



## Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards

☎ 807 474-2351

### History of AYARA

The Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards was formerly known as The Niigaantige Career Fair. Niigaantige began in 1987 when a need was identified in Northwestern Ontario to address the high attrition rates among Aboriginal students studying at the secondary and post secondary levels. Founding organizations formed a partnership that paved the way for other community organizations to join in their efforts to address this need. As a result, and in an effort to encourage students to persevere with their educational goals, the concept of Niigaantige was born.

In 2001, Sandra Kakenway had a vision to acknowledge the Aboriginal youth in our community and as a result of her creativity and passion, The Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards was formed. These award ceremonies celebrate the talents and accomplishments of our Aboriginal Youth.

With each passing year, the Awards Ceremony has gained more and more recognition while providing hope for our Aboriginal youth. The event itself takes a lot of planning and preparation and the Awards Committee is comprised of all volunteers who represent organizations that are committed to ensuring that Aboriginal youth look forward to new and innovative ways of learning about and planning for their future.

This year's event has grown and expanded once again. We are thrilled to not only award youth in age categories from age 11 - 29, but we wish to recognize those employers and individuals in Northwestern Ontario who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, inspiration and devotion to encouraging our youth.

### About Our Logo

The rising sun represents a new beginning for youth.  
The Sleeping Giant represents wisdom and guidance from our creator.  
The feathers represent the highest honour given in recognition of excellence.  
The pipe represents the purity and innocence of youth.  
The four colours on the feathers represent diversity.

The Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards logo was chosen over many applicants during our 2007 logo contest. The winner was Nathan McDonald who at the time was a 17 year old student from Westgate High School. Nathan is a member of Whiteband First Nation.





## 2018 Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards

### Nomination Package

#### Applicant (Nominee) Information

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Name of Nominee

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Date of Birth (mm/dd/yr)

Age

Male  Female

Gender

Email

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Street Address

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Phone

School (if applicable)

First Nations (Status, Non-Status)  Metis  Inuit

Aboriginal Ancestry

#### Award Category for Nomination

Please check box for award category nomination. Please note you may only check ONE box. If you are applying a nominee for more than one award category, each category nomination must be sent separately.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy & Activism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment & Apprenticeship    | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Keepers                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Kakeeway Cultural Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Leadership & Volunteerism                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Achievement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Group Achievement                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Mentorship                | <input type="checkbox"/> Recognition Award (over 30 years old in any category) |

#### Nominee's Consent to the Nomination

I certify all information on documents submitted with this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand if I am a recipient of an award, my photo and biographical information may be used by the Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards for the purposes of announcements, media releases, print, social media and related advertisements.

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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Signature of Parent/Guardian (if under 16)

Date

## **Description of Categories**

### **Advocacy & Activism**

Individuals who have demonstrated commitment to activism and advocacy in student organizations, community action groups, advocacy campaigns and/or nonprofit organizations.

### **Academic**

Individuals who have achieved academic excellence.

### **Athletic**

Individuals who have achieved excellence in an individual or team athletic activity.

### **Artistic**

Individuals who have achieved artistic distinction in any artistic expression such as visual, written word or performance.

### **Community Leadership & Volunteerism**

Individuals who have demonstrated outstanding community leadership and/or involvement in a volunteer capacity.

### **Employment & Apprenticeship**

Individuals who have demonstrated a passion and pride for working within their trade or field of employment.

### **Heritage Keepers**

Individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to learning and continuing with traditional Cultural activities such as fishing, hunting, preserving traditional expertise such as dog sledding, tanning, traditional Aboriginal crafts and the language.

### **Group Achievement**

Established group of individuals who have achieved distinction in any category or other not listed.

### **Peer Mentorship**

Individuals recognized for their commitment to providing guidance and support to youth.

### **Personal Achievement**

Individuals who have demonstrated achievement and excellence in any area through personal perseverance.

### **Sandra Kakeeway Cultural Award**

Individuals who have shown dedication to the preservation and understanding of the Anishinabe Culture

### **Winners are selected in each age group:**

Elementary (age 11-13)

Junior (age 14-19)

Senior (age 20-29)

At times, there are individuals over 30 AYARA recognizes for their commitment for working with Aboriginal Youth. There is no age restriction to these recognition awards, Recognition (over 30) in any category.

To ensure we have enough information, we encourage each application to include the following:

- Letter from nominator with examples of why they are nominating the individual for recognition in the above category and how this award will help them in achieving future goals
- Attach relevant information if possible. For example – transcripts, art work, newspaper articles, photographs or other supporting documentation
- Short autobiography written by nominee

#### **Eligibility for Nominations**

##### **Youth Achievement Nominees**

- Be of Aboriginal ancestry.
- Reside or be from the Northwestern Ontario Region.
- Youth for Achievement Awards are to be between the ages of 11 – 29.
- Individuals 30 years of age and over are considered for the Recognition Awards.
- Must be of applicable age for each category as of March 28, 2018.
- Consent to the nomination.
- Submit nomination letter and relevant information such as copies of school transcripts, newspaper articles, photographs, or any other documentation.
- Demonstrate commitment to a healthy and positive lifestyle.

#### **AYARA**

The Selection Committee is comprised of all volunteers and community members who represent organizations that are committed to ensuring that Aboriginal youth look forward to new and innovative ways of learning about and planning for their future. AYARA believes that recognizing a person for their achievements is a great way to build self-esteem and build role models so others can see that their goals are attainable. The awards are based on efforts made by youth and not necessarily always entirely on accomplishments.

#### **Nominee Definitions**

##### **Aboriginal Ancestry**

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people – Indians (Status and Non-Status), Métis people and Inuit.

##### **Northwestern Ontario Region**

Any Aboriginal person born within the Northwestern Ontario or currently resides in the region. Northwestern Ontario is the region within the Canadian province of Ontario which lies north and west of Lake Superior, and west of Hudson Bay and James Bay.

##### **Submissions:**

Must be received no later than March 23, 2018.

##### **Send completed application to:**

Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth  
Achievement and Recognition Awards  
1100 Memorial Avenue, Suite 271  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A3  
or email entire application to [info@ayara.ca](mailto:info@ayara.ca)

We will send out a confirmation when your application is received. If you do not receive a confirmation within 48 hours (two business days) please send a follow up email to [info@ayara.ca](mailto:info@ayara.ca)