



**2018 Indspire Awards to air on CBC and APTN
at 8:00pm on June 24, 2018**

(Ohsweken, ON – June 5, 2018) The *Indspire Awards* will broadcast nationwide on Sunday, June 24 at 8 p.m. (8:30 p.m. NT) on CBC, CBC Radio One, cbc.ca/watch, and on APTN. Please check your local listings.

The *2018 Indspire Awards* honour the following thirteen First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals from across the country:

Lifetime Achievement: **Dr. Gloria Cranmer Webster**, 'Namgis First Nation, BC
Arts: **Greg Hill**, Kanyen'kehaka at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
Business & Commerce: **Nicole Bourque-Bouchier**, Mikisew Cree First Nation, AB
Culture, Heritage & Spirituality: **Kye7e Cecilia Dick DeRose**, Secwepemc Nation, BC
Culture, Heritage & Spirituality: **The land Kicknosway**, Walpole Island Bkejwanong Territory, ON
Education: **Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams**, Lil'wat Nation, BC
Health: **Dr. Evelyn Voyageur**, Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, BC
Law & Justice: **Paul Chartrand**, Métis, St. Laurent, MB
Public Service: **Dr. Mike DeGagné**, Animakee Wa Zhing #37, ON
Sports: **Michael Linklater**, Thunderchild First Nation, SK
Youth – First Nation: **Ashley Callingbull**, Enoch Cree Nation, AB
Youth – Inuit: **Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk**, Igluligaarjuk, NU
Youth – Métis: **Tracie Léost**, Métis, St. Laurent, MB

More information about each recipient can be found at indspire.ca/indspire-awards/laureates

This year's ceremony is co-hosted by Darrell Dennis, award-winning comedian, actor, screenwriter and radio personality and Kyle Nobess, actor (Mohawk Girls) and international speaker. The show was taped in front of a live audience of 1900 people, including over 600 Indigenous youth, on March 23, 2018 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The show features performances by 2018 Juno-nominated, Indian City led by Vince Fontaine, 2018 Juno-nominated Sanikiluaq singer and songwriter, Kelly Fraser, dancer/choreographer, Santee Smith, Genie Award-winner for Best Achievement in Music, Jennifer Kreisberg, and classically trained Canadian cellist, Cris Derksen together with members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. 2005 Juno-nominated Asham Stompers, and 13-year old twin fiddler brothers Double the Trouble accompanied by 20-year old, Gustin Adjun join the final performance.

“Between the performances and the award recipients, the *Awards* is a magnificent evening of celebration of Indigenous talent in Canada,” said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of Indspire and Executive Producer of the *Indspire Awards*. “In this era of reconciliation, it is fitting that we honour the contributions and role of Indigenous peoples and look forward to the future we are building together. By recognizing the journeys and accomplishments of these remarkable First Nations, Inuit, and Métis visionaries, activists, and role models, who have – with passion, courage and tenacity – converted their gifts, energies and determination into achievement, we inspire our young people to achieve their dreams and we show all Canadians that our people continue to be an important part of the future of our country.”

The *Indspire Awards* are made possible by the generous support of individual, government, and corporate supporters, including presenting corporate sponsor, TD Bank Group.

"TD is proud to present the *Indspire Awards*, recognizing the accomplishments of exceptional Indigenous youth and professionals from across the country. Through The Ready Commitment, our new corporate citizenship platform, we are honoured to work alongside Indspire to build confidence in Indigenous youth, foster a sense of belonging, and open doors to a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow for all." said *Andrea Barrack*, Vice President, Global Corporate Citizenship, TD Bank Group.

Indspire gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

Presenting Corporate Sponsor: TD Bank Group

Lead Partner: Government of Canada

Regional Partner: Manitoba government

Indigenous Youth Sponsor: Shell Canada Limited

Major Sponsors & Broadcast Partners: CBC and APTN

Major Sponsors: Suncor Energy Inc., and Syncrude Canada Ltd.

Youth Laureate Sponsor: Great-West Life

Founding Sponsor & Official Airline: Air Canada

Post-Ceremony Reception Sponsor: Teck Resources Limited

About the *Indspire Awards*

The *Indspire Awards* represent the highest honour the Indigenous community bestows upon its own people. After 25 years, the *Indspire Awards* have recognized 350 Indigenous professionals and youth who demonstrate outstanding achievement. Their stories serve to inspire our youth and educate all Canadians about the impact that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people are making across the country. Each year, the recipients are selected by a jury composed of previous award recipients from across Canada. Recipients are honoured at a ceremony, which is later televised nationally.

About Indspire

Indspire is an Indigenous-led national charity that invests in the education of Indigenous people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families and communities, and Canada. With the support of its funding partners, Indspire disburses financial awards, delivers programs, and shares resources with the goal of improving graduation rates for

Indigenous students. Through the *K-12 Institute*, it provides resources to educators, communities, and other stakeholders who are committed to improving kindergarten to grade 12 outcomes for Indigenous youth. In 2017-18, Indspire provided \$14.2 million through over 4,900 bursaries and scholarships to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.

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