



For Immediate Release

The 2017 ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS IS OPEN

Up to \$3 Million to be awarded across three new Prize categories

Ottawa, Ontario, April 6, 2017 – Nominations are now open for the 2017 Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP). A number of exciting changes have been made to the AIP for the sixth prize year. The total prize amount has been increased to up to \$3 million and will be awarded through three categories: 1) \$1 million awarded to one team; 2) up to \$500,00 awarded to up to four teams; and 3) up to \$100,00 for up to seven youth teams. Nominations will be accepted until October 23, 2017.

“The growth of the AIP is a testament to the remarkable innovative thinking and ideas that remain across the Arctic, and this year’s changes and improvements will benefit more projects and regions in a given prize year” said Kevin Kablutsiak, Executive Director of AIP. “I am most excited about the introduction of a youth category, and I hope it will help to inspire a new generation of Arctic innovators.”

Potential AIP projects include those that address opportunities or challenges that are relevant and important to the people and communities in the Canadian Arctic. A project can have one or more focus areas including, but not limited to, education, training, health and wellness, environment and climate change, recreation, tourism, culture and economic development.

AIP’s \$1 million prize will be awarded to only one exceptional team, for a project that will lead to an immediate and long-term impact across a large geographical area or a profound impact in a smaller Northern area. For the other two prize levels, smaller scale projects are encouraged as much as larger ones. The scale of a project will not influence selection as the AIP is awarded on merit and potential impact. Teams that are unsure about their team’s and/or project’s eligibility have the option of submitting a Letter of Intent. The submission deadline for the optional Letter of Intent is June 30, 2017.

Teams need to be nominated by arms-length third parties and have to be diverse in nature. Teams are encouraged to choose an official AIP Ambassador as its Nominator; however, anyone may act as a Nominator for a team they see as worthy of the AIP. More information about the AIP, the Nomination process and the new prize categories are available on the AIP website (www.arcticinspirationprize.ca).

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About the AIP - Founded in 2012 by two immigrants, Arnold Witzig and Sima Sharifi, the AIP recognizes and promotes the extraordinary contribution made by diverse teams who have provided a truly exceptional and innovative plan to implement knowledge into relevant and real world applications for the benefit of the Canadian North and its peoples. To-date, 14 teams have been awarded prizes totalling \$6 million to support innovative, sustainable, multi-disciplinary projects that have long-term positive impacts in Arctic communities.

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The Arctic Inspiration Prize Selection Committee is composed of distinguished individuals known for their commitment to the Canadian Arctic and its Peoples. Committee members from North and South, represent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations, the private sector, media as well as the scientific community.

The Arctic Inspiration Prize is owned by the AIP Charitable Trust, managed by the Rideau Hall Foundation and supported by Aboriginal organizations, governments, industry, philanthropy, and many other Partners from North and South.

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