

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 Manitoba Aboriginal Volunteer Awards

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) recognizes excellence by Aboriginal Volunteers for their personal commitment to development and dedication *to sport*.

Each year, up to one Aboriginal male and one Aboriginal female volunteer will be selected to receive the Manitoba Aboriginal Volunteer Award. They will be selected from nominations detailing: the activity the volunteer undertook, their impact on an individual person or group receiving help, perseverance in facing challenges or obstacles, and a summary indicating why they should receive the award.

This year the award will go to individuals who have volunteered in their communities for many years and were extremely busy in 2019.

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

2019 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARDS:

Volunteer Award – Female

Emma Bear

Peguis First Nation

Emma who is an accomplished young athlete herself, has dedicated many hours to volunteering with youth in the sports of wrestling, baseball and hockey in her community. Emma, who wrestles for Peguis Wolverines, always makes sure that she is helping the younger athletes around her with technique and positioning. Her dedication shines through, as she travels from Peguis to Winnipeg 4 times a week to participate in practices. As a volunteer, Emma referees, along with timekeeping and scorekeeping for many minor hockey and minor baseball games in Peguis Emma has been recognized as one of the most hard-working student athletes, maintaining a high GPA while volunteering and participating in sports. She displays the leadership and work ethic that every coach hopes for in their athletes and young volunteers. Emma attended the 2019 Western Canada Games, taking home 2 bronze medals!

Congratulations Emma!

Volunteer Award - Male

Mike Sutherland

Peguis First Nation

In his 35+ years of volunteering with Softball, Mike has proven himself to be a very determined volunteer and very dedicated family man, with a great work ethic. Over the past year, Mike was the Host Committee Chair of the 2019 Canadian Native Fastball Champions - CNFC (a 70-team event with clubs from across Canada) held at Blumberg. For many years, Mike has coached the Peguis Senior A Redmen team, along with the U23 Redmen team. In 2019, Mike lead the Peguis Senior Redman in winning the seniors Men's division at the CNFC. Over the past year, Mike and his U23 and senior's Men's clubs both proudly represented Softball Manitoba at the National Amateur Fastball Association Championships in Las Vegas, the Fargo Memorial Tournament in North Dakota, and numerous 'A' and 'AA' championships throughout the United States. Aside from softball, Mike is a dedicated family man who also shares his values at hockey venues and by introducing youth to land based outdoor education.

Congratulations Mike!

For more information on the volunteers, please email:

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