



## Ospwākan tahkonām (Late Ken Lonechild) Award

\$1000.00

Late Ken's untimely passing in November, 2017 was a loss to the whole T4EA family. Late Ken (Ospwākan tahkonām) was a cherished member of our team. He was a dedicated member of our staff, in various capacities primarily supporting land-based learning initiatives. Ospwākan tahkonām was a multitalented man with many skills, but it was his values that inspired us: integrity, humour, professionalism, kindness, generosity, humility and commitment. In tribute to Ospwākan tahkonām, T4EA has created a special Nation Builder award for 2018. He was a man who loved the land, and who understood the deep connection of the land to who we are as First Nations peoples as evidenced by the depictions of his White Bear First Nations in his paintings. Through this award, we offer the opportunity for a young person in an Alliance school to carry on his legacy.

### Eligibility:

- High school student attending enrolled at an Alliance Nation demonstrating good standing:
  - attendance
  - grades
  - enrolled in a minimum of 4 classes OR eligible to graduate this year

### Criteria:

- The successful student demonstrates one or more of these qualities that Ospwākan tahkonām exemplified:
  - A commitment to self-learning and growth
  - An interest in combining traditional practices in a contemporary setting
  - Interest in a future pathway in land based learning, conservation, environmental science, or treaty learning
  - Pursuit of the arts and culture

### Requirements:

- Must be accompanied with a minimum 2 letters of support for nomination, including one from a school staff member
- Must include a presentation by the student that clearly demonstrates how the student meets the criteria and demonstrates the qualities exemplified by Ospwākan tahkonām.

## Ospwākan tahkonām Biography

Ospwākan tahkonām was a loving husband, father, brother, friend and many more roles. His love of life and learning permeated all that he did, whether it was on the land, alone, or learning with others, he was always eager to learn and share his teachings.

He was generous, meticulous, and organized. Ospwākan tahkonām has been instrumental in overseeing the completion of many projects that benefited the people of White Bear First Nations. Despite his busy schedule, he always made time to offer his leadership and guidance to shape the work of Treaty 4 Education Alliance in order to help the future generations of students. He sought to connect the generations to bring healing and unity to all people. He brought the Elders and the youth of Treaty 4 together to discuss how to preserve First Nations languages and ways of life. That work translated into the inception of Learning the Land where he and his older brother Michael Lonechild showed us what it looks like to pass teachings from one generation to another through their painting, or teachings and stories while ice fishing, hunting or golfing.

Ospwākan tahkonām is remembered as a hard worker who was dedicated to the betterment of others. He lived a balanced life and took the time to play but at the same time took his dedication to his work life very serious and carefully balanced them both so charismatically.

Our late friend cherished his family and family life. He spoke often and with great pride of his family. We came to know the deep love and respect he had for his loving wife Colleen, and the immense pride and joy he felt for his daughter Erin, and then later, her husband Wacey. He was over the moon about Erin and Wacey's wedding, and the surprise announcement of his new grandchild.