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## Indigenous Music Awards presented by Casinos of Winnipeg announce performers for May 17 award show

**Treaty One Territory \_ The Indigenous Music Awards presented by the Casinos of Winnipeg** is proud to announce this year's performers.

"This year we have performances from someone who is nominated as Best New Artist to someone who is in his 30<sup>th</sup> year in the music industry," said **Lisa Meeches**, executive director for the Manito Ahbee Festival.

"Each of these performers brings something special to the stage and we are excited to share the variety of musical genres with the audience," said **Jacque Black**, manager of the Indigenous Music Awards.

Performers for this year's show at the Club Regent Casino on May 17 include: **Don Amero**, **Laura Grizzlypaws**, **Angela Amarualik**, **HellnBack**, **Celeigh Cardinal**, and **Midnight Shine**.

Hometown favourite and all-around nice guy Don Amero is nominated for two awards – Best Music Video for "Church" and Best Country Album for *Evolution*.

"Performing on the IMA stage is a bit of a full circle moment for me. When it was the APCMAs (Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards) that's kind of where I got my start in the business. It's a true honour to be getting back up there and sharing the stage with some of today's Indigenous music stars," said Amero.

**Laura Grizzlypaws** hails from Lillooet, B.C. Her St'át'imc name is Stálhalmcén which means Grizzly Paws. She is nominated for Best Inuit, Indigenous Language, or Francophone Album for *We are Children of the Land*; and Best Hand Drum Album for *Come Home*.

**HellnBack** is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> year in the music industry. He began his career with the ground breaking group War Party. Through his three decades long career, **Karmen Omeasoo**, has certainly earned his stage name HellnBack. His album *#Fourteen91* is nominated for Best

Rap/Hip Hop Album, while Karmen picks up a Best Producer/Engineer nomination for the same album.

**Angela Amarualik** was born and raised in the tiny community of Igloolik, Nunavut. Angela uses her music to inspire Nunavummiut youth and share Inuit culture with people around the world. She is nominated for Best New Artist and Best Inuit, Indigenous Language, or Francophone Album for her self-titled album. Her producer **Thor Simonsen** is also nominated for Best Producer/Engineer.

**Midnight Shine** was formed by accident. Attawapiskat citizen Adrian Sutherland was offered a gig to open for iconic Canadian rock band Trooper. Adrian put together a band for the one off gig, and they have been together since -- that was eight years ago. Midnight Shine is nominated for Best Rock Album for *High Road*, along with Best Producer/Engineer.

**Celeigh Cardinal** is a Métis singer/songwriter currently based in Edmonton. With 17 years of performance experience under her belt, Celeigh is nominated for Best Radio Single for her song "There Ain't No Way."

The Indigenous Music Awards presented by Casinos of Winnipeg will be hosted by **Beatrice Love**, a Cree singer/songwriter from Treaty 8, along with **Adrian Sutherland**, the frontman for Midnight Shine.

The **IMAs** will be handed out in Winnipeg at the Club Regent Casino on Friday, May 17. Watch for more information on the Red Carpet Event and the Lifetime Achievement recipient will follow in the coming days!

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**To book interviews or for more information please contact Kim Wheeler at [kimage.wheeler@gmail.com](mailto:kimage.wheeler@gmail.com) or at 204-391-5830.**