

Manito Ahbee 20 YEARS

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT

MAY 16-18 2025

RED RIVER EXHIBITION PARK WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

TREATY NO. 1 TERRITORY • ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS & WATERS OF THE
ANISHINAABEK • NEHIYAW • ANISHININEW • DAKOTA • DENESULINE • INUIT • RED RIVER METIS





YOUR MOMENT AWAITS



New Club Card members receive

\$10 IN FREE PLAY.*



*Conditions apply.

18+ | ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

20 YEARS

Manito Ahbee

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Manito Ahbee Festival features a variety of events including a powwow, concerts/cultural demonstrations, a red carpet and wearable art showcase. Indigenous musicians, dancers, artists, and storytellers from various nations come together to showcase their talents and share their rich cultural heritage.

Through these performances and activities, the festival promotes understanding, appreciation, and respect for Indigenous traditions and values. It provides a platform for Indigenous artists to express themselves and preserve their cultural practices. It creates opportunities for Indigenous artisans and entrepreneurs to sell their artworks and crafts, boosting their income and supporting the local economy.

Moreover, the festival emphasizes the importance of reconciliation and healing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. By celebrating Indigenous culture in a respectful and inclusive manner, it helps to bridge the gaps and build stronger relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

The Manito Ahbee festival is a vital platform for promoting Indigenous culture, empowering Indigenous artists, and fostering positive connections between different communities. It plays a significant role in preserving and revitalizing Indigenous traditions while educating and inspiring people from around the world.



Connecting Cultures

We're proud to partner with Manito Ahbee Festival to support cultural connection. Four guests from northern communities will have the opportunity to attend this powerful gathering.

At Perimeter Aviation, we're committed to celebrating and preserving Indigenous heritage through meaningful partnerships and action.

PERIMETER.CA



We are all Treaty People

"As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the water flows..."



DREAMCATCHER PROMOTIONS

*We are once again proud to be a Turtle Sponsor/Contributor for the Manito Ahbee Pow Wow. We are honoured to be the exclusive apparel provider. **Miigwetch!***

- Apparel
- Bags + Totes
- Office + Tech
- Embroidery
- Screenprint
- Decals
- Tradeshow
- Display
- Travel + Safety



Phone: 1 (204) 504 9595
info@dreamcatcherpromotions.com
dreamcatcherpromotions.com



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Greetings from the Executive Director



LISA MEECHES
C.M., O.M.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL

Welcome one and all to the 20th annual Manito Ahbee Festival! We are grateful that you have all made the pilgrimage to be here with us this year as we celebrate 20 years of the best of Indigenous culture, food, art, and kinship.

Over the years, our team has worked hard to bring people together, to deliver a world-class powwow and immersive cultural experience, and to train new and up-and-coming artists, staff, and young leaders as part of our dynamic program. This year, we are proud to graduate another cohort of young production managers, guided and advised by our circle of Matriarchs, that have eagerly and enthusiastically taken over many of our components and keep us auntie-laughing throughout the year.

We have also been a launching pad for up-and-coming artists like Sierra Noble, Don Amero, Angela Amarualik, and Logan Staats. The Aboriginal Peoples' Choice Music Awards, later the Indigenous Music Awards, was a premier event and rivalled the Junos in promoting First Nation, Metis, and Inuit artists and musicians. It was a difficult decision to end those music awards, and I hope that Indigenous creators continue to gain recognition and appreciation in our communities.

My youngest daughter has grown up at Manito Ahbee and is now a dancer in her own right. She has never not known the Manito Ahbee Festival and everything it has to offer urban Indigenous Peoples and those who travel from around the world to dance, sing, and reconnect with friends and family in Treaty No. 1 territory. We have had 16 young women serve as Miss Manito Ahbee who have gone on to be amazing public speakers, advocates, and leaders.

From our humble beginnings at the Winnipeg Arena, to the Winnipeg Convention Centre (now RBC Centre), to the Red River Exhibition Park, we continue to grow and expand our program to meet the needs of the community and to offer exciting, powerful events that showcase our long-lived customs and traditions. Together, we weathered a global pandemic and came back with the most robust programming ever, and we can't wait to add more dynamic and revered activities going forward.

I am incredibly thankful for all of the love and support we've received from our leadership, our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, our families, and our young people over the past 20 years. We hope you have an awesome and healing time at the Festival and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Miigwetch, Ekosani, Mahsi Cho, Wopila Tanka, Maarsii, Merci - thank you all!

Greetings from the Chair of the Board

Welcome to the 20th Anniversary of the Manito Ahbee Festival, a gathering that celebrates the vibrant traditions, stories, and artistry of Indigenous Peoples. It is an honour to welcome you to this space, where communities come together to share, learn, and uplift the voices that have carried our cultures forward for generations.

This Festival is more than an event—it is a reflection of resilience, unity, and the enduring spirit of our Ancestors. Through song, dance, storytelling, and ceremony, we acknowledge the wisdom of those who came before us while creating space for new generations to express their identities and dreams.

We are grateful for the Knowledge Keepers, artists, Elders, youth, and community members who make this festival

possible. Your presence here is a testament to the strength of our cultures and the importance of preserving and celebrating them.

May you be inspired by the teachings shared, moved by the performances, and connected to the heartbeat of this land and its people.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration. Enjoy the Festival!
In solidarity and respect,



DAVID DANDENEAU
BOARD CHAIR

Salutations du président du conseil

Bienvenue au 20^e anniversaire du Festival Manito Ahbee, un rassemblement qui célèbre les traditions, les récits et l'art des peuples autochtones. C'est un honneur de vous accueillir dans cet espace où les communautés se réunissent pour partager, apprendre et amplifier les voix qui ont porté nos cultures à travers les générations. Ce festival est bien plus qu'un événement—il est le reflet de la résilience, de l'unité et de l'esprit indomptable de nos ancêtres. À travers le chant, la danse, la narration et la cérémonie, nous honorons la sagesse de ceux qui nous ont précédés tout en créant un espace où les nouvelles générations peuvent exprimer leurs identités et leurs rêves. Nous sommes reconnaissants envers les gardiens du savoir, les artistes, les aînés, les jeunes et les membres de la communauté qui rendent ce festival possible. Votre présence ici témoigne de la force de nos cultures et de l'importance de les préserver et de les célébrer.

Que vous soyez inspiré par les enseignements partagés, ému par les performances et connecté au cœur de cette terre et de son peuple.

Merci de vous joindre à nous dans cette célébration. Profitez du Festival!
Dans la solidarité et le respect,



Boozhoo,

It's an honour to welcome you to the 2025 Manito Ahbee Festival.

This is a powerful time for our Nations to gather. Through song, dance, and ceremony, we remember who we are. We affirm that our cultures are alive, strong, and central to our Nationhood.

As an Anishinaabe woman and Grand Chief, I carry forward the vision of the late Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, whose leadership reminded us that wellness, justice, and belonging are part of our inherent rights. This work continues through the Chiefs, the Council of Elders, our youth, and all of you who stand rooted in your Nation.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is protecting our cultural property, asserting First Nations jurisdiction, and supporting families seeking justice for our stolen relatives. These are not separate from celebration. They are what make gatherings like Manito Ahbee so powerful. We carry our truths proudly.

On behalf of the AMC, welcome. May this gathering lift you up and keep you grounded.

Miigwech,

Grand Chief Kyra Wilson



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I'd like to welcome everyone as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Manito Ahbee Festival!

Winnipeg is proud to host this extraordinary event, which has grown to become one of North America's largest celebrations of Indigenous arts, music, and traditions.

For two decades, the festival as provided an exciting opportunity to celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage with the whole community. As we mark this milestone year, I encourage everyone to take part in the festivities, to learn, to listen, and to celebrate the creativity and artistic excellence being showcased.

I want to thank the organizers, sponsors, and artists who make this festival possible year after year. A special thank you goes to Executive Director Lisa Meeches, an extraordinarily talented leader whose dedication has been instrumental in shaping Manito Ahbee into the renowned celebration it is today.

Enjoy the celebrations!

Scott Gillingham
Mayor
City of Winnipeg

2025 MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

TIME

Friday May 16

Saturday May 17

10:00am

Exhibition Place

10:00 am
Gates Open

Exhibition Place

Expressway
Tent,
Red Barn,
& outdoor
locations

10:30am

11:00am

11:30am

10:00 am
NextGEN

Expressway
Tent,
Red Barn,
& outdoor
locations

10:00 am
Pow Wow Pitch
(PWP)
Round 1

12:00pm

12:30pm

1:00pm

1:30pm

2:00pm

2:30pm

3:00pm

3:30pm

4:00pm

4:30pm

5:00pm

5:30pm

6:00pm

6:30pm

7:00pm

7:30pm

8:00pm

8:30pm

3:00 pm
Gates Open

Outdoor Field

3:00 pm
Tipi Raising
Contest

11:00 am
Marketplace
& Food

Outside Ex. Place
5:00 pm
Red Road
Carpet

Exhibition Place
6:00 pm
KickOff
& Lighting of
Sacred Fire

Exhibition Place
7:00 pm
Red Road
Cultural
Clothing &
Wearable Art
Showcase

Exhibition Place
8:30 pm
Fancy Bustle &
Fancy Shawl
Showdown

12:00 pm
1st Grand Entry

Exhibition
Place

Ignite Our
Spirit Stage

1:00 pm
PWP
Round 2

1:30 pm
Pow Wow 101

Behind
Exhib.
Place

2:00 pm
Dene
Showcase

2:45 pm
Bighetty &
Bighetty

3:00 pm
PWP
Final

2:00 pm
Strong Man &
Strong Women
Competition

Youth
Competition
2:00pm

Adult
Competition
4:00pm

12:00 pm
Manito
Ahbee
20 Year
Celebration
Pow Wow

See
pg. 36
for full
Pow Wow
Schedule

10:00 am
Marketplace
& Food

4:00 pm
Inuit
Showcase

4:45 pm
Tweeners
5:00 pm
PWP Winner

5:15 pm
Hair Braiding
Competition

6:15 pm
Bannock
Bakes
Drag Show

5:15 pm
Treaty 2
Talent

Sunday May 18

10:00 am Gates Open		Expressway Tent, Red Barn, & outdoor locations
Exhibition Place		
10:00 am Canadian Citizenship Ceremony		
12:00 pm 2 nd Grand Entry		
Exhibition Place		
	Ignite Our Spirit Stage	
	1:30 pm Pow Wow 101	
	2:00 pm Ojibwe Showcase	
	2:45 pm Bighetty & Bighetty	
	3:00 pm Dakota Showcase	
	3:45 pm Tweeners	
12:00 pm Manito Aabee 20 Year Celebration Pow Wow	4:00 pm Hoopdance Showcase	
See pg. 36 for full Pow Wow Schedule	5:00 pm Tweeners	
	6:15 pm Ribbon Skirt Competition	
	7:00 pm Jig n Jam	
		10:00 am Marketplace & Food

TIME

10:00am
10:30am
11:00am
11:30am
12:00pm
12:30pm
1:00pm
1:30pm
2:00pm
2:30pm
3:00pm
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6:00pm
6:30pm
7:00pm
7:30pm
8:00pm
8:30pm

Winnipeg Transit Shuttle

Connection to Winnipeg Transit system at Unicity Mall Bus Terminal

Friday, May 16, 2025

Leaving

Unicity Mall

Leave every 30 min. starting at 2:00pm

Last trip is at 10:00pm

Red River Exhibition Park

Leave every 30 min. starting at 2:30 pm

Last trip at 10:00pm

will stop at Unicity, Polo Park and downtown

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Leaving

Unicity Mall

Leave every 30 min. starting at 10:00 am

Last trip is at 10:00pm

Red River Exhibition Park

Leave every 30 min. starting at 10:30 am

Last trip at 10:00pm

will stop at Unicity, Polo Park and downtown

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Leaving

Unicity Mall

Leave every 30 min. starting at 10:00am

Last trip is at 9:00pm

Red River Exhibition Park

Leave every 30 min. starting at 10:30 am

Last trip at 9:00pm

will stop at Unicity, Polo Park and downtown

Transit Provided & Sponsored by



Gates & Festival Close 10:00pm Daily
2025 SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



MITT is proud to support the Manito Ahbee Festival and its continued endeavours to celebrate Indigenous culture, music, and heritage.

To learn more about MITT's offerings, including programs, Indigenous initiatives, and our limited-time waived application fees offer, contact Indigenous@mitt.ca or visit MITT.ca.



MANITOBA INSTITUTE OF
TRADES & TECHNOLOGY



**OFFICIAL
WATER
SUPPLIER
OF THE
MANITO AHBEE
FESTIVAL**

Pimootayowin

A FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK

*A journey through
Indigenous storytelling*

SEPTEMBER 22 - 26

7pm Nightly

Tom Hendry Warehouse
(140 Rupert Ave.)

FREE ADMISSION



ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

On behalf of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource
Centre and the Manitoba First Nations School System

Congratulations

to the Manito Ahbee Festival
on its 20th anniversary!

Thank you for celebrating First Nations arts, cultures,
and music through this annual gathering that honours
the strength, traditions, and spirit of these lands.

We look forward to many more years of

Manito Ahbee!



Manitoba 
First Nations Education
Resource Centre Inc.

www.mfnerc.org

20 YEARS
Manito Ahbee
 SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



EXPRESSWAY
TENT



ADDITIONAL
EVENTS INSIDE
EXHIBITION
PLACE

FRIDAY



KICK-OFF
& LIGHTING OF
THE SACRED FIRE



SATURDAY

POW WOW PITCH

SUNDAY
CITIZENSHIP
CEREMONY



Manito Ahbee
RED ROAD
CARPET



RED
BARN

EXHIBITION
PLACE

ENTRANCE
EAST GATE &
TICKET OFFICE

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

FREE PARKING IN EAST PARKING LOT

ADDITIONAL PARKING IN SOUTH PARKING LOT OFF RACE TRACK RD

PERIMETER
HIGHWAY

Manito Ahbee
MARKETPLACE & FOOD

EXPRESSWAY TENT	1
THE LOCALS	2
RED BARN	3
OUTDOORS	4
FOOD VENDORS	5



BellMTS
IGNITE OUR SPIRIT
STAGE

← Pow Wow Dressing Room

Exit

Elders Lounge

General
Seating

Grand
Entry

Accessibility
Seating

General
Seating

General
Seating

Head
Dancer
Seating

Pow
Wow
Stage

Head
Drums

Elders
Area

General
Seating

General
Seating

General
Seating

Reserved
Seating

Exit



Exhibition Place
Pow Wow & Inside Seating

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. 2025

Chairperson:
David Dandeneau

Vice Chairperson:
Joe Thompson

Directors:
Vera Houle
Brent Thompson
Wesley Nelson
Rachel Peterson
Sherri Walsh
Laiza Pacheco
Troy Westwood
Shawn Smith
Mark Sweeny
Nichola Batzel

STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Lisa Meeches - Executive Director
Suzanne Mayham - Finance Administrator
Candice Hart - Director of Programming Program & Pow Wow Manager
Chantel Delorme - Website, Marketplace/Food & Camping Manager
Derek Hart - Bear Paw Security & Festival Advisory
Katherine Strongwind - Marketing & Communications Advisory, Sponsorship Support
Aiyana Hart - NextGEN Manager
Ursula Scott - Venues Manager
Grace Redhead - Pow Wow & Volunteer Manager
Makaylah Head - Volunteer Manager
Jenelle Manitowabi - Volunteer Manager
Tracie Leost - Jig n Jam Manager
Bethany Wilson - Red Road Cultural Clothing & Wearable Art Showcase Manager
Lavina Houle - Producer Associate & Ribbon Skirt Manager
Linda Nelson - Producer Consultants
Norm Lussier - Producer Consultants
Jordan Skipper - Graphic Designer Manager
Diandre Thomas - Hart - Marketing & Communications Manager
Teegan Delorme - Treaties Got Talent & Ribbon Skirt Manager
Aaliyah Hotomani - Hart - Ticketing & Administration Support
Angela Young - Signage/Sponsor & Administration Assistance
Logan Nadeau - Entertainment Student Lawyer Support

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025

Pow Wow

Lisa Meeches
Candice Hart
Grace Redhead
Derek Hart

Elders

Ron Bell
Wilfred Buck
Mike Calder
Chief Dr. Harry Bone C.M.
Dr. Mary Wilson
Martha Peet
Lucy Antsanen
Wanbdi Wakita O.M.

Knowledge Keeper

Ernest Daniels
Kathy Daniels

Ignite Our Spirit Stage

Linda Nelson
Norm Lussier
Lavina Houle - Collins
Lisa Meeches
Candice Hart
Ursula Scott

Sacred Hoop Participants

Aiyana Hart
Lavina Houle - Collins
Bethany Wilson
Teegan Delorme
Tracie Leost
Jesse Spence
Daunte Delorme
Logan Nadeau
Diandre Thomas - Hart
Kira Sainnawap - Dupyts
Nitanis James
Makaylah Head
Jenelle Manitowabi
Lindsey Murdock



Proud Supporter



Red River

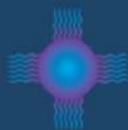


5540 Portage Avenue  3755 Portage Avenue

For more locations, visit redriverco-op.crs

Congratulations
Manito Ahbee Festival on

20 YEARS



KISIK COMMERCIAL
FURNITURE

Incorporated in 2003, Kisik
Commercial Furniture is a
Indigenous-owned commercial
furniture dealership operating in
Treaty No. 1 territory.

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or call 204-949-0646

Proud sponsor
of the Manito
Ahbee Festival



Photo by Bulio Asis

wawanesa.com

Wawanesa



MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP PHILOSOPHY

The Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. is the corporate entity responsible for the year round operations leading up to the production of our annual Festival.

The impact of the Festival reaches well beyond entertainment; it has communicated a very significant message about the importance of celebrating Indigenous culture. It arouses a far deeper understanding and powerful affirmation of Indigenous cultural rebirth and renewal. It showcases the talents, gifts and abilities of Indigenous artists. It is truly a celebration of Indigenous music, arts, culture and heritage not seen before by the broader public through the festival events.

We at Manito Ahbee take pride in the opportunity to showcase the best of who we are with the rest of the world. The scale of what we do and the number of events we produce is significant. None of this would be possible without our family of sponsors, funders and supporters. We are honoured and grateful for the level of support we receive. This is a testament to the worthy vision and aims of Manito Ahbee and our partners.

The Festival is pleased to be supported by government (including First Nation and non-First Nation governments), organizations, foundations, corporations, and individuals. Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. is not a political organization. All of our sponsors share our vision to educate, entertain, and enlighten. Consistent with the teachings of our Elders, we believe that inclusion is the most appropriate way to effect change. We hope to develop an increased appreciation and understanding of our culture and heritage through participation.

We invite everyone to the circle.

With Respect,

Manito Ahbee Board of Governors and Team

Manito Ahbee **20** YEARS **2025** TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION **SPONSORS**

EAGLE



BISON



BEAVER



BEAR



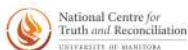
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
 EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS



WOLF



KISIK COMMERCIAL FURNITURE



SPRIT HEALTHCARE
 MOBILITY AND EQUIPMENT



Manito Ahbee 20^{YEARS} 2025 SPONSORS

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TURTLE



FRIENDS



CUZZINS



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LAURIE PARKER

BRENT THOMPSON
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IRON EAGLE
WARRIORS INC.

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LOUIS LUDWIG
MEESTER MIKE'S

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTRE

FUNDING PARTNERS



MISS MANITO AHBEE SPONSOR

PRESENTED BY



GIFTS PROVIDED BY



MEDIA PARTNERS



ROGERS tv.

Manito Ahbee 20 YEARS

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY NIGHT MAY 16, 2025

RED RIVER EXHIBITION PARK
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

GATES OPEN AT 3:00 PM



3:00 PM VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON SITE

**MANITO AHBEE
MARKETPLACE & FOOD VENDORS**



3:00 PM OUTSIDE EXHIBITION PLACE

TIP I RAISING CONTEST
PRESENTED BY RED RIVER CO-OP

5:00 PM OUTSIDE EXHIBITION PLACE

WALK THE RED CARPET
HOSTED BY APTN

BRING YOUR BEST LOOK PHOTOS ON THE RED CARPET

6:00 PM

EXHIBITION PLACE

**MANITO AHBEE KICK-OFF
& LIGHTING OF THE SACRED FIRE**
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JOIN US INSIDE TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF THE
MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL

7:00 PM

EXHIBITION PLACE

**RED ROAD CULTURAL CLOTHING &
WEARABLE ART SHOWCASE**

INDIGENOUS MODELS, DESIGNERS, & HAIR AND MAKE UP ARTIST

8:30 PM

EXHIBITION PLACE

WHERE CHAMPIONS MEET

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL VS MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE

SPONSORED BY: MANITO AHBEE POW WOW COMMITTEE

HOST DRUM - BATTLE NATION & BLACKSTONE



Canada



PRESENTS

Manito Ahbee

RED ROAD CARPET

CONNECT WITH THE STARS

5:00PM MAY 16, 2025

RED RIVER EXHIBITION PARK, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA
AS PART OF OUR FRIDAY NIGHT 20 YEARS CELEBRATION



DECOR SPONSORED BY
MediaEdge

KICK OFF

& LIGHTING OF THE SACRED FIRE

QULLIQ LIGHTING, AND GREETINGS FROM THE RED RIVER METIS

FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025 6:00PM

AS PART OF OUR FRIDAY NIGHT 20 YEARS CELEBRATION

HOSTED BY

CREESON AGECOUTAY

APTn

ANDREW THUNDER

THE NORTH WEST COMPANY



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- Delivering the best solution, on time and budget
- Continuous improvement, learning, development and improvement of our team, processes and project deliverables
- Experienced Design-Builders, with the ability to deliver creative design and construction solutions
- We are a Truth2Action Economic Reconciliation partner

DIVERSE PROJECT TYPES ACROSS DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

INSTITUTIONAL

MULTI-FAMILY

SPORTS / ENTERTAINMENT / SPECIALTY

OIL & GAS

BRIDGES & INFRASTRUCTURE



FEATURING DESIGNERS

DAFR

Chelsea's Cree-ations

Niskisis

Iris Lauzon Designs

Fashion Ikwe Designs

Tamara Malcolm Designs

Red Hummingbird Designs

INAC

Manito Ahbee
RED ROAD
CULTURAL CLOTHING & WEARABLE ART
SHOWCASE



FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025
7:00PM EXHIBITION PLACE
AS PART OF OUR 20 YEARS CELEBRATION
INDIGENOUS MODELS AND DESIGNERS
SUPPORTED BY LOCAL HAIR & MAKE UP ARTISTS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!
MAY 16, 2025 8:30PM



WHERE CHAMPIONS MEET
WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL VS MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE
HOST DRUMS - BATTLE NATION & BLACKSTONE

18+ years to Register

SPONSORED BY: MANITO AHBEE POW WOW COMMITTEE



Our Promise to Indigenous Peoples



Our Promise to Indigenous Peoples is a reaffirmed commitment to building more collaborative relationships that will enhance the inclusion and social well-being of Indigenous Peoples of Canada. We fully commit to the spirit of reconciliation reflected in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and final report.

Our Commitment Pillars



Well-being & Security

North West commits to working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to advance health and well-being in the communities we serve.



Stronger Community Bonds

North West commits to developing stronger community bonds by recognizing the past and committing to a better future.



Inclusion & Economic Success

North West commits to improving Indigenous inclusion in store and head office management while encouraging Indigenous economic development.

For more information please visit

www.northwest.ca/sustainability/our-promise-to-indigenous-people



**WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES INC.**

Gakina Animino Ayaamin Omaa Ne'Aakwong

**Waywayseecappo First Nation CFS
Opening Hearts. Building Futures.**

**Manito Ahbee is where
Indigenous children
see themselves celebrated.
Could you be the one to
open your home and walk with them?**

Learn more. www.w-cfs.ca/



**LONG PLAIN
FIRST NATION**

TREATY #1 | 1871



IDFUSION

nctr.ca



The NCTR is a place of learning and dialogue where the truths of Residential School Survivors, families and communities are kept safe for future generations.

We honour Survivors and work to foster reconciliation and healing on the foundation of **truth-telling, research** and **education**.

We are proud to support celebrations like the Manito Ahbee Festival which honour our rich heritage, cultures, and traditions, bringing together our communities and fostering connections.



**National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation**
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



FRIDAY, MAY 16 2025
10:00 AM EXHIBITION PLACE

The NextGEN celebration is the voice of the future that brings together Youth of all nations across Manitoba to learn about culture through the Medicine Wheel.

Resonate & Echo the teachings of our ancestors with local speakers and musical performances.



Tracie Léost is an award-winning young Métis leader, activist and athlete from St. Laurent, Manitoba, in Treaty 1 Territory. Her strong commitment to contributing to social justice is evidenced by the philanthropic and awareness initiatives she has spearheaded. In 2015 she ran 115km in 4 days to raise money and awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People. Gaining international attention for advocacy efforts, in 2018 Tracie received the Metis Youth Indspire Award, the highest honour bestowed upon the Indigenous community. In 2020 she was inducted into the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal, the Metis Nations highest civilian honour. Named one of the University of Regina's most promising undergraduate students; in 2020, she founded Waanishka Movement Inc., a non-profit organization that supports Indigenous youth to rise. She has worked with the Malala Foundation raising awareness for violence against Indigenous women. Most recently, Tracie received one of CBC Manitoba's Future 40 Awards and was named one of Canada's most decorated Indigenous young people. Tracie upholds her responsibilities as an emerging matriarch by serving her people and ensuring that all Indigenous youth have opportunities to grow and flourish. Tracie carries a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Regina and is currently completing her Master of Education at Nipissing University.



**TRACIE
LÉOST**
HOST



**SOPHIA
SMOKE**
HOST

Sophia Smoke Anpetu Waste Ihnape Win is the outgoing Miss Manito Ahbee 2024. She is a proud member of the Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation here in Manitoba and a high school senior slated to graduate this June. In her role as Miss Manito Ahbee, Sophia has been busy travelling to pow wows and other events spreading awareness to the issues that plague our societies, specifically those of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Sophia prides herself on being a Dakota language revitalization advocate; she has dedicated herself to learning and maintaining the language for future generations. She is a recipient of the Queens Platinum

Jubilee medal and a Westman Woman of Distinction award winner for her advocacy and the advancement of Indigenous issues.

You can find Sophia on a variety of media outlets as well. She is a current CBC Kids news contributor and an actor with roles in both the Crave Original series Don't Even as Mickey Carp and also in the CTV comedy series Acting Good.

Sophia invites you all to come and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Manito Ahbee Festival this May long weekend. Currently, Tracie resides in Oakville, Ontario. She is completing her Master of Education from Nipissing University and works at Indspire supporting Indigenous



CHIEF TRÉCHELLE BUNN

KEYNOTE

Tréchelle Bunn is the first woman and youngest person ever elected Chief of Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation, and one of the youngest serving Chiefs in Canada. She graduated with distinction from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and a minor in Indigenous Studies. She is now pursuing a law degree at Robson Hall, the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba.

A dedicated advocate for Indigenous rights and youth empowerment, Trechelle has spoken on provincial, national, and international stages, including at the United Nations. She is the founder of the Reconciliation Run, Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation half marathon, and the creator of the first Indigenous student-athlete scholarship at the University of Manitoba.

Her leadership and advocacy have been recognized with numerous honours, including the Indspire First Nations Youth Award, the King Charles III Coronation Medal, the CBC Manitoba Future 40 Award, and the University of Manitoba Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Rylee Nepinak is a proud Anishinaabe who grew up off-reserve in Winnipeg's Northend and is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation in Treaty 1 Territory. Rylee is one of the Co-Founders of Anishiative. A grassroots community organization that connects Indigenous youth to land-based education, Inner-city cultural and mental wellness opportunities motivated by a state of emergency in Tataskewayak Cree Nation, Nepinak cycled across Canada raising money and promoting awareness about Indigenous youth suicide. Nepinak, finished his journey in 40 days. Rylee has also been involved in supporting relatives experiencing houselessness by means of coordinating the community warming tipis at the Thunderbird House every winter. The efforts of which helped lead to the beginning stages of an Indigenous-led warming space for houseless relatives called N'dinawemak

Practicing lateral kindness, reclaiming identity, and promoting Indigenous youth voices are the driving forces behind Rylees mission here on Turtle Island.



RYLEE NEPINAK

KEYNOTE

Heather Diamond Strongarm (she/her) is a 20 years old and is a Saulteaux-Cree woman from Fishing Lake First Nation in Treaty 4 territory. She loves to bead, sew, and dance old style jingle. She is an International model and has been modelling for 4 years. When she was 16, she went to a modelling workshop on her reserve and little did she know, that her career would take off from there. After the workshop, she got a call from the facilitator asking if she was interested in going to Calgary, Alberta to take digitals and learn more about the industry. The next week after that call, she went with a group of girls from her reserve. After the photoshoot, the photographer sent the photos across Canada and to her mother agency (ANM Management) in Toronto and they scouted her. A few weeks later, The Society Management in New York and Elite Modelling Agency Worldwide signed her. She began modelling and doing campaigns for several companies across Canada. The highlight was for companies such as Dean Davidson and Smythe who gave back to organizations to help support Indigenous Youth and Arts. At age 17, she got to walk for runway shows in New York, Paris, Milan and London. She was fortunate to open the fashion show for Christian Dior which is a very monumental moment in my career in runway. In 2023, she won the fresh face of the year award at the Canadian Arts & fashion awards.



**HEATHER DIAMOND
STRONGARM**
KEYNOTE



**SHANLEY
SPENCE**
KEYNOTE

Shanley Spence was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is Cree as a member of Mathias Colomb Cree Nation and also Anishinaabe from Lake St. Martin First Nation. Now based in Victoria, B.C, she is a multi-faceted soul fueled by a passion to help people and empowered by the mission to leave behind a legacy for the next generations to come. She is a world class, internationally known professional hoop dancer who has performed from the Amazon jungles of Ecuador to the coastlines of Hawaii and beyond. She has graced the stage with award winning, A Tribe Called Red, DJ Shub, Canadian singer/songwriter, Nelly Furtado, and many more. A true creative, Shanley merges talent and wisdom to produce inspiring, life-transformative offerings to help reclaim culture within her community and to

expand awareness within the world. She is a Life and Empowerment Coach and integrates Indigenous dance and knowledge into her healing work. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Shanley Spence holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development from the University of Winnipeg. Her participation within her community has earned her the Top 40 Under 40 Manitoba Award for 2017, a Manitoba Youth Achievement Award for Artistic Performance, the Community Champion Award for volunteerism, the Anita Neville Member of Parliament Award, second runner up for Miss Indian World in 2017, and other recognition from her community. She brings healing, storytelling, and reclamation to people from all over the world through her gifts of voice and traditional Native dance.



**MJ
DANDENEAU**
MUSICAL TALENT

MJ DANDENEAU, a Metis/Anishinaabe woman from the Red River Nation Treaty 1. Over the past 20 years her tours, studio and composition work have literally taken her all over the globe and nationally recognized with recording awards such as Canadian JUNOs, WCMA-Awards, CFM-Awards as well as the Kevin Walters Legacy Award, Indigenous Full Circle Prize and The Rise Award. MJs multi-faceted talents have given her, through her own business, MJ Entertainment Canada Inc, the ability to be an effective Booking Agent, Tour Manager, Career Consulter, Musical Director and Producer for the past 20 years as well as landing the Sound Designer & Composer hat for theatres across Canada. MJs mission is not only to be working to strengthen Indigenous communities but more importantly

providing mentorship, sharing her knowledge, and instilling the values passed down to her of patience, respect, integrity, and kindness in youth to develop future community leaders

His soulful voice soothes and soars with passion beyond his years. Growing up surrounded by music in St. Theresa Point Anisninew Nation in Manitoba, Barrin May learned the power and spirit of song and cherished traditional teachings. The 17-year-old singer-songwriter took inspiration from artists like Hozier and Chris Stapleton at the start and has intently been charting his own path, one that honours his family and friends - those that he calls home.



**BARRIN
MAY**
MUSIC TALENT

additional performers and line-up subject to change



For generations trade has been a part of everyday living for many Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island and abroad. The Marketplace is a Hybrid in-person gathering/online event highlighting entrepreneurs year-round. We welcome everyone to the Manito Ahbee Marketplace to shop as well as discover knowledge from many businesses and organizations local and across the nation.

This year vendors will be in different locations (Expressway Tent, The Locals Tent, RedBarn) within the Red River Exhibition as well as outdoors on-site to fulfill all your shopping needs. Don't forget to grab something to eat from the many food vendors and our new Farmers Market in the RedBarn.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.MANITOAHBEE.COM
FOR LIST OF VENDORS**

Congratulations Manito Ahbee

ON ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



WAB KINEW
MLA for Fort Rouge
204-615-1922



NELLIE KENNEDY
MLA for Assiniboia
204-888-3188



MATT WIEBE
MLA for Concordia
204-654-1857



IAN BUSHIE
MLA for Keewatinook
204-792-8740



LOGAN OXENHAM
MLA for Kirkfield Park
204-831-6689



TYLER BLASHKO
MLA for Lagimodière
204-583-7423



JD DEVGAN
MLA for McPhillips
431-323-6014



BERNADETTE SMITH
MLA for Point Douglas
204-414-1477



MIKE MOYES
MLA for Riel
204-421-4666



TRACY SCHMIDT
MLA for Rossmore
204-661-1377



BILLIE CROSS
MLA for Seine River
431-323-6026



RENÉE CABLE
MLA for Southdale
204-222-9038



ROBERT LOISELLE
MLA for St. Boniface
204-505-2800



ADRIEN SALA
MLA for St. James
204-792-8779



NAHANNI FONTAINE
MLA for St. Johns
204-582-1550



JAMIE MOSES
MLA for St. Vital
204-219-5407



CARLA COMPTON
MLA for Tuxedo
204-416-1140



DAVID PANKRATZ
MLA for Waverley
431-323-4891



RED RIVER COLLEGE
POLYTECHNIC

The Manito Ahbee Festival is proud to support a youth mentorship and succession planning program called Sacred Hoop program for component managers and producers in the arts, now in its second year. It aims to develop cultural performance production and Indigenous project management training not available anywhere else in Winnipeg. The main objectives of this unique program are to strengthen young people's Indigenous identity and cultural connection, and to promote and develop valuable skills and abilities for future opportunities in the arts for young leaders.

The Sacred Hoop is a never-ending circle - knowledge is continually shared amongst our people throughout the generations. With the growing number of Indigenous events across our territories, this is a valuable program that provides mentorship and opportunities for cultural teachings for our young producers in a cohort model. The Festival has contracted six young people under 30 years old that coordinate, produce, and run various components of the festival with the guidance of more experienced managers, the MAF board of directors, and Elders/Knowledge Keepers.

Revitalizing our cultural knowledge and language is a primary focus for our organization; training our youth is not only necessary, but crucial to the continuation of our ceremonies, teachings, and the way of life carried and protected by our Ancestors and those who came before us. There is no task more important than uplifting our young people, and the team at MAF is proud to support this program and the success of our emerging leaders.





ANNIVERSARY
MICEC
1975 - 2025

MAY 17. 2025

\$130,000 MONSTER BINGO

ASSINIBOIA DOWNS 3975 PORTAGE AVE. WINNIPEG MB

DOORS OPEN @ 10:00 A.M. | EARLY BIRDS @ 1:00 P.M. | REGULAR BINGO STARTS @ 2:00 P.M.

FIRST 48 NUMBERS FOR THE BONANZA WILL BE PRE-CALLED BEFORE EARLY BIRDS

EARLY BIRDS

2 Lines Anyway (5 Games @ \$600.00) \$3,000

1 PINK

One Line The Hard Way (No Free Space) \$1,000
Two Lines The Hard Way (No Free Space) \$2,500

2 AQUA

One Line The Hard Way (No Free Space) \$1,000
Two Lines The Hard Way (No Free Space) \$2,500

TRIANGLE

Unshaded Area \$1,500 | Shaded \$8,000

3 PURPLE

Six Pack (Anywhere) \$1,000
Block of Nine \$2,500

4 LIME

Outside Line \$1,000
Letter L (Any way) \$2,500

5 PEACH

(EX. JACKPOT STRIPS \$5 EACH)

Wee House \$1,000
Empty House \$2,000
Full House \$10,000

LUCKY 7

\$7500

6 ORANGE

Letter X \$1,000
Wee House + 4 Corners (Sputnik) \$2,500

7 BROWN

"B" Line or "D" Line \$1,000
Letter "M" the right way \$2,500

8 GREY

One Diagonal Line \$1,000
Letter X \$2,500

BONANZA

Full House \$7,500

PICK 7

\$7500

9 NAVY

One Line & 4 Corners \$1,000
Roving Kite \$2,500

10 YELLOW

(EX. JACKPOT STRIPS \$10 EACH)

Wee House \$2,000
Empty House \$4,000

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY JACKPOT: \$50,000 ~ Full House

ADMISSION

1200 Advance Tickets Available: \$125 each (9 TV Regular)

500 Door Tickets: \$150 each (9 TV Mini)

Extra Cards: \$15 (3 TV 10 page)
\$25 (6 TV 10 page)

Early Birds: \$20 (6 TV 5 page)

Extra 3 TV for Peach Game \$5 ea.

Extra 3 TV for Yellow Game \$10 ea.

Specials \$5 each

For More Information or

Advance Tickets:

Call: 204-942-0228

email: BINGO@MICEC.COM

PROCEEDS TO THE MICEC BUILDING
EXPANSION, BUILDING MAINTENANCE &
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL

INTERMISSION | 15 MINUTES

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING SELLERS

Winnipeg: MICEC 204-942-0228 | Assiniboia Downs 204-885-3330 EXT. 0 or 225 (Weekends) | Trevor 204-783-2494 or 204-451-1325
Meranda 204-990-6309 | Alanna 204-232-3956 | Helen 431-335-8350 | Thompson: Rose 204-649-4250
Hodgson: Reta 204-308-0165 | Lake St. Martin: Calinda 431-284-8663 | Brandon & Ebb and Flow: Joanne 204-670-0657

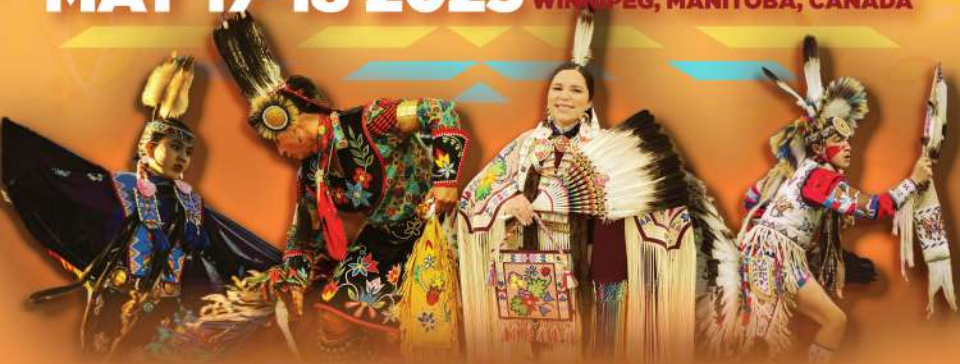
LICENSE # LGCA-4636-BI-46302; LGCA-4636-BO-46601

Manito Ahbee 20 YEARS

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

POW WOW

MAY 17-18 2025 RED RIVER EXHIBITION PARK
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA



HEAD STAFF

ANNOUNCERS

Ricky White

Hal Eagletail

Howie Thomson

JUNIOR ANNOUNCER

Pauline Guimond

ARENA DIRECTORS

Ron McNab

Rusty Gillette

JUNIOR ARENA DIRECTOR

Thomas Bearstail

HEAD SINGING JUDGE

Tim Eashapple

JUNIOR HEAD SINGING JUDGE

Dorian Bittern

HEAD DANCE JUDGE

Fawn Wapioke

HEAD MAN DANCER

Howard Roulette

HEAD LADY DANCER

Ellie Olson

HEAD YOUNG MAN DANCER

Camden Scribe

HEAD YOUNG LADY DANCER

Lennyn Paskemin

OFFICIAL TABULATOR

C & T Tabulators Services

SOUND

Hokah Sound - Dale Roberts

Host Drums

Battle Nation

Blackstone

WATCH LIVE ON
POWWOWS.COM



POW WOW SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025

9:00AM REGISTRATION OPENS ALL DANCERS ARE WELCOME
10:00AM POW WOW DOORS OPEN TO DANCE & REGISTER IN THE
10:00AM POW WOW PITCH CATEGORY THAT ALIGNS WITH
11:30AM DRUM ROLL CALL THEIR IDENTITY.

1ST GRAND ENTRY 12:00PM
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIGNITARIES/SPONSORS

INTERTRIBALS

TINY TOTS

2^{SP}IRIT LGBTQIA+ DANCE SPECIAL

HONOURING OUR GIFTED RELATIVES
DANCE SPECIAL NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

GOLDEN AGE CONTEST

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

JUNIOR CONTESTS

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

TEEN CONTESTS

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

MISS MANITO AHBEE

YOUTH AMBASSADOR CONTESTANTS DANCE CONTEST SONG

MISS MANITO AHBEE

YOUTH AMBASSADOR SOPHIA SMOKE ANPETU WASTE IHINAPE W/IN
JR. WOMEN'S CONTEMPORARY JINGLE DRESS SHOW/DOWN
NEED TO BE REGISTERED

DEMI CLEARSKY - MEECHES

WOMEN'S 18+ FANCY SHAWL DANCE SPECIAL

SUNDAY MAY 18, 2025

10:00AM DOORS OPEN ALL DANCERS ARE WELCOME
10:00AM CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY TO DANCE & REGISTER IN THE
CATEGORY THAT ALIGNS WITH
THEIR IDENTITY.

2ND GRAND ENTRY 12:00PM
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIGNITARIES/SPONSORS

INTERTRIBALS

TINY TOTS

HEAD YOUNG LADY DANCER

LYNNYN PASKEMIN
YOUNG LADIES FANCY SHAWL SPECIAL (13- 21 YEARS)

HEAD YOUNG MAN DANCER

CAMDEN SCRIBE
TATE TOPA HOKSILA TEEN BOY'S TRADITIONAL DANCE SPECIAL

GOLDEN AGE FINAL

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

JUNIOR FINAL

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

TEEN FINAL

GIRL'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
BOY'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

HONOURING THE SHIIBAASHKA'IGAN
JINGLE DRESS DANCE SPECIAL

INTERTRIBALS

HEAD MAN DANCER

HOWARD ROULETTE
SENIOR MEN'S TRADITIONAL AND MEN'S WOODLAND
DANCE SPECIAL

MISS MANITO AHBEE
YOUTH AMBASSADOR CROWNING

LYNDON TAYLOR - PASHE

WAMBDI WANKAN HOKSIDA
MEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE SPECIAL 18+

SR. ADULT CONTEST

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

WOMEN'S WOODLAND CONTEST

MEN'S WOODLAND CONTEST

JR. ADULT CONTEST

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

RETIRE EAGLE STAFF

HEAD LADY DANCER

ELLIE OLSON
HONOURING WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE SPECIAL
WOMEN'S NORTHERN BUCKSKIN AND NORTHERN CLOTH

WAB KINEW

GRASS DANCE VS PRAIRIE CHICKEN DANCE SPECIAL 18+

WOMEN'S WOODLAND STRAP DRESS
SPECIAL DANCING FOR THE WATER

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS

GOLDEN AGE, JUNIOR & TEEN CATEGORIES

SR. ADULT FINALS

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

WOMEN'S WOODLAND FINALS

MEN'S WOODLAND FINALS

JR. ADULT FINALS

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE, TRADITIONAL
MEN'S FANCY BUSTLE, GRASS, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, TRADITIONAL

JINGLE DRESS VS STRAP DRESS
DANCE SPECIAL

RETIRE EAGLE STAFF

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS
CONCLUSION

MISS MANITO AHBEE YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The title of Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador honours the memory of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls.

The Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador Event will take place Saturday, May 17, 2025 in the evening at the Red River Exhibition Place, during the Manito Ahbee Pow Wow, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The following items must be submitted to the Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador Committee:

1. Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador Application
2. Current Photograph (in regalia)
3. Proof of Ancestry or Tribal Affiliation (i.e. Photocopy of Status Card, etc.)
4. Proof of Age (i.e. Photocopy of Birth Certificate, Drivers License, etc.)
5. Two (2) Letters of Recommendation with Letter of Recommendation Forms
6. Personal Essay
7. Letter of Support from a School Representative

Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador will be chosen based on:

- a. Private Interview
- b. Dance Competition
- c. Personal Essay

All contestants will be judged according to the above criterion. At the end of the Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador event, the contestant with the highest collected points will be the new Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador for that year. The winning contestant will receive the following prizes:

- a. Miss Manito Ahbee Youth Ambassador Crown and Banner
- b. Other Miscellaneous Gifts

If you have any questions please email Grace Redhead, Powwow Manager at: powwow@manitoahbee.com

PRESENTED BY

Dene Cree
Designs

GIFTS PROVIDED BY


Eagle Spirit
GIFTS



MISS MANITO AHBEE YOUTH AMBASSADOR SOPHIA SMOKE

ANPETU WASTE IHINAPE WIN

JR. WOMEN'S CONTEMPORARY JINGLE DRESS SHOW/DOWN

SPONSORED BY: MISS MANITO AHBEE YOUTH AMBASSADOR - SOPHIA SMOKE & FAMILY

Sophia Smoke "Anpetu Waste Ihnape Win" is the outgoing Miss Manito Ahbee 2024. She is a proud member of the Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation here in Manitoba and a high school senior slated to graduate this June.

In her role as Miss Manito Ahbee, Sophia has been busy travelling to pow wows and other events spreading awareness to the issues that plague our societies, specifically those of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

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Sophia invites you all to come and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Manito Ahbee Festival this May long weekend.



HEAD MAN DANCER HOWARD ROULETTE

SENIOR MEN'S TRADITIONAL & MEN'S WOODLAND DANCE SPECIAL

SPONSORED BY: HOWARD ROULETTE & FAMILY

Boozhoo,

Howard Roulette, Day Thunderbird of the bear clan, is very honoured to uphold the duties as Head Man Dancer for this year's 2025 Manito Ahbee celebrations. Howard is a traditional and woodland dancer that comes from Sandy Bay First Nation, Manitoba. His parents are Mary and Jeff Roulette. His grandparents are former Sandy Bay Chief Howard Starr, Doris Starr, and Irene Roulette.

Howard's father introduced him to the powwow circle as a young boy, 30+ years ago, as a traditional dancer and singing with his dad's drum group. From there on out, he proudly represented his family and community throughout powwows in Canada and the United States. In recent years, he has took on the style of woodland to represent his Ojibway side. Being passionate about dancing, singing and traditional teachings, it has presented many opportunities for Howard; he has showcased his dance style at events and schools. Today, he teaches at powwow dance and singing practices within his community, hoping that the youth will join the powwow circle too! Howard loves to connect with friends and family while travelling, he also partakes in a healthy living style by regularly attending the gym, going hiking, attending ceremony, and spending the off-season of powwow with his other passion- hunting. He is grateful to be outdoors and be able to provide the ones he loves most with food sovereignty.

Miigwetch!



HEAD LADY DANCER ELLIE OLSON

**HONOURING W/OMEN'S TRADITIONAL DANCE SPECIAL
W/OMEN'S NORTHERN BUCKSKIN & NORTHERN CLOTH**

SPONSORED BY: ELLIE OLSON & FAMILY

Ellie (Toni-Ellen) Olson is an Anishinaabe and Cree educator, artist, and cultural practitioner from Peguis First Nation. She is the daughter of Rhonda Olson and Lawrence McCorrister. Deeply connected to her culture, Ellie has been immersed in traditional practices since childhood, shaping her path as a dancer, traditional artist, language learner, and advocate for Indigenous education. Ellie is extremely thankful and honoured to serve as Head Woman for the 20th annual Manito Ahbee Celebration.

From the moment she could walk, Ellie was drawn to the powwow circle, a connection that has shaped her journey ever since. She has traveled across Turtle Island, sharing her passion for dance and culture. The powwow circle remains a deeply integral part of her identity. The teachings and experiences she has gained along the way continue to guide her personal growth and lifelong learning.

Her love for traditional art is inspired by her mother, Rhonda Olson, a talented seamstress and beadworker. Ellie first explored parfleche and birchbark painting, which helped her develop an understanding of color and design. She is a practitioner of beadwork, sewing, appliqué, shawl making, leatherwork, belt making, and jewelry making.

A strong relationship with the land is central to Ellie's way of life. She finds joy spending time with the land and harvesting traditional medicines. Recently, she has expanded her knowledge of traditional practices by learning to skin and butcher deer and is preparing to undertake traditional brain-tanning later this year. Following in the footsteps of her Kookum, Eleanor Olson-ban, Ellie is a Midewiwin initiate with the Minweyweywigaa Lodge in Roseau River, Manitoba. Ceremonies and traditional values remain at the heart of her daily life.

Ellie is dedicated to language revitalization and began learning Anishinaabemowin in 2020. She continues to deepen her fluency through classes, workshops, and language gatherings. With a strong sense of responsibility for preserving the language, she dreams of becoming a language immersion teacher.

Holding a Bachelor of Science in Physical Geology & Biology and a Bachelor of Education with an Early Years focus, Ellie is committed to lifelong learning. Ellie has dedicated her career to education, working passionately to support and uplift future generations. She currently serves as an Indigenous Learning Support Teacher within Manitoba's largest school division, working alongside the Assistant Superintendent's Interdisciplinary Team at the Winnipeg School Division. Ellie recognizes the important role of community in her life and would like to thank her friends and relatives for their ongoing love and support.



HEAD YOUNG MAN DANCER CAMDEN SCRIBE

TATE TOPA HOKSILA TEEN BOY'S TRADITIONAL DANCE SPECIAL

SPONSORED BY: CAMDEN SCRIBE & FAMILY

Camden Scribe, Tate Topa Hoksila (Four Directions Boy), is the son of Natasha Ouellette (Cree) and Christopher Scribe (Nakoda/Cree). He is a proud citizen of the Makwa Sahgaiehican First Nation, Treaty 6 Territory, with deep roots in the communities of Kinosao Sipi Cree Nation, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Poundmaker Cree Nation, and Carry the Kettle Nakoda Oyade.

Raised with pride in his Cree and Nakoda culture, Camden continues to be surrounded by ceremony and traditional teachings. The prayers of his ancestors form the foundation of his journey, guiding him to become a strong and honorable young man.

In 2023, Camden was the only First Nation student selected to attend the ScienceTrek program, a prestigious field-based science initiative designed to inspire Grade 8 students academically, socially, personally, and culturally. His dedication to education continued in 2024 when he was accepted into Off the Grid, a half-day, full-year Grade 9 program focused on integrative learning in areas such as climate change, social justice, and youth empowerment.

Camden is also an elite athlete, excelling in volleyball and basketball, and has traveled across Canada to compete in tournaments. His passion for sports complements his strong academic and cultural pursuits.

Beyond academics and athletics, Camden is deeply engaged in his cultural responsibilities. He serves as a helper whenever needed in ceremonies and community events. One of his greatest passions is dancing—when he is not at a powwow, he can often be found watching YouTube videos and dancing in the living room. Dancing has been a part of his life since childhood, connecting him to his traditions and identity.

Camden is guided by the love and teachings of two very special people in his life—his late grandfather, Thomas Ouellette, and his late great-grandmother, Mary Scribe. Their unwavering love and support continue to shape his commitment to knowledge, culture, and leadership, ensuring that his ancestors' teachings live on.



HEAD YOUNG LADY DANCER LYNNYN PASKEMIN

YOUNG LADIES FANCY SHAWL SPECIAL (13- 21 YEARS)

SPONSORED BY: LYNNYN PASKEMIN & FAMILY

Tansi. Hello, my name is Lennyn Paskemin, I am 16 years old and I reside in West Valley City, Utah, and I am an enrolled member from the Sweetgrass First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. My parents are Randall and Tiffany Paskemin, my maternal Grandparents are John Chee and Annie T. Begay, my paternal Grandparents are the late Henderson and Ruby Paskemin. I would like to thank Lisa Meeches and Candice Hart and the Manito Ahbee Powwow Committee for selecting me to be your Head Young Lady Dancer for the 2025 Manito Ahbee Festival. Thank you, Hiy Hiy





PROUD TO PARTNER WITH MANITO AHBEE FESTIVAL 2025



St. Amant strives to support people with developmental disabilities to live meaningful lives as valued members of our community.

We are committed to human rights and full community inclusion. We are excited to sponsor the Fancy Shawl category at this year's pow wow.

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POW WOW 101

A GUIDE FOR GUESTS

A pow wow is a vibrant celebration of Indigenous culture, tradition, and community. It is a time for Indigenous peoples to gather in the spirit of dancing, singing, visiting, renewing old friendships, and making new ones. Whether you've been invited by a friend or simply curious about the event, this guide will help you understand what to expect and how to respectfully take part.

WHAT IS A POW WOW?

At its heart, a pow wow is a cultural and spiritual gathering. Central to every pow wow are the dancers and singers. The drum is often referred to as the heartbeat of Mother Earth. Songs are passed down through generations and led by an experienced lead singer.

Dancers wear intricate regalia that reflects both tradition and personal expression. These are not costumes, but sacred clothing with deep cultural significance called regalia. Dance styles vary – from Men's Traditional and Fancy Bustle to Women's Jingle Dress and Fancy Shawl – but all are powerful expressions of identity and community.





POW WOW 101

A GUIDE FOR GUESTS

GRAND ENTRY HONOURING TRADITION

One of the most important moments of a pow wow is the Grand Entry, a formal procession that signals the beginning of the celebration. Led by dancers carrying Eagle staffs and flags, the Grand Entry includes dignitaries, royalty, and all the dancers. It's customary to stand and remove hats during this time, as well as during prayer, flag, and honor songs.

An Elder typically offers a blessing, followed by songs that honor veterans, ancestors, and community leaders. These moments are sacred and reflect the spirit of unity and remembrance.



POW WOW 101

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ETIQUETTE FOR GUESTS

Pow wows are open to everyone, but there are important customs to respect:

DO:

- Stand for the Grand Entry and all special songs. Remove your hat.
- Listen to the Master of Ceremonies (MC), who will guide you through the event.
- Ask before taking photos or recording video – some dances and ceremonies are not meant to be filmed.
- Support Indigenous vendors and artisans – your purchases help sustain cultural traditions.
- Bring a blanket for seating, and be mindful of dancers sitting nearby.
- Ask before joining any dances – some are open to the public, but others are not.

Don't:

- Don't walk through the dance arena – go around it, as it's considered sacred space.
- Don't touch dancers' regalia or eagle feathers. These items are deeply personal and sacred.
- Don't bring pets (unless they are service animals).
- Don't assume you can record everything – check with organizers first.
- Don't wear Indigenous regalia or headdresses unless you have earned the right.

Above all, remember you are a guest. Be respectful, open to learning, and take time to appreciate the beauty, resilience, and cultural richness of the Indigenous community. If you're ever unsure, just ask – most people are more than happy to share their knowledge and experiences.

Enjoy the pow wow!

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Indigenous
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POW WOW 101

DANCE CATEGORIES

TRADITIONAL DANCE

Mens Traditional Dance is one of the oldest pow wow dance styles, representing warriors preparing for or returning from battle. Dancers wear intricate regalia including bone breastplates, eagle feather bustles, and detailed beadwork. A distinctive feature is the roach headdress made of porcupine and deer hair, often adorned with eagle feathers. Accessories like coup sticks, shields, or eagle fans may also be carried. The dance is deliberate and dignified, reflecting honor, strength, and storytelling. Movements are grounded, often mimicking tracking, scouting, or spiritual connection to the land.

GRASS DANCE

The Grass Dance is rooted in Northern Plains traditions and was originally performed to flatten the grass for ceremonies. Dancers wear brightly colored fringe that flows like grass in the wind, symbolizing balance and harmony. The style emphasizes fluid, sweeping movements and low, graceful footwork. It's less rigid than other dances, allowing dancers to express themselves through rhythm and flow. Regalia features long yarn or ribbon fringe designed to sway with every motion, creating a visual effect that mimics grass waving in the breeze.

FANCY BUSTLE DANCE

This high-energy dance style is known for its speed, athleticism, and vibrant regalia. Dancers wear two large feather bustles (one on the back and one on the waist), with additional mini bustles on their arms. Outfits are covered in bright colors, ribbons, beadwork, and feathers to accentuate spinning, jumping, and fast footwork. Bells on their legs add rhythmic sound to their movements. Fancy Bustle is often performed to fast-paced drum beats and is a crowd favorite for its showmanship, flash, and athletic flair.



PRAIRIE CHICKEN DANCE

Originating from the Blackfeet and Cree nations, this dance mimics the mating behavior of prairie chickens. Dancers replicate the bird's movements through head jerks, arm motions, and fluffing-like steps. The style is more grounded and rhythmic, with a focus on posture, timing, and precision. Regalia often includes feather bustles and earth-toned colors, reflecting the natural inspiration of the dance. The Prairie Chicken Dance is a powerful expression of tradition, pride, and connection to the land and animal spirits.

WOODLAND

Woodland dance is a style of dance originating from the Ojibwe people and gaining popularity among nations of the Great Lakes. Some individuals have actively sought to reconnect with their ancestral Woodlands dance styles by researching historical designs and incorporating them into their regalia.

NORTHERN TRADITIONAL DANCE

This graceful dance features slow, rhythmic movement in time with the drum, often done in place or with minimal steps. Dancers wear elaborately beaded buckskin or cloth dresses adorned with items like elk teeth, shells, and quillwork. Accessories include shawls, moccasins, and feathered hair ornaments. There are regional variations - some dancers remain mostly stationary while others move around the circle. The style emphasizes dignity, strength, and deep cultural heritage, honoring ancestors and tribal identity.

JINGLE DRESS DANCE

The Jingle Dress Dance is both spiritual and healing. Dancers wear dresses covered in rows of metal cones (often made from snuff can lids) that jingle with each step. Each dress can have 400 to 700 jingles arranged in unique patterns. The dance originated as a healing tradition and is still respected for its ceremonial roots. Contemporary styles feature brighter colors, more elaborate footwork, and faster drumbeats. Dancers often carry feather fans and wear hair plumes, combining tradition with modern flair.

FANCY SHAWL DANCE

Fast and elegant, the Fancy Shawl Dance is often described as the butterfly dance due to its light, energetic movements and vibrant regalia. Dancers wear bright shawls with long fringe, spinning and leaping gracefully to the rhythm of the drum. The outfit typically includes a simple dress, leggings, moccasins, and a shawl worn over the shoulders. Fancy Shawl evolved from traditional dances and reflects women's resilience and empowerment. Movements are athletic and expressive, showcasing individuality and spirit.

*We recognize that each area and tribe has their own origin and description on the different styles.



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At Bell, we're committed to giving back to communities across Canada. We support more than 1,900 community organizations each year, including the Manito Ahbee Festival, through projects, sponsorships and volunteer time. It's part of a commitment to make our world more prosperous, more sustainable, and more connected every day.

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SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025

BATTLE OF THE STRONG MALE & STRONG FEMALE

HOSTED BY THE MOOSE STRONGMAN COMPETITION

HOSTED BY THE MOOSE STRONGMAN

TEEN 2:00PM | ADULT 4:00PM

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PRESENTS

IGNITE OUR SPIRIT STAGE

MAY 17-18 1:00PM - 9:00PM



CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

CREE DENE OJIBWAY DAKOTA INUIT HOOP DANCING

JIG N' JAM • POW WOW 101

TREATY 2 TALENT • THE BANNOCK BABES

RIBBON SKIRT COMPETITION • HAIR BRAIDING COMPETITION • POW WOW PITCH

**TREATY NO. 1 TERRITORY • ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS & WATERS OF THE
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PRESENTS

IGNITE OUR SPIRIT STAGE

SATURDAY MAY 17

1:00pm Powwow Pitch
Round 2
1:30pm Powwow 101
2:00pm Dene Showcase
2:45pm Bighetty & Bighetty
3:00pm Powwow Pitch
Final
4:00pm Inuit Showcase
4:45pm Bighetty & Bighetty
5:00pm Powwow Pitch
Winner Announcement
5:15pm Hair Braiding Contest
6:15pm The Bannock Babes
Drag Show
7:00pm Treaty 2 Talent

SUNDAY MAY 18

1:30pm Powwow 101
2:00pm Ojibwe Showcase
2:45pm Bighetty & Bighetty
3:00pm Dakota Showcase
3:45pm Bighetty & Bighetty
4:00pm Hoopdance Showcase
5:30pm Ribbon Skirt
Competition
7:00pm Jig n Jam
Metis Showcase
Presented by IDFusion Software

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POWwow PITCH



MAY 18, 2025

**7:00 PM-
9:00 PM**

**ON THE
CLINT DUTIAUME STAGE**

MC EDDIE MENDOZA

KINEW JIGGERS • KINEW FIDDLERS

MORGAN GRACE BAND

NORMAN CHIEF MEMORIAL DANCERS

UNITED THUNDER JASON LEPINE BAND

FEATURING A MÉTIS BOMBARDIER DISPLAY





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