



Congratulations to Sladen Peltier on his *Indian Horse* Acting Debut

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Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start congratulates Sladen Peltier on his acting debut in the award-winning film, *Indian Horse*. Sladen attended Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start as a young pre-schooler nearly 8 years ago.

“We’re proud to see that one of our graduates is making a name in the film industry. We are very happy to see such a prominent role for a young Indigenous actor,” said Karen Green, Makonsag Board President.

Indian Horse tells the difficult story of Saul Indian Horse as he goes to residential school and turns to hockey as his ticket to a better life; only to find that he is haunted by what he experienced at the school. Peltier plays young Saul and we see the fear, the shame, the hopelessness that accompanies him into residential school, where he was punished for speaking his language and practicing his culture.

This is in stark contrast to Peltier, who, as a young child, was able to attend Makonsag where he was encouraged to speak his language and celebrate Indigenous culture. His mom Katelin said she is honoured that her children attended Makonsag, where they were immersed in their culture at an early age.

Green knows how important it is for Indigenous children and families to access culturally relevant child care and early years programs such as Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start, but also reflected, “We must remember what residential schools took from these children and never allow that to happen again. Indigenous children must remain with their families and be given all opportunities to retain their language and culture and celebrate who they are as Indigenous people.”

Indian Horse opened in various Cineplex and Landmark cinemas across Ottawa this past weekend. Indianhorse.ca

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