



Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 17TH, 2023

Honouring our Women Awards

The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association is accepting nominations for the 2023 Honouring our Women Awards. These awards honour Mi'kmaq women/2SLGBTQQIA people, who have demonstrated outstanding contribution to improve the status of Mi'kmaq women and 2SLGBTQQIA people in our communities. These awards will be presented at the 50th Anniversary Gala in Membertou, NS, February 25, 2023.

Award Categories:

Helen Martin Award

The Helen Martin Leadership Award recognizes a person for their work in advancing women's rights and the role of women/2SLGBTQQIA people in our community. The late Helen Martin founded the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association in 1972 and was appointed to the Steering Committee that was formed to create the Native Women's Association of Canada. She was instrumental in forming these organizations that brought Indigenous women's rights to the forefront on a provincial and national level.

Sarah Denny Award:

The Sarah Denny Award recognizes the contributions of women/2SLGBTQQIA people in advancing culture and language. Sarah Denny's name is synonymous with music and Mi'kmaq culture. Born in Chapel Island on September 2, 1925, Sarah lived in Eskasoni most of her life. She was the mother of 12 children and numerous foster children, she was married to the late Noel R. Denny of Eskasoni. She was the cultural development officer with the Micmac Association of Cultural Studies in Sydney and was designated elder for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, which she had been affiliated with since its inception in 1972. Sarah was also the NWAC's elder representative of the East Coast.

Nora Bernard Award:

The Nora Bernard Award recognizes women/2SLGBTQQIA people that advocate for community activism. Nora Bernard, from Millbrook First Nation, was one of six children and was a survivor of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. In the 1980s, Nora started reflecting on her life and the injustices that had occurred. She recalled many of the people in the residential school talking about the things that had happened to them in the school and thought something must be done. She created the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Survivors Society to help others gain some closure and justice. Nora's courageousness and dedication to the cause was responsible for the class action suit against the Federal Government and the Church.

Linda Maloney Award:

The Linda Maloney Award recognizes women/2SLGBTQQIA people in an entrepreneurial role. From an early age “Cookie” (a name she was given the day she arrived from the hospital) was fascinated with business from her grandfather, Alexander Cope, a businessman in the community. Cookie would sit for hours and watch all of his transactions, he would teach her hard work, positive interactions and lifelong lessons. After 30 years of owning her own hair salons, Cookie retired and accepted a job with the Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association as the Employment Officer, where she worked for 20 years. She continued to encourage and support women to chase and fulfill their own entrepreneurial dreams.

Call for nominations and eligibility:

Nominees must be an Indigenous woman/2SLGBTQQIA person from Nova Scotia and should have a strong, established record of support for Indigenous rights and show a commitment to improving the lives of Indigenous women/2SLGBTQQIA people through their work on culture, language, community activism, leadership and entrepreneurship. Some examples of the criteria that the award selection committee will be looking for are:

- Particular contributions to Indigenous women/2SLGBTQQIA people in Nova Scotia.
- Long standing record of leadership, effort, activism, entrepreneurship related to Indigenous women’s rights.
- Accomplishments within Indigenous nation.
- Demonstrate exemplary leadership abilities that enable others to succeed in the community.
- Efforts in organizing women/2SLGBTQQIA people to ensure participation within the community.
- Leadership of noteworthy contributions to the community over several years or during a career.
- Evidence of promoting the needs and priorities of women/2SLGBTQQIA people in their community from an economic and social development perspective.
- Service as a role model or mentor that shows dedication to the advancement of women/2SLGBTQQIA people in the community.

Please include the above information in your nomination application, along with the nomination form.

All forms to be received by

4:00pm Friday February 17th, 2023.

**Please email to events@nsnwa.net if unable to return through
email fax to 902-897-7162**



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Honoring our Women Nomination Form

Note: Nomination form must be completed - If you require additional space, attach separate pages (limit 3) along with any other documentation

Nominator's Contact information:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Nominee (contact information)

Name or nominee or organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Organization if applicable:

Choose a category of nomination:

Why are you nominating this person? Provide a description of how they have contributed towards the category selected.

What has this person's involvement meant to their community and the women of Nova Scotia?

Provide a short bio of the person being nominated.

For more information please contact Ellen Marshall at events@nsnwa.net or call the NSNWA office at 902-893-7402