



2023-2024

# Annual Report



# Indspire

Indigenous education,  
Canada's future.

L'éducation des autochtones.  
L'avenir du Canada.



# Our 2023-2024 impact inside





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# Indspire

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## A Message from the Chair of the Board

There are many reasons that we celebrate milestones. Whether personal or professional, these waypoints not only mark the accomplishments of the past, they also serve as valuable indicators as to where our next steps might lie. Each year's annual report serves this vital purpose: celebrating the past year's shared successes while giving us scope to look forward into the next year – and beyond.

The 2023-24 financial year was illuminated by numerous highlights, and I am very pleased to be able to share them on behalf of Indspire's Board of Directors. Once again, Indspire broke previous records with over \$30.9 million in funding being disbursed to over 8,300 Indigenous learners: a trend which indicates that levels of support and financial needs continue to grow concurrently.

One of the most notable moments was the 30th Anniversary of the Indspire Awards, celebrated with a special reception for Laureates from all years followed by a gala dinner in May 2023 in Edmonton, AB, to honour the 2023 Laureates. Both gatherings emphasized the significant generational impact of the Awards. Over 1,000 guests gathered on May 11, 2023, to honour the 2023 Award recipients as well as Laureates from the previous thirty years, with a special presentation honouring the Laureates who had passed away. It was simultaneously a celebration of past achievements, an inception point for the future of the Awards, and a family reunion.

Another notable highlight was the very first in-person Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering since 2020. The enthusiasm was palpable as over 900 Indigenous high school students and their educators assembled in Edmonton, AB, for an action-packed two days which were full of quality content, engaging entertainment, and numerous opportunities for the students to contemplate their own milestones and future paths.



Educators from across Turtle Island showed us that there is still a fierce appetite for community collaboration – and a forum in which to facilitate that collaboration – by making the 2023 National Gathering for Indigenous Education extremely successful. From November 15-17, 2023, over 800 educators from across Turtle Island gathered in Montréal, QC, to discuss best practices and strategies for Indigenizing education and supporting Indigenous students. With 361 participants joining virtually, we were able to continue our practice of reaching as many educators as possible while facilitating meaningful discussions about the future of Indigenous education.

As we turn from the milestones of this past year and begin looking to the path ahead, I would like to acknowledge that this year’s numerous successes would not have been possible without the generous support of Indigenous leadership, multiple levels of government, sponsors, educators, and individual donors from across Canada who are helping us to create this environment of success for Indigenous students and their communities. We are grateful for your ongoing support and for the many ways in which you help us achieve our important goals – and, in doing so, help First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students achieve theirs.

Chi-miigwech,

**Donald E. Worme, K.C., I.P.C.**  
Chair, Board of Directors







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## A Message from our President & CEO

I am honoured to share with you the highlights of an extraordinary year, where we celebrate the resilience, achievements, and unwavering spirit of Indigenous students, educators, and communities across Canada, who are at the heart of everything we do at Indspire.

This year has been one of profound impact. Through the dedication of our team, the generosity of our donors, and the strength of our partnerships, we have continued to make significant strides towards our goal of empowering Indigenous students and educators, celebrating Indigenous achievement, and creating positive change through Indigenous education.

We have witnessed remarkable achievements this year, from the record-breaking increase in bursaries and scholarships awarded to Indigenous students through the Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships (BBF) program to the first in-person Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering since March 2020 to the significant expansion of our Rivers to Success Indigenous Student Mentorship (R2S) program. Each of these landmarks is a testament to the collective effort of our community and the belief in the transformative power of education.

Another significant moment was the 30th anniversary of the Indspire Awards in May 2023. It was simultaneously a celebration of Indigenous excellence, a reunion of multiple generations of Indspire Laureates, and a public acknowledgment that Indigenous achievement is an integral part of the country's past and future.

Indspire's work is driven by the understanding that education is a key factor in addressing the social and economic disparities faced by Indigenous Peoples. It is also a vital pathway to reconciliation, offering



opportunities for sharing knowledge, cultures, and traditions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. As we look back on this outstanding year, we are reminded of the importance of our mission and the positive impact we can achieve together.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported Indspire this year. To our donors, partners, and volunteers: your generosity and commitment have been the cornerstone of our success. To the educators and mentors who support us: your dedication to fostering environments of learning and growth is truly inspiring. And to all of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students: your determination, resilience, and achievements fuel our passion and drive our work forward. You are not only the leaders of tomorrow; you are the leaders of today, making significant contributions to your communities and to Canada.

Together, we are not just changing individual lives; we are transforming the future of our country, one student at a time. I invite you to celebrate this notable year with us- and to continue working with us to inspire and support the next generations of Indigenous leaders. Your involvement is key to our collective success, and together, we are creating a legacy of hope, achievement, and enduring impact.

Warmest regards,

**Mike DeGagné**

President and CEO, Indspire





# Indspire by the Numbers

## OUR IMPACT SINCE 1996

 **\$248+ Million**  
provided to Indigenous students since 1996

 **75,000+**  
scholarships, bursaries, and awards provided to Indigenous students since 1996

## OUR 2023-2024 IMPACT

 **\$30.9+ Million**  
disbursed to Indigenous students in the 2023-2024 academic year

 **8,300+**  
Indigenous students funded in the 2023-2024 academic year



**~89%**

of surveyed Building Brighter Futures recipients graduate from their programs



**~88%**

of Building Brighter Futures graduates have obtained employment



**~72%**

of Building Brighter Futures recipients work in fields that impact Indigenous communities



When we asked Indspire staff members to share their thoughts and feelings about what they were most proud of during the 2023-24 fiscal year, the results were illuminating – and inspiring. (Note: “grateful” was spontaneously volunteered by multiple staff members.)

Grateful Optimistic  
Moved Value Empowered  
Knowledge Proud Resilience  
Hopeful Expansive Inspired  
Staunch Expanding Horizons

“The **best part about my work is connecting with students to share their stories.** They are always so honoured and humble, despite the amazing accomplishments so many have achieved.”

“As a resource provider for the Rivers to Success mentorship program at Indspire, I’m continually moved by our students’ potential. **It’s a privilege to contribute to their journey, offering tools and guidance to help them navigate towards success.**”

“Despite the economic downturn and the increased pressure on individuals and businesses, **people continue to support us and, in many ways, go above and beyond** by giving multiple times a year, setting up a monthly commitment, or just sharing notes/words of kindness and encouragement for the work Indspire does to support education and reconciliation.”

“I value the work that I do. I feel valued as an employee by my leaders and colleagues. And, **I have a deep appreciation for the valuable resources Indspire offers in supporting Indigenous education.**”



# building brighter futures

Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards

## OUR 2023-2024 IMPACT:



Indspire disbursed over  
**\$30.9 Million**



to more than  
**8,300 Indigenous  
students**

## OUR IMPACT SINCE 1996:



Indspire has disbursed over  
**\$248 Million**



to more than  
**75,000 Indigenous  
students**

# Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships

## Continuing the Journey to Success

Indspire's Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships (BBF) program continued its record-breaking trajectory during the 2023-24 fiscal year. BBF is one of Indspire's best-known programs, providing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students with the support that they need to reach their educational goals.

The support provided by the BBF program is literally life-changing for the Indigenous learners who receive it. Not only does it enable students to access hundreds of opportunities for post-secondary funding with just one application, it also gives them the opportunity to explore avenues that they might not have known about had they not successfully applied. As one BBF recipient stated:

“I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the support provided by generous donors. Coming from my reserve, opportunities seemed finite. Further education truly opened doors to opportunities and Indspire assisted throughout, I just couldn't have done it without them.”

BBF funding doesn't just have an impact on the students who receive it. Because BBF-funded students are more able to remain connected to and active in their respective communities, their communities also benefit from students who receive this support.

Approximately 89 per cent of surveyed BBF recipients go on to graduate, while 88 per cent then successfully enter the workforce – and approximately 72 per cent of them work in fields that impact Indigenous communities:

**“Having worked outside my community and gained further experience, it has set me up to achieve opportunities of growth that I can bring back to my community.”**

Here’s a snapshot of the top 10 fields of study of the students Indspire supports:







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## OUR 2023-2024 IMPACT:



### 4 Research Reports

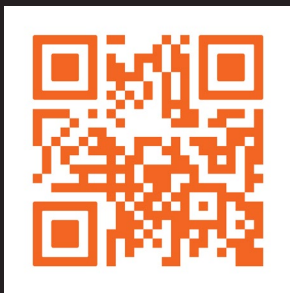
were released this year



### 4 Research Projects

were commenced

## SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE ALL OF OUR REPORTS:



[indspire.ca/reports](https://indspire.ca/reports)

## Research & Impact Unit

The Research and Impact Unit took on four key projects in 2023-24. In collaboration with Canadian Heritage, a project called *InterGenerational and Reconciliation Stories* aimed to provide safe spaces for survivors, families, and communities to share their stories and advance intergenerational healing and reconciliation. This project also supported Canadian Heritage's goal to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The *Mental Health of Indigenous Students* project aimed to critically review the mental health resources tailored for Indigenous students and pinpoint areas of improvement in both research and practical support.

The project *Post-Secondary Education and Employment Outcomes* included data from our National Education Survey, which is distributed to Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries & Scholarships (BBF) recipients every three years; it is currently in its second distribution phase. Over 7,000 recipients provided feedback as to how Indigenous students can be better supported to succeed throughout their unique educational and vocational journeys. Insights from this project can be found in the report *Building Brighter Futures for Indigenous Learners: Insights into the National Education Survey*.

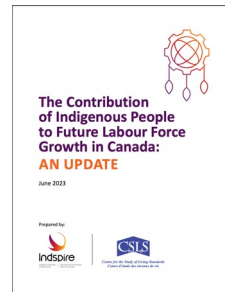
The final project, *Indigenous Students' Experiences in Bachelor of Education Programs*, examined post-secondary institutions' approach to implementing Indigenous pedagogies within Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programs and Indigenous students' experiences in these programs. The corresponding report *A Review of Indigenous Education Models: Bachelor of Education Students* captures the

experience of participants who shared their experiences with us.

In addition, a report titled *An Introspective Look into Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Post-Secondary Indigenous Support* was produced using insightful conversations with students and administrators which examined the factors that impede or facilitate access to post-secondary schooling for Indigenous students. The team also put together a report in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS), titled *The Contribution of Indigenous People to Future Labour Force Growth in Canada: An Update* exploring the growth scenarios using Statistics Canada updated census data to better understand the current labour landscape for Indigenous people.

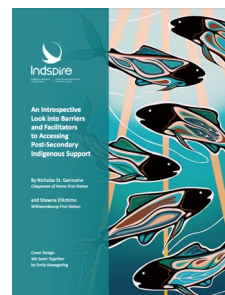
With the great work the team has continued to do, we look forward to going into the new year with two exciting collaborations in sight. We have engaged in a collaboration with the Mental Health Commission of Canada to expand on the Mental Health project which is a critical support area in which we are looking forward to investing more resources. We have also engaged with the Rideau Hall Foundation on an exciting project that will commence in 2024-2025, looking at recruitment barriers experienced by Indigenous post-secondary students during their journeys to becoming educators.

## Reports Published This Year



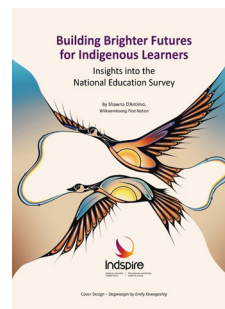
### The Contribution of Indigenous People to Future Labour Force Growth in Canada: AN UPDATE

By Indspire and Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS)



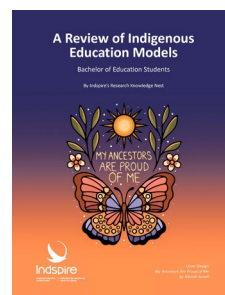
### An Introspective Look into Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Post-Secondary Indigenous Support

By Indspire's Research Knowledge Nest



### Building Brighter Futures for Indigenous Learners: Insights into the National Education Survey

By Indspire's Research Knowledge Nest



### A Review of Indigenous Education Models: Bachelor of Education Students

By Indspire's Research Knowledge Nest



# rivers to success

## OUR 2023-2024 IMPACT:



Engaged

**5,300+ Participants**



Hosted

**50+ Virtual Events**



**230+ Resources**

available on the website and  
online portal

## Rivers to Success

### Every Journey is Unique

The Rivers to Success Indigenous Mentorship (R2S) program continues to make significant strides in supporting Indigenous high school, post-secondary and career transition students throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The program has continued to provide a comprehensive platform accessible through [www.riverstosuccess.ca](http://www.riverstosuccess.ca), offering a range of resources and engaging content. The platform's design was intentionally crafted to create a welcoming, virtual environment for Indigenous students, reflecting the program's commitment to student support. Furthermore, the R2S team made significant progress in matching mentors and mentees, enhancing the personalized support available to students. With over 5,000 participants and 1,300 mentor-mentee relationships, they have facilitated meaningful connections and personalized support for educational and career pursuits.

In addition to the platform enhancements, the R2S team developed new content for its library, ensuring new program participants have access to high-quality resources from the start. Valuable partnerships were formed with Action Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation, New School of Fundraising and MILA to support capacity-building in policymaking, teaching, philanthropy and artificial intelligence for Indigenous peoples.



New this year was the introduction of 250 individual tutoring spots available to Grade 11 and 12 students to help bridge the gap to graduation and increase the ability to apply to post-secondary education. R2S also delivered Tsi Niwakénhes Kanyen'kéha Yakwateweyénhstha, a two-week full-time Mohawk Summer Language Program for high school students.

The R2S program's commitment to empowering Indigenous students is further underscored by its focus on mental health and cultural support. Collaborations with organizations such as the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Shkaabe Makwa, We Matter, the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Jack.org, and Kids Help Phone have facilitated new virtual safe spaces where students can meet. New mental health resources to complement the ones we already have offer advice on mitigating the stigma of needing support for men, healthy relationships, traditional practices, sport and wellness, and self-advocacy.





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**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2023**  
**MONTREAL, QC**



## Hybrid Event

virtual / in-person



## 1,100+ Educators

attended from across the  
country



## 50 Booths

from partners were featured  
in the tradeshow



## 49 Workshops

were presented

# National Gathering for Indigenous Education

## Many Paths to Learning

Indspire's 2023 National Gathering for Indigenous Education brought together a vibrant community of 800 in-person and 361 virtual attendees. Once again using a hybrid in-person/virtual approach, this year's event at the Hotel Bonaventure in Montréal, QC, stood as a beacon of empowerment for Indigenous education and community development, underscoring the resilience, talent, and commitment of Indigenous educators and students across Canada. The gathering was not only a celebration but also a profound learning experience, featuring 37 in-person and 12 online workshops. These sessions spanned a broad spectrum of topics, including cultural preservation, language revitalization, career development, and educational advancement.

A central highlight was the tradeshow, which featured 50 booths. It provided a dynamic platform for entrepreneurs, artists, and organizations to showcase their contributions, connecting with the community and highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity within Indigenous cultures. This marketplace was not just about transactions; it was a vivid expression of pride, innovation, and potential that resonated deeply with all who attended.

As always, the sold-out Pre-Gathering was extremely popular, featuring the Climbing the Mountain workshop on reconciliation through education



facilitated by Dr. Niigaan Sinclair. Sponsored by the Rideau Hall Foundation, 100 Indigenous post-secondary students pursuing education studies were also in attendance, enjoying specially-tailored programming and a networking-oriented Student Social.

The main event was guided by MC Greg Horn, a Kanien'kehá:ka journalist and entrepreneur from Kahnawake, who brought his expertise and passion for Indigenous storytelling to the podium. The Gathering featured keynote speakers Dr. Lori Campbell, a proud 2-Spirit member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation and the 2023 Indspire Laureate for Education, who shared her insights on social justice, education, and Indigenous empowerment, and the duo PIQSIQ, consisting of sisters Tiffany Ayalik and Inuksuk Mackay, who captivated attendees with their haunting Inuit throat singing performance and insights into traditional Inuit education.

The panel discussion, "Indigenous Students' Experiences in Post-Secondary Settings," moderated by Greg Horn, provided a platform for Indigenous youth to voice their experiences, challenges, and aspirations within the context of post-secondary education and reconciliation efforts. Indspire Youth Laureate James Lavallée, influencer Shina Nova, and Guiding the Journey Award recipient Marika Schalla shared their personal journeys, offering valuable perspectives on navigating educational spaces as Indigenous students.

Another key moment was the Action Canada Panel on the final day, where former Action Canada Fellows Deanna Matthews and Lisa Beaucage shared their thoughts about the program with moderator Julie Wildgoose, Indspire's Director of Programs and Student Success. Their words about how its impact



helped to shape their future careers as young Indigenous professionals were inspirational, creating a fitting coda to a memorable event.

The 2023 National Gathering was a testament to the power of unity and the impact of sharing knowledge and experiences. The event was a step forward on our journey toward supporting the educational aspirations of Indigenous students and fostering a deeper, more inclusive understanding of Indigenous cultures within Canada.

Operating once again as a hybrid virtual/in-person event, the 2024 National Gathering for Indigenous Education will take place from November 20-22, 2024, in Winnipeg, MB. Find out more and register online at [indspire.ca/national-gathering](https://indspire.ca/national-gathering).



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NOVEMBER 15, 2023  
MONTRÉAL, QC



75

Representatives from



46

Post-Secondary institutions  
attended



1<sup>st</sup> Summit

to be hosted in person

## Post-Secondary Education Summit

November 15, 2023, marked the second Indspire Post-Secondary Leaders Summit, the first time this event was held in person. The focus this year was on Indspire's Research and Impact Unit's (RIU) report *An Introspective Look into Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Post-Secondary Indigenous Support*, which comprised insights from Indigenous students about their education journeys, discussions of best practices with post-secondary leaders, and a review of progress made in implementing TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) recommendations, Indigenization, and Indigenous Achievement Plans.

75 representatives from 46 post-secondary institutes across Canada took part in the Summit. Indspire Laureate Elder Winston Wuttunee opened the event in a good way, Dr. Mike DeGagné delivered the keynote address, and the following presenters spoke to their area of expertise:

**Shawna D'Antimo, Researcher with Indspire's RIU**, presented the following report and hosted a corresponding Q & A session: *An Introspective Look into Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Post-Secondary Indigenous Support*.

**Dr. Celeste Pedri-Spade, Associate Provost of Indigenous Initiatives at McGill University**, spoke on "Advancing TRC in Post-Secondary Education: Lessons Learned," providing critical considerations, strategies, and tools for academic leaders to find relevant and valuable as they aim to advance institutional commitments to truth and reconciliation and Indigenization more broadly. A Q & A session followed the talk.



**The Honourable Brian Francis, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples,** used this event as an opportunity to announce the Committee's release of the *Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023* report.

**Simon Sylliboy, Ph.D. candidate and educator at St. Francis Xavier University,** shared insights about his own personal journey and how he navigates the education system as both a student and educator.

**Farahnaaz Kanji, Director, Social Impact & Innovation at RBC,** presented a session on "Untapped Potential: working together to open doors to opportunity through scholarships" with a corresponding Q & A session.

The facilitated workshops were delivered using technology and zero paper in a sustainable, carbon footprint-reduced fashion.

Attendees received all presentations, reports, and workshop results digitally following the Summit.



# guiding the journey

Indigenous Educator Awards

NOVEMBER 15, 2023  
MONTRÉAL, QC

## Guiding the Journey Indigenous Educator Awards

The Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards are an annual celebration of Indigenous educators who go above and beyond to Indigenize curriculum, create safe spaces and innovative programming for their First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students, and uphold Indigenous values in the classroom and the community. Three Indigenous educators, one Indigenous organization, and one non-Indigenous partner in Indigenous education were honoured during a special ceremony at the Montréal Science Centre on Nov 15, 2023, during the National Gathering for Indigenous Education from Nov 15-17, 2023, in Montréal, QC.



## The 2023 Guiding the Journey recipients are:



**Lisa Michano-Courchene**

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Nation, ON  
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Secondary, ON



*Partner in Indigenous Education*

**Loretta Dykun**

Mystery Lake School District, MB



**Monica Ittusardjuat**

Akkimaniq, NU  
Inhabit Education, NU



*Organization*

**Fort Chipewyan  
Community High  
School**

Fort Chipewyan, AB



**Nadia Sammurtok**

Rankin Inlet, NU  
Nunavut Teachers' Association, NU



# SOARING

Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering

MAY 9-10, 2023  
EDMONTON, AB



## Held in person

for the first time since 2020



**1,500+**

students and their chaperones attended from across the country



**55**

in person workshops

**17**

virtual workshops



**67**

in person tradeshow booths

**49**

virtual tradeshow booths

## Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering

### Exploring the Future – Together Again

Soaring once again lifted the spirits and aspirations of Indigenous youth across Turtle Island. With a successful blend of in-person engagement in Edmonton, AB, and an inclusive online presence, Soaring 2023 expanded its reach, delivering a powerful and accessible experience to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students in grades 9-12. It was the first in-person Soaring gathering since March 2020.

Soaring illuminated the horizons for Indigenous youth with its career and leadership panels featuring dynamic young Indigenous figures. The entire event was harmoniously guided by Stan Wesley, who was pivotal as MC in creating an engaging experience. The Deloitte Career Panel featured insights from Erin Sader, Charles Muskego, and Teresa Bennett, while Indspire Laureates Reanna Merasty and Theland Kicknosway shared their wisdom with fellow Laureate and moderator Tracie Léost as part of the ever-popular Young Indigenous Leaders Panel. Along with a wide array of informative workshops – 55 in-person and 17 virtual – these panels provided not just insight but actionable knowledge, enabling students to make informed decisions about their futures.



The “Indspiration Zone” tradeshow was a nexus for invaluable face-to-face networking with educational and industry leaders and offered clarity on post-secondary education, financial support, and career aspirations. With 67 in-person booths and 49 virtual ones, each a gateway to potential educational pathways and exciting career options, it was a hub of opportunity.

Campus Experience Day gave students a chance to experience innovative outings at the University of Alberta, MacEwan University, the TELUS World of Science, and Fort Edmonton Park, with additional programming provided by CN and Water First. The Student Social at Fort Edmonton Park also gave students a chance to enjoy hands-on experiences, participate in a scavenger hunt plus a round dance, and see a performance by world champion hoop dancer Notorious Cree. The final day wrapped up with a performance by acclaimed musician Sebastian Gaskin.

Soaring 2023 once again proved to be a cornerstone event for Indigenous youth, empowering them with the tools, knowledge, and connections to soar to new heights. Each year, Soaring is a catalyst for igniting potential and fostering the aspirations of Indigenous students across Canada.

The next Soaring will take place in April 2024 in Ottawa, ON.



# INDSPIRE 30<sup>TH</sup> AWARDS ANNIVERSARY

MAY 11, 2023  
EDMONTON, AB



## 400+ Laureates

have been honoured  
since 1993



## 1,000+ Guests

attended the Indspire  
Awards 30th Anniversary  
dinner and ceremony

## Indspire Awards

### 30 Years of Honouring Indigenous Excellence

The 2023 Indspire Awards were a particularly significant moment in time – not just for Indspire, but also for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities across Turtle Island. 2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the Indspire Awards, with Laureates, partners, sponsors, and longtime friends of Indspire all coming together for a momentous reunion.

Laureates from all generations gathered at a reception on May 10 at the Royal Glenora Club. Featuring wisdom from Mike DeGagné as well as Laureate Theland Kicknosway (Culture, Heritage & Spirituality – 2018), it also featured an illuminated commemorative drone show – the very first of its kind in Edmonton.

On May 11, a gala dinner at the Edmonton Convention Centre was an unforgettable experience for over 1,000 guests, who entered via an illuminated floral “river valley” through the Indspire Walk of Fame. The dynamic Stan Wesley as MC and a stellar Indigenous fusion dinner inspired by award-winning Chef Shane Chartrand, along with dynamite performances by world champion hoop dancer Notorious Cree and acclaimed musicians Riit and Aysanabee, rounded out a magical evening that was truly a fitting commemoration of 30 years of Indigenous excellence.

The 2023 Indspire Awards, hosted by Laureates Tina Keeper (Arts – 2005) and Dallas Soonias (Sports – 2021) were broadcast on CBC and APTN on Sunday, June 18th, 2023, reaching viewers from coast to coast to coast.



The twelve individuals who were chosen as 2023 Indspire Award Laureates demonstrated outstanding career achievement on a national level. Recipients were chosen from a variety of fields including the arts, business, culture, education, health, law, public service, sports, lifetime achievement, and three Youth Awards. Just as in prior years, recipients were selected by a national jury of past Laureates.

## The 2023 Indspire Awards Laureates are:



**Reanna Merasty**

Youth Laureate



**Willow Allen**

Youth Laureate



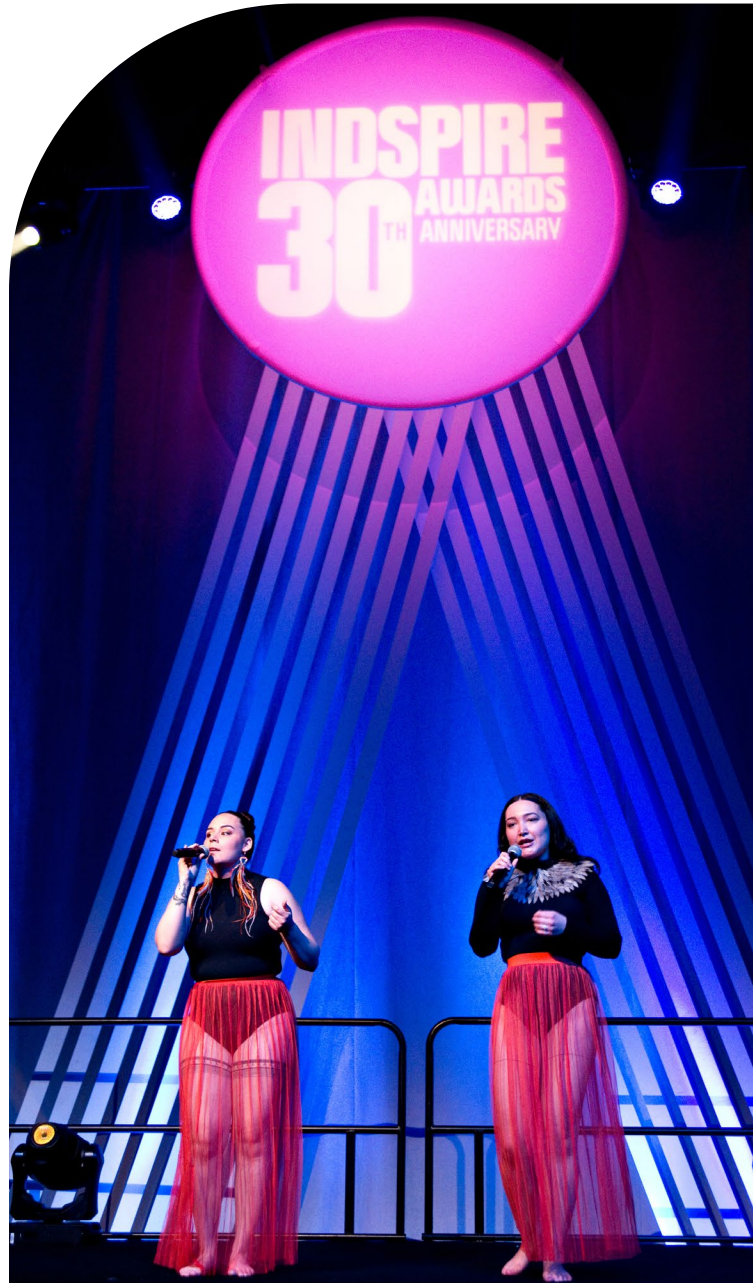
**Ruby Bruce**

Youth Laureate



**Sandra Laronde**

Arts







**Kylik Kisoun Taylor**

Business and Commerce



**Madame Justice  
Ardith Walkem**

Law and Justice



**Jennine Krauchi**

Culture, Heritage, and Spirituality



**Shirley Cuillierrier**

Public Service



**Lori Campbell**

Education



**Joe Dion Buffalo**

Sports



**Dr. Christopher  
Mushquash**

Health



**Albert Marshall**

Lifetime Achievement





# Annual Indspire Staff Meeting

## Indspire Staff Members Create New Ties and Build Capacity

Togetherness, community, communication: they were all on the agenda during this special event. For the first time in four years, Indspire staff had the chance to get together and create some powerful connections during the Annual Indspire Staff Meeting from Sept 5-8, 2023. After arriving, staff networked and enjoyed some good conversation at the first evening's reception.

Day 1 of the event kicked off with a high-energy approach from Stan Wesley, the MC. The next two days were full of team-building, capacity-building, informative presentations, and shared food and laughter. Staff learned about forthcoming strategic initiatives and discussed ways in which the 7 Grandfather Teachings could be applied to their own areas of endeavour. Participants also enjoyed the inaugural meeting of the relaunched Indspire Book Club, discussing Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves*.

One of the meeting's highlights was the "Introductions" exercise, where Indspire staff were paired up and had to introduce each other. Not only did everyone learn a great deal about each other's sometimes-surprising musical and food preferences, they also gained a greater appreciation of each other's roles, responsibilities, and shared commitment to Indigenous students and educators. Another highlight was the tabahon workshop. Led by



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SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2023



Stan, staff created their own multicoloured tabahons and worked in groups to create new tabahon-based games, which raised both decibels and enthusiasm.

Throughout the retreat, staff enjoyed opportunities to build capacity, network, share stories, and build community. Leaving on the final day, everyone took with them a renewed sense of commitment, enthusiasm, and team cohesion – along with their new tabahons.





# Full-time Employees

As of March 31, 2024.

## OFFICE OF THE CEO

- Dr. Mike D.  
President and CEO
- Robin H.  
Chief Operating Officer
- Agnes C.  
Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
- Gyeho T.  
Executive Assistant to the President and CEO

## COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

- Brandon M.  
Vice President, Communications and Marketing
- Sienna V.  
Manager, Experience and Community
- Irene C.  
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Indigenous education,  
Canada's future.

L'éducation des autochtones.  
L'avenir du Canada.

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Indspire is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that provides responsible oversight for our finances and operations.

The Indspire Board is responsible for the stewardship of our organization, while our management and staff perform the day-to-day operations under the Board's supervision.

The governance duties of our Board include:

- Oversight of our programs and activities
- Approving our strategic directions
- Ensuring that management conducts the business and affairs of Indspire in accordance with our objectives, articles and by-laws, the law and regulations of the jurisdictions in which we operate, and any policies and guidelines issued by the Canada Revenue Agency in respect of charitable organizations.



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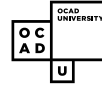
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## Financial Statements

Indspire's financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2024 were audited by MNP LLP and can be found here: [https://indspire.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Indspire\\_Financial-Statements\\_March2024-EN.pdf](https://indspire.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Indspire_Financial-Statements_March2024-EN.pdf)



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