

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 Manitoba Aboriginal Coach Awards

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) recognizes Aboriginal coaches for their commitment and development of Aboriginal athletes.

Each year, one male and one female, who are NCCP certified Aboriginal coaches are selected for the Manitoba Aboriginal Coaching Awards.

Over the years, Manitoba coaches from many varied sports, including Archery, Volleyball, Badminton, Baseball, Boxing, Softball and Special Olympics have been selected to receive this high honour.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council is pleased to announce the winners of the

2017 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL COACHING AWARDS:

➤ Aboriginal Coaching Award - Female Shawna Spence Peguis First Nation

Shawna was the head coach of Team Manitoba's U19 female softball team at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games held in Toronto in July. In 2016, Shawna started by proudly accepting the coaching position for the U16 female team and quickly got to work promoting the sport of softball and began tryouts throughout the province in order to recruit Manitoba's best female indigenous softball players. In addition to her coaching role, Shawna also took on the responsibility of the Sport Manager for softball's four teams participating in the NAIG. On top of all the meetings leading up to the competition, Shawna held numerous practices with the U16 female softball team as well as the U19 team, which lead to some last minute changes in coaching roles. Shawna demonstrated her experience and flexibility by stepping up and accepting the role of head coach for the U19 female softball team and gladly took the time to mentor the new coaches for the U16 team. There is no doubt that without Shawna's commitment and hard work ethic, the NAIG softball program would not have been as successful.

➤ Aboriginal Coaching Award - Male Michael Spence Peguis First Nation

In 2017, Micheal Spence has demonstrated his outstanding leadership and commitment to the sport of hockey through his role as the assistant coach for the Peguis Junior B's of the Keystone Junior Hockey League (KJHL). In previous seasons, Micheal was the head coach for Peguis and led his team to win the league championship. This season, Michael gladly stepped down into an assistant role in order to have the opportunity to support his own children in their sporting endeavors all while still being an incredible mentor for the players on his team. In the spring, Michael joined the coaching staff for Team Manitoba's male team participating in the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in British Columbia and brought back home the gold medal! This can only be a display of dedication, not only for his children, but for his community and the players on his team.

For more information on the coaches, please email:
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