

# **TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT**

## **History of the Event**

The event was brought to life 17 years ago when an Aboriginal liaison worker and a group of volunteer mothers discussed how to honour graduating students. The first Traditional Celebration of Achievement started as a gathering to share a meal with family and to present an eagle feather to graduates from Father Patrick Mercredi and Composite High School. The celebration has since evolved to include all high schools from Fort McMurray and outlying communities. It also features a lineup of great entertainment and speakers. Elders will present each of the graduates with an eagle feather. As well, each student also receives sweetgrass-a symbol of cleansing and a clear vision for the future, a miniature Métis sash and an abalone shell with a stand.

## **Description**

The traditional celebration of achievement recognizes and honours the First Nations, Métis and Inuit graduates of the Wood Buffalo Region. This event is a very important celebration in the Wood Buffalo region that allows the Aboriginal communities to promote cultural pride and traditional teachings. It is an opportunity to honour our youth and their achievements.

While the celebration has become more elaborate, the number of participating students has also grown significantly-from less than 30 students 17 years ago to over 100.