



The NAHO Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Paulette Tremblay and the 12 Aboriginal Role Models are available to answer questions.

The National Aboriginal Health Organization advances and promotes the health and well-being of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis through collaborative research, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, building capacity, and community led initiatives.

**For more information on the National Aboriginal Role Model Program, visit [www.naho.ca/rolemodel](http://www.naho.ca/rolemodel).**

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National Aboriginal Role Model Program materials include:

- Biographical information of the National Spokesperson and 12 role models
- Posters and trading cards of the National Spokesperson and 12 role models

## BACKGROUNDER

# LEAD YOUR WAY!

## 2010 National Aboriginal Role Models

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program celebrates the accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth aged 13 to 30.

*Lead Your Way!* inspires Aboriginal youth to strive to reach their goals.

Each year, 12 Aboriginal role models are nominated by their peers. They are selected for their achievements, leadership, and innovation. Throughout the year, the role models will attend celebrations, school functions, workshops, and conferences to share their stories with other Aboriginal youth.

*Lead Your Way!* is hosted by the National Aboriginal Health Organization and funded by Health Canada.

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program aims to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles and self-esteem among Aboriginal Peoples.
- Strengthen Aboriginal identity.
- Create positive public images of Aboriginal Peoples.
- Facilitate availability of Aboriginal Role Models to Aboriginal youth and communities.
- Influence behaviours and attitudes of Aboriginal youth toward healthy lifestyles.
- Foster Aboriginal-inspired leadership.

Lucie Idlout is the 2009-2011 National Spokesperson who helps promote the program.

James Makokis served as National Spokesperson from 2007-2009.

Our first National Spokesperson was Jordon Tootoo. In 2004, he helped launch the program and encouraged Aboriginal youth to nominate their role models from their communities.

Posters and trading cards of the 12 role models will be sent to Aboriginal schools across Canada.

The role models will visit Aboriginal communities throughout the year, where they will attend community celebrations and visit schools to talk about their experiences.