

NEWS RELEASE

SANDRA SUTTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Calgary singer/songwriter to receive Esquao Award

Calgary, AB, May 6, 2019 – Calgary singer-song writer Sandra Sutter will be one of 19 recipients of this year's Esquao Award, recognizing the significant role of Aboriginal women in contributing to their communities throughout Alberta.

Sutter, who is well-known for her performances at venues across western Canada, was selected to receive the honour at the 24th annual Esquao Awards, to be held on May 10 at the River Cree Resort, Enoch, Alberta.

Sutter was selected by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) in the field of Arts in recognition of her extensive community work and song-writing that promotes a spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Combined with her service to several charitable and non-profit organizations, she has touched many lives and made a significant and lasting contribution toward the betterment of our society.

"It's truly an honour to be among almost 500 women who have been selected for this award over the past 24 years," said Sutter, whose debut album, Cluster Stars, won "Best Americana" at the Native American Music Awards last October.

"Music and the arts bring people together to do things as a community that we could never accomplish on our own," she said. "If my songs breed understanding, compassion and bring people a little closer, then I will have achieved what I set out to do with my music."

Bev Renaud, an Aboriginal Community Worker at the City of Calgary, was also selected to receive an Esquao Award.

The Esquao Awards is the largest gathering to honour Aboriginal Women in Canada. It is unique because the community nominates the women, and IAAW coordinates the ceremony to honour them. The awards highlight the significant role Aboriginal women hold in their home, in the healing and development of their community and in the building of Alberta. To date 456 women have received Esquao Awards, from over 90 communities.

The IAAW is a provincially-based non-profit organization that delivers outreach to several communities across Alberta. It advocates for and promotes the advancement of Aboriginal women through specialized programming, hosting gatherings such as the Indigenous Women's Justice Forum and encouraging the involvement in decisions that affect them and their families. The IAAW provides transition services, financial literacy education and leadership development opportunities from its head office in Edmonton. It also delivers a summer camp and in-school program to increase youth safety and leadership skills. A major goal is to develop partnerships with police, government and other agencies.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please text Sandra at 1-403-560-0452.

