

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton, Canada – March 22, 2018

**RECONCILIATION THROUGH ACTION: SAGE AWARD RECIPIENT LEADS THE WAY**

Without action, there is no reconciliation. Now, more than ever, Canadians are called to make tangible actions toward recognizing the truth and reconciliation process with Canada's Indigenous peoples. *"I believe this is a historic moment in Canadian history. We are being called to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, by the community, and by the Ministries that were involved in the residential school systems,"* explains Reverend Rick Chapman, a 2018 Sage Award Recipient.

Since his sixtieth birthday, Reverend Rick Chapman has advanced the Truth and Reconciliation process at the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM). 50% of the congregation at ICPM are Indigenous, and most have attended residential schools themselves or are intergeneration survivors, generating an unwavering need to create a safe space for reconciliation and healing. *"Many people [in the congregation] have a lived experience. There's a significant population of Indigenous people in this area that experienced residential school systems, the Sixties Scoop, or generational effects of the residential school system,"* says Chapman.

Reverend Rick Chapman's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation process includes his leadership in developing a series of reconciliation events held in 2017. He was also instrumental in involving the Indigenous community in his ministry by developing the position of an *Oskapewis*, Cree for "helper", to engage specifically with the Indigenous community, and in Truth and Reconciliation efforts with the non-Indigenous community. *"The Indigenous community is rising to their strength after years of oppression. I think any opportunity to focus the attention of organizations or Ministries on Indigenous consideration for reconciliation and healing is appropriate and necessary in this time in Canadian history when we are working to resolve past history,"* he says.

In addition to Reverend Rick Chapman, this year's Sage Award Recipients include Kevan Lyons, "The Poet of Churchill Square", who has inspired countless children through his commitment to literacy by regular public appearances at City Hall School and classrooms throughout Edmonton; and Jeanne Murray, who at seventy-seven, dedicated over 1,000 hours of her time to oversee the renovation of the community building at South Clareview Community League.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sage Awards, *presented by Servus Credit Union*, celebrate the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of people after reaching the age of 60. Through celebration, we showcase the invaluable contributions of seniors and highlight how they truly enrich our communities and lives. Among Award Recipients this year, local pastor, trailblazer, and community champion Reverend Rick Chapman will receive the Sage Award for his outstanding contributions to Truth and Reconciliation in our province.

Nominees and Award Recipients will be honoured at our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sage Awards Luncheon on May 8, 2018 at The Chateau Lacombe Hotel in Edmonton. Tickets will cost \$65 and are on sale now. **A table will be reserved for media guests.**

---

**To inquire about complimentary media passes to the event, contact:**

JoLynn Parenteau at [jparenteau@mysage.ca](mailto:jparenteau@mysage.ca) or 780-701-9017

**For more information on Sage, the Sage Awards, or this year's Recipients, contact:**

Emily Weisbrot at [eweisbrot@mysage.ca](mailto:eweisbrot@mysage.ca) or 780-701-9009