

Fawn Wood's deep connection to her family, Cree culture and community is rooted within traditional music. She is the recipient of the first JUNO Award for Traditional Indigenous Artist or Group of the Year, in 2022. Her album, *Kâkike*, was produced as an expression of love. Fawn grew up immersed in the cultural and musical traditions of her parents. Her father, Earl Wood, is from the Saddle Lake Cree Nation and performed with Grammy-nominated Northern Cree. Her mother, Cindy Jim-Wood, taught her traditions and Salish chants. Fawn's JUNO for the album *Kâkike* weaves songs of longing, hope and the joys of life that uplift the soul and heal the heart. The recordings included her husband, Dallas Waskahat, as well as Charles Wood III, Tony Duncan, and Alan DiPerna. Fawn released her debut solo album back in 2012 titled *Iskwewak - Songs of Indigenous Womanhood*. The album was received with fanfare within the Indigenous community. She was named Best Female Artist at the Native American Music Awards the following year. It also earned her Best Hand Drum Recording at the 2013 Aboriginal Peoples' Choice Music Awards. Fawn has also released duet albums with her husband, Dallas Waskahat, a Cree singer. The couple is part of a drum group called Cree Confederation and collaborated on two recordings: *'Till the End* and *Blessings*. As a role model within the First Nations community, Fawn believes that language is important to connecting and understanding the world from a Cree world view. This has inspired Fawn to earn her bachelor's degree in the Cree language in 2017. Music has become a powerful tool for her to share in the revitalization of the Cree language. She hopes that young indigenous people will develop their cultural practices and keep languages alive. With over 19 million views online, Fawn has become a social media influencer with round dance, hand game and traditional songs and teachings, which convey the strength of Indigenous women. Fawn hopes this combined with her JUNO win, will create outreach to promote traditional Indigenous music and languages to all cultures in Canada. Fawn Wood's voice is a positive instigator for change and is recognized within NMC's Speak Up! exhibition.