

**NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURISM
INDUSTRY LEADER AWARDS**



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destinationnorthernontario.ca





Not just an award.

Each year, Destination Northern Ontario partners with talented Indigenous artists to design more than just an award; they create a beautiful, custom piece of art that tells a cultural story. The awards are crafted from pure, locally sourced wood from Northern Ontario. These remarkable, unique hand-crafted awards honour the achievements of our Northern Ontario Tourism Industry Leaders.



Featured Artists

AMBER WABOOSE OJIBWE ARTIST

Amber Waboose Kimewon of the Bear Clan is an Anishinaabekwe and Ojibwe artist from Batchewana First Nation in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory. Her artistic practice includes porcupine quillwork on birchbark, two-dimensional art, and other traditional and contemporary forms. Through her work, Amber is committed to supporting cultural education, preserving Anishinaabek artistic practices, and helping revitalize traditional knowledge for future generations.

VISIT WEBSITE >

amberwaboose.com

MARC FORGETTE AWARD PRODUCTION – MAKATEW WORKSHOPS

Makatew Workshops was founded in 2019 by Marc Forgette, a French Algonquin member of the Apitipi Anicinapek Nation (formerly Wahgoshig First Nation). His journey began as a personal search for identity and belonging, one that led him to discover his great aunt's work as a leatherworker and his fourth-great-grandfather's family name, Makatew—meaning “Black”—a name later lost through colonization.

With a hunger for purpose and a vision to reclaim his heritage, Marc created Makatew Workshops as a way to share culture, knowledge, and tradition through hands-on experiences. Today, he pours his heart into facilitating workshops and speaking engagements that blend creativity with education, inviting others to learn, connect, and take part in reconciliation.

VISIT WEBSITE >

makatew.ca





Nominations Package

Award Categories

01

INDUSTRY LEADER

INNOVATION EXCELLENCE | **2 awards** (1 for operators, 1 for industry)

This award recognizes an individual, business, or organization that has introduced a creative and forward-thinking idea, product, service, or technology that enhances the tourism experience in Northern Ontario. This award celebrates innovation that solves a problem, meets a new demand, or sets a new standard within the industry, demonstrating measurable impact and long-term potential for growth and replication.

02

INDUSTRY LEADER

BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES | **2 awards** (1 for operators, 1 for industry)

This award recognizes a tourism leader or organization that exemplifies operational excellence in Northern Ontario's tourism sector. It celebrates strong performance through strategic planning, sound financial management, exceptional customer service, and meaningful community engagement. The recipient fosters an inclusive workplace culture and sets a high benchmark for professionalism and long-term success. Excellence may be demonstrated in areas such as sustainability, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), accessibility, or other innovative practices that contribute to a resilient and forward-thinking tourism industry.





Nomination Details

Nominations are open to any **Ontario-based organization, group** or their **membership base**. Self Nomination is permitted. There is no cost to apply for the Destination Northern Ontario Industry Leader Awards.

Name of nominated Organization, Business. Please note, all promotions, trophies and press releases will use this name. Please ensure spelling is correct.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Name of person submitting entry/primary contact.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Submission Details

Entrant statement

A 200-word statement about the entrant and career highlights. This may be used in Destination Northern Ontario marketing material.

Why Entrant should win statement

A 200-word statement about why the entrant should win this award. This may be used in Destination Northern Ontario marketing material.



Nomination Form

Which Industry Leader Award are you nominating for?

Industry Leader: Innovation Excellence

Industry Leader: Best Business Practices

Award Criteria

For each award category, please explain up to **250 words** each, the follow areas of interest of the entrant.

01

Achievements, Accolades & Professional Development.

What achievements has the entrant developed to date in the field?

02

Impact on Industry.

How has this individual impacted the tourism industry in their respective award category?

03

Progression in the field. Has the entrant exceeded expectations?

How have the entrant gone above and beyond the call of duty in their respective award category?

04

Leadership.

How has the entrant displayed signs of leadership in their respective award category?

05

Strategy & Innovation.

How has the entrant shown innovation or developed a clear path to success in their respective awards category?

Reference Checks

Provide two references, including contact name, email and phone number for each.

Reference #1:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reference #2:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

 **Submit your application**

If you have any further documents to support your application, please email them along with your application to: communications@destinationnorthernontario.ca.



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