



National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)  
Organisation nationale de la santé autochtone (ONSA)  
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## NEWS RELEASE

July 16, 2004  
For Immediate Release

### National Aboriginal Health Organization Announces Six Aboriginal Role Models

OTTAWA, ON —The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) today announced the names of the remaining six of its 12 National Aboriginal Role Models. The youth are highly regarded by their peers for their accomplishments, which include reviving traditional activities, speaking their Aboriginal language, achieving excellence in academics, and volunteering in their communities.

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program, administered by NAHO, celebrates and shares the successes of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth. As part of the program, 12 role models were selected for 2004. The first six role models were announced on National Aboriginal Day. Today, the remaining six names were unveiled.

The six National Aboriginal Role Models are:

- **Jason J. Annahatak**, from Kangirsuk, Quebec
- **Christopher C. Gruben**, from Inuvik, Northwest Territories
- **Aronhàies Herne**, from Akwesasne, Ontario
- **Peter Kiatainaq**, from Kangiqsujuaq, Quebec
- **Shanna LaFramboise**, from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- **Robby Qammaniq**, from Arctic Bay, Nunavut

“These young people are making accomplishments in their schools, sports, and in their communities,” says Bernice Downey, Executive Director of NAHO.

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“They are working hard to reach their goals and they are inspiring other First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth to pursue their dreams.”

The role models are Aboriginal youth between the ages of 13 and 30. They were nominated by youth in their communities. A working group made up of Aboriginal youth reviewed all the nominations and chose the top 12 Aboriginal role models.

The six role models who were announced previously are:

- Jaime Y. Battiste from Eskasoni, Nova Scotia
- Thomas I. Edwards from Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Cara Ann Wehkamp from Guelph, Ontario
- Fauna L. Kingdon from Iqaluit, Nunavut
- Jaime L. Koebel from Ottawa, Ontario
- Levi C. McAteer from Manning, Alberta

As role models, these youth will travel to Aboriginal communities to share their successes and experiences with other youth. They will attend community events and celebrations, and will give talks at schools. The role models will encourage youth to set goals and strive to reach them.

Each role model will have their own poster and trading card. These will be distributed to First Nations, Inuit and Métis schools across Canada.

“All 12 of the role models are leading healthy and positive lives,” says Downey. “They hope to encourage others to do the same. The slogan of the National Aboriginal Role Model Program is ‘Lead Your Way!’, a message the role models will be sharing with other youth in Aboriginal communities.”

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.

NAHO gratefully acknowledges the core funding support of Health Canada for the National Aboriginal Role Model Program.

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**For more information, visit:**

<http://www.naho.ca/rolemodel>