



A FESTIVAL FOR ALL NATIONS



ABORIGINAL
PEOPLES CHOICE
MUSIC AWARDS

NEWS RELEASE

THE MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL ADDS NEW CELEBRATION EVENTS AND EXPANDS TO A 10 DAY FESTIVAL

Winnipeg, Manitoba-Manito Ahbee-A Festival for all Nations is excited to announce the addition of new celebration events and the expansion to a 10 day program showcasing a wide array of international audio, visual and cultural talent.

“Expanding Manito Ahbee to a 10-day event is a key development for this signature event that will showcase the artistic talent of many Aboriginal men, women and youth,” said Culture Heritage and Tourism Minister Eric Robinson. “I congratulate the organizers for their hard work in designing and coordinating a gathering that reflects the creative and cultural spirit Manitoba is once again ready to share with the world.”

Building on the five main components – International Competition Pow Wow, Education Day, Music Festival, Indigenous Marketplace & Trade Show, and the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards, additions to the 2007 festival will include:

- a Métis Celebration;
- a Visual Arts Component;
- a Music Fest expansion and
- an Education Day expansion.

“As we develop partnerships with various organizations throughout Winnipeg and Manitoba, Aboriginal artists gain the opportunity to share their talents with the greater community in a positive manner,” said Errol Ranville, Executive Producer of the Manito Ahbee Festival. “Growing from a 4-day to 10-day program will allow us to include performances and displays that make this a true continental event.”

The **second annual Manito Ahbee - A Festival for all Nations** cultural celebration will once again receive \$390,000 under the **Winnipeg Partnership Agreement - Downtown Renewal Component**. This program recognizes and builds upon economic development, training, and employment, health and wellness opportunities for Winnipeg’s aboriginal citizens.

The festival is an initiative of the Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee (MAMHC), which promotes and showcases Aboriginal music and arts from Manitoba. MAMHC played an integral role in profiling Aboriginal talent at the 2005 JUNO Awards in Winnipeg.



A FESTIVAL FOR ALL NATIONS



One of the highlights of last year's event was the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards that honoured the best in Aboriginal music. Held in a world-class venue-The MTS Centre in Winnipeg-more than three thousand artists, performers and spectators came to celebrate a variety of categories such as Single of the Year and Best Pow Wow CD traditional and contemporary.

The name Manito Ahbee references a sacred site located in Manitoba's Whiteshell Provincial Park, where First Nations traditionally gathered to share teachings and wisdom. Manito Ahbee means "where the Creator sits."

Along with *on-line voting* for the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards that begins today, festival events will officially kick off with opening ceremonies on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the MTS Centre in the Exchange Restaurant. Dignitaries will be on hand to officially open the festival along with various cultural performances and artists.

Online Voting begins today, August 13, 2007 - This is a significant day for online voters as the polls open for 26 days so members can choose the nominees. Registration is free around the globe and can be done by visiting www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com. There are a total of 23 categories to vote for.

Important voting dates:

- August 13, 2007 on-line voting begins
- September 7, 2007 first round of voting closes
- September 13, 2007 Nominees announced/final round of voting begins
- October 15, 2007 Voting Ends

The following is a schedule of events for 10 day festival:

- **Music Fest** – Oct. 26, 30, Nov. 1 & 3 – The Music Fest will showcase local, national and international artists in various downtown locations.
- **Manitoba Social** – Oct. 27 – What better way to welcome visitors and locals to the festival by celebrating in Manitoba fashion with a traditional Manitoba Social. Venue TBD.
- **Métis Celebration** - October 28 & 29, 2007 – Manito Ahbee is pleased to announce one of the main additions to the festival this year, the Métis Celebration! Arnold Asham, along with the infamous Asham Stompers will deliver a showcase of talented musicians, dancers and World jigging competition at our host hotel, The Delta Winnipeg. *New Addition!*



A FESTIVAL FOR ALL NATIONS



ABORIGINAL
PEOPLES CHOICE
MUSIC AWARDS

- **Visual Arts Component** – October 26 – November 4, 2007 – Through the support of the Winnipeg Arts Council through a project grant of \$5000.00 the festival is able to present a visual arts component. The program builds on supporting the development and enhancement of new and creative aspects of existing festivals. It maximizes the fullest potential for tourism, downtown revitalization and revenues. The funding announcement assists Manito Ahbee in promoting itself in engaging a wider audience to participate in its festival. As the festival continues to grow the goal is to be creative by continuing to add venues that will showcase talented aboriginal artists and musicians. The Visual Arts Component will be coordinated by the Urban Shaman Gallery. *New Addition!*

Steve Loft, Director of the Urban Shaman Gallery says, “As Canada's largest aboriginal artist-run centre, Urban Shaman Gallery is proud to be the coordinating gallery for this year's Manito Ahbee Festival Visual Arts exhibition, entitled "Diversity".

This exhibition seeks to represent Manitoba's exciting diversity in Aboriginal visual arts while promoting our international reputation for producing some of Canada's premiere aboriginal artists. We are excited at the possibility of collaborating with a number of galleries in exhibiting some of Manitoba's finest examples of visual arts throughout this year's festival.”

- October 30 - November 1, 2007 As part of this year's festival, Manito Ahbee welcomes the **3rd National First Nations Youth Summit** hosted by the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council in Winnipeg, October 30 – November 1. The 3rd National Youth Summit, *'Rebuilding Our Nations – National Unity, Voices From The Community'*, will bring together young people from across Canada to discuss and recommend positive action to address issues of major concern to First Nations Youth. As part of the 2007 Manito Ahbee - A Festival for All Nations, Manito Ahbee and the Assembly of First Nations are pleased to co-host special music and cultural presentations.
- **Education Days** - November 1 & 2 - The Winnipeg Convention Centre will host this two day event that will welcome 2000 students to partake in Traditional teachings as well as workshops on the arts, sports, language and much more. The workshops are free of charge.
- **APTN 1st Night** – November 1 – McPhillips Street Station. The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network is the sponsor of the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards APTN 1st Night. 15 of the 23 possible awards will be presented to the winners at this gala.



A FESTIVAL FOR ALL NATIONS



- On Friday November 2, 2007 the MTS Centre is the place to be as we host the **Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards**. The best of Aboriginal Music will be honoured during this spectacular evening that will again be televised live on APTN and Bell ExpressVu . Hosts of the awards show this year are Lorne Cardinal and Gabrielle Miller from Corner Gas.
- **International Competition Powwow and Indigenous Market Place & Trade Show** - November 3rd & 4th, 2007 will make its home at the MTS Centre. Thousands of dancers, singers and visitors from around the world are invited to join the celebration of aboriginal music and culture.

Lisa Meeches, Chairperson states, “Last year’s event proved that if we all work together success can be achieved.” “Our ancestor’s prophesized that the seventh generation from all races will pave the road to cooperation through coming together, there is a strong movement towards self determination, healing and Aboriginal expression through music and arts.”

Media Contact:

Sherry Gott, Publicist/Sponsor Services
Manito Ahbee “A Festival for all Nations”
376 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Phone: (204) 956-2001
sherry@manitoahbee.com