

April 28, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**2021 SEXCELLENCE AWARD CELEBRATES TRANS AND TWO-SPIRIT
HEALTH & RIGHTS ADVOCATES**



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Sexual Health Nova Scotia (SHNS) is proud to announce the two recipients of the 2021 Sexcellence Award. Since 2008, SHNS has given the Sexcellence Award to individuals in Nova Scotia who support and promote outstanding work in the field of sexual health. After an incredible group of nominees were received this year, SHNS is excited to announce our 2021 winners, **Tuma Young** and **Chris Cochrane**.

Tuma Young is co-founder of the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance (W2SA), which helps to build support and awareness of Two-Spirit people in Mi'kma'ki and across Canada and has also been strongly involved with activism on HIV/AIDS. Young grew up as part of the Eskasoni First Nation on Cape Breton Island and is a leader in Indigenous, Queer and Two-Spirit communities. Young is also the first Mi'kmaq speaking lawyer in Nova Scotia, and the first openly Two-Spirit person to become the President of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. SHNS is honoured to celebrate Tuma Young, and to continue working with the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance.

SHNS is also thrilled to announce Chris Cochrane as a 2021 Sexcellence Award winner. Cochrane is Vice-Chair of Halifax Pride, and was the Halifax Pride Ambassador in 2019. Originally from Cape Breton, Cochrane has been performing as drag artist Elle Noir in Halifax, and across Canada, for over 16 years. She is also a makeup artist and actress, and one of the first transgender women to star in a Canadian drama series (*Sex & Violence*). A known and respected trans activist, Cochrane frequently speaks at schools, businesses, and community organizations on Trans rights, and her

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experiences as a Trans woman of colour. SHNS looks forward to celebrating Chris Cochrane as a fierce QTBIPOC advocate this year.

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For details, contact Leigh Heide, Provincial Coordinator, Sexual Health Nova Scotia at (902) 543-6900 or provincialcoordinator@shns.ca

Interview requests for TUMA YOUNG: contact Tuma_Young@cbu.ca

Interview requests for CHRIS COCHRANE: contact Chrisbeauty2015@outlook.com

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