeg MB)  
The Plex Show (Toronto ON)  
**\*\*Think NDN (Vancouver BC)**

**ABORIGINAL RADIO SINGLE OF THE YEAR**

**\*\*Crystal Shawanda – Dawn of a New Day (Wikwemikong ON)**  
Darrelyne Bickel – Eddie's Got A Mustang (The Pas MB)  
Digging Roots – We Are (Toronto ON)  
Don Amero – I'm Just Me (Winnipeg MB)

**BEST RAP OR HIP HOP CD**

Da Skelpa Squad – Born To Do It (Winnipeg MB)  
Jon-C – Blood Sweat & Tears (Winnipeg MB)  
Ostwelve – Anti-Gravity Dinosaurs (Vancouver BC)  
Plex – Brain Storm (Toronto ON)  
**\*\*Wab Kinew – Live By The Drum (Winnipeg MB)**

More on page 3...

**BEST BLUES CD**

**\*\*Billy Joe Green – First Law of the Land – If Broken, Return to Maker (Winnipeg MB)**

Indigenous – Broken Lands (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

Mykal Gambull – Volume 1 (Saskatoon SK)

Priscilla’s Revenge – Roadworthy (Yellowknife NWT)

The Dusty Roads Band – Searchin’ For A River (Winnipeg MB)

**FOUR AWARDS HANDED OUT AT GALA**

To kick off celebrations, four awards were handed out at the Manito Ahbee Gala last night. The following artists were honoured:

**BEST FLUTE CD**

Ashock – Being of Enlightenment (Winnipeg MB)

Cochise – Okcha-a Is Alive (Minneapolis MN)

**\*\*Jonathan Maracle – Christmas on Turtle Island (Tyendinaga Territory ON)**

Phillip John Aarnaquq-Charette – Arctic Voices (Baker City, Oregon)

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO**

Crystal Shawanda – You Can Let Go (Wiwemikong ON)

Fresh I.E – Crystal (Winnipeg MB)

**\*\*Joey Stylez – Sugar Cane (Saskatoon SK)**

Sierra Noble – Possibility (Winnipeg MB)

Wab Kinew – Last Word ft. Tinsel Korey (Winnipeg MB)

**BEST INSTRUMENTAL CD**

Ashock – Being of Enlightenment (Winnipeg MB)

Gabriel Ayala – Portraits (Tucson, Arizona)

Ivan Spence – Buffalo Gals (Winnipeg MB)

**\*\*Jonathan Maracle – Christmas on Turtle Island (Tyendinaga Territory ON)**

Richard Monkman – Graffiti Logic (Edmonton AB)

**KA-KEE-NEE KONEE PEWONEE OKIMOW: MINISTER ROBINSON MOST OUTSTANDING ABORIGINAL MANITOBAN AWARD (EMERGING ARTIST)**

**\*\*Darrelyne Bickel (The Pas MB)**

Lost Priority (Wasagamack MB)

Sadie (Winnipeg MB)

More on page 4...

## **ABOUT THE MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL**

The Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards are part of **Manito Ahbee: A Festival For All Nations**, which takes place November 4 to 8 in Winnipeg. Now in its fourth year, Manito Ahbee celebrates and showcases Aboriginal music, art and culture through the following events:

- **Education Conference (November 4-6)**
- **Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards (November 5-6)**
- **Métis Soirée (November 7)**
- **Indigenous Marketplace and Tradeshow (November 7-8)**
- **International Competition Pow Wow (November 7-8)**

Manito Ahbee – which means ‘where the Creator sits’ – honours a sacred site in Manitoba’s Whiteshell Provincial Park where Aboriginal people have gathered for hundreds of years to share teachings and wisdom. There are several petroforms at this site including one shaped like a turtle that represents Turtle Island, which is another name for North America.

Manito Ahbee was recognized in 2008 with Travel Manitoba’s Tourism Award in the category of Aboriginal Tourism. The Board of Governors, staff and organizers of Manito Ahbee express deep gratitude for all participants, supporters and communities who have come together to make the festival what it is today.

[www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com](http://www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com)  
[www.manitoahbee.com](http://www.manitoahbee.com)

- 30 -

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