

## MANITOBA ABORIGINAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

c/o 510 Selkirk Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2M7 www.mayaa.ca

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 21<sup>th</sup> Annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards: Youth from across the Province to be honoured

The 21<sup>th</sup> annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards (MAYAA) will be held Thursday November 19, 2015 at Victoria Inn at 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg.

"This year's MAYAA winners have achieved standards of excellence in academics, arts, athletics, business/entrepreneurship, community involvement, culture, employment in a traditional field, health, personal achievement" says MAYAA Co-Chair Helen Robinson-Settee.

MAYAAs are presented to 16 outstanding Aboriginal youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The awards were founded in 1994 as a way to combat negative images of Aboriginal youth and draw attention to youth in the community who excel in their activities. "These Aboriginal youth were important role models and their spirit and perseverance remains to represent what the awards program is all about," notes MAYAA Co-Chair Darlene Daniels.

The MAYAA are unique in that recipients are selected by a committee of aboriginal youth from the community. The awards have continued to grow each year, more than doubling in size since its inception with more than 1600 attendees by the year 2000.

In it's 21<sup>st</sup> year, the MAYAA has given out nearly 300 awards and thousands of dollars in scholarship. The evening is a celebration of accomplishment as well an opportunity for young people and business leaders to come together and discuss the future.

Past MAYAA recipients Ashley Richard and Noah Robinson will host this year's event.

To learn more about the MAYAA and to purchase tickets for the event go to: http://www.mayaa.ca

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