



Press Release

For immediate release

Inspiration role models: Friendship Centre launches 2016 “Catch your Dreams” Calendar

Friday, December 18, 2015 _ This Friday, the Native Friendship Centre launched its **2016 *Catch your Dreams*** calendar, the second edition of a calendar honouring Aboriginal students of all ages and their perseverance.

For 12 years, the Friendship Centre, as a follow-through on its Mëmëgwashi gala, has been recognising and encouraging school perseverance by developing a “Catch your Dreams” publication. From 2004 to 2014, the Centre published an agenda, but changed for a calendar last year. In addition to valuing the 179 students honoured at the Mëmëgwashi gala last June, the calendar features models of perseverance, including an Elder. These roles models are a source of inspiration in various spheres of life for the urban Aboriginal community.

For example, Alanah, a young mother studying in nursing is convinced of the importance of education that will bring positive change in the communities. Ten-year-old Antoine mentions that having a good life is showing respect for one another, trusting yourself and the people around you. Taylor, a pretty twelve-year-old, stands out by her leadership. Jonathan, recent holder of a vocational diploma in automotive mechanics, now works with the Toyota team, which makes him happy to be able to provide for his family and take good care of his three children. Hélène, an Elder role model, is a calm and thoughtful little lady who walks through life with humour and kindness for others. She would like to see young people turning to the Elders and taking the time to listen to the wealth of Anicinabe teachings in order to take their rightful place in life. The richly illustrated 2016 calendar also pays tribute to the recipient of the Mëmëgwashi 2015 award of distinction, Martin Gunn, a very dedicated volunteer and a model of generosity, solidarity and community spirit who invites young people to devote themselves to helping their people.

The calendar is part of a number of initiatives and actions taken by the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre to support Aboriginal students’ academic achievement. Published in 650 copies, the calendar is distributed to the awardees and to the Friendship Centre’s partners. It is also available at the Friendship Centre for \$5 or by mail for \$8. To get your copy, please contact Nadia Lagueux at info@caavd.ca or by phone at 819 825-8299, ext. 236.

A central gathering place and public forum, the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre advocates for the individual and collective rights, interests and well-being of the Aboriginal people faced with the reality of an urban environment.

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