



National Association
of Friendship Centres
Association nationale
des centres d'amitié

The Nelson Mayer Youth Recognition Award



The Nelson Mayer Youth Recognition Award is gifted to an extraordinary youth whose Friendship Centre nominated them to be recognized in their community for outstanding work. The candidate is either on their local or regional youth council. Attend friendship Centre events regularly, volunteer at FC events or provide guidance to their peers when called.

We've had Mason Simoneau, 15, Grande Prairie Native Friendship Centre, recipient of this award in previous years. Mason is a youth representative and member of the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Council (AAYC). The qualities Mason brought were not missing an AAYC meeting or event, for being the most active youth at ANFCA meetings. For his volunteerism and time to fundraising for the Elder's Wisdom Circle.

The Aboriginal Youth Council is seeking nominations from the Friendship Centres for the Nelson Mayer Youth Recognition Award 2021 at this year's Annual Youth Forum, held November 26-27, 2021.

FCs, please click and fill link to the nomination form: <https://bit.ly/3aOfdPv>

Nelson's Biography

Background: For over 38 years, Nelson Mayer has been involved with the Friendship Centre Movement at all capacity levels. He was the past President of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and Executive Director of the Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association (ANFCA).

Nelson's national involvement with the Friendship Centre Movement is extensive. In addition to his position as President, he served as the NAFC Vice-President for ten years. He was previously President in 1987 and 1988, where he was the first person elected by acclamation. Provincially, Nelson has served on the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) board in the capacity of Vice-President and President. He was also the Executive Director of MAC for five years before taking on his current role in Alberta.

Nelson's leadership was driven by his on-the-ground experiences with many local Friendship Centres. He was the Executive Director of The Pas, Dauphin and Winnipeg Friendship Centres and has served on numerous Friendship Centre boards, including Winnipeg, Thompson, Dauphin, and Vancouver. In addition, he is an honorary board member of the Riverton Friendship Centre. He is a lifetime member of the Dauphin, Flin Flon and Lynn Lake Friendship Centres.