



Arctic Inspiration Prize Announces 2016 Finalists
*Laureates of Fifth Annual \$1 Million Prize to be announced at
AIP Awards Ceremony in Winnipeg on 8 December 2016*

Ottawa, October 28, 2016 – The Screening Committee members of the Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) [Selection Committee](#) shortlisted eight nominations for the fifth annual Arctic Inspiration Prize. The AIP supports diverse teams with projects that translate knowledge into action for the benefit of the People of the Canadian Arctic.

The 2016 AIP Laureates will be selected from the following eight Finalists and will be awarded a share of the \$1 Million Arctic Inspiration Prize at an Awards Ceremony that will be held at Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg on 8 December 2016.

INUIT TATTOO REVITALIZATION PROJECT

TEAM LEADER: Angela Howak Johnston, Traditional Tattoo Artist, Throat Singer, Seamstress
NOMINATOR: Herb Nakimayak, Executive Council Member, Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada)

The loss of cultural traditions has had a profoundly negative impact on the wellbeing of Inuit. Until recently, *Tunniit*, the ancient Inuit tradition of facial and body tattooing, was on the brink of becoming history. The Inuit Tattoo Revitalization project seeks to reconnect Inuit women with traditional tattooing methods by training women in every Inuit community to become traditional tattoo artists. The Inuit Tattoo Revitalization project, supported by artists, elders and partners from municipal and territorial governments as well as the private sectors, will also deliver workshops where women will explore their history, traditional cultural identities and languages.

JEUNES KARIBUS PROGRAM

TEAM LEADER: Marie-Hélène Caron, Project Assistant, Jeunes Karibus; Communications Officer, Tamaani Internet, Nunavik
NOMINATOR: Michael Barrett, Associate Director, Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks Department, Kativik Regional Government

An active lifestyle, proper nutrition, and a sense of belonging all play a vital role in nurturing healthy communities. Jeunes Karibus, a unique eight-month healthy living, environmental awareness, and leadership program that culminates in a five-day cross-country ski expedition, aims to expand its program to 14 Nunavik communities. With the support of Inuit elders, educators, professional ski instructors and guides, and public and private-sector organizations, Jeunes Karibus encourages young people to experience the lifestyles of their ancestors while learning valuable skills to deal with life's challenges.



NEXTT: Northern Excellence Today & Tomorrow

TEAM LEADER: Rebecca Bisson, Executive Director, Northern Youth Abroad

NOMINATOR: Mary Ellen Thomas, Nunavut Research Institute

As a unique and growing region, the Canadian North offers a wealth of opportunities for young people across the North to assume meaningful roles in a broad range of areas and industries in both the public and private sectors. However, youth in many northern communities face a host of challenges that limit their access to education and training options. NEXTT, a team of secondary and post-secondary educators and administrators, youth organization leaders, and youth ambassadors from Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon, will develop an accessible network of resource tools and activities to encourage youth to graduate high school and provide young people across the North with the knowledge, skills and competencies to make decisions about their career and education.

OLD CROW SOLAR PROJECT

TEAM LEADER: Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Councillor

NOMINATOR: Shirley Abercrombie, Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy, Corporate Policy and Communications, Government of Yukon

Old Crow, the most northern community in Yukon, is powered by three diesel generators, consuming approximately half a million litres of diesel fuel per year. The effects of climate change and the prohibitive costs of producing electricity with diesel fuel puts the community in an untenable position. The Vuntut Gwitchin Government, in partnership with ATCO Electric Yukon, Yukon College's Research Centre, and the Yukon Government's Energy Branch, aims to develop a clean energy solution for the community of Old Crow by building a 330kW solar photovoltaic array that will displace the equivalent of over 90,000 litres of diesel fuel and 267 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

QARMAAPIK HOUSE

TEAM LEADER: Hilda Snowball, Mayor, Kangiqsualujjuaq

NOMINATOR: Joë Lance, Executive Assistant to the President, Makivik Corporation

Psychosocial problems, coupled with post-traumatic stress, depression, addiction and even incarceration prevent some parents from meeting their children's needs, and the number of Nunavik children placed in Youth Protection is rising. Qarmaapik House, a safe house located in Kangiqsualujjuaq, aims to work with a multidisciplinary team of community health and social service providers, elders, parents, and educators to address the underlying causes of poor parenting and to provide families and community members with the tools, support and understanding of their role so they can rediscover their capacity to handle crisis situations effectively and tackle the issues behind the crisis.

SINGLETRACK TO SUCCESS PROJECT

TEAM LEADER: Jane Koepke, Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce

NOMINATOR: Ryder Hesjedal, Racing cyclist

One of the keystones of the Singletrack to Success (S2S) Project is the belief that trails and bicycles have many life lessons to teach, and a unique power to help people find their special talents, build confidence, and establish a place in the world. Building on the monumental success of the Carcross Tagish First Nation S2S program, S2S will expand its capacity and engage indigenous youth and communities in all three territories in planning and developing a world-class trail network that will generate tourism, promote community wellness and active recreation, and provide youth with employment and connection to their ancestral lands.

te(a)ch

TEAM LEADER: Ryan Oliver, The Pinnguaq Association

NOMINATOR: Hal Timar, Nunavut Economic Developers Association

In Nunavut, computer science is not taught at any level in any school, putting Nunavut youth at a disadvantage in the knowledge economy. The te(a)ch team has assembled technical experts, curriculum producers, mental health workers and youth ambassadors from the north and south, who have developed an online infrastructure that includes 52 weeks of curriculum that teaches programming, game design, engineering and computer science from a beginner to an advanced level. The te(a)ch team will travel to key communities where individuals will learn to use the curriculum in their communities and help build a sustainable technology presence across the North.

SmartICE

Team Leader: Trevor Bell, Professor, Memorial University

Nominators: Clint Davis, Chair, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies; Levi Barnabas, Chair, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation

With climate change, landfast sea ice is becoming thinner putting Arctic communities who rely on sea ice to access food and maintain cultural and family activities at risk. SmartICE (Sea-ice Monitoring And Real-Time Information for Coastal Environments), a diverse partnership of community, academic, government and industry, has developed a near real-time monitoring and dissemination system that integrates Inuit Traditional Knowledge to improve safety conditions by informing decisions about coastal sea-ice travel and shipping. Through the establishment of SmartICE Inc., a northern social enterprise, SmartICE aims to expand its service across the Arctic to inform winter shipping and ice-breaking activities and enable travellers to make informed decisions and plan safe travel routes.



About the Arctic Inspiration Prize

Founded in 2012 by two immigrants, Arnold Witzig and Sima Sharifi, the \$1 million AIP recognizes and promotes the extraordinary contribution made by diverse teams in the gathering of Arctic knowledge, and their plans to implement this knowledge to real world applications for the benefit of the Canadian Arctic, Arctic Peoples, and therefore Canada as a whole. To-date, eleven diverse teams have been awarded prizes totalling \$4.5 million to support innovative, sustainable, multi-disciplinary projects that will have long-term positive impacts in Arctic communities. In addition to the financial prize, recipients are presented with original artwork created by northern artists.

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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