

## Canadian Polar Medal

01 June 2021

### TERMS

The Polar Medal will recognize those who have contributed to or endeavoured to promote a greater understanding of Canada's Northern communities and its people. It will also honour those individuals who have withstood the rigours of the polar climate to make significant contributions to polar exploration and knowledge, scientific research, and the securement of Canada's Northern sovereignty.

Any person or group will be able to submit a nomination of a person who is eligible to be awarded the Polar Medal. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year. Nominations will be received by the Chancellery of Honours and reviewed by an advisory committee, which will make recommendations to the governor general.

### BARS

Each subsequent award of the Medal to the same person will be indicated by a bar, which will be in silver with raised edges and bear a centred silver maple leaf.

### DESCRIPTION

A silver octagonal medal that is 36-mm in diameter. The edge of the obverse is decorated with small denticles.

### OBVERSE

The obverse depicts a contemporary crowned effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title (left side maple leaf with ELIZABETH II DEI; right side GRATIA REGINA with a maple leaf following and the word "CANADA" at the bottom).

EIRR medal is an older crowned Elizabeth II facing right.

### REVERSE

The reverse bears a representation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner St. Roch depicted in the Arctic near a tall iceberg and two crew members standing on the ice.

### MOUNTING

A suspension bar adorned with a representation of the North Star, with limbs evoking strong winds, water currents and the aurora borealis.

### NAMING

Nil

### RIBBON

The white, watered ribbon is 32-mm wide. A silver rosette is worn in undress when a second bar is awarded.



**DATES**

The medal was announced on 23 June 2015

**OTHER**

The design of the Polar Medal was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, as part of the Chancellery of Honours, based on a concept by Major Carl Gauthier of the Directorate of Honours and Recognition section of the Department of National Defence. The medal will be manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint at their Ottawa facility. The program will incorporate and replace the **Governor General's Northern Medal**, created in 2005 by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson. The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, will administer the Polar Medal program.

**ISSUED**

32 recipients to June 2021

## Canadian Polar Medal Recipients

Date	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS /
08/07/2015	<b>ALLARD, Michel</b>	Prof	Geography at Université Laval	--
06/12/2016a	<b>ANINGMIUQ, Elisapi</b>	Ms	Cultural Teacher Tukisigiavik Wellness Centre	--
03/10/2016a	<b>BERNARD, Yves</b>	CPO2	RCN - RCN Diver Expertise in Robotics <i>HMS Erebus</i>	CD
01/10/2015	<b>BERNIER, Marc-André</b>	Mr	Chief of Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology	--
10/09/2019	<b>BROWN, Curtis L.</b>	Mr	Educator in Nunavut and NWT	--
01/11/2018a	<b>BURN, Christopher Robert</b>	Prof	Carleton U. / Expert on Permafrost in Yukon	--
29/08/2018a	<b>CAROLL, Carolyn</b>	Ms	Principal of Two Schools in Hay River, NWT	--
10/09/2019	<b>CHATWOOD, Susan Jennifer</b>	Ms	Scientific Director Institute for Circumpolar Health Research	--
08/07/2015	<b>DOUGLAS, Marianne</b>	Ms	A Canadian Experienced Arctic Field Scientist	--
08/07/2015	<b>GEIGER, John</b>	Mr	CEO Royal Cdn Geographic Society <i>HMS Erebus</i>	--
08/07/2015	<b>GRANT, Shelagh</b>	Prof	History Trent University / Northern Science Award	--
01/11/2018a	<b>HALLENDY, Norman E.</b>	Mr	Preservation of Northern Indigenous Culture	--
08/07/2015	<b>HARRIS, Ryan</b>	Mr	Senior Underwater Archeologist Parks Canada <i>Erebus</i>	--
27/02/2017a	<b>HEINERTH, Jill</b>	Ms	Expert Technical Diver Royal Cdn Geographical Society	--
06/12/2016a	<b>HIK, David</b>	Mr	Understanding Tundra Ecosystems in the Arctic	--
06/12/2016a	<b>JENSEN, Marilyn</b>	Ms	Reclaim Tlingit culture and values	--
08/07/2015	<b>KAMOOKAK, Louie</b>	Mr	Inuit Historian – <i>HMS Erebus</i> find	ONu
08/07/2015	<b>KISOUN, Gerald W.</b>	Mr	Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik	--
21/08/2018a	<b>KOBALENKO, Jerry</b>	Mr	Skied, Hiked, Sledged & Kayaked 16 000 km High Arctic	--
06/12/2016a	<b>MACDONALD, Robie</b>	Mr	Internationally respected geochemist	--
06/12/2016a	<b>MAY, Cecil Francis</b>	Lieutenant	CO of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps	CD
01/10/2015	<b>MOORE, Jonathan</b>	Mr	Senior Underwater Archaeologist & Sonar Operator	--
08/07/2015	<b>MORGAN, Anne</b>	Ms	Executive Director Parks & Rec Assn of Yukon	--
19/06/2017a	<b>RAIDER, Ann Maje</b>	Ms	Director Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society Watson Lake	--
03/10/2016a	<b>SAVOIE, Donat</b>	Mr	Expert in Inuit Governance over 30 Years	CQ
19/06/2017a	<b>SCURVEY, Darlene</b>	Ms	ECE at Duska’s Head Start in Whitehorse	--
10/09/2019	<b>SMOL, John P.</b>	Professor	Biology Queen’s University; Expert on Environmental Change	OC
08/07/2015	<b>STENTON, Doug</b>	Mr	Nunavut’s Director of Heritage – <i>HMS Erebus</i>	--
06/12/2016a	<b>SUEDFELD, Peter</b>	Professor	UBC / Understanding effects of Isolation in Polar Stations	--
08/07/2015	<b>TOOTOO, Dorothy</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	CO Cadet Program in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut	ONu
19/03/2015a	<b>TROMBLEY, Fay</b>	Ms	Food Insecurity in Tuktoyaktuk	--
03/10/2016a	<b>VINCENT, Warwick</b>	Professor	Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies	--

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**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**ALLARD, Michael**  
Professor - Geography at Université Laval

--  
Québec, Quebec

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“A researcher with the Centre for Northern Studies and a professor of geography at Université Laval since 1975, Michel Allard has contributed significantly to research projects exploring the impact of melting permafrost on the natural environment and infrastructures in Nunavik and Nunavut. His research has also examined the vulnerability of Nunavut’s Inuit communities to global warming, as well as the development of adaptive strategies.”

**DOUGLAS, Marianne**  
Experienced Arctic Field Scientists

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Whitehorse, Yukon

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“Marianne Douglas is recognized as one of Canada’s most experienced Arctic field scientists. She has helped promote a better understanding of northern Canada through a variety of public outreach work, sharing her expertise on scientific, economic, social and cultural issues impacting the North. In addition, she has conducted extensive research in the southern polar regions.”

**GRANT, Shelagh**  
Historian, Researcher, Author, Editor

--  
Peterborough, Ontario

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“A historian, researcher, author, editor and adjunct professor, Shelagh Grant has taught history and Canadian studies at Trent University for 17 years. Her academic research drew her to Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Baffin Island and other remote Arctic locations. As the first historian and first woman to receive the Northern Science Award, she was active on various Inuit policy advisory committees, editorial boards and northern scholarship committees.”

**Medals:** Polar – EIR Diamond Jubilee

**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

<b>GEIGER, John Grigsby</b> Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society	-- Ottawa, Ontario	GH: 06 July 2015 CG: 08 July 2015
<b>HARRIS, Ryan</b> Senior Underwater Archeologist with Parks Canada	-- Ottawa, Ontario	
<b>KAMOOKAK, Louis</b> Inuit Historian	ONu Gjao Haven, Nunavut	
<b>STENTON, Doug</b> Director of Heritage, Government of Nunavut	-- Iqaluit, Nunavut	

“John Geiger is the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society; Ryan Harris is a senior underwater archeologist with Parks Canada; Louie Kamookak is an Inuit historian; and Doug Stenton is the Government of Nunavut’s director of Heritage. All four played essential roles in the success of the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition. Their passion, dedication and perseverance contributed directly to the discovery of the wreck of Sir John Franklin’s *HMS Erebus* in September 2014—and to the resolution of one of polar exploration’s greatest enigmas. Their collective efforts have strengthened our understanding of Canada’s North and cultivated a keen, nationwide interest in discoveries yet to come.”



Ron Harris    Louie Kamookak, ONu    GG    Doug Stenton    John Geiger

**John Grigsby’s Medals:**    Polar – EIRR Golden Jubilee – EIRR Diamond Jubilee  
**Louie Kamookak’s medals:** Order of Nunavut - Polar – EIRR Golden Jubilee

**POLAR MEDALS**  
**Citations**

**KISOUN, Gerald (“Gerry”) W.**  
Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik

--  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“A well-respected Elder, Mr. Kisoun has worked tirelessly at strengthening the awareness and understanding of northern Canada and its peoples. As the community liaison officer in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, this dedicated community leader and active volunteer sits on a number of boards, including the Inuvialuit Harvesters Assistance Program, and acts as a liaison with local schools for science and heritage fairs.”



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**MORGAN, Anne**  
Executive Director of the Recreation Parks Association of Yukon

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Whitehorse, Yukon

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“Anne Morgan is a pillar in community recreation throughout the North. As executive director of the Recreation Parks Association of Yukon, she has significantly contributed to developing sustainable programs and services in rural and remote communities. A fervent supporter and advocate of active living, she is committed to promoting healthier lifestyles, particularly among children and youth.”

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**TOOTOO, Dorothy**  
Second Lieutenant – Cadet Program

ONu  
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

GH: 06 July 2015  
CG: 08 July 2015



“Second Lieutenant Dorothy Tootoo is the officer responsible for sustaining the cadet program in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Demonstrating unwavering commitment to the program, she has enlisted the support of Elders within the community to establish a mentoring program. In addition, as the residence manager at Arctic College, she seeks out every opportunity to help students persist in their studies and achieve their goals.”

She was awarded the Order of Nunavut in 2022.

**Medals:** Order of Nunavut - Polar – EIRR Diamond Jubilee

**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**BERNIER, Marc-André**  
Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik

--  
Ottawa, Ontario

GH: 01 October 2015  
CG: 01 October 2015

“Chief of the Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology Service, Mr. Bernier has worked on and directed many shipwreck excavation projects in Canada and abroad. As a senior project coordinator, he has researched the HMS Erebus archaeological site under the ice in the Arctic Ocean. He and his team documented the famed flagship of the lost Franklin Expedition with extraordinary photos and videos.”

Medals: Polar Medal – EIRR Diamond Jubilee



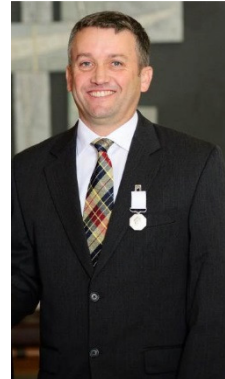
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**MOORE, Jonathan**  
Senior Underwater Archaeologist and Sonar Operator

--  
Ottawa, Ontario

GH: 01 October 2015  
CG: 01 October 2015

“As a senior underwater archaeologist and sonar operator, Mr. Moore helped to unlock the mysteries of the lost Franklin Expedition. He spent six field seasons between 2008 and 2014 searching the Arctic Ocean for the wreck of HMS Erebus, and was part of the Parks Canada team that discovered and dived on the shipwreck in September 2014.”



**POLAR MEDALS**  
**Citations**

**BERNARD, Yves**  
Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class - RCN  
RCN Port Inspection Diver with Expertise in Robotics – Discovery of the wreck of HMS Erebus

CD  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Discovery of the wreck of HMS Erebus

GH: 03 October 2016  
Date: September 2014



“A Royal Canadian Navy port inspection diver with expertise in robotics, Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Yves Bernard made significant contributions to the discovery of the wreck of Sir John Franklin’s HMS *Erebus* in 2014. He was among the first divers and the very first navy sailor to dive down to the site since Franklin’s crew disembarked the *Erebus* 165 years earlier.”

**Medals:** Polar – EIRR Diamond Jubilee - CD

**SAVOIE, Donat**  
Mr  
Expert on Inuit Governance

CQ  
Montréal, Quebec

GH: 03 October 2016  
Date: 30 Years Plus



“Donat Savoie is an expert on Inuit governance with over 30 years of experience in Aboriginal sovereignty negotiations. He is also a leading advocate for the prevention of homelessness in Nunavik, as well as for services and shelters for homeless Inuit in Montréal. He is committed to making Inuit culture known throughout Canada and is a champion of Canada’s North and its communities.”

**Medals:** CQ – EIRR Golden Jubilee – EIRR Diamond Jubilee - Polar

Awarded Chevalier de L’Ordre de Quebec (CQ) in 2000.

**VINCENT, Warwick**  
Professor - biology at Université Laval  
Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies

--  
Québec, Quebec

GH: 03 October 2016



“A professor of biology at Université Laval and the Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies, Warwick Vincent is an internationally renowned limnologist. He has done extensive research on aquatic microbial ecology, light and primary production, and ecosystem responses to climate change with an emphasis on Arctic and Antarctic waters. Additionally, he has heightened the understanding of environmental change in Canada’s North through his strong leadership as the scientific director at le Centre d’études nordiques in Québec.”

**Medal:** Polar



**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**ANINGMIUQ, Elisapi**

Ms

Cultural Teacher and Counsellor at the Tukisigiavik Wellness Centre

--

Iqaluit, Nunavut

GH: 06 September 2016

“As a cultural teacher and counsellor, Elisapi Aningmiuq has developed key initiatives at the Tukisigiavik Wellness Centre including physical health and wellness programs, food programs, suicide intervention and counselling sessions. She has been a strong advocate for rebuilding Inuit culture and identity, and has accordingly dedicated herself to preserving traditional skills and knowledge.”

**Medals:** Polar – EIRR Diamond Jubilee



**HIK, David**

Professor – University of Alberta

Innovative work on understanding Tundra Ecosystems in the Arctic

--

Edmonton, Alberta

GH: 06 December 2016

“David Hik has been instrumental in fostering international collaboration on Arctic issues and the development of extensive research networks. Through his sustained and innovative work on understanding tundra ecosystems in the Arctic and alpine environments, he has greatly contributed to strengthening Canada’s research presence in the North.”



**JENSEN, Marilyn**

Founder and Group Leader Dakhká Khwáan Dancers

Reclaim Tlingit culture and values

--

Whitehorse, Yukon

GH: 06 December 2016

“Marilyn Jensen provides pathways to foster healing and reclaim Tlingit culture and values within the community of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. As the founder and group leader of the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers, Ms. Jensen has made significant contributions to cultural revitalization through the traditional art forms of song, drumming, dance and storytelling.”



**POLAR MEDALS**  
**Citations**

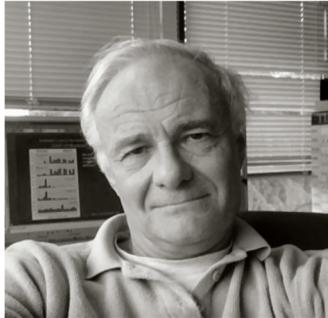
**MACDONALD, Robie**

Research Scientist - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Environment Earth & Resources at Centre for Earth Observation Science University of Manitoba

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Victoria, British Columbia

GH: 06 December 2016



“An adjunct professor of environment, earth and resources at the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba, Robie Macdonald is an internationally respected geochemist. Published in over 170 peer-reviewed journal articles, his innovative interdisciplinary research on the Arctic Ocean has examined sources of organic carbon using biomarkers as well as the interaction between sea ice and runoff in arctic coastal systems.”

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**MAY, Cecil Francis**

Lieutenant – Army Cadet Corps in Arctic Bay, Nunavut  
Commanding Officer of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

CD

Arctic Bay, Nunavut

GH: 06 December 2016

“As the commanding officer of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Arctic Bay, Nunavut, Lieutenant Francis May has displayed exemplary dedication, superior effort and professionalism in delivering a highly effective training program that focuses on physical fitness activities including sports, marksmanship and biathlon competitions. His tireless leadership has positively inspired the community and resulted in strengthening civic-mindedness and northern traditions among the youth entrusted to his care.”

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**SUEDFELD, Peter**

Professor - UBC  
Professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia

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Vancouver, British Columbia

GH: 06 December 2016



“Professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia, Peter Suedfeld has conducted field research in both polar regions. Principally interested in understanding both the pathogenic and salutogenic psychological effects associated with isolation in polar stations, he has provided key insights into the leadership styles and personality characteristics of individuals who thrive in such extreme conditions.”

**POLAR MEDALS**  
**Citations**

**TROMBLEY, Fay**

Sister

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Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories

GH: 19 March 2016

Partnership with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to address food insecurity in Tuktoyaktuk

“Sister Fay Trombley collaborated with local community leaders and built. By reinvigorating the food and clothing distribution centre, she demonstrated remarkable determination and leadership. The success of this partnership has become a blueprint for multiple northern communities similarly struggling with food insecurity.”



**POLAR MEDALS**  
**Citations**

**HEINERTH, Jill**

Ms

Expert Technical Diver and Writer for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

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Mississauga, Ontario

GH: 27 February 2017

“Jill Heinerth is an expert technical diver, writer, photographer, filmmaker and the inaugural explorer-in-residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Considered one of the most accomplished explorers and underwater cave divers in the world, she has excelled at this high-risk activity with unparalleled skill. Her work has helped researchers unlock the history of climate change while broadening our understanding of the underwater ecosystems present in both the Arctic and the Antarctic.”



**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**RAIDER, Ann Maje**

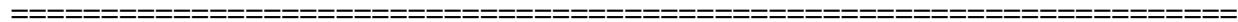
Ms  
Execute Director Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society

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Watson Lake, Yukon

GH: 19 June 2017  
Date: 1999 to 2017

“Ann Raider has demonstrated exemplary dedication to community healing and enhanced safety. As the executive director of the Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society (LAWS), she was instrumental in the creation of the Together for Justice community safety protocol which, in collaboration with the RCMP, established a framework that profoundly strengthened community-police relations in Watson Lake, Yukon. This protocol has since been adopted by communities throughout northern Canada and has achieved similar successful outcomes.”

Ann Maje Raider was the first democratically elected Chief of the Liard First Nation, 1992 to 1998.



**SCURVEY, Darlene**

Ms  
Early Childhood Educator at Duska’s Head Start

---  
Whitehorse, Yukon

GH: 19 June 2017

“As an early childhood educator at the Duska’a Head Start Family Learning Centre, Darlene Scurvey actively promotes the preservation of traditional language and culture. With the assistance of elders, she provides preschool-age children with a range of culturally relevant learning experiences that incorporate social interaction and language instruction.”



**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**CAROLL, Carolyn**

Ms – Principal of Two Schools in Hay River

--

Hay River, NWT

GH: 21 October 2018

Date: 1988 to 2018

“Carolyn Carroll has been a catalyst for significant positive change and improvements among her students. The principal of two schools in Hay River, she has implemented creative programs and policies that have infused the schools’ curricula with Indigenous language and culture. Her sustained efforts have thereby created an inclusive learning environment that is representative of the broader community within which the students are now thriving.”



Carolyn Carroll is the principal of both Harry Camsell School (K-3) and Princess Alexandra School (Gr. 4-7) in Hay River, and was selected to receive this award to recognize her 30 years spent as an NWT educator. Over her career she has led a culture change in her schools, shifting the way instruction is provided and how assessment is used to inform decision-making.

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**KOBALENKO, Jerry**

Mr – Professional Writer and Photographer

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Canmore, Alberta

GH: 21 October 2018

He has skied, hiked, sledded and kayaked more than 16 000 kilometres through the High Arctic



“Jerry Kobalenko received a Polar Medal. He has skied, hiked, sledded and kayaked more than 16 000 kilometres through the High Arctic over the course of 30 separate expeditions. A professional writer, photographer and ardent Arctic adventurer, he has brought his love, passion and knowledge of Canada’s North to a broad national and international audience through his many publications and lectures.”

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**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**BURN, Christopher Robert**

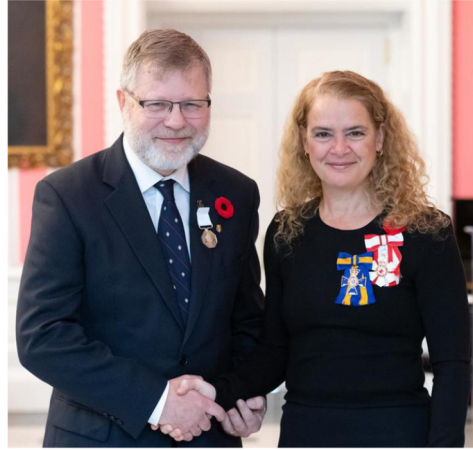
Professor – Carleton University

Ottawa, Ontario

GH: 01 November 2018

Internationally recognized expert in the domain of permafrost and ground ice in Yukon

“Christopher Robert Burn is an internationally recognized expert in the domain of permafrost and ground ice in Yukon and the western Arctic. A professor of geography and environmental studies at Carleton University, he is equally adept at fostering meaningful and productive partnerships with relevant stakeholders in Canada’s North, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the effects of climate change on permafrost terrain and tundra ecosystems.”



**HALLENDY, Norman E.**

Mr

Preservation of Northern Indigenous Culture

Carp, Ontario

GH: 01 November 2018

“Norman Hallendy is an Arctic ethnographic expert and the foremost non-Inuk authority on Inuksuit and Inuit sacred sites. Noted for his insatiable curiosity, he has nurtured a close relationship with the people of Baffin Island, allowing him to rigorously document an extensive body of traditional knowledge. In so doing, he has greatly contributed to the preservation of northern Indigenous culture for future generations.”



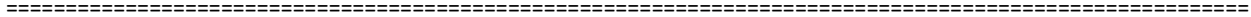
**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**BROWN, Curtis L.**  
Mr

--  
Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

GH: 10 September 2019

“Curtis Brown has worked in education in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for more than 30 years. Currently serving as superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), he strives to improve the state of education in Canada’s northern communities. As an advocate for alternative programming and expanded opportunities for students, he has contributed to above-average student outcomes, notably through the SSDEC’s award-winning Leadership 4 Literacy initiative. Dr. Brown’s efforts have stimulated the revitalization of local Indigenous languages and their use in schools and in the broader community.”





**POLAR MEDALS  
Citations**

**CHATWOOD, Susan Jennifer**  
Ms

--  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

GH: 10 September 2019

“Susan Chatwood has devoted her career to improving health services in remote northern communities. She is currently the scientific director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research, as well as an associate professor at the University of Alberta’s School of Public Health. Through her leadership and research initiatives, she has advanced public health policy to meet the specialized needs of people living in Canada’s North, while ensuring that Indigenous perspectives and traditional approaches are integrated into innovative health care practices.”



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**SMOL, John P.**  
Professor – Queen’s University

OC  
Kingston, Ontario

GH: 10 September 2019

“Paleolimnologist John Smol is one of the world’s foremost experts on environmental change. A Canada Research Chair and professor of biology and environmental studies at Queen’s University, Dr. Smol has been at the vanguard of scientific discovery related to lake ecosystems for over 30 years. By studying ancient lake deposits, he ascertains how they have historically responded to patterns of global change and human impact. His research, which measures the effect of climatic change in the Canadian North, has led to tangible policy changes and heightened public awareness.”

