



2026 Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Award (MIYAA)

Nomination Guide

Selection Statement

The Selection Committee consists of staff and students. The Nomination/Selection Chairperson will set up a Selection Team for each category that will be comprised of Indigenous youth and one adult facilitator. Steps will be taken to ensure that the selection is unbiased and fair to every nominee. The process will be based on a point system that will rate each nominee based on the following information:

- Autobiography (the more we learn about you the better, your goals, your influences/mentors, extra-curricular activities);
- school transcripts, if applicable;
- supporting documents (two letters from either your: teacher, coach, support staff, Elder/Knowledge Keeper, mentor with their current contact information - only one letter can be from a family member);
- commitment to the Indigenous community;
- involvement in Indigenous heritage and culture;

The members of each Selection Team will not know the youth nominated in their category.

MIYAA Goals

- To honour the accomplishments of Indigenous Youth in areas of Academics, Arts, Athletics, Business/Entrepreneurship, Community Involvement, Culture, Personal Achievement, Employment in a Traditional Field and Health.
- To provide a goal for Indigenous Youth to strive for.
- To create positive role models for Indigenous Youth.
- To bring the community together in support of Indigenous Youth.
- To encourage volunteerism by staging a major event organized completely by volunteers.

Eligibility for Nominees

To be eligible for an award, the nominee must:

1. Be between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age;
2. Be a resident of the Province of Manitoba;
3. Be of Indigenous ancestry;
4. Consent to the nomination;
5. Complete a written autobiography;
6. Submit recent school transcripts, if applicable;
7. Submit two letters of support (two letters from either your: teacher, coach, support staff, elder/knowledge keeper, mentor with their current contact information - only one letter can be from a family member);
8. Be willing to be interviewed by the Selection Committee;
9. Verify information and documentation as requested by the Selection Committee.
10. Has not received a MIYAA award in the past.

Conditions of the Award

1. The tribute shall be presented to recognize exceptional achievement of an individual in the areas of Academics, Athletics, Arts, Culture, Community Involvement, Business/Entrepreneurship, Personal Achievement, Employment in a Traditional Field, Health - North and South and the Culinary Arts.
2. Nominations must be received online or dropped off by **October 19, 2026 - 4:00pm** (please see #8).
3. The Selection Committee shall review all nominations received by the deadline date.
4. A completed nomination form, a description of the achievements of the nominee that qualify the nominee for the awards, a biography, and two letters of reference shall accompany each nomination.
5. Nominees not receiving an award in any given year will lapse at the end of the year. If individuals are eligible for nomination in the following year a new submission will be required.
6. Any individual being nominated for more than one category shall be required to submit a separate nomination form and biography for each nomination.
7. Nominees must agree that the Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards may use all photos and biographical information.
8. Drop off completed applications by:

October 19th, 2026 @ 4:00 pm to:

Cherie Stroppa
St. James Assiniboia Board Office
2574 Portage Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3A2
[Website: www.miyaa.ca](http://www.miyaa.ca)

Complete online applications here:
<https://secure.erbium.com/ui/register/e-SLzoP4A7YJ>

*Office hours 8:30-4:00

**Faxes will not be accepted.

Past recipients of the Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards are not eligible.

Award Categories

ACADEMIC

Senior: Individuals between the ages of 20-24 who have achieved academic excellence in post-secondary education or training institutions.

Junior: Individuals between the ages of 16-19 who have achieved academic excellence in secondary institutions or training institutions.

**All successful recipients will need to be issued T4As for tax purposes. Your contact information will be shared with Manitoba Hydro as follow-up will be required. In addition, a short voluntary equity data survey will be sent to you.*

ATHLETIC

Senior: Individuals between the ages of 20-24 who have achieved excellence in an individual or team athletic activity.

Junior: Individuals between the ages of 16-19 who have achieved excellence in an individual or team athletic activity.

ARTISTIC

Visual: Individuals between the ages of 16-24 who have achieved artistic distinction in a visual medium. Award One recognizes the works of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artists, videographers, photographers, writers, etc.

Performance: Individuals between the ages of 16-24 who have achieved artistic distinction in a performance medium. Award Two recognizes the works of acting, theatre production, singer/songwriter musicians, contemporary dancers, etc.

BUSINESS / ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Individuals between the ages of 16-24 and have achieved business or entrepreneurial prominence.

COMMUNITY / VOLUNTEER

Senior: Individuals between the ages of 20-24 who have demonstrated outstanding community leadership and involvement in a voluntary capacity.

Junior: Individuals between the ages of 16-19 who have demonstrated outstanding community leadership and involvement in a voluntary capacity.

CULTURAL

Male: Individual young men between the ages of 16-24 who have shown dedication to the preservation and understanding of Indigenous cultures or languages.

Female: Individual young women between the ages of 16-24 who have shown dedication to the preservation and understanding of Indigenous cultures and languages.

EMPLOYMENT IN A TRADITIONAL FIELD

Individuals between the ages of 16-24 who are pursuing or have achieved self-reliance/ economic independence in traditional occupations such as fishing or hunting, and committed to preserving traditional expertise (dog sledding, tanning, traditional Indigenous crafts, etc.)

HEALTH – NORTH / SOUTH

North: Individuals between the ages of 16-24 residing North of the 53rd Parallel who is enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a health care field at the postsecondary level (Traditional or Western). South: Individuals between the ages of 16-24 residing South of the 53rd Parallel who is enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a health care field at the postsecondary level (Traditional or Western).

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Senior: Individuals between the ages of 20-24 who have demonstrated achievement and excellence in any area through personal perseverance.

Junior: Individuals between the ages of 16-19 who have demonstrated achievement and excellence in any area through personal perseverance.

CULINARY ARTS

Individuals between the ages of 16-18 who are pursuing culinary arts.

CULINARY BUSINESS AWARD

Individuals between the ages of 18-24 who are pursuing culinary business or have an existing culinary entrepreneurial prominence.

The Lewis Myles Kennedy Award for Afro-Indigenous Students

Afro-Indigenous Students between the ages of 16-24 who have shown leadership and dedication to learning more about both their Indigenous and Black heritage, cultures, or languages.

Helen Robinson-Settee Scholarship for Indigenous Languages Teacher Education

The Helen Robinson-Settee Scholarship was created to celebrate the retirement of Helen's education career. Because of Helen's work with Indigenous education for the past forty+ years, along with her family and friends are presenting an award to a First Nations, Metis or Inuit student studying to become an Indigenous Language teacher. This award will support an Indigenous student who is passionate about becoming a teacher of Indigenous languages who will support the reclamation, preservation and maintenance of our ancestral languages.

This award is to support a Manitoba First Nation, Metis or Inuit student who is currently attending post-secondary institution and has Indigenous languages declared as a teachable major or minor. The student can also be studying at another university outside Manitoba but must be from Manitoba.