

Hockey Night in Canada in Cree — Backgrounder

Cast Bios

Clarence Iron:

Clarence Iron lives in Pinehouse, Sask., where he works at CFNK 89.9 FM as a program host in his native Plains Cree language. With his experience calling Indigenous hockey tournaments as well as local games, Iron is recognized within the Indigenous hockey community as one of the “Cree Voices of Hockey.”

Clarence is fluently bilingual in English and Plains Cree.

Earl Wood:

Earl Wood hails from Saddle Lake, Alta. and is one of the original founders of the Northern Cree Singers. Referred to by some as the “Indigenous Rolling Stones,” the Northern Cree Singers are a Juno Award-winning group and have been nominated for six Grammy Awards.

Earl is fluently bilingual in English and Plains Cree.

John Chabot:

Drafted 40th overall by the Montreal Canadiens in 1980, John Chabot spent eight seasons in the NHL and played more than 500 games with Montreal, Pittsburgh and Detroit, followed by another 11 seasons in Europe. Following his playing career, Chabot went on to coach in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League before spending two seasons as an assistant coach with the New York Islanders from 2007-2009. Chabot also worked as a studio analyst on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games with APTN and as a coach/instructor on APTN’s hockey series, *Hit the Ice*.

John is a member of the Algonquin First Nation and he is fluently bilingual in English and French.

Jason Chamakese:

Two hours north of Saskatoon, you’ll find Pelican Lake First Nation, hometown of Jason Chamakese. Jason is an esteemed musician, teacher, and an influential promoter of the Cree Language. Jason has been nominated for numerous awards in the Indigenous music world and also took home the award for “Best traditional flute CD” in 2011.

Jason is fluently bilingual in English and Plains Cree.