

# One Nation One Voice One Vision One People One Family

by Cindy Fraiser and Clare Douglas

Vibrant colours and profound images blend together to form masterpieces by the late painter Norval Morrisseau. His work tells an inspiring story dedicated to creative expression and the visionary imprint of one mind on generations.

This vision guides creative producer and National Aboriginal Achievement Awards theatre director Jennifer Podemski. For the first time in its 15-year history, this year's award ceremony experienced a 'cultural fusion' where non-Aboriginals shared the stage to promote Aboriginal achievements. In all, 14 recipients were honored for their positive impact on their Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

## Canada's Podemski Sisters

Podemski is no stranger to this concept – growing up, her mixed heritage had her “walking in two worlds, [even] in several worlds.” Recognizing the positives attributed to blending ideas and visions, Jennifer established the ceremony to “bring people together in hopes of sharing ideas, tradition, music and knowledge to create a message of

unity.” Her faith in the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) and its influence goes back 13 years when she was granted her first professional opportunity by then CEO and President John Kim Bell. Since then, the awards have become a family affair for Jennifer and her two sisters, Tamara (actress and presenter) and Sarah (dancer) who, over the years, have been deeply involved in the ceremony's production. Their contribution to Aboriginal arts and culture continues to flourish.

## Uniquely, Diversely Canadian

As I watched the ceremony on March 7th, all preconceived notions of what I thought it meant to be an Aboriginal trickled away only to be replaced by something new and exciting and historic. Here I was – present at a celebration to help honour Canada's first family. In that moment, I was very proud to be a Canadian. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean sums it up best, “the success of Aboriginal Canadians is a success for all Canadians”.

Roberta Jamieson, CEO and President of the NAAF shares this view. She acknowledges that one of the main purposes of the awards gala is to “educate Canadians about Aboriginals.” Adding that, “it has busted some stereotypes and myths – showing that Aboriginal Canadians are scientists, judges, doctors, healers and artists.” Jamieson also believes that young people are key to changing views of Aboriginals in the future, and the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) provides Aboriginal youth with role models who “inspire them with confidence to believe they can dream and realize their goals and potential.” >>



Jamieson further stresses the importance of our youth to, "consult our elders for guidance and our mother Earth for strength to revolutionize tomorrow." To help Aboriginal youth explore their capabilities, the NAAF will allocate a portion of their \$3.3-million dollar funding to provide scholarships and bursaries for students. Excited by the foundation's growth, Jamieson urges all Canadians to "stay tuned for more of our people doing wonderful things."

### National Aboriginal Day

The NAAA anthem states, "come and sit by my fire and we'll rise together." It is an invitation to all Canadians to "join in a global movement to effect change, shatter barriers and promote tolerance and understanding." The NAAA along with the work of the NAAF is fundamental in changing the perceptions and enriching the lives of Aboriginal Canadians.

On June 21, Canadians will join once again to celebrate and honour Aboriginal heritage and culture. Festivals and celebrations will shine a spotlight on those who's talent, wisdom and impact on Canadian culture has often been overlooked. Exposé Entertainment magazine encourages our readers to take time to learn, understand and appreciate all the contributions Aboriginals have made to our great nation. Their infectious

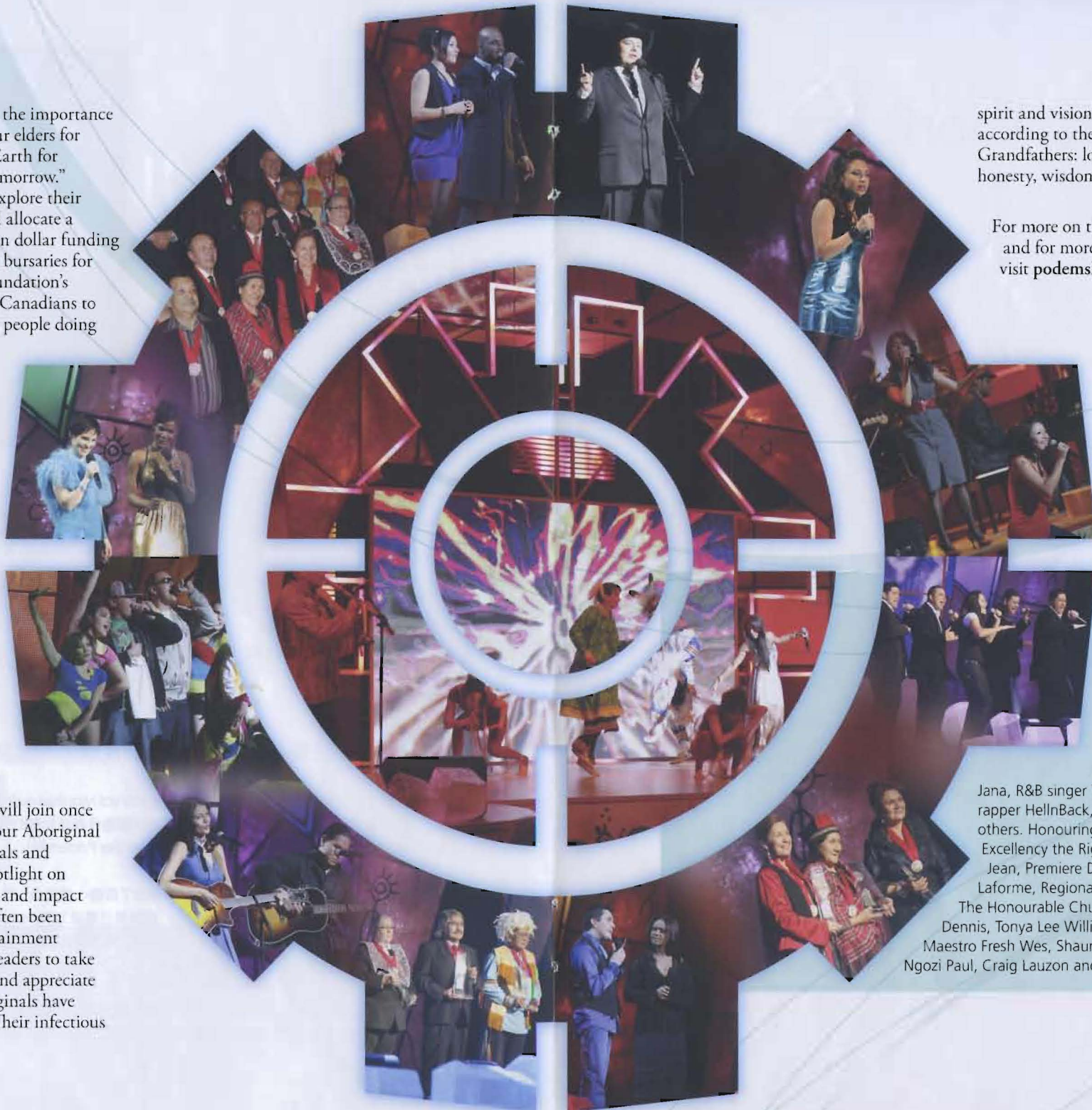
spirit and vision will motivate you to live according to the Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.

For more on the NAAA visit [naaf.ca](http://naaf.ca) and for more on the Podemski sisters, visit [podemskichicks.com](http://podemskichicks.com)

### THE CEREMONY

The 15th National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) were held at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto on March 7th. The night celebrated a fusion of philanthropy, arts, music and dance with performances by

Jana, R&B singer Tinsel Korey, 5th Generation rapper HellnBack, guitarist Derek Miller and others. Honouring the recipients were Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Premiere Dalton McGuinty, Chief Brya Laforme, Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, The Honourable Chuck Strahl, actors Darrell Dennis, Tonya Lee Williams, Tamara Podemski, Maestro Fresh Wes, Shauna and Shannon Baker, Ngozi Paul, Craig Lauzon and host Larissa Tabacco.



# The Celebrity Effect

By Clare Douglas

In the early summer of 2003, the World Health Organization issued an advisory, warning travelers to be vigilant when making plans to visit Toronto. The SARS outbreak had damaging effects on all aspects of Toronto life. In the end, 32 people lost their lives, tourism lost millions, restaurants and small businesses suffered and our health care professionals faced immeasurable challenges to meet patient needs and enforce infection control. Frustrated and deflated, Torontonians, businesses, hospitals and the city in general shouted "Start me up!" and The Rolling Stones were willing to do just that. Approximately 450,000 rock and roll fans crammed into Downsview Park to enjoy what was later dubbed "SARS-stock". It was the biggest fusion of music, celebrity and philanthropy Toronto had ever seen.

Using the power of their voices, musicians, actors and athletes are making significant changes in Canadian communities and abroad – from grand-scale philanthropic events such as SARS-stock to those on a smaller scale, such as Our Lady Peace front man Raine Maida, busking on Toronto streets to raise awareness and money for War Child. Idol Gives Back, Live Earth and Live 8 are prime examples of the positive impact 'star quality' can have in promoting world change. Sum 41's documentary for War Child, Neil Young founding Farm Aid, actor Jim Carrey's involvement with Comic Relief and the work of the Wayne Gretzky Foundation are just some of the ways Canadian celebs are using their influence to help the lives of people all over the world.

## Causes to Celebrate

### RED & WHITE BALL

Friday May 2nd, Courthouse – 57 Adelaide St. E, Toronto, Doors open at 9pm. This year's ball will feature performances by Flirty Girl Fitness dancers and the talented DJ Sugar. All proceeds go to support Rethink Breast Cancer whose mission is to raise awareness and transform attitudes associated with the disease. Visit [redandwhitetoronto.com](http://redandwhitetoronto.com)

### COMPELLED 2008

Tuesday May 3rd, University of Toronto Convocation Hall – 31 King's College Circle, Toronto, Doors open at 6:30. An eclectic ensemble of talented musicians from the GTA will take the stage to raise awareness and funds to aid different organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Visit [compelled2008.org](http://compelled2008.org)

### 7TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY KARAOKE FUNDRAISER IN MEMORY OF MARIAN GOLDBLATT

Saturday May 3rd, The Annex Wreckroom – 794 Bathurst St, Toronto, 8:00pm-1:00am Debra Goldblatt, President of rock-it promotions, hosts this annual fundraiser in memory of her late mother. Great Canadian talent will take the stage to honour Marian Goldblatt and to raise money for Gilda's Club and other charities. Show off your vocal talents (or lack of) with the likes of: Ryan Malcolm, Fabrizio Filippo, Inga Cadranell, Sitara Hewitt, Mary Jo Eustace, Fabrizio Filippo, Dmitry Chepovetsky, Michelle Nolden, Amanda Brugel, Tara Slone, Stefan Brogren, and more. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

### LEND TO END [POVERTY]

Thursday May 8th, Alice Fazooli's – 294 Adelaide St. W, Toronto, 5:30pm -9:30pm Headliner, Canadian Idol Ryan Malcolm and his



band Low Level Flight along with performances by Kirsten Jones, Kush and other Canadian VIP guests will come together to raise awareness for The Townships Project. The program believes that Micro-lending is the most effective mechanism in the fight against poverty. Loans are granted for small business operations, encouraging self-sustainability and breaking the cycle of poverty. Visit [lendtoend.org](http://lendtoend.org)

### SOUNDS LIKE JUSTICE 4

Thursday May 8th, Live @ Courthouse - 57 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, 6:30pm-9pm Guests this year at the annual fundraiser for The Association In Defence Of The Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC) will be treated to the sounds of Juno award-winning singer/songwriter Fred Eaglesmith, Toronto's own Spoons, Blue Peter and Liberty Silver along with American band John and Mary and the Valkyries. Visit [aidwyc.org](http://aidwyc.org)

### THE 11TH ANNUAL BUTTERFLY BALL

Wednesday May 28th, Regency Ballroom, Four Seasons Hotel, Yorkville Hosted by BOOST, a community-based organization invested in eliminating abuse and violence in lives of children, this year's event will be hosted by Teresa Kruze (broadcaster and actress) and Canadian singer Chantal Kreviazuk will serve as the night's Honorary Patron. Visit [boostforkids.org](http://boostforkids.org)

## 明星效應

2003年初夏，世界健康組織發佈了一個勸告，警示計劃訪問多倫多的旅遊者務必小心SARS疫情。突然蔓延的SARS疫情破壞性地影響著多倫多生活的方方面面。最終，32個人失去了生命，旅遊行業損失了數百萬元，餐館和小生意倍受煎熬，我們的健康關愛專業人士在滿足病人的需求和實施感染控制方面，面對了無以計數的挑戰。在挫敗和蕭條後，多倫多人、生意行業、各家醫院和整個城市發出了「重新開始！」的呼聲，這也是滾石樂隊的願望。大約有450,000搖滾樂手和搖滾樂迷聚集在 Downsview Park，來歡度後來被稱作的「SARS-劇目」。這是多倫多最大的一次音樂、明星和慈善事業的融合。通過他們聲音的力量，廣大音樂家、演員和運動員們在多倫多社區創造了具有重要意義的變化，從大規模的慈善活動，比如SARS-劇目，到小範圍的演出，比如Our Lady Peace的負責人 Raine Maida 義演在多倫多街頭，以喚起人們的關愛之心和為War Child募捐。Idol Gives Back, Live Earth和Live 8堪稱是彰顯明星能夠促使世界改變的積極榜樣。Sum 41的紀實戲劇 War Child、Neil Young創立的 Farm Aid、演員 Jim Carrey的對 Comic Relief的參與、以及 Wayne Gretzky基金會的工作，僅僅是其中的一些例子，這些例子反映了加拿大的明星們正在運用他們的影響力，來幫助世界各地的人們生活得更好。