



Brief History of the Canadian Aboriginal Festival and Music Awards

This year marks our 16th annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival and 11th annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and our 1st year at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton.

The Canadian Aboriginal Festival, which includes Education Day, Lacrosse Competition, Confidence Fashion Show, Competition Pow Wow, market place and Music Awards (CAMA) is organized and coordinated by Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario, a non-profit, Aboriginal organization located in Brantford. A Board of Directors governs the organization. For more information, please visit our website at www.canab.com.

Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario's mandate is to assist the Aboriginal arts community in the development of programs that provide economic development opportunities and to share the diversity and quality of Aboriginal art, heritage and culture.

The Executive Director is Catherine Cornelius, a status member of the Oneida of the Thames community, has been with Indian Art-I-Crafts since it's inception twenty-two years ago. Ms. Cornelius previously worked with the Chiefs of Ontario, the Canadian Government and owns and operates Oneida of the Thames Marketing.

Program Director, Ron Robert, a Metis of Mohawk and French descent, has also been with the organization since the beginning. He is a former broadcaster (25 years), an assistant to former Prime Minister Trudeau, and a senior government media relations officer.

Executive Assistant, Lisa Jackson, a status member of Oneida of the Thames, has been working with Indian Art-I-Crafts for several years. Ms. Jackson has a degree in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario. She has previously worked as a caseworker and child & youth worker in a women's shelter and as an intern at HRDC Labor Program

Each year various organizations, companies and government departments are solicited for sponsorship in order to offset the cost of staging this event and to keep the admission price affordable for all to attend.

In addition to the 15 years of the festival, Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario has been active in numerous local, provincial and federal Aboriginal events over the past 20 years.