

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ABORIGINAL MUSIC WEEK WINS MANITOBA TOURISM AWARD

Winnipeg, MB – Aboriginal Music Week was honoured with the Manitoba Tourism Award for Aboriginal Tourism on May 26 at a gala event in Winnipeg. The five day music festival brought 21 Aboriginal artists from across the continent to Winnipeg stages for family concerts and a nightclub show in the first week of November (November 3-7).

“We launched Aboriginal Music Week to open up the Aboriginal concert world to families and youth,” explains Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee Inc. chairperson Alan Greyeyes. “Up until last year, we had lots of great Aboriginal artists coming through Winnipeg with very few opportunities for the kids to see them.”

Four of the five concerts during Aboriginal Music Week were open to youth. With the support of local leaders, the organization also distributed 384 free tickets to community organizations throughout the inner city to ensure that low income families could attend the concerts. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg, Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg Inc, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Ka Ni Kanichihk, Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre, Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre, The Graffiti Gallery, West Broadway Youth Outreach received tickets.

Three free lunch hour concerts at Portage Place Shopping Mall and three free afternoon music business workshops were also presented.

Aboriginal Music Week 2010 will include concerts at the Skyview Ballroom in the Marlborough Hotel, the West End Cultural Centre, and the Pyramid Cabaret from October 29 - November 6. The festival lineup will be announced in September.

### ABORIGINAL MUSIC WEEK 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- DJ Madeskimo fused traditional Inuit vocals and recordings of northern Canadian landscapes with electronic music at the Pantages Playhouse for the Rising Stars Concert on November 5.
- Wab Kinew pushed boundaries with hip hop lyrics over hand drum compositions at the West End Cultural Centre for the Urban Music Concert on November 4.
- Cris Derksen used her classical training on the cello along with a looping station to blaze new trails in Métis music at the Pantages Playhouse for the Rising Stars Concert on November 5.
- Joey Stylez mania filled Portage Place Shopping Mall and Blush Ultraclub during his two performances at the festival. Capacity crowds filled the both venues and shows were delayed several minutes due to fans rushing the stage to take photos with the Saskatchewan born MC.

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For more information:

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## ABOUT THE MANITOBA TOURISM AWARDS

The Manitoba Tourism Awards is an annual program recognizing excellence in the promotion and delivery of tourism experiences in Manitoba.

The Aboriginal Tourism Award recognizes excellence in the delivery of a product or service that demonstrates cultural authenticity and sensitivity to the ecological, cultural and economic integrity of the community.

## ABOUT THE MANITOBA ABORIGINAL MUSIC HOST COMMITTEE INC.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee Inc. is incorporated under the laws of Manitoba as a corporation without share capital (i.e., not-for-profit). The Corporation is governed by an eight-person Board of Directors.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee Inc. board members are Alan Greyeyes, Lisa Meeches, Waubgeshig Rice, Jacques St. Goddard, Jaimie Isaac, David Robertson, Teresa Clifton, and Kim Ziervogel.

### Vision

The Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee Inc. is universally accepted as a leader in the development and growth of the Aboriginal music community.

### Mission

The purpose of the Manitoba Aboriginal Music Host Committee Inc. is to present, promote and nurture Aboriginal music and culture in order to build audiences at the community level and beyond.