

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELLENCE IN ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS TO BE
RECOGNIZED AT AFOA CANADA'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Winnipeg, Manitoba-February 18, 2015 – AFOA Canada (formerly the Aboriginal Financial Officer Association of Canada) is pleased to announce the 2015 recipients of the ***Xerox Canada-AFOA Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award*** who will be recognized Thursday February 19th during the closing banquet of the AFOA 15th Anniversary National Conference being held at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, MB

The *Xerox Canada AFOA Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership National Award* is presented to **Marion Crowe, CAFM, CFNHM, Executive Director for the First Nations Health Managers Association, Ottawa, Ontario**

“Congratulations to AFOA Canada on celebrating its 15th Anniversary Conference! I am extremely humbled to be receiving the Xerox Canada- AFOA-Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award at such an important milestone for the organization. It is AFOA Canada who has set the bar in excellence for building financial management capacity in our communities. AFOA Canada has recognized a number of inspiring and influential leaders over the years and I am extremely grateful to be acknowledged among them. This award recognizes the spirit in which we celebrate and share our inherent knowledge while balancing management principles.” States Marion Crowe, Executive Director for the First Nations Health Managers Association

The *Xerox Canada-AFOA Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Regional Award* is presented to **Tamara Saulis, CAFM, Chief Financial Officer, Nipissing First Nation, Ontario.**

“With First Nation people representing the fastest growing segment of the Canadian population, and with more nations moving towards self-governance, it is crucial for First Nation communities to have strong and effective management and accountability systems. AFOA and its partners provide programs and supports required by Aboriginal governments to enhance their financial management capacity. I am proud to be a CAFM, and am very honoured to be recognized by AFOA and Xerox as the recipient of this award.” States Tamara Saulis, Chief Financial Officer, Nipissing First Nation.

About the Award

The Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award was created in 2004. It is designed to recognize and celebrate Inuit, Métis and First Nation achievements in finance and management.

Award recipients are selected on the basis they have supported a vision for excellence and innovation, and demonstrated advanced expertise, outstanding professionalism and leadership. Their contributions rise above and beyond their job descriptions to enrich the lives of Aboriginal people, communities and all Canadians.

There are two categories for nominations for the Xerox Canada AFOA Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award. The National category recognizes individuals who have contributed to the Aboriginal financial management profession on a national or institutional level. The Regional category recognizes those individuals who have made their contributions at the regional, local or community level.

-30-

Contact:

AFOA Canada

Jody Anderson

613-297-5998

janderson@afoa.ca

Xerox Canada

Thomas R. Maracle

613-783-5913

Tom.maracle@xerox.com