



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES COMMENDS
2009 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER
JOAN GLODE**

For Immediate Release

OTTAWA, ON, November 25, 2008 – For the second year in a row, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service has been awarded to a Friendship Centre Movement pioneer. On November 24th 2008, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) announced that Joan Glode has won this prestigious designation. Last year, this award went to Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC).

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is especially pleased that a member of the NAFC Senate has been recognized for their invaluable contribution to the betterment of Aboriginal people’s lives. An NAFC Senator is one who has contributed several years to the Friendship Centre Movement at local, provincial and national levels.

“Senators are an integral part of the Friendship Centre Movement,” said NAFC President Vera Pawis Tabobondung. “We rely upon their expertise and history to guide us in the future direction of the Friendship Centre Movement.”

As one of the first Aboriginal women to obtain a graduate degree in social work in Canada, Senator Joan Glode has set the stage for Aboriginal youth to dream big. Senator Glode is fiercely dedicated to protecting and advocating for the rights of children, having helped to develop the multi-million dollar funded Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia. Senator Glode has also dedicated twenty years as Executive Director of the Mi'qmaq Native Friendship Centre in Halifax, NS.

"Friendship Centres have always valued the immense contributions that people have made to the Movement," said Peter Dinsdale, NAFC Executive Director. "We are extremely delighted that Senator Glode has also been honoured with the National Aboriginal Achievement Award – the highest honour that the Aboriginal community bestows upon its achievers."

The National Association of Friendship Centres extends immense congratulations to all winners of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Your perseverance, fortitude and dedication to the betterment of Aboriginal people's lives creates a legacy of hope for our upcoming generations of Aboriginal leaders. For the full list of winners, please visit: www.naaf.ca.

As Canada's largest infrastructure of urban Aboriginal service delivery providers, the NAFC advocates for the needs of 118 Friendship Centres and their urban Aboriginal membership.

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