



ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE

c/o House of Sport RA Centre | 2451 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario | K1H 7X7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE ANNOUNCES THE 2023 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS COACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

ascoffee@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

October 30, 2023

Ottawa, ON - The Aboriginal Sport Circle is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 National Indigenous Coaching Awards. This year's winners are Tyndall Fontaine of Manitoba and Savanna Smith of British Columbia. "It is an honour for the Aboriginal Sport Circle to be celebrating the accomplishments and impacts these two coaches have made for Indigenous youth in the field of play and within their communities. Tyndall and Savanna are leaders within the Indigenous sport community and are creating positive opportunities for Indigenous youth across the country." says Rob Newman, President of the Aboriginal Sport Circle.

Savanna is an international level lacrosse coach from Surrey, British Columbia. She has had the pleasure of coaching at the North American Indigenous Games multiple times, leading her team to the podium each time. She has also coached at the international level, serving as the Team Manager for the 2019 Haudenosaunee Female Lacrosse Team for the 2019 World Lacrosse U19 Women's Lacrosse Championships. She is a well-known and well-respected Box and Field Lacrosse coach. Savanna embeds Indigenous culture and traditional practices into coaching, ensuring that her athletes are developing holistically.

"I have no words to fully encompass all of this, overwhelming amount of gratitude and my spiritual side is radiating with light. I'm thankful for the Medicine Game and the gift it's given me, the ability to share my passion with our youth and giving them the best gift of all encouragement and time." expressed Savanna, upon hearing the news.

Tyndall is an international level lacrosse coach from Fort Alexander, Manitoba. His commitment to personal growth and development has been unwavering, these qualities have led him to coach at the North American Indigenous Games, to serving many roles in both Indigenous and mainstream lacrosse associations, to serving as Assistant Coach for Team Poland in the World Junior Lacrosse Championships in 2022. Tyndall's strives to be a positive influence in the community and with his athletes, regardless of their level of play.

Tyndall spoke to his accomplishments: "Receiving the 2023 National Indigenous Coaching Award is a humbling and exhilarating moment in my coaching journey. I am deeply honoured and grateful for this recognition. Coaching lacrosse has always been a labour of love, and to see the impact it has had on my athletes is the greatest reward. I look forward to celebrating this achievement with the incredible community of coaches and athletes who continue to inspire me every day."

On November 3, 2023, the National Indigenous Coaching Award recipients will be presented their award at the Petro-Canada Sport Leadership Awards Gala hosted by the Coaching Association of Canada in Calgary, Alberta.

-- end--