

KZA Powwow 2025 *Land. Life. Legacy.*

Congratulations to all!!! Many thanks to all KZA Citizens and powwow guests who came from all over Turtle Island to join us in the community. You made this event truly special! Gitchi-Miigwetch to everyone who made this celebration such an amazing success. I would like to highlight a few of the people who worked to see this Powwow come to life.

To Powwow MC - Nathan Moses and Arena Director - Nodin Moses. Your kind hearts, gentle spirits, great senses of humour and valued-guidance made the Powwow a fantastic experience for all. Special thanks to Nathan for crafting the KZA Royalty Brave's Roach head piece prizes. Chi-Miigwetch to you both and see you next year!

To Elders Nora Bouchard, Grace Esquega, Mary Niemi, Steve Pinajin and all other Elders who contributed their knowledge and shared their experiences and to the 33 Elder Dancers, holllaaayyy - ever deadly role models!

To Head Firekeeper Kenny King and your crew who weathered 3 different seasons of temperatures and overnight rain, a round of congratulations and a depth of gratitude for helping to maintain critical cultural connections and teachings.

To all the wonderful Eagle Staff and Water Carriers, Flag Bearers and past KZA royalty as well visiting FN Royalty – many thanks!

To the co-host Drums: Water Heart Singers and Buffalo Running, and to the 7 other Drums, their Keepers and Singers, simple words cannot express our thankfulness that you travelled to be with us to share your talents. Chi-miigwetch

To the Head Dancers Summer Tyance and Josias Fiddler - your kindness, happiness and good-natured presence, and your beautiful skillful dancing was truly moving and inspirational! Many, many thanks to you both!

2025 KZA Royalty contest winners - We wish you great successes and hope you enjoy representing your Nation and its People as you journey through the coming year - gaining experiences and knowledge. Good luck and congratulations!

Senior Brave - Ashton King
Junior Brave - Lincoln Tyance
Mini Brave - Lucas Tyance

Senior Princess - Ashtyn Wigwas
Junior Princess - Katana Moyle
Mini Princess - Joelle King

To Jodina Gustafson for the absolutely fantastic craftspersonship on beading the Medallions and Crowns and on sewing matching ribbon skirts in the colours which honoured the Elements: Land, Water, Air, Fire and Spirit. You knocked it out of the park/powwow grounds and will have a tough time beating these ones next year! We appreciate and recognize the love that you put into each bead on these gifts for the youth of your/our Nation – you are a true gem!

To the men and women who went above and beyond in showcasing the various styles of dance, we honour you.

Men's Competition Dance Winners which included: Grass - Josias Fiddler, Lewis Fox
Traditional - Naythan Cheechoo, Kevin Myran, Mitchell Suganaqueb Chicken - Andrew Hubbard

Women's Competition Dance Winners which included:
Fancy Shawl - Kora Moses, Laila Doblej, Kyra Metatawabin
Jingle - Carmela Moses, Dannell McGinnis, Alyssa Thorsteinson
Traditional - Ethel Gustafson, Jodina Gustafson

And to all the Dancers who were honoured, to their beautiful Regalia which was appreciated, and to all those whose feet were moved and spirits were lifted in dancing to the Drums - the Heartbeat of Mother Earth, we salute you all!

To the arena-full of Monster Bingo players who shared in over \$10,000 of cash prize money - thank you for coming out and sharing your excitement and laughter after a long day. And to the Priscott Bingo Ninjas from FWFN who pumped people through bingo card sales in the shortest time EVER - a round of applause and many thanks. You have become a part of our community celebration and we are blessed to have you as partners.

To the food and craft vendors - thank you for keeping our bellies full and for assisting us in making our wallets a little lighter to carry (as we nabbed your goodies and your wares). Positive comments and long lines - proof of appreciation!

To our partners at ACO Marketing - Mac Lockyer, who so capably managed all of the electronic registration, announcement postings and assisted to secure our amazing powwow swag; Will Lockyer, who went over and above all day especially atop the roof on flag installation and who MCed his way through our Feast; and Charlie Lockyer, who captured all of the action with video and made sure that all who participated were showcased in a very special way.

To the expert catering staff of the Superior Inn for so patiently and capably assisting us in providing such a wonderful Feast. We are so grateful to you for helping to ensure that all were treated to such an amazing meal. Great job!!

Lastly, and only because there are not enough words of thanks that can be given, to the Staff of KZA who worked tirelessly for weeks; to our contractors/friends especially the MVP Lee Family who seemingly never run out of energy and are inspirational/motivational to us all; to Dan "I'll Do It" Lloyd for whom we are most grateful to have had the opportunity to include at many of our events; and to the handful of volunteers hard to call and who made this whole weekend possible. Humbly accept the well-deserved recognition of making this celebration the fantastic time it was for all. Giant appreciation goes to the tiny SWAT team of KZA staff who also proved that they could adapt and go with the flow with the last-minute changes and challenges - you served your Nation well and are should be thanked again!

Safe Travels in wherever your journey takes you and see you next year!

Chief Wilfred King and KZA participating Councillors - Kevin King, Kenneth King, Lawrence Shonias, AJ Esquega, Hugh King, Geraldine King, and Mike Murchison