



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CHOICE MUSIC AWARDS:
Winners Announced During Live Broadcast**

Winnipeg, Manitoba (November 6, 2009) -- The 4th annual **Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards** were handed out on Friday night at Winnipeg's MTS Centre.

Lorne Cardinal hosted the spectacular show, televised live on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) and Bell Express Vu. Performances included musical legend Buffy Sainte-Marie, Crystal Shawanda, Tracy Bone, Joey Stylez, Inez, Bitterly Divine, Sierra Noble, Digging Roots, and Wayne Lavallee. Country sensations Charlie Major and George Canyon rounded out the entertainment, with special appearances from Gordon Tootoosis and Phil Fontaine. Buffy Sainte-Marie was honoured with a tribute and Lifetime Achievement Award.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

BEST COUNTRY CD

Chris Barker Band – Six String Highway (Dauphin MB)
Howard Nepinak – Second Chance (Winnipeg MB)
J.C. Campbell – Lazy James (Winnipeg MB)
Ray St. Germain – Life Ain't Hard (Winnipeg MB)
****Sierra Noble – Possibilities (Winnipeg MB)**

BEST GROUP OR DUO

Bitterly Divine (Vancouver BC)
Chris Barker Band (Dauphin MB)
Da Skelpa Squad (Winnipeg MB)
****Eagle & Hawk (Winnipeg MB)**
Team Rezofficial (Hobbema AB)

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ABORIGINAL ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Buffy Sainte-Marie (Maine and Massachusetts, USA / Saskatchewan, Canada)

****Crystal Shawanda (Wiwemikong ON)**

Don Amero (Winnipeg MB)

Eagle & Hawk (Winnipeg MB)

Tracy Bone (Winnipeg MB)

BEST FOLK OR ACOUSTIC CD

****Buffy Sainte-Marie – Running For The Drum (Maine and Massachusetts, USA / Saskatchewan, Canada)**

Digging Roots – We Are (Toronto ON)

Don Amero – Deepening (Winnipeg MB)

Shy-Anne Hovorka – Black Thunderbird (Thunder Bay ON)

Wayne Lavallee – Trail of Tears (Vancouver BC)

BEST NEW ARTIST

Chris Barker Band (Dauphin MB)

****Inez (Chilliwack BC)**

Jon-C (Winnipeg MB)

Plex (Toronto ON)

Will Belcourt (Edmonton AB)

BEST POP CD

Buffy Sainte-Marie – Running For The Drum (Maine and Massachusetts, USA / Saskatchewan, Canada)

****Inez – Singsoulgirl (Chilliwack BC)**

Sierra Noble – Possibilities (Winnipeg MB)

Tracy Bone – No Lies (Winnipeg MB)

Will Belcourt – Obliterate (Edmonton AB)

BEST POW WOW CD CONTEMPORARY

GON – Thunder Morning (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

North Buffalo – Pow Wow Songs (Cando SK)

****Whitefish Bay Singers – Whitefish Bay Singers (Whitefish Bay ON)**

BEST POW WOW CD - TRADITIONAL

****Brown Eagle – In the Spirit of Brown Eagle (Winnipeg MB)**

Chi-Geezis – Neeshtahnaw – 20 Years of Chi-Geezis (Manitoullin Island ON)

GON – Thunder Morning (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

****Red Bull – Gold (Little Pine First Nation SK)**

BEST ROCK CD

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

Bitterly Divine – Bitterly Divine (Vancouver BC)

Chris Barker Band – Six String Highway (Dauphin MB)

****Eagle & Hawk – Sirensong (Winnipeg MB)**

Lost Priority – All That We Are (Wasagamak MB)

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SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Angus Jourdain – Warriors (Lac La Croix First Nation ON)

Brooklyn – Badass Shorty (Winnipeg MB)

Da Skelpa Squad – Born To Do It (Winnipeg MB)

****Inez – Breathe (Chilliwack BC)**

Will Belcourt – Faith (Edmonton AB)

ABORIGINAL SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

Buffy Sainte Marie – No No Keshegesh (Maine and Massachusetts, USA / Saskatchewan, Canada)

Chris Barker Band – Six String Highway (Dauphin MB)

Plex – Spare Change (Toronto ON)

****Tracy Bone – No Lies (Winnipeg MB)**

Will Belcourt – Faith (Edmonton AB)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

****Buffy Sainte-Marie**

ABOUT THE APCMA'S

TRAFFIC: Over 700,000 visitors viewed more than 1.1 million pages since last year's awards. Over 232,000 visitors viewed more than 444,000 pages during the final round of voting.

VOTES: 69,837 total votes were cast this year - 118% of 2008 (59,042 votes), 191% of 2007 (36,540 votes), and 305% of 2006 (22,889 votes).

NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS: 29,949 registrants are able to log in and vote, with 8,256 more registrants signed up since last year's awards.

MEMBER LOCATIONS: In addition to Canada and the United States, members have signed up from over 40 other countries, including Germany, Australia, United Kingdom, England, Scotland, France, Korea, India, Netherlands, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Mexico, Denmark, China, Brazil, China, Portugal, Greece, Malaysia, Italy, Macedonia, Spain, Romania, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Algeria, Thailand, Costa Rica, Wales, Guadeloupe, Ecuador, Trinidad, Saint Lucia, Kenya, Singapore, and Nigeria.

FEEDBACK: Nearly 1,700 feedback responses have been received so far, from every Canadian Province and across the United States.

HOW THEY FOUND OUT: Overall, 50% of registrants found out about the event by word of mouth, 40% through e-mail and web, 9% through radio and television.

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GROWING AUDIENCE: Since 2006, the number of members has increased 424%. More than two of every three new registrants (69%) in 2009 identified themselves of Aboriginal descent. Since the APCMA's inception in 2006, the website has received almost 30,000 registrations. Non-Aboriginal registrants amounted to 23% in 2006, 33% in 2007, 34% in 2008, and 31% in 2009.

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
www.manitoahbee.com

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2009 Manito Ahbee Festival & Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards

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