

## The Order of The Northwest Territories

25 September 2025

### TERMS:

To recognize individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the Northwest Territories or elsewhere. It is the highest honour awarded to NWT residents. Canadian citizens who are current or former residents of NWT are eligible to receive the Order and can be nominated by an individual or organization. A person who is not a Canadian citizen or who is not a current or former resident of the Northwest Territories may be invested with the Order as an honorary member of the Order on the recommendation of the Council.



A maximum of ten people may receive the order in the first two years and up to three per year in subsequent years.

The following classes of persons are not eligible to receive the Order while holding office: members of the Legislative Assembly; members of the House of Commons; judges of any court of any territory or province or of Canada; elected leaders of aboriginal governments; or mayors and municipal councillors. The Order may be conferred posthumously on a person who died not more than one year after being nominated.

The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is, by virtue of his or her office, a member of the Order and the Chancellor of the Order.

The Council of the Order is composed of:

- (a) the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, by virtue of his or her office;
- (b) not more than five members of the public appointed by the Legislative Assembly on the recommendation of the Board of Management; and
- (c) the Secretary to the Cabinet, by virtue of his or her office.

### **DESCRIPTION**

The medal is eight petal stylistic flower, the petals enameled WHITE and edged in GOLD with GREEN leaves between each lateral petal, also edged in GOLD.



**OBVERSE**

In the centre of the dogwood is the Northwest Territories shield of arms in BLUE, RED, GREEN and GOLD enamel on WHITE enamel and edged in gold. On top of the shield are two gold narwals guarding a compass rose, symbolic of the magnetic North Pole. The upper third of the shield represents the polar ice pack and is crossed by a wavy blue line symbolizing the Northwest Passage. A diagonal line separates the red and green segments of the lower portion of the shield reflecting the tree line. The green symbolizes the forested areas south of the tree line, while the red represents the tundra to the north. Minerals and fur, the important bases of the northern wealth, are represented by gold billets in the green portion and the mask of the white fox in the red.

**REVERSE:**

Plain

**MOUNTING**

A small GOLD ring on the top of the medal has a larger oval GOLD ring pass through it. The ribbon passes through this larger ring. The medal is worn around the neck although a woman may wear it from a bow on the right shoulder.

**RIBBON**

A ribbon of five equal stripes, WHITE, Dark BLUE, WHITE, Dark BLUE, and WHITE with a narrow centre RED stripe.

**DATES**

2013 Established  
2015 First Awarded

**ISSUED** 31

31 to August 2024

|      |   |                                      |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2015 | 7 |                                      |
| 2016 | 4 |                                      |
| 2017 | 6 |                                      |
| 2018 | 3 |                                      |
| 2019 | 2 |                                      |
| 2020 | 0 | COVID-19 prevented any awards        |
| 2021 | 3 | But not announced until 2023         |
| 2022 | 3 | But not announced until 2023         |
| 2023 | 3 | But not announced until 09 July 2024 |



**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Alphabetical**

| YEAR | NAME                          | TITLE        | POSITION  | DECORATIONS /      |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------|
| 2017 | <b>ANDREW, Paul</b>           | Mr           | Chief of Tulita and former CBC broadcaster Yellowknife                            | ONWT               |
| 2023 | <b>BALANOFF, Helen</b>        | Mrs          | formerly of Yellowknife / Northern education and literacy                         | ONWT               |
| 2017 | <b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b>       | Mr           | Gwich'in Pilot / Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik                  | <b>CM ONWT</b>     |
| 2018 | <b>CARPENTER, Les</b>         | Mr           | CBC Inuvik / CEO Native Communications Society (Deceased)                         | ONWT               |
| 2016 | <b>COURNOYEA, Nellie</b>      | Ms           | Premier of the Northwest Territories / CEO Inuvialuit                             | <b>OC ONWT</b>     |
| 2021 | <b>DENERON JoAnne</b>         | Ms           | Community Leadership in Fort Laird / Chair WCB                                    | ONWT               |
| 2022 | <b>DRAGON, Jane</b>           | Mrs          | Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge                    | <b>CM ONWT</b>     |
| 2018 | <b>ELIAS, Lillian</b>         | Ms           | Specialist in Inuvialuit traditions / fluent Inuvialuktun interpreter             | ONWT               |
| 2018 | <b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>          | Ms           | Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics                 | <b>CM ONWT</b>     |
| 2019 | <b>FULLER, Lyda</b>           | Mrs          | Executive Director of the YWCA NWT  | ONWT               |
| 2015 | <b>GREEN, Bruce</b>           | Mr           | Elementary & High School Teacher in Hay River                                     | ONWT               |
| 2023 | <b>HARDY, Richard</b>         | Mr           | Fort McPherson / 1 <sup>st</sup> Lawyer Great Bear Region / Pres. Métis Community | ONWT               |
| 2015 | <b>JACKSON, Lucy</b>          | Mrs          | Working on Medical Terminology for Aboriginal Languages                           | ONWT               |
| 2021 | <b>KAESER II, Paul</b>        | Mr           | Owner and Manager of Kaeser's Store in Fort Smith                                 | ONWT               |
| 2017 | <b>KING, Russell</b>          | Mr           | Founder of Kingland Ford in Hay River   | ONWT               |
| 2024 | <b>KISOON, Gerald W.</b>      | Mr           | Commissioner NWT 2014 – ex RCMP; Polar Medal recipient                            | <b>KStJ ONWT</b>   |
| 2017 | <b>KOE, Lynda</b>             | Ms           | Senior Care Yellowknife   | ONWT               |
| 2015 | <b>MacDONALD, Sonny</b>       | Mr           | Salt River First Nation Self-Taught Carver  | ONWT               |
| 2019 | <b>McBRYAN, Joe</b>           | Mr           | Owner of Buffalo Airways – Buffalo Joe - Pilot                                    | ONWT               |
| 2022 | <b>MONTREUIL, Suzette</b>     | Mrs          | Yellowknife / Work in Social Justice / Cofounded Alternatives North               | ONWT               |
| 2017 | <b>PHILIPP, Jeff</b>          | Mr           | Internet entrepreneur and founder of SSi Micro Yellowknife                        | ONWT               |
| 2015 | <b>PIN, Gino</b>              | Mr           | Architect Unique Northern Designs / Yellowknife Concerned Citizens                | ONWT               |
| 2021 | <b>SNOWSHOE, Mary Effie</b>   | Ms           | Teaches the Gwich'in language & Programs on the Land Fort McPherson               | ONWT               |
| 2015 | <b>SPENCE, Ruth</b>           | Mrs          | Executive Director of the YWCA / Yellowknife City Council                         | ONWT               |
| 2016 | <b>STIRLING, Jan</b>          | Ms           | Nurse in Charge of the Public Health Clinic Yellowknife                           | ONWT               |
| 2023 | <b>TEYA, Mary</b>             | Ms           | Formerly of Tulita / Teetil'it Gwich'in Band Council / NWT Elders Cmt.            | ONWT               |
| 2017 | <b>THOM, Margaret</b>         | Commissioner | NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence                     | <b>KStJ ONWT</b>   |
| 2015 | <b>TUCCARO, George Lester</b> | Honourable   | Commissioner of the Northwest Territories   | <b>CStJ ONWT</b>   |
| 2022 | <b>VAN CAMP, Richard</b>      | Mr           | Edmonton / Dene Nation from Fort Smith / Written over 20 Books                    | ONWT               |
| 2016 | <b>WHITFORD, Anthony W.J.</b> | HonCaptain   | MLA & Speaker NWT / 16 <sup>th</sup> Commissioner / Honorary Captain RCN          | <b>KStJ ONWT</b>   |
| 2016 | <b>WILSON, Marie</b>          | Ms           | CBC North Lifetime Achievement Award / Reconciliation Commission                  | <b>CM ONWT MSC</b> |
| 2015 | <b>ZOË, John B.</b>           | Mr           | Senior Advisor for the Tłı̨chǫ Government / Dogrib Archaeology                    | ONWT               |
| 2017 | <b>ZUBKO, Tom</b>             | Mr           | Satellite Telecommunications Entrepreneur North's business base Inuvik            | ONWT               |

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**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

2015

| YEAR | NAME                      | TITLE      | POSITION   | DECORATIONS          |
|------|---------------------------|------------|--|----------------------|
| 2015 | <b>GREEN, Bruce</b>       | Mr         | Elementary & High School Teacher in Hay River                      | ONWT                 |
| 2015 | <b>JACKSON, Lucy</b>      | Mrs        | Working on Medical Terminology for Aboriginal Languages            | ONWT                 |
| 2015 | <b>MacDONALD, Sonny</b>   | Mr         | Salt River First Nation Self-Taught Carver                         | ONWT                 |
| 2015 | <b>PIN, Gino</b>          | Mr         | Architect Unique Northern Designs / Yellowknife Concerned Citizens | ONWT                 |
| 2015 | <b>SPENCE, Ruth</b>       | Mrs        | Executive Director of the YWCA / Yellowknife City Council          | ONWT                 |
| 2015 | <b>TUCCARO, George L.</b> | Honourable | Commissioner of the Northwest Territories                          | <b>CS&amp;J ONWT</b> |
| 2015 | <b>ZOË, John B.</b>       | Mr         | Senior Advisor for the Tłı̨ch̨ Government / Dogrib Archaeology     | ONWT                 |

2016

| YEAR | NAME                          | TITLE       | POSITION  | DECORATIONS          |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 2016 | <b>COURNOYEA, Nellie</b>      | Ms          | Premier of the Northwest Territories / CEO Inuvialuit               | <b>OC ONWT</b>       |
| 2016 | <b>STIRLING, Jan</b>          | Ms          | Nurse in Charge of the Public Health Clinic Yellowknife             | ONWT                 |
| 2016 | <b>WHITFORD, Anthony W.J.</b> | Hon Captain | MLA & Speaker NWT / 16 <sup>th</sup> Commissioner / Hon Captain RCN | <b>KS&amp;J ONWT</b> |
| 2016 | <b>WILSON, Marie</b>          | Ms          | CBC North Lifetime Achievement Award / Reconciliation Commission    | <b>CM ONWT MSC</b>   |



**Honorary Captain Tony Whitford, ONWT**

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2017**

**23 May 2017 Announced – 30 May 2017 Presented**

| YEAR | NAME                    | TITLE        | POSITION   | DECORATIONS /    |
|------|-------------------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| 2017 | <b>ANDREW, Paul</b>     | Mr           | Chief of Tulita and former CBC broadcaster Yellowknife                 | ONWT             |
| 2017 | <b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b> | Mr           | Gwich'in Pilot Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik *       | CM ONWT          |
| 2017 | <b>KING, Russell</b>    | Mr           | Founder of Kingland Ford in Hay River                                  | ONWT             |
| 2017 | <b>KOE, Lynda</b>       | Ms           | Senior Care Yellowknife  | ONWT             |
| 2017 | <b>PHILIPP, Jeff</b>    | Mr           | Internet entrepreneur and founder of SSI Micro Yellowknife             | ONWT             |
| 2017 | <b>THOM, Margaret</b>   | Commissioner | NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence          | <b>KStJ</b> ONWT |
| 2017 | <b>ZUBKO, Tom</b>       | Mr           | Satellite Telecommunications Entrepreneur North's business base Inuvik | ONWT             |

\* Member of the Aviation Hall of Fame 2015

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**2018  
24 October 2018 Announced – 30 October 2018 Presented**

| YEAR | NAME                  | TITLE | POSITION  | DECORATIONS / |
|------|-----------------------|-------|---|---------------|
| 2018 | <b>CARPENTER, Les</b> | Mr    | CBC Inuvik / CEO Native Communications Society (Deceased)             | ONWT          |
| 2018 | <b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>  | Ms    | Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics     | CM ONWT       |
| 2018 | <b>ELIAS, Lillian</b> | Ms    | Specialist in Inuvialuit traditions / fluent Inuvialuktun interpreter | ONWT          |

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**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2019**

**15 August 2019 Announced – 20 August 2019 Presented**

| YEAR | NAME                | TITLE | POSITION                                       | DECORATIONS |
|------|---------------------|-------|--|-------------|
| 2019 | <b>FULLER, Lyda</b> | Mrs   | Executive Director of the YWCA NWT             | ONWT        |
| 2019 | <b>McBRYAN, Joe</b> | Mr    | Owner of Buffalo Airways – Buffalo Joe - Pilot | ONWT        |



**2021**

**16 February 2023 Announced – 30 March 2023 Presented**

| YEAR | NAME                        | TITLE | POSITION  | DECORATIONS |
|------|-----------------------------|-------|---|-------------|
| 2021 | <b>DENERON JoAnne</b>       | Ms    | Community Leadership in Fort Laird / Chair WCB                      | ONWT        |
| 2021 | <b>KAESER II, Paul</b>      | Mr    | Owner and Manager of Kaeser's Store in Fort Smith                   | ONWT        |
| 2021 | <b>SNOWSHOE, Mary Effie</b> | Ms    | Teaches the Gwich'in language & Programs on the Land Fort McPherson | ONWT        |

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2022**

**16 February 2023 Announced – 30 March 2023 Presented**

| YEAR | NAME                      | TITLE | POSITION  | DECORATIONS    |
|------|---------------------------|-------|---|----------------|
| 2022 | <b>DRAGON, Jane</b>       | Mrs   | Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge      | <b>CM ONWT</b> |
| 2022 | <b>MONTREUIL, Suzette</b> | Mrs   | Yellowknife / Work in Social Justice / Cofounded Alternatives North | ONWT           |
| 2022 | <b>VAN CAMP, Richard</b>  | Mr    | Edmonton / Dene Nation from Fort Smith / Written over 20 Books      | ONWT           |



**NWT ONWT 2022**

**Jane Dragon**

**Richard Van Camp**

**Suzette Montreuil**

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2023  
09 July 2024 Announced**

| YEAR | NAME                   | TITLE | POSITION  | DECORATIONS |
|------|------------------------|-------|---|-------------|
| 2023 | <b>BALANOFF, Helen</b> | Mrs   | formerly of Yellowknife / Northern education and literacy                         | ONWT        |
| 2023 | <b>HARDY, Richard</b>  | Mr    | Fort McPherson / 1 <sup>st</sup> Lawyer Great Bear Region / Pres. Métis Community | ONWT        |
| 2023 | <b>TEYA, Mary</b>      | Ms    | formerly of Tulita / Teetl'it Gwich'in Band Council / NWT Elders Cmt.             | ONWT        |

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2024**

| YEAR | NAME                     | TITLE        | POSITION  | DECORATIONS      |
|------|--------------------------|--------------|---|------------------|
| 2024 | <b>KISOUN, Gerald W.</b> | Commissioner | NWT 14 May 2024 – ex RCMP / Polar Medal recipient | <b>KStJ ONWT</b> |

14 May 2024



**Commissioner Gerald W. Kisoun, KStJ, ONWT**

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Members / Officers of the Order of Canada**

| CM   | NAME                     | CM/OC       | TITLE | POSITION  | DECORATIONS /  |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|-------|---|----------------|
| 2017 | <b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b>  | 14/02/2009  | Mr    | Gwich'in Pilot / Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik  | CM ONWT        |
| 2016 | <b>COURNOYEA, Nellie</b> | 14/02/2009  | Ms    | Premier of the Northwest Territories / CEO Inuvialuit             | <b>OC ONWT</b> |
| 2022 | <b>DRAGON, Jane</b>      | 27/06/2024g | Mrs   | Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge    | CM ONWT        |
| 2018 | <b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>     | 26/12/1987  | Ms    | Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics | CM ONWT        |
| 2016 | <b>WILSON, Marie</b>     | 09/07/2016  | Ms    | Truth & Reconciliation Commissioner / CBC North                   | CM ONWT        |

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Commanders / Knights of the Order of St. John**

| YEAR | NAME                          | TITLE        | POSITION  | DECORATIONS / |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|---------------|
| 2024 | <b>KISOUN, Gerald W.</b>      | Commissioner | NWT 14 May 2024 – ex RCMP / Polar Medal recipient                   | KStJ ONWT     |
| 2017 | <b>THOM, Margaret</b>         | Commissioner | NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence       | KStJ ONWT     |
| 2015 | <b>TUCCARO, George L.</b>     | Honourable   | Commissioner of the Northwest Territories 2010 to 2016              | CStJ ONWT     |
| 2016 | <b>WHITFORD, Anthony W.J.</b> | Hon Captain  | MLA & Speaker NWT / 16 <sup>th</sup> Commissioner / Hon Captain RCN | KStJ ONWT     |

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)**

| YEAR | MSC      | NAME                 | TITLE | POSITION   | DECORATIONS /      |
|------|----------|----------------------|-------|--|--------------------|
| 2016 | 01/07/17 | <b>WILSON, Marie</b> | Ms    | CBC North Lifetime Achievement Award / Reconciliation Commission | <b>CM ONWT MSC</b> |