



**13th Annual  
New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts:**

# *Narrative Heart*

**Saturday,  
March 1, 2014**

**9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Room 5050, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minto Centre,  
Carleton University**



# Narrative Heart

Kwey, tansi, she:kon, tunngasugitsi, bonjour, and welcome to the 13th Annual New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts: Narrative Heart. As in the past, we acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of the Algonquin people on whose traditional unceded territory we gather today.

The signature image for this year's New Sun Conference is a stunningly beautiful and evocative photograph by Ottawa artist, Meryl McMaster. Aptly titled, *Telltales*, it visually captures the conference theme of "Narrative Heart", suggesting, in its fluttering feathers and crimson fringe, a secure hold on the past, balanced by the figure's resolute and youthful gaze firmly fixed on the future. A spiritual energy that springs from the land holds these elements in perfect balance. One can easily imagine the myriad voices and untold narratives carried on the soft wind, waiting to be released and shared. Such narratives of indigenous experience, promise and possibility – couched in a range of creative expression, from photography, dance and theatre, to music, film and storytelling – are the focus of this gathering today.

The New Sun Conference is a celebration of Aboriginal artistic achievement that pays particular attention to indigenous protocols and experiential learning, to the power of personal and communal narratives and the transformative potential of both indigenous pedagogy and the creative arts. It also respects the notions of place-based learning and space-based history. For the last nine years, on this day, Minto 5050 has been transformed into an intimate, sacred space of indigenous learning through the prayers and cleansing practices of Elder Jim Albert, and the positive energy and personal gifts that each person brings with them. The resultant spirit of communal inclusivity is almost palpable; those in attendance invariably consider themselves participants, and rarely mere members of an audience. Over the years, attendees have found the presentations to be enlightening, entertaining, inspiring, hopeful and, most tellingly, "heartfelt." It is this latter quality that has, perhaps like no other, come to distinguish the New Sun Conference and is, from the feedback received, the one that leaves the most profound and lasting impression.

Generosity is another defining feature of the New Sun Conference: especially the generosity of President Roseann O'Reilly Runte and Carleton University for providing a welcome home for indigenous knowledge within its walls; the generosity of Dr. John Osborne, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, and New

Sun (Joy Maclaren) for their continued encouragement and financial support; the generosity of all those who have sponsored students who would otherwise not have been able to attend; and the generosity of the presenters who have invariably made time in their busy lives to accept the invitation. This year we are indebted to the following:

**Sandra Laronde**, who will speak to the challenges and successes associated with her dual roles as Director of Indigenous Arts at the Banff Centre, and Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance, a much acclaimed indigenous dance, theatre and music company whose work exemplifies the creative rewards of both intercultural and international collaboration.

Prolific children's author and storyteller, **Michael Kusugak**, who will demonstrate the continued relevance of oral tradition and the value of fostering intercultural appreciation at an early age.

Ottawa-based photo-artist, **Meryl McMaster**, whose international career is on a steep trajectory, and who will discuss the creative process and inspiration for many of the works in her impressive artistic portfolio. *Telltales* (referred to above) only hints at the breadth of her creative imagination.

**Jean LaRose**, one of the original visionaries who conceived of The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, the first and only national Aboriginal broadcaster in the world. Under his leadership, as Chief Executive Officer since 2002, APTN has nurtured the careers of countless Aboriginal writers and film makers and made possible the preservation and perpetuation of indigenous narratives in a variety of native languages.

**A Tribe Called Red**, the immensely popular Ottawa-based electric pow wow DJ/ producer crew, whose infectious fusion of traditional pow wow vocals and drumming with cutting edge-electronic music has introduced tribal narratives to an ever expanding and enthusiastic global audience.

Clearly, there are many tales still to tell, and many narrative voices still in the wind that ruffles fringe and feathers and enlivens the heart.

Enjoy!

All my relations,

Allan J. Ryan



## **PROGRAM - 2014**

- 8:30 - 9:15      Registration, Coffee/juice/muffins
- 9:15 - 9:30      Welcome, **Allan J. Ryan**,  
New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture
- Opening prayer, Elder **Jim Albert**
- Welcoming remarks, **Roseann O'Reilly Runte**,  
President, Carleton University
- 9:30 - 10:20     **Sandra Laronde**, Director, Indigenous Arts, the Banff  
Centre; Artistic Director, Red Sky Performance
- 10:20 - 10:35    Nutrition Break
- 10:35 - 11:25    **Michael Kusugak**, children's author and storyteller
- 11:30 - 12:20    **Meryl McMaster**, photo artist
- 12:30 - 1:30     Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine,  
Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons

## PROGRAM - 2014

### Luncheon Menu:

- Warm bannock bread with maple butter and strawberry jam
- Bitter and sweet greens (baby lettuce, spinach, rocket and watercress) mixed with Saskatoon berries and stone cherries, served with wild honey mustard vinaigrette
- Grilled vegetables and artichoke hearts in balsamic olive oil vinaigrette topped with spicy pumpkin seed
- Black and red wild rice with sauteed kale and Swiss chard
- Roasted Yukon gold potatoes and sweet yams, with fresh thyme and rosemary topped with caramelized onions and crisp lardon
- Corn syrup and molasses glazed root vegetables
- Pan fried halibut topped with little neck clams in saffron wild mushroom fumet
- Buffalo and beef lima bean ragout
- Pumpkin cheesecake with maple caramel sauce
- Field and Saskatoon berry crumble served with vanilla pod crème fraiche

1:30 - 2:00	<b>A Tribe Called Red in performance</b>
2:20 - 3:10	<b>Jean LaRose</b> , CEO, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network
3:15 - 4:05	<b>A Tribe Called Red</b> , Electric Pow Wow DJ/Producer crew
4:10 – 4:30	Concluding remarks, gift basket draw, closing prayer



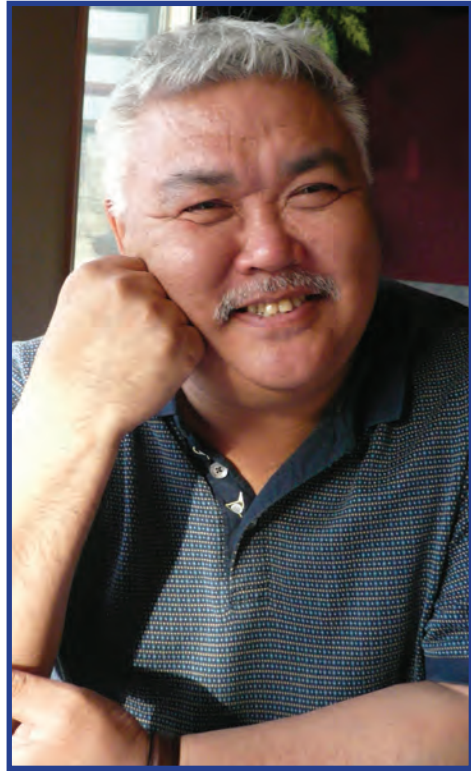




**Sandra  
Laronde**

Sandra Laronde is Director of Indigenous Arts at The Banff Centre, an internationally respected arts, cultural, and educational institution in Banff, Alberta, as well as serving as Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance, an Indigenous dance, theatre and music company based in Toronto. She divides her time between Toronto and Banff and is an accomplished and prolific innovator in the artistic and cultural sector as a director, producer, choreographer, performer, and creative leader. With Red Sky, Sandra's vision is to create a leading international company of world Indigenous performance in dance, theatre and music. The company has performed around the world, and in 2010, under her leadership, received a Dora Mavor Moore Award, and two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Sandra is a graduate of the University of Toronto and, amongst other honours, received an honorary doctorate from Trent University, and an Expressive Arts Award from The Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

[www.banffcentre.ca](http://www.banffcentre.ca); [www.redskyperformance.com](http://www.redskyperformance.com)



## Michael Kusugak

Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak grew up in Repulse Bay, NWT (now Nunavut). During his childhood, his family lived a traditional Inuit lifestyle, hunting and fishing, travelling by dog sled, and living in igloos in the winter and tents in the summer. Michael is the author of nine children's books including *A Promise is a Promise*, *Baseball Bats for Christmas*, and *Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails*. His first novel for children, *The Curse of the Shaman: a Marble Island Story* was published in 2007 and his latest publication is a picture book, *T is for Territories*. Michael has been honoured numerous times for his writing, including the Ruth Schwartz Award for *Northern Lights*, and the prestigious Vicky Metcalf Award for his body of work in Children's Literature. He moved recently from Rankin Inlet to Vancouver Island to allow better access to travel for touring. Michael writes and travels extensively throughout Canada, the United States and the world, telling stories.

[www.michaelkusugak.com](http://www.michaelkusugak.com)

Photo: Geraldine Pflueger



## **Meryl McMaster**

Meryl McMaster is a photo artist whose work explores questions of identity, representation, perception, myth, memory and the environment. Her work goes beyond straight photography to incorporate manual production, performance and self-reflection. Meryl's interest in the complexities of identity has led her to use her work as an opportunity to express her own bi-cultural heritage as a synergistic strength, rather than the struggle between opposites that is often portrayed. She has exhibited in a variety of galleries and shows, and received numerous awards for her work, including the Charles Pachter Prize for Emerging Artists, and the prestigious Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship. Her work is held by a number of private collections and in 2012 she was named the Art Bank of Canada's artist of the year. She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, where she was awarded the OCAD Medal.

**[www.merylmcmaster.com](http://www.merylmcmaster.com)**





## **Jean LaRose**

Jean LaRose is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. APTN is the first and only national Aboriginal broadcaster in the world, with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples. The network supports the creative programming initiatives of over 80 independent Aboriginal producers. As one of the host broadcasters of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, APTN carried over ten hours per day of Olympic coverage in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages. Mr. LaRose was a member of the original Advisory Committee that oversaw the development of the concept and license proposal for APTN in 1997-1998. Since being named CEO in 2002 he has brought the network to national and international prominence. APTN was one of the first networks in Canada to move to a full HD technical platform. He is a founding member of the World Indigenous Television Broadcasters Network and sits on the Board of Directors of the National Screen Institute, the Board of On-Screen Manitoba and the Nisga'a Commercial Group. In 2011 he was awarded the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Media and Communications. He is a graduate of the University of Ottawa.

**[www.aptn.ca](http://www.aptn.ca)**



## **A Tribe Called Red**

A Tribe Called Red is a First Nations Producer and DJ crew comprised of DJ Shub (Dan General), DJ Bear Witness (Bear Thomas), and DJ NDN (Ian Campeau). Their unique sound is a fusion of traditional pow wow vocals and drumming, combined with cutting-edge electronic music which emerged from their monthly Electric Pow Wow events at Ottawa's club Babylon. ATRC has become the face of an urban Native youth renaissance with a global following, championing their heritage and speaking out on aboriginal issues, while being on top of popular music, fashion and art. DJ Bear Witness doubles as the crew's visual artist and creates stunning, political and often humorous videos that incorporate film and pop culture references to Native people and reclaim the aboriginal image. ATRC has received a Juno nomination as Breakthrough Group of the Year, and their second album, *Nation II Nation*, is nominated for Electronic Album of the Year. The album was also shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize as one of the ten best Canadian albums of 2013, and received four APCMAs (Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards) for best group, best producer, best album and best cover art.

[www.atribecalledred.com](http://www.atribecalledred.com)

## **New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts: Backgrounder**

Since its beginning in 2002, the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts has brought together in a public forum individuals from various First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities, as well as from the non-Native community. Presenters have included those with expertise in photography, painting, sculpture, film making, acting, dance, musical performance, curating, arts education, architecture, literature and the culinary arts. Themes such as “healing through the arts,” “transforming traditions,” “engaging authenticity”, and “inspiring resilience” have been explored in a collegial and communal atmosphere that encourages dialogue on important cultural and artistic issues. The conference honours, and seeks to raise public awareness of individuals whose work affirms contemporary Aboriginal experience and contributes to increased cross-cultural understanding. All conference presentations have been videotaped and archived on DVD in the Carleton University Library.

**New Sun:** Continuing the legacy of her father, who was given the honorary name of “Old Sun” in 1962 by the Blackfoot Nation in Alberta, Joy Maclaren was given the name “New Sun” in 1995 by elders from the Blackfoot, Mohawk and Ojibwa nations at a special naming ceremony at Carleton University, to recognize her commitment to promoting Aboriginal culture and education across Canada. Her distinctive blue shawl, with its New Sun design in gold and copper sequins, was presented to her at that time. In 2011 she was given an honorary doctorate by Carleton University and made a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her philanthropy and ongoing support of post-secondary education. In 2013 the New Sun Joy Maclaren Adaptive Technology Centre opened in Carleton’s newly renovated MacOdrum Library.

**Allan J. Ryan** was appointed as the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture in 2001. The first of its kind in Canada, the Chair is situated in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton. It was made possible through the support of the New Sun Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

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For photos and feedback from previous conferences visit the New Sun Conference Archive: [www.trickstershift.com](http://www.trickstershift.com)



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