

ARCTIC
INSPIRATION PRIZE



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RIDEAU HALL FOUNDATION | FONDATION RIDEAU HALL

Ottawa, April 7, 2016

Dear Friends of the Arctic Inspiration Prize and the Rideau Hall Foundation,

We are very pleased to share some exciting news regarding a new chapter in the development of both the Arctic Inspiration Prize and the Rideau Hall Foundation. Please see the following announcement.

Patti Balsillie, Chair, AIP Charitable Trust
Arnold Witzig, Co-Founder, Arctic Inspiration Prize
Scott Haldane, President & CEO, Rideau Hall Foundation

Partnership Announcement – The Arctic Inspiration Prize Trust and the Rideau Hall Foundation collaborate in support of the North and its people.

We are coming to you with excellent news regarding a new chapter in the development of both the Arctic Inspiration Prize and the Rideau Hall Foundation. Our two organizations have entered into a multi-year agreement in order to combine efforts and assets to support Northerners to fully realize their potential and achieve their aspirations.

The annually awarded \$1M Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) was founded in 2012 by two immigrants to Canada, Arnold Witzig and Sima Sharifi, with the support of ArcticNet. The AIP has been called the « Nobel of the North » and is the largest prize in Canada, solely benefiting the people of the Canadian Arctic. The Prize encourages, enables and celebrates “knowledge to action” plans by [diverse teams](#) in the fields of education, human health, social-cultural issues, environmental stewardship and the economy. These action plans must have a direct impact on communities of the Canadian Arctic.

In order to establish northern ownership of the AIP, the Arctic Inspiration Prize Charitable Trust was settled in December 2015 and is led by a majority of northern Trustees who will govern and secure the long-term sustainability of the AIP. Presently they are:

- Patti Balsillie, Chair, for the Yukon
- Udloriak Hanson, for Nunavut
- Jason Annahatak, for Nunavik
- Candice Lys, for NWT and Laureates
- Martin Fortier, ArcticNet
- Arnold Witzig, Co-Founder

The [Rideau Hall Foundation](#) (RHF) will play an important role in ensuring the AIP can continue to expand its reach and impact. Building on the legacy of ArcticNet, which played a vital role in supporting the Prize and in bringing to life the vision of co-founders Arnold Witzig and Sima Sharifi, the Rideau Hall Foundation will provide sound operational management as well as support and leadership to the development of the Prize. Among other things, the Rideau Hall Foundation will look after the overall Nomination process, the annual Award ceremony, and outreach, communications and marketing activities.

To help us in this endeavor, we are pleased to announce the arrival of a new RHF team member. Chris Côté has joined the Foundation to manage the AIP until a more permanent staffing process is completed. An Inuit person from Iqaluit, Nunavut now living in Ottawa, Chris brings many years of experience in project management and delivery in a cross-cultural context. He worked in Iqaluit, Hay River (NT) and other northern communities, and has a great understanding of the opportunities and challenges of working and living in the Arctic. This experience will be very valuable to successfully manage the various aspects of the AIP. Eventually, the RHF will employ two dedicated staff members responsible for fulfilling the Foundation's responsibilities for the AIP.

Both the RHF and the AIP Trustees are very excited about the wonderful opportunities to work together in support of the people of the North. We share a belief in the power of the Arctic Inspiration Prize to make an impact and leave a long-term legacy for the Arctic.

Scott Haldane, President & CEO of the Rideau Hall Foundation states that the Arctic Inspiration Prize is a perfect match with the Rideau Hall Foundation's aspiration to catalyze ideas, people and resources to move the Canadian spirit forward. Patti Balsillie, Chair of the AIP Trust and Arnold Witzig, Co-Founder add that the partnership with RHF is an important step to secure long-term sustainability for the Arctic Inspiration Prize with its vision to support and celebrate achievements of the people of the North.

For additional information please contact:

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