



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES IS PROUD OF
ITS URBAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY HERO TORCHBEARERS FOR THE
VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

For Immediate Release

OTTAWA, ON, October 26, 2009 – The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is pleased to announce the Urban Aboriginal Community Heroes that will represent Friendship Centres as Torchbearers for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The Vancouver 2010 Aboriginal Torch Relay Program presented a unique opportunity for First Nation, Métis and Inuit to play a part in the relay. In fact, the 2010 Winter Games mark the first time in Olympic history that Indigenous peoples have been recognized by the International Olympic Committee as official partners in an Olympic or Paralympic Games.

“This is such a proud moment, not only for the Friendship Centre Movement, but also those who have been selected to represent their communities,” said NAFC President Vera Pawis Tabobondung. “Our culture has always honoured the role of firekeepers and we are delighted that the world will be able to see that.”

The Urban Aboriginal Community Hero Torchbearer Program was developed by NAFC in partnership with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). In March, a call was put out for Friendship Centres to identify people within their communities who exemplified leadership, good sportsmanship and are inspirational figures. We are proud to announce the following Urban Aboriginal Community Hero Torchbearers:

Eric Anderson (Sagitawa Friendship Society); **Jamie Linington** (Slave Lake Native Friendship Society); **Lindy Beauchamp-Chester** (Grand Prairie Friendship Centre); **Kaitlan Taylor** (Riverton and District Friendship Centre); **Danielle Morrison** (Ne-Chee Friendship Centre); **Marc Hunter** (Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre); **Clayton Sandy** (Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg); **Kluane Adamek** (Skookum Jim Friendship Centre); **Peter Masson** (Odawa Native Friendship Centre); and **Rebecca Moore** (Micmac Native Friendship Centre).

“We want to show the world the heroes within our urban Aboriginal communities to inspire hope and peace in the spirit of friendship.” added NAFC Executive Director Peter Dinsdale.

As Canada’s largest infrastructure of urban Aboriginal service delivery providers, the National Association of Friendship Centres advocates for the needs of our 125 member Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations and their urban Aboriginal membership.

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