



News Release

Nunavut Takes Home Best Female Award at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 29, 2005) – Tanya Tagaq Gillis, a throat singer from Cambridge Bay, took home the award for Best Female Artist, as well as two other awards, at the Seventh Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards this past Friday, November 25th.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk today extends his congratulations to Tanya for all her achievements, and in particular for receiving this prestigious award.

“Tanya’s extraordinary achievement at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards is a real inspiration for all Nunavummiut, especially our youth,” said Minister Tapardjuk. “Her album, *Sinaa*, brings Inuit heritage, culture and language to the world stage, putting a spotlight on Nunavut and its growing music industry.”

In addition to the being named the top female artist, her CD won for best album design and her producer, Juan Hernandez, was named best producer / engineer for his work on her album, *Sinaa*. Tagaq Gillis was featured on Bjork’s last album, *Medulla*, where she gained some international recognition.

“Nunavut would like to congratulate throat singer Beatrice Deer of Quaqtaq, Nunavik, who received the Best Inuit Cultural Album Award for *Just Bea*. We wish to send out congratulations to all those who received awards and those who were nominated. They are all winners in advancing Aboriginal music and culture,” said Minister Tapardjuk.

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards program is developed and coordinated by Aboriginal people from across Canada. The 2006 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards will be held November 3rd in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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