

Inez credits her inspiration to the young Aboriginal children who are just learning how to speak “When they learn the lyrics to my songs it is very touching and motivates me to continue pursuing music.”

She goes on to say, “A lot of Aboriginal children and youth identify with hip hop because true hip hop is a form of art and expression. It is a way of sharing messages with our people. I see how proud they are to be Native and I am proud to use my music to be a positive role model.”

Among this year’s role models is fellow musician Ry Moran from Victoria, British Columbia who also performed in the talent contest. Ry shares Inez’s belief that the power of music can help to shape the identity of Aboriginal children and youth today. He shares, “Music is extremely powerful, it is an unstoppable force in my life. My songs contain positive messages and hope for the future. My goal at a lyrical level is to convey the emotions I feel about our collective past as Aboriginal Peoples.”

All of the role models will be available throughout the year to attend celebrations, school functions, workshops and conferences to share their stories with other Aboriginal youth. For more information about the National Aboriginal Role Model Program, please visit www.naho.ca.

The National Aboriginal Health Organization is an Aboriginal-designed and -controlled body that works to influence and advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples through knowledge-based strategies.

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For more information, visit:

www.naho.ca/rolemodel

National Aboriginal Role Model Program materials include:

- Biographical information of the National Spokesperson and 12 role models
- Posters and trading cards of the National Spokesperson and 12 role models