

2015 Community Award Winner- Justin Holness

Justin Holness is an Aboriginal Youth Diversion Coordinator with Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health.

Coming from a challenging environment while growing up and overcoming these challenges has given Justin the experience and understanding which enables him to relate to the Aboriginal youth who come to Wabano.

Along with being the diversion coordinator, Justin runs the Youth Circle, Teen Drop In, Box Fit and a Physical Motivation Program. Justin has invited police officers to attend Youth Circle and Teen Drop In, which has contributed to the positive relationship between police and Aboriginal youth that is also present in the schools.

Justin organized a friendly basketball game "Hoops for Reconciliation" between Aboriginal youth and police officers. The event was a success and had both groups playing alongside and against each other. There was food and prizes, including a commemorative basketball which Justin had made for the event.

In addition, Justin is one of the leaders of the Youth summer camps and March break camps. This leadership has been instrumental for many of

the youth who have had nothing but positive remarks and have noted that the camp has changed their lives.

Justin was the moderator of the National Youth Strategy's live streamed Youth Forum. This covered topics such as education, employment, mental health, justice, housing, entrepreneurship, sports and arts. The forum included youth, representatives from Government Ministries and departments, as well as, Senators.

Justin has passion for music recording and producing. He has volunteered his time and knowledge to mentor Aboriginal youth in expressing their ideas and feelings through music and spoken word. Justin was able to encourage one of his youth that he mentors to share their poem in front of an audience at the basketball event that he had organized. This was a monumental step for this youth who has had some significant challenges in her life.

Justin has continued to show overwhelming dedication, commitment and belief in youth, he is very deserving as the winner of the 2015 Community Award for Youth Service.

Congratulations Justin!!!