

# MIDNIGHT SHINE

**ARTIST:** Midnight Shine

**GENRE:** Rock, Roots, Adult Alternative

**SETUP:** 4-piece (vocals/guitar, guitar/vocals, bass/vocals, drums/vocals)

**HOMETOWN:** James Bay Region of Northern Ontario

**MIDNIGHT SHINE ARE:**

- Adrian Sutherland – lead vocals/guitar – Attawapiskat First Nation
- George Gillies – drums/vocals – Fort Albany First Nation
- Stan Louttit – bass/vocals – Moose Factory First Nation
- Zach Tomatuk – guitar/vocals – Moose Factory First Nation



**MIDNIGHT SHINE – SHORT BIO:**

Not many bands play their very first show opening for legendary Canadian rockers like Trooper. Then again, not many bands are quite like Midnight Shine. The Northern Ontario foursome is turning heads with a sound that seamlessly mixes roots, classic and modern rock. Anchored by the melodic vocals and eloquent lyrics of enigmatic singer/songwriter Adrian Sutherland from Attawapiskat, their music is not only radio-friendly, but also explores Cree culture, tradition and life in the North with depth and meaning. They're a 'must-hear' band you'll take a real shine to. *"One foot in the past, one in the here and now..."*

## **MIDNIGHT SHINE – MEDIUM-LENGTH BIO:**

Not many bands play their very first show opening for legendary Canadian rockers. Then again, not many bands are quite like Midnight Shine.

When singer/songwriter Adrian Sutherland was invited to open for Trooper in Timmins in 2011, there was one condition: he performs with a band. So Adrian pulled together Zach Tomatuk (guitar/vocals), Stan Louttit (bass/vocals), and George Gillies (drums/vocals), and Midnight Shine was born.



The Northern Ontario foursome has been together ever since, with a winning combination of energy, experience, and passion, and a distinct style that seamlessly blends roots, classic and modern rock.

They've so far released two albums, *Midnight Shine* and *Northern Man*, commercial-quality radio-friendly recordings that are quietly making ever-widening ripples among fans, industry, and media, and creating an impressive and compelling sonic identity that is turning heads.

Midnight Shine's material is anchored by Sutherland's captivating vocals, eloquent lyrics, and enigmatic personality. At the heart is a strong sense of melody, attributed to Adrian's background as a solo artist, used to crafting songs on acoustic guitar. Setting Midnight Shine apart from other rock bands is the depth of Adrian's exploration of his Cree culture, tradition, and life in the North. Hailing from the remote community of Attawapiskat, his experiences are reflected in the songs – making Midnight Shine's music all the more meaningful, while at the same time, universal.

They're a 'must-hear' band you'll take a real shine to.

## **MIDNIGHT SHINE – FULL-LENGTH BIO:**

Not many bands play their very first show opening for legendary Canadian rockers. But then again, not many bands are quite like Midnight Shine.

When singer/songwriter Adrian Sutherland was invited to open for Trooper in Timmins in 2011, there was one condition: he performs with a band. So he pulled together Zach Tomatuk (guitar/vocals), Stan Louttit (bass/vocals), and George Gillies (drums/vocals), and Midnight Shine was born. "We gelled really fast," recalls Adrian. "We played in front of 1,000 people the very first show, and they were blown away. After that, we knew we had to keep it going."

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They've so far released two albums, *Midnight Shine* and *Northern Man*, commercial-quality radio-friendly recordings that are quietly making ever-widening ripples among fans, industry, and media, and creating an impressive and compelling sonic identity that is turning heads.

Midnight Shine's refreshing rock sound was first captured on *Midnight Shine*, their debut album released in 2013. Outstanding first single *Since You Been Gone* was picked up by rock stations across Canada. CBC Radio programmed it into their rock channel, and the National Aboriginal Music Countdown saw it climb to #2 on their Top 40 chart. Renowned music journalist Alan Cross selected it as one of his favourite new tracks, citing the band's "rootsy rock-pop" style.



*Since You Been Gone* also caught the attention of Ralph James, one of Canada's most renowned booking agents. He knew right away that Midnight Shine has something special. "I heard one track and thought, if these guys play live as well as they sound on the recording, I think we're on to something here," says James. "And they do." Ralph has since signed the band onto his roster at United Talent Agency (formerly The Agency Group) and is now one of the band's biggest supporters and industry champions.

In the fall of 2014, Midnight Shine released sophomore album *Northern Man*, confirming the foursome is the "real deal." They introduced catchy feel-good first single *Over You* to a live television audience on *Canada AM*. They were invited to perform again on *Canada AM* two years later, this time releasing title-track *Northern Man* – a tribute to the band's James Bay home and Cree culture, tradition, and life in the North. Backed by driving rock beat, heavy bass, and pow wow stylings, *Northern Man* was featured on radio stations across Canada including SiriusXM, CBC Radio, and Toronto's 94.9 The Rock. It also locked down the #1 spot on the National Aboriginal Music Countdown for three weeks in the fall of 2016.

Earlier in 2016, Midnight Shine was invited to showcase at Boots & Bourbon for Canadian Music Week, and featured in United Talent Agency's CMW lineup at the legendary Horseshoe Tavern. The band's presence in Toronto was a phenomenal success, creating a massive media buzz resulting in 165+ media stories – including a sit-down interview with Wendy Mesley for CBC's *The National*, front page of the Toronto Star, live performance and interview on CTV's *Canada AM*, two Canadian Press stories with photos, featured video on Daily Vice, full stories with photographs in the National Post, Metro News Canada, Hamilton Spectator, Winnipeg Free Press, Calgary Herald, Halifax Chronicle Herald, and many many more. Media outlets across Canada, from Victoria to Charlottetown, picked up their extraordinary story – quite possibly making Midnight Shine the first ever "indie" band to garner nationwide media attention before even setting foot on tour...

Midnight Shine's material is anchored by Sutherland's captivating vocals, eloquent lyrics, and enigmatic personality. At the heart is a strong sense of melody, attributed to Adrian's background as a solo artist, used to crafting songs on acoustic guitar. Setting Midnight Shine apart from other rock bands is the depth of Adrian's exploration of his Cree culture, tradition, and life in the North. Hailing from the remote community of Attawapiskat, his experiences are reflected in the songs – making Midnight Shine's music all the more meaningful, while at the same time, universal.

"Some of the music is about who I am and where I come from," Sutherland explains. "I've always wanted to share some of my background and beliefs through music. Everybody has a story and I think it's important for First Nations people to shed positive light on our culture and values."





In addition to making contemporary music, Sutherland sings in a traditional drum group, takes part in ceremonies, and is a genuine example of someone who lives and pays homage to his culture and community.

He cares about his people of the North, figuratively as well as literally, through his work as a paramedic, his job as Chief Executive Officer for economic development in Attawapiskat, and as a father, grandfather, and role model.

Adrian is proud of who he is, and where he comes from. While his home is often the subject of negative media attention, he would like to change those perceptions: "There are good stories to be told from Attawapiskat. I hope we're one of them."

Indeed they are. In fact, the name Midnight Shine is highly appropriate, given that the band and their music shine a bright and positive light on a place too often depicted as dark and troubled.

They're a "must-hear" band you'll take a real shine to.

### **RELEASES:**

Album – *Northern Man* (September 2014)

Album – *Midnight Shine* (July 2013)

Radio Single – *Northern Man* (May 2016)

Radio Single – *Over You* (October 2014)

Radio Single – *Since You Been Gone* (2013)

Video – *Northern Man* (May 2016)

### **HIGHLIGHTS AT-A-GLANCE:**

**Midnight Shine's presence at 2016 Canadian Music Week** was a phenomenal success, creating a massive media buzz resulting in 165+ stories – including a sit-down interview with Wendy Mesley for CBC's *The National*, front page of the Toronto Star, live performance and interview on CTV's *Canada AM*, two Canadian Press stories, featured video on Daily Vice, full stories with photographs in the National Post, Metro News Canada, Hamilton Spectator, Winnipeg Free Press, Calgary Herald, Halifax Chronicle Herald, and many many more. Media outlets from Victoria to Charlottetown picked up their extraordinary story – quite possibly making Midnight Shine the first ever "indie" band to garner nationwide media attention before even setting foot on tour...

**The band appeared twice** on *Canada AM* – first to premier *Over You* (first single from second album *Northern Man*), and then to feature *Northern Man* (second single and title track of *Northern Man*).

**Midnight Shine has so far released** two full-length albums – *Midnight Shine* (2013) and *Northern Man* (2014). *Northern Man* was nominated Best Rock CD at the 2015 Indigenous Music Awards, giving the band their very first award nomination.

**Outstanding first single *Since You Been Gone*** was picked up by rock stations across Canada, programmed into CBC Radio's rock channel, and climbed to #2 on the National Aboriginal Music Countdown. Renowned music journalist Alan Cross selected it as one of his favourite new tracks, citing the band's "rootsy rock-pop" style.

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**Midnight Shine released sophomore album *Northern Man*** in 2014, with title-track paying tribute to the band's James Bay home and Cree culture, tradition, and life in the North. Backed by driving rock beat, heavy bass, and pow wow stylings, *Northern Man* was featured on radio stations across Canada including SiriusXM, CBC Radio, and Toronto's 94.9 The Rock. It also locked down the #1 spot on the National Aboriginal Music Countdown for three weeks in the fall of 2016.

**Frontman Adrian Sutherland**, in addition to making contemporary rock music, sings in a traditional drum group, takes part in ceremonies, and is a genuine example of someone who lives and pays homage to his First Nations' culture, tradition and life in the North. He is a father, grandfather, and role model, proud of who he is and where he comes from.

#### **MEDIA QUOTES:**

*"Their sound has an undeniable air of accessibility that, while reflecting its members' roots, fits comfortably between the hooks of Train and Matchbox Twenty."* – David Friend, **The Canadian Press**

*"Last year's self-title album established First Nations' rock band Midnight Shine as a group with real potential... realized on their second album Northern Man."* – Kerry Doole, **Newcanadianmusic.ca**

*"Sutherland's lyrics dance between truthfully portraying the hardship of northern life and celebrating that there's nowhere else he'd rather be... He doesn't diminish the ongoing crisis in Attawapiskat, but he wants to let some light into the picture."* – Nick Patch, **Toronto Star**

*"First Nations rock band Midnight Shine impressed with their recently-released self-titled album. It's an eclectic record, and one of its most radio-friendly cuts Since You Been Gone mixes acoustic and electric guitar stylings effectively, and showcases the authoritative vocal and songwriting style of main man Adrian Sutherland."* – Kerry Doole, **Newcanadianmusic.ca**



*"From the soaring-yet-bluesy opening track James Bay onwards, it's clear that Sutherland's upbringing in Attawapiskat is central to the band's identity and sound."* – Jeremy East, **The Nation**

*"Adrian Sutherland has a great voice and the band is very tight musically. It is great to see some positive news come out of Attawapiskat... Adrian is proof that strong connections to our traditions and culture produce positive results."* – Xavier Kataquapit, **Firstperspective.ca**

## **MEDIA COVERAGE (selected links):**

### **CBC's *The National* with Wendy Mesley**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/interview-with-attawapiskat-band-midnight-shine-1.3571633>

### **CTV's *Canada AM***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAbZyKxsiPo>

<http://canadaam.ctvnews.ca/midnight-shine-frontman-on-life-in-attawapiskat-1.2889455>

### **Daily Vice**

<http://en.daily.vice.com/videos/midnight-shine-is-the-first-nations-band-shining-light-on-their-communities>

### **Toronto Star**

<https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2016/05/05/canadian-music-week-its-a-long-long-way-to-toronto-for-this-attawapiskat-rock-band.html>

### **National Post**

<http://news.nationalpost.com/arts/music/canadian-band-midnight-shine-hope-to-prove-there-is-more-talent-than-tragedy-coming-out-of-attawapiskat>

### **The Canadian Press**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/first-nations-band-midnight-shine-talks-braving-elements-100012309.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/attawapiskat-band-midnight-shine-chases-mainstream-dreams-1.3570860>

<http://video.canoe.com/archive/source/postmedia/james-bay-rockers-face-logistical-challenges-touring/4881912195001/page/2>

### **SOCAN's Words + Music**

<https://www.socanmagazine.ca/features/first-nations-poprock-band-midnight-shine/>

## **PAST PERFORMANCES (selected list):**

Journalists for Human Rights – Toronto ON (2016)

CityFolk Festival – Ottawa ON (2016)

Toronto Urban Roots Festival – Toronto ON (2016)

Creefest – Attawapiskat (2016)

National Aboriginal Day – Fort Albany ON (2016)

Canadian Music Week – Toronto ON (2016)

Big River Fest – Moosonee ON (2015)

Royal Ontario Museum – Toronto ON (2015)

Gathering of Our People – Moose Factory ON (2014, 2013)

North American Indigenous Game – Regina SK (2014)

Wemindji Music Festival – Wemindji QC (2014)

Tri-Cultural Festival – Cochrane AB (2014)

Big River Summerfest – Moose Factory ON (2013)

Great Moon Gathering – Attawapiskat ON (2013)

National Aboriginal Day – Attawapiskat ON (2012)

Creefest – Moose Factory ON (2012, 2011)

Concert opening for Trooper – Timmins ON (2011)

**VIDEO FOOTAGE (selected links):**

Live at CityFolk 2016 *James Bay*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgLI1wVsueE>

Live at CityFolk 2016 *Hopeless Romantic*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43biynA6JmE>

Live at CityFolk 2016 *Indian in Disguise*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46rw7KrCPdA>

Video for *Northern Man*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iABzwTESh1w>

About the Band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6MhzWniWyE>

Adrian Sutherland: acoustic performance *Save My Life*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey03yayUyLI&feature=youtu.be>

Adrian Sutherland: acoustic performance *Heart of Gold* (Neil Young cover)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEHX-piWQJw>



**MUSIC STREAMING (selected links):**

*Northern Man*

<https://midnightshine.bandcamp.com/track/northern-man>

*Since You Been Gone*

<https://midnightshine.bandcamp.com/track/since-you-been-gone>

*Over You*

<https://midnightshine.bandcamp.com/track/over-you>

## **MIDNIGHT SHINE ONLINE:**

Website: [www.midnightshineonline.com](http://www.midnightshineonline.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/midnightshineonline](http://www.facebook.com/midnightshineonline)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/midnightshineon](http://www.twitter.com/midnightshineon)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/midnightshineonline](http://www.instagram.com/midnightshineonline)

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/midnightshineonline>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/midnightshineonline>

Bandcamp: [www.midnightshine.bandcamp.com](http://www.midnightshine.bandcamp.com)

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