

THE SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S COMMISSION *1st Annual Awards Gala Dinner*

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission (SFNWC) is committed to the advancement of First Nations women and children. The SFNWC have been strong advocates for restoring and revitalizing the significant roles First Nations women have in their homes, communities, and nations. First Nations women have always had special roles as life-givers, protectors of children and nature, keepers of culture and tradition pertaining to natural laws.

Currently, First Nations women are found to be nearly three times more likely than non-First Nations women to report being a victim of a violent crime. Evidence supports that not only are the crimes being committed against First Nations women occurring at disproportionate rates but the acts of violence are much more severe. The SFNWC is concerned about the high rates of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Saskatchewan and the families that have been left to mourn. The proceeds from the "Strength of our Women" Awards Gala will be delegated to the SFNWC in order to reinforce initiatives that support the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and other related SFNWC initiatives.

The "Strength of our Women" Awards Gala is a special occasion for many to come together to celebrate the achievements and contributions made by First Nations women from all Treaty areas within the Province of Saskatchewan. It is a time to lift up First Nations women that exemplify great strength and resiliency in our First Nation communities and throughout Treaty territory. There will be twelve (12) First Nations women honoured and recognized at the Awards Gala on September 10, 2015, at TCU Place. Award recipients will also be featured in a 2016 Calendar following the Awards Gala.

If you are interested in nominating a woman, please fill out the Nomination Form, provide a 250 word summary about the Nominee (list any awards or education) and the reasons they should receive the Award, and also two letters of support. Please note that there will need to be a high resolution picture submitted with the package. Parts of the summary and the picture will be used on the website. All Nominees must be in agreement with their nomination. As a special category, all nominations for the Matriarch Award will be shared on the website. Nominations made in person, by mail, email, online or fax must be received by noon on Friday, September 4, 2015. The decisions by the Selection Committee will be final and not subject to review. The top four nominees for each category will be notified by noon Wednesday, September 9, 2015. For any further details please refer to the website at www.fsin.com.

NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY:

- First Nations Woman (exception made for Leadership/Advocacy Award);
- Meets the criteria for the Award category;
- All required documents are received by the deadline. If all documents not received then the nominee may be deemed ineligible for an Award by the Selection Committee.

AWARD CATEGORIES

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Nominees in the Arts category must have experience, history, and display talent in the areas of composition, musicianship, writing, film, play, dance, production, direction, or any other artistic endeavour.

BUSINESS

Nominees must have skills and abilities related to business, such as entrepreneurship, administration, accounting, development, ownership and/or experience in First Nations business management.

CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

Nominees must promote First Nations culture, language, and values, live a clean and healthy lifestyle, are dedicated to preserving the traditions and customs, and represent First Nations culture and people in a respectful and tolerant manner.

EDUCATION

Nominees must show dedication to the field of education through exceptional academic success, dedication to promoting First Nations culture, language, and values in schools or education systems, or by service as an educator through all levels of schooling, including post-secondary.

ENVIRONMENT

Nominees must promote First Nations beliefs and ideals about preserving Mother Earth and show dedication to protecting our natural resources, lakes, and ecosystems; a strong passion for environmental activism, First Nations land claims and preservation is preferred.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Nominees should be dedicated to the advancement of health and wellness, study, and well-being of First Nations peoples, study or practice in the field of medicine or community wellness.

LAW AND JUSTICE

Nominees should display professionalism, tact, leadership, and above all fairness in the fields of policing, law, the Canadian Court System, First Nations justice initiatives, politics and justice, or Human Rights.

LEADERSHIP/ADVOCACY

Nominees must display strong leadership and advocacy in area that promotes the advancement of First Nations women. The nominees can be an individual, movement, group, community organization, or First Nations organization.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Nominees should be Elders who have dedicated countless hours of their time to helping their communities in any field of study. Those recognized will have contributed to the preservation of First Nations culture, language, traditions and practices.

MATRIARCH

Nominees in this special category will be open to any woman that represents the head of the family or community that is deserving of the Matriarch Award. The Matriarch is often the strength of the family or community.

SPORTS

Nominees should be athletes who display a strong passion for sports and physical and mental well-being. Those recognized will have displayed outstanding leadership qualities and strived for excellence. This category will also be open to nominees that promote positive sportsmanship through coaching, organization of sports or public speaking.

YOUTH

Nominees must be under the age of 18, and must also show dedication and passion for continuing First Nations customs and traditions. Nominees will demonstrate distinction in their field of study, display integrity, show respect and tolerance, and act as a role model for First Nations youth.

NOMINATION DEADLINES

FORWARD NOMINATIONS BY MAIL, FAX, EMAIL OR IN PERSON (NOON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015) TO:

Pauline Cuthand 100-103A Packham Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4

Phone: (306) 956-1036 Fax: (306) 477-4554 Email: indigenouswomen@fsin.com

Online Nominations can be submitted at www.fsin.com



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