

ORDER of NUNAVUT (ONu)

Updated 28 July 2026 with 2026 recipients added

The objective of the Order is to honour individuals who have provided an outstanding contribution to the cultural, social or economic well-being of Nunavut.

The Order is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut. The **Order of Nunavut Advisory Council** recommends individuals for investiture into the Order. The members of the Advisory Council are the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The Commissioner of Nunavut is the Chancellor of the Order by virtue of his or her position and a member of the Order.



A maximum of three individuals may be invested into the Order each year. A Canadian citizen is eligible to become a member of the Order if, at the time of investiture, he or she is a resident of Nunavut or if he or she was formerly a long-term resident of Nunavut or the area that became Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The following are not eligible for appointment to the Order while they hold office: Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut; Members of Parliament; mayors and members of municipal councils; judges of any court; members of the Advisory Council and the Secretary of the Council.



Description

The medal is a five-petal stylistic flower (for the official flower of Nunavut the Purple Saxifrage - *Saxifraga oppositifolia*), the petals enameled purple pink and edged in gold with green leaves between each lateral petal, also edged in GOLD.

OBVERSE

The centre of the flower has an oval shape with flat top and bottom in shades of grey (lighter on the edges and darker in the center) with the crest of Nunavut in the center in enamels.

MOUNTING

A gold ring is attached to the top of the medal. A gold ring in a V shape attached to it which attaches to the bottom of the V in the ribbon.



Ribbon

Dark green with narrow white edges (**yy mm wide**) and in the centre three stripes of dark blue, light blue and dark blue each **XX mm** wide.

Dates

The **Order of Nunavut Act** was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December of 2009 and came into force on January 1, 2010. The first appointments were made in 2011. New members are announced in November and awarded the following year in March.

Issued

27 (Including three Commissioners) to 01 August 2026

There were no recipients in 2023.



Order of the Nunavut Alphabetical

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS /
				
2013	AKAVAK, Jimmy	Sergeant	RCMP Member for 28 years / Community Policing	ONu
2026	AKPAHATAK, Maggie	Ms	Makivvik's Community Director for over 20 Years	ONu
2013	ANGALIK Sr., Louis	Mr	Cultural & Heritage Advisor with the Department of Education.	ONu
2014	AMAGOALIK, John	Mr	'Father of Nunavut' for involvement in Creation of the Territory	OC ONu
2024	ANNAHATAK, Lolly	Ms	First Inuk to graduate with a BSW from McGill University	ONu
2013	ARNAKAK, Davidee	Mr	Mayor of Pangnirtun / Activist for Disabled Persons	ONu
2012	ASHEVAK, Kenojuak	Ms (Posthumous)	Modern Inuit Artist from Cape Dorset	CC ONu (OC)
2018	BREWSTER, Betty	Ms	Speaks Many Inuit Language Dialects including Inuinnaqun	ONu
2015	CURLEY, Tagak	Mr	President of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada Creation of the Territory	CM ONu
2011	ELIAS, Edna Ekhiyalak	Ms	4 th Commissioner of Nunavut May 2010 to May 2014	CM ONu
2011	GARDENER, Michael	Reverend	Work as a Minister, Counsellor and Community Activist	CM ONu
2016	HAMILTON, Ellen	Ms	Artist / Founder Aaggiavuut Society / Work on Aaggig Project	ONu
2011	KALLUAK, Mark Kalluak	Mr (Posthumous)	Author and Educator / Keep Inuit traditional knowledge	CM ONu
2016	KAMOOKAK, Louie	Mr	Oral Historian / Work on Arctic History of Gjoa Haven	ONu
2011	KUSUGAK, Jose Amaujaq	Mr	President of Nunavut / Advancement of Inuit Rights	ONu
2014	KUSUGAK, Nellie Taptaqut	Ms	5 th Commissioner of Nunavut May 2014	ONu

Order of the Nunavut Alphabetical

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS	/
					
2015	LECHAT, Robert	Father	Catholic priest Oblates of Mary Immaculate / 50 Years in North	ONu	
2015	LYALL, William	Mr	President of the Ikaluktutiak Co-op in Cambridge Bay / MLA	CM ONu	
2026	MAY, Peter	Mr	Scholar Wildlife Biology & Breeding Birds of PQ and Nunavik	Onu	
2024	NAPPAALUK, Lukasi	Mr	Sharing the richness of Inuit culture through storytelling	ONu	
2012	PANIGONIAK, Charlie	Mr	Inuit Singer, Songwriter and Guitarist	ONu	
2016	PEDERSEN, Red	Mr	Speaker Legislative Assembly / Cabinet Member 1983-1991	CM ONu	
2018	PUDLUK, Ludy	Mr	Former MLA (4 terms) and former Mayor of Resolute Bay	ONu CD	
2019	KUNUK, Zacharias	Mr	Ingloolik Filmmaker / Co-Founded Isuma Productions	ONu	
2020	TAPATAI, Peter	Mr	Peter's Expediting Ltd. Baker Lake / Inuit Broadcasting Corps	ONu	
2021	TATTUINEE, Maryanne Inuaraq	Ms	Counselling and Guidance to Young People	ONu	
2021	TOOTOO, Dorothy Atuat	Ms	Manager with Nunavut Arctic College Rankin Inlet / CF Cadets	ONu	

Chancellors of the Order of Nunavut (ONu)

2021	AARIAK, Eva Quamaniq	Commissioner	6 th Commissioner of Nunavut 03 February 2021	CM ONu	
2011	ELIAS, Edna Ekhivalak	Ms	4 th Commissioner of Nunavut May 2010 to May 2014	CM ONu	
2014	KUSUGAK, Nellie Taptaqut	Ms	5 th Commissioner of Nunavut May 2014	ONu	

* Jose Kusugak was Commissioner Nellie Kusugak's husband

The 2021 recipients were announced on 13 June 2022. They received their Orders in 2022.

Order of the Nunavut

Betty Brewster
Ludy Pudluk
Commissioner Nellie Kusugak
Joe Enook, Speaker of the Legislature
& Chair ONu
Premier Paul Quassa



Peter Tapatai, 2020 recipient of the Order of Nunavut with MP Leona Aglukkaq



Order of the Nunavut

By Year

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2020	No Awards			
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Elder Maryanne Inuaraq Tattuinee, left, sits with commissioner Eva Aariak