

# ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE TODAY

This list offers only **some** of the Aboriginal People who are making a difference today. The purpose of the information given below is to give a brief idea of what they do. Students should be expected to come up with more information than what is listed.

Websites have been checked and biographies are available for these people listed.

1. **Susan Aglukark - Inuit** - singer, song writer, performs in English and Inuktituk
2. **John Kim Bell - Mohawk** - musician, composer, orchestra conductor, founder of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards
3. **Lee Cremona - Micmac** - world famous Cape Breton fiddler, died Oct. 1999
4. **Barbara Croall - Ojibway** - singer with the Toronto Symphony
5. **Kashtin - Innu** - means "tornado" in Innu, rock group, lyrics in English and in Innu, members are Claude McKenzie and Florent Volland
6. **Robbie Robertson - Mohawk** - classic rock singer since 1960, most know album is *Contact From the Underworld of Red Boy*.
7. **Buffy Sainte-Marie - Plains Cree** - singer/songwriter, major recording artists perform her songs, born on reserve in Sask., lecturer, activist, digital artist, new album out
8. **Keith Secola - Ojibway** - singer/songwriter whose songs can be heard in many Hollywood movies
9. **Kenojuak Ashevak - Inuit** - she is a renowned painter from Baffin Island
10. **Jackson Beardy - Cree** - birch bark painter
11. **Fred Cattroll - Cree** - photographer
12. **Robert Davidson - Haida** - singer, sculptor, drummer, painter on gold, silver, wood and paper, founded dance company, Order of Canada recipient
13. **Norval Morrisseau - Ojibway** - recognized First Nations artist
14. **Alex Janvier - Chipewyan** - Painter
15. **George Littlechild - Cree** - author/illustrator
16. **Daphne Odjig - Ojibway** - first Aboriginal woman artist to be known world wide, Order of Canada recipient, born on Manitoulin Island, ON
17. **Bill Reid - Haida** - sculptor, author, illustrator, totem carver
18. **Pitseolak - Inuit** - an artist from Cape Dorset, Hudson Strait
19. **Edward Benton-Banai - Ojibway** - playwright, journalist, author, spiritual leader
20. **Basil Johnston - Ojibway** - non-fiction author of short stories
21. **Lenore Keeshig-Tobias - Ojibway** - film and video maker
22. **Michael Kusugak - Inuit** - children's author
23. **Alanis Obomsawin - Abenaki** - filmmaker, director
24. **Ruby Slipperjack - Ojibway** - painter and fiction author
25. **Jack Anawak - Inuit** - MP for Rankin Inlet
26. **Ethel Blondin-Andrew - Dene** - PC MP, Secretary of State for Children and Youth
27. **Matthew Coon Come - Cree** - Grand Chief, Assembly of First Nations (2001)
28. **Tagak Curley - Inuit** - lobbyist for many First Nations issues

29. **Mary Two-Axe Earley - Mohawk** - woman's rights activist
30. **Phil Fontaine - Anishinabe** - former National Chief for Assembly of First Nations
31. **Roberta Jamieson - Mohawk** - Ontario Ombudsman, 1st First Nation's woman to get a law degree in Canada
32. **Rosemarie Kuptana - Inuit** - President of Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Inuit land rights activist, broadcaster, taken by police at age 8 to residential school
33. **Harry LaForme - Mississauga** - Court Justice
34. **Ovide Mercredi - Cree** - former National Chief of Assembly of First Nations
35. **Murray Sinclair - Ojibway** - Supreme Court Judge
36. **Ted Nolan - Ojibway** - former Buffalo Sabres head coach
37. **Alwyn Morris - Mohawk** - Olympic medalist
38. **Angela Chalmers - Metis** - Olympic medalist, track
39. **Albert Rock** - scientific inventor, digital data logger used by NASA and Indy cars
40. **Chris Simon - Ojibway** - professional hockey player for the Washington Capitals
41. **Allan Sapp - Cree** - renowned artist
42. **'Alika LaFontaine - Cree** - Youth Aboriginal Award recipient, 16 yr. old pre-med student
43. **James Bartleman - Mohawk, Rama** - Ambassador to South Africa, highest foreign service rank of any First Nations person
44. **Dorothy Betz - Anishinabe** - community service, at a residential school for 15 years, started the Friendship Centre movement
45. **Rose Toodick Boyko - Haida** - first Aboriginal woman Superior Court Judge in Canada
46. **Edward Cree - Mohawk** - head of oral facial surgery in Canada
47. **Lillian Eva Dyck - Gordon FN** - leading neuropsychiatrist in Canada
48. **Dorothy Grant - Haida** - fashion designer
49. **James Igloriorte - Inuk** - only Inuk judge in Canada
50. **Malcolm King - Mississauga** - leading pulmonary doctor in Alberta
51. **Tom Jackson - Cree** - well known actor in Canada and the US, TV series
52. **Tina Keeper - Cree** - well known actor in Canada and the US, TV series
53. **Tantoo Cardinal - Metis** - actor in *Dances with Wolves* and many other movies
54. **Graham Greene - Oneida** - actor, in movie *Dances with Wolves* and many others
55. **John Amagoalik - Inuit** - Nunavut negotiator
56. **Brian Trottier - Cree/Chippewa** - hockey legend, 8th highest scorer of all time, in the Hockey Hall of Fame