Canada’s Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival Announces 2021 Nominees and TD Bank Group as New Top Sponsor of The SSIMAs

Finalists in 18 Categories chosen from 250 Submissions

Awards Show to be streamed live from National Arts Centre on June 12th

For immediate release

Ottawa, Ontario, May 12, 2021: The Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (SSIF) today announced TD Bank Group as presenting sponsor of its inaugural SSIMAs (Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards) and released the list of nominees. The Awards span 18 categories, celebrating solo artists, duos and groups from across Canada by showcasing the diverse and growing music and culture of artistic expression and accomplishment within the Indigenous community.

“Presenting and promoting Indigenous music has been a cornerstone of our Festival for over 22 years, so we felt it was a natural connection to establish these international Awards to spark this celebration of Indigenous music in recognition of National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day,” said Trina Mather Simard, Artistic Producer and Executive Director of Ottawa’s Summer Solstice Festival which runs June 1st to June 21st.

“TD has a long-standing relationship with the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival, and we are delighted to be part of this vital platform that supports Indigenous Peoples in the music industry. Music reminds us that we are all connected through shared passions and ideas. Regardless of who you are, it invites all of us to a common ground where we can find confidence, acceptance and self-expression. We are truly proud to be creating opportunities for artists from the Indigenous community and connecting communities across Canada through music.” - Doris Bear, VP of Indigenous Banking

Some of the 18 award categories hold special significance. Youth Leadership in Music and Social Voice categories recognize individuals and groups that have impacted artistic heritage and culture within the Indigenous community, mentorship of youth through music and/or raised awareness of social and environmental issues to inspire positive change. International Indigenous Artist/Group Recording of the Year recognizes artists within and beyond this country’s borders, who identify as Indigenous but not as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

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Nominees were selected from 250 Canada-wide submissions by an invited panel of jurors comprising Indigenous and music industry professionals and peers. No public voting was involved in the selection process.

Category winners will be announced and honoured at a special ceremony streamed live from the National Arts Centre on Saturday, June 12th.

CATEGORIES AND NOMINEES

### Radio Song Single of the Year
- **Battlefields**, Twin Flames
- **Super Power**, Joey Stylez
- **Manidoo Dewe’igan**, Cody Coyote
- **Sah ’Laana**, Carsen Gray
- **Some Kind of Hell**, Burnstick

### Country Album of the Year
- **Shine**, Leah Belle
- **Don’t Mind If I Do**, Jerry Sereda
- **Break The Chain**, Desiree Dorion
- **Big Dream**, Esther Pennell
- **Last Ride**, The C-weed Band

### Pop/Alternative/Rock Album of the Year
- **Omen**, Twin Flames, Omen
- **Quanah Style**, Quanah Style
- **Theory of Ice**, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson
- **Warrior Sun**, Joey Stylez and Carsen Gray
- **Dreamweaver**, Anachnid

### Live Musical Performance of the Year
- **Shawnee, Warrior Heart**
- **Shauit**, Nutshimam
- **Sandrine, Masse-Savard, Yawenda and wendat chants**
- **Joshua Arden Miller, Toronto Blues Society 35 Years of Blues**
- **Joey Stylez and Carsen Gray, Victory Dance**

### Social Voice
- **Murray Porter**
- **Leela Gilday**
- **Jah’kota**
- **G.R. Gritt**
- **Burnstick**

### Roots Album of the Year
- **As The Stars Explode**, The North Sound
- **Made Of**, Nick Sherman
- **STAND UP**, Murray Porter
- **North Star Calling**, Leela Gilday
- **The Ridge**, Julian Taylor

### Rap/Hip Hop/Electronica Album of the Year
- **Sah ’Laana**, The North Stars
- **Electric Turtle Dreams**, Sean Beaver
- **Let the games begin**, Rich n Beka
- **20/20**, Mattmac
- **Dreamweaver**, Anachnid

### Metis Artist/Group of the Year
- **Sandra Sutter**
- **G.R. Gritt**
- **Electric Religious**
- **Brandi Vezina**
- **Blue Moon Marquee**

### Youth Leadership in Music
- **Warrior Women**
- **QOS2**
- **Cody Coyote**

### International Indigenous Artist/Group Recording of the Year
- **Vildaluodda / Wildprint**
- **VILDÁ**
- **A Small Death**, Samantha Crain
- **Chikkojuuvon / Hidden**, Gájanas
- **Dockside Saints**, Cary Morin
- **Sky Songs**, Alena Murang

### Recording Artist(s) of the Year
- **Twin Flames**
- **Murray Porter**
- **DJ Shub**
- **Burnstick**
- **Anachnid**

### Rising Star
- **Mary Bryton**
- **Logan Staats**
- **Kaeley Jade**
- **Joshua Arden Miller**
- **Angel Baribeau**

### Inuit Artist/Group of the Year
- **Silver Wolf Band**
- **Silla and Rise**
- **Hyper-T**

### Hand Drum/Fiddle/Instrumental Album of the Year
- **Four Sacred Colours**, Tee Cloud
- **Manitou Mkwa Singers Volume 2**
- **Singing is Healing**, Joel Wood

### Pow Wow Traditional/ Contemporary Album of the Year
- **Honouring Our Languages**, Wabanaki Confederacy
- **Kepmite’Isultinej: Honour Our People**, Stoney Bear Singers
- **Manitou Mkwa Singers Volume 2**, Manitou Mkwa

### Music in the Arts
- **Twin Flames, Grace Too**
- **Okara, Okara LIVE**
- **Cris Derksen, Indigenous Fashion Week**

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The SSIMAs and SSIF are produced by Mather Simard’s Indigenous entertainment and tourism firm, Indigenous-Experiences.ca on behalf of the National Indigenous Peoples Day Committee comprising six (6) organizations that represent Indigenous communities across Canada. An Artist Advisory Committee made up of Canadian Indigenous music leaders was created to collaborate with and provide direction on The SSIMAs.

“It’s time to celebrate Indigenous voices! These Awards provide an excellent platform for artists to be recognized for their hard work. Ottawa being the nation’s capital is a great portal to the world to share the surging wave of Indigenous expression,” noted Advisory Committee members Vince Fontaine and Elaine Bomberry.

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About Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (June 1-21, 2021)
Established in Ottawa in 1996, the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (SSIF) is a multi-disciplinary arts festival that brings together Indigenous artists, performers, educators, students, and community members to share knowledge and celebrate Canada’s diverse Indigenous cultures. Summer Solstice Festivals are produced by Indigenous Experiences on behalf of the National Indigenous Peoples Day Committee (NIPD) comprising the following six (6) organizations representing Indigenous communities across Canada: National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) the co-host this year, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Council of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

In 2020, the former 4-day live event transformed to a month-long virtual festival coinciding with National Indigenous History Month and culminating on National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st).

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TD Wealth (U.S.), and an investment in TD Ameritrade; and Wholesale Banking, including TD Securities.
TD also ranks among the world's leading online financial services firms, with 13 million active online and
mobile customers. TD had CDN$1.4 trillion in assets on April 30, 2019. The Toronto-Dominion Bank
trades under the symbol "TD" on the Toronto and New York Stock Exchanges.

Media: Kita Szpak, Knock on Wood Communications + Events Inc.
kita@kowpr.com #613-725-3063