



## Indigenous Music and Métis Art and Culture take Centre Stage at the 2023 Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival co hosted by Métis National Council

OTTAWA (May XX, 2023) Organizers announce programming details for the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (SSIF). Festivities kick off with the biannual presentation of The SSIMAs (Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards) live on stage at the NAC June 6th. Month-long Indigenous celebrations continue across the city and culminate at Mādahòkì Farm June 21-25 where thousands will gather to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.

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. Amidst programming reflecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures, the spotlight this year will shine brightly on Metis artists, performers and storytellers.

*"The Métis National Council is proud to co-host the Summer Solstice event on unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory for National Indigenous People's Day," said MNC President Cassidy Caron. "As visitors who live and work in these lands, we look forward to celebrating our culture and sharing our traditions and practices with others through this festival of Indigenous arts and experiences."*

### **The SSIMAs, June 6 at the NAC**

Hosted by Anishinaabe activist, artist, broadcaster and content creator Sarain Fox, The SSIMAs presentation ceremony will feature six live performances including Ayasanabee, Andrea Menard, Indian City, Joel Wood, Plex and more. Tickets start at \$20. A limited number of VIP tickets include a reception with an Indigenous-inspired menu by NAC Chef Chris Commandant.

### **Community Celebrations at Mādahòkì Farm, June 21-25**

**FREE ADMISSION | FREE PARK & RIDE SHUTTLE**

Indigenous Day Community Celebration and evening Drone Show (June 21 from 3 pm)

Education Days (for registered schools, June 22 & 23)

Weekend Festival and Competition Pow Wow (June 24 & 25)

- Indigenous Cooking Classes and Indigenous Picnic Lunches
- International Competition Pow Wow - over \$75,000 in prize money



- Free family programming, including Métis games and demonstrations, Ojibwe Spirit Horses and a mechanical bull
- Cultural demonstrations and storytelling, arts and crafts workshops, including Métis fish scale artistry and community mural projects
- Cultural performances including hoop dancing and Métis jiggers
- Full-day weekend stage entertainment and movies under the stars
- Indigenous Makers and Farmers Market

**\*\*There is no onsite public parking at Mādahòkì Farm. Convenient Park & Ride Shuttle Service from Algonquin College runs every 30 minutes.**

### **Satellite Programming - All month long**

Throughout Indigenous History Month, SSIF is pleased to present indigenous programming in venues across the city.

- The SSIMAs Awards Show at the National Arts Centre
- Art activities and author readings at Canadian Museum of Nature
- Indigenous theatrical and comedy performances and workshops at the National Arts Centre
- Interactive creative workshops at the Canadian Museum of History
- Indigenous fashion shows, musical performances and dance demonstrations in the Byward Market programmed by A7G (Assembly of Seven Generations).

### **About the Festival Producers**

The SSIMAs and SSIF are produced by Indigenous Experiences on behalf of the NIPD Committee comprising Métis National Council (2023 Festival co-host) and other organizations representing Indigenous communities across Canada.

### **Web Links**

SSIMA's Website: <https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/2023-music-awards/>

Mādahòkì Farm: <https://madahoki.ca/>

### **Social Media**

Twitter <https://twitter.com/ottawasolstice/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/solsticefestivals/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SolsticeFestivals/>

<https://www.facebook.com/madahokifarm>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/SummerSolsticeIndigenousFestivals>

Hashtags **#TheSSIMAs; #SSIF2023; #Madahokifarm; #NIPD**

**Media Contact:** [press@kowpr.com](mailto:press@kowpr.com)

English: Mary Jelley 613-791-6703 | Jule Findlay 613-795-8463

French: Annie Boucher 613-863-3702