

Tom Jackson was born to a Cree mother and an English father on the One Arrow First Nation near Batoche, Saskatchewan. At the age of seven, his family moved to Alberta, and then at 14 years old, he was living in Winnipeg, Manitoba. A year or so later, he dropped out of high school and left home. He spent about seven years living on the back streets of Winnipeg. That experience gave him the determination to be successful as well as compassionate to help others in need. Music became integral within Tom's life as a creative outlet. He wrote songs that led to invites to perform at coffeehouses and folk festivals in the early seventies. He also developed an interest in acting. Tom's music and his acting are basically inseparable. He has released about ten albums since 1990. His first being *Sally Ann*, a musical effort that worked in collaboration with the Salvation Army. His acting roles include hit television shows like *North of 60*, *Shining Time Station*, *Star Trek, The Next Generation*, *Law and Order*, *Outlander*, amongst others. His movie appearances include *Cold Pursuit*, opposite Liam Neeson. Tom led the Red River Relief benefit in 1997 for Manitoba flood victims, where \$3 million dollars was raised for the Red Cross. Again, he stepped up for other Red Cross efforts with *Rise Again* in 2009, when Manitoba flooding peaked at higher levels than in 1997. Then in 2011, he partnered with the CBC and the Red Cross to produce a televised concert fundraiser for fire victims of Slave Lake. Time magazine named Tom, one of Canada's best activists. He's aligned himself with the Canadian food banks and literally singing for his supper became his branding. For 17 years, he produced the Huron Carol Benefit Concert series. With accompanying television specials and albums, he made a mark in the world of food security. Tom also carried that mission forward for five years by producing and performing on the Holiday Train, a CPR funding initiative. Tom has been honored several times for his life's work, notably in 2000, he was made an officer of the Order of Canada. He's been nominated for Juno Awards and Gemini Awards. He's also received honors from several Canadian universities, including honorary degrees from the University of Calgary, Trent University, and the University of Lethbridge. He received the Humanitarian Award at the 2007 Juno Awards for all his charitable efforts. Tom finds the process of giving to be invigorating. Staying true to his mission of being in service to others, he stated, "It's good for the world and it's good for the soul". Tom Jackson's voice is a positive instigator for change and is recognized within NMC's Speak Up exhibition.