



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Arctic Inspiration Prize awards over \$2.6 million to 8 teams across Canada's North**

OTTAWA – Eight innovative teams from across Canada's North were awarded a share of over \$2.6 million for their groundbreaking projects to improve the quality of life in their communities. The prizes were awarded during a celebration held tonight in Ottawa.

**Northern Compass**, a program to create culturally relevant pathways from high school through post-secondary education and on to fulfilling careers for youth in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, received the top prize of \$1 million.

"A strong, prosperous, healthy North relies on creating opportunities for youth to feel prepared, hopeful, and ready for every challenge. It's time for Northern youth to have equitable access, to feel confident, to feel supported in their choices, and to excel in any pathway they choose," said Rebecca Bisson, Executive Director for Northern Youth Abroad and one of four leaders for the winning project.

"Northern Compass assembles comprehensive supports designed to increase clarity, access and understanding across every stage of transition from education through to successful careers. These include trained coaches, accessible and relevant resources, on-campus programming, and a network of role models and volunteers. This will result in significant and positive change across all communities in Nunavut and the NWT," added Lois Philipp, founder of Northern Loco and another leader of Northern Compass. The two other leaders are Karen Aglukark, a student at the University of Ottawa, and Jim Snider, Vice-Principal of Elijah Smith Elementary School.

In addition to the \$1 million prize, four prizes were awarded in the AIP category that awards up to \$500,000 to each laureate team, and three prizes were awarded in the Youth category, worth up to \$100,000 each.

**Dehcho: River Journeys** was awarded \$370,000 for its multi-media project that will explore how the past 100 years have transformed the Mackenzie River from the Dehcho to the Delta. Students will collaborate on two short films, one based on archival materials and the other chronicling a modern-day journey on the river with present-day Elders, who will explain the incremental changes they have seen throughout their lives. An interactive and educational



including substance abuse and suicide. Team Leaders: Nathan Maniapik, Panniqtuuq Hunting Program Coordinator; Sal Paungrat, Qamani'tuaq Hunting Program Coordinator.

The **Yukon Youth Healthcare Summit** will address the need to increase the representation of Indigenous Yukoners in post-secondary education – particularly in the field of health care – by exposing them to a variety of health care professions through a series of multi-day summits in partnership with the Whitehorse General Hospital. Team Leader: Geri-Lee Buyck.

"The Arctic Inspiration Prize is the largest prize in Canada, and how wonderful that it's focus is on the North and what Northerners can achieve. These eight laureates are now well on their way to achieving lasting impact in their communities and beyond.," said Lucy Kuptana, Chair of the Arctic Inspiration Prize Charitable Trust. "Their projects are outstanding examples of people from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise coming together to use their skills and knowledge to bring about real change and advance the quality of life for Northerners."

The Arctic Inspiration Prize awards ceremony was held in conjunction with the Northern Lights Business and Cultural Showcase at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, and featured the wonderfully talented Deantha Edmunds, Inuk classical soloist, as well as musical performances by Boyd Benjamin and Kevin Barr, Sylvia Cloutier, Lawrence Nayally, and Josh Q and The Trade-Offs.

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### **About the Arctic Inspiration Prize**

As the largest annual prize in Canada with a focus on the Arctic, the Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) encourages, enables and celebrates the inspiring achievements of the people of the North. The AIP recognizes diverse teams and enables their innovative projects in the fields of education, sustainable housing, health, performing arts, traditional knowledge, language, and science. Each year, the AIP awards up to \$3 million: one \$1 million prize, up to four prizes of up to \$500,000 each, and up to seven youth prizes of up to \$100,000 each.

The AIP is owned and governed by the northern-led AIP Charitable Trust and supported by Indigenous organizations, governments, industry, philanthropy, and many other partners from the North and South, with management support provided by the Rideau Hall Foundation.

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