



## **Announcing the winners of the Women's Worlds 2011 Young Aboriginal Women's Creative Essay Contest!**

April 18, 2011 - The Aboriginal Women's Leadership Circle for Women's Worlds 2011 with the support of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network are proud to announce the winners of the Young Aboriginal Women's Creative Essay Contest! We would also like to thank Randi Rourke Barreiro for her guidance and support in the selection process.

Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge and thank each and every young Aboriginal woman that submitted something to the contest. Your strength, courage, and talent are simply amazing. We feel very honoured that young Aboriginal women from coast to coast decided to take part in this process. All of the submissions were heartfelt - from spoken word and visual art, to creative essays, stories, photography, all with a deep sense of truth-telling.

We received over 100 submissions from various Inuit, Métis and First Nations communities in English and French. It became clear that this opportunity means a lot to young Aboriginal women and that there are many, many strong, loud voices that need to be heard. Due to the high volume of submissions and the quality of work - these decisions were extremely difficult. For this reason, we are currently looking into publishing everyone's completed works in a book so that all their work can be honoured and shared widely, upon approval of each person. We will be in touch directly with everyone who submitted as we move forward with this process and this will only be done with the consent of the person who submitted their work.

Congratulations to the following 3 grand prize winners - see you in Ottawa in July at Women's Worlds!

**Tanis Desjarlais** (First Nations) - "Caught between worlds" (film)

**Hayley Moody** (Métis) - "Where are your women?" (essay)

**Naomie Akavak** (Inuk) - "What does Aboriginal women's leadership mean to me" (essay)

Congratulations to the following 7 winners - many thanks for your efforts!

**Josephine O'Brien** (First Nations) - "What Aboriginal women's leadership means to me" (essay)

**Natasha Kanape Fontaine** (Innu)- "Regalia", "La Petite Fille et la Femme", "Menashkuat", "Pas-de-l'Ours" (visual art)

**Kristen Bos** (Métis) - "Blossoming Leadership" (essay)

**Kailey Arreak** (Inuk) - "What does Aboriginal Leadership mean to you?" (essay)

**Hanako Nagao** (Métis) - "Drum Walk" (photo)

**Monique Auger** (Métis) - "Exemplifying the Power of Leadership among Indigenous Women: Sophia Thomas, an Extraordinary Woman" (essay)

**Naomi Sayers** (First Nations) - "Lead-HER-ship" (essay)

Once again, we cannot say enough how impressed we are with every single young person who participated and submitted something. We hope you will continue to write, make art and express yourself!

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