



Message from the NWT Trustee & Chair of the AIP—Wally Schumann

I was honored to be nominated and selected as the NWT Trustee of the Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) Charitable Trust in January 2021. And, as the AIP celebrates its 10th Anniversary, I was equally honored to be named as Chair this past November.

The AIP is the largest annual prize in Canada and it is by the North and for the North. I'm thrilled to be part of an organization that recognizes diverse teams and enables their innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change and the economy.

Every year, the AIP awards 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 submission deadline for 2021 closed on October 14, 2021, and a

total of 17 nominations were received from across the Arctic. Ten of these were from the NWT. The NWT based proposals were reviewed by the NWT Regional Selection Committee and finalists selected.

NWT Regional Selection Committee 2021

- Verna Pope (Chair),
- Danny Gaudet,
- Leela Gilday,
- Paul Gruner,
- Shene Catholique-Valpy

In total, the three Regional Selection Committees from across the North forwarded 10 applications to the National Selection Committee for consideration (5 from the NWT). Danny Gaudet, Topsey Banksland (ISR rep.) and Shawna McLeod (Youth Representative) are the NWT members of the National Selection Committee. I'm very excited to say that based on the finalists, it is estimated that as much as \$3.3 million will be awarded to the 2021 AIP Laureates.

The 2021 Laureates will be announced during our 10th Anniversary Ceremony on March 4, 2022, at 6:00 pm MST. Due to Covid-19 the 2021 Ceremony will once again be virtual. Please save the date and stay tuned for more information on how to watch the Ceremony.



Wally Schumann—NWT Trustee and
Chair of the AIP Charitable Trust

As a new member of the Board, I felt strongly that we, as an organization, needed to do more to create awareness of the Prize across the Arctic. Millions of dollars have been awarded over the last nine years and there are still many people across the North who are unfamiliar with this opportunity. As such, we have created the role of AIP Region Managers to assist in spreading the word and to support AIP Partners, Laureates, Ambassadors and future applicants.

I am committed to keeping the AIP by the North and for the North and look forward to working with all past, present and future stakeholders across the Arctic. In the meantime, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all Happy Holidays and all the best for a happy and prosperous 2022!

NWT Co-Owners

NWT Co-owners have directly invested in the AIP and are part of its ownership and leadership with their representation on the AIP Board of Trustees and by providing regional advice and guidance.

Indigenous Co-Owners form the foundation and the bedrock of the entire AIP network. They give meaning and reason for all of the others to participate and contribute: Ambassadors, Prize Partners, Sustainability Partners, Patrons and many other groups.

Indigenous Co-Owners are the foundation of the AIP

Our Co-Owners are Northern Indigenous development corporations and governments whose investment makes the AIP possible.

For 2021 the NWT has seen a number of Co-owners renew their ownership of the AIP. In addition, several more have joined the team.

We are happy and excited that the **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation** (IRC) and **Gwich'in Development Corporation** (GDC) have renewed their commitment to the AIP for 2021, 2022 and 2023. In addition we are excited to announce that they have been joined by the **Det'on Cho Management LP**, **Tl'cho Investment Corporation** and the **Northwest Territories Métis Nation**.

The AIP is always looking to increase the Indigenous ownership of the AIP. As such, the NWT Region Team has been, and will continue to meet with Indigenous leadership across the NWT to invite more co-owners on board.



Northern Compass—2019 Laureate



Supporting Wellbeing—2021 Finalist

NWT Co-Owners.



New Prize Partners



SSiCANADA

"As a true Northern company we are proud to support such a great initiative. AIP prize recipients bring real benefits to their communities and we are excited to support such a worthy recognition of achievement" — **Jeff Philipp, President/CEO SSiCANADA**

[Learn more about SSiCANADA](#)



Crowe MacKay LLP

"We are proud to be a partner in this great initiative to support innovative ideas presented by Northerners that build on local strengths and support local solutions for issues that are meaningful to our communities."

[Learn more about Crowe MacKay LLP](#)



Dene Heroes Publication Project, 2017

Region: Northwest Territories

Category: Youth

Theme: Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Education & Learning

Nominator: Daniel McNeely, AIP Ambassador

The four volumes of Dene Hero books, written collaboratively by Dene in the Sahtu aged 10–82, give indigenous people the authentic voice and presence in the NWT curriculum. The wisdom, courage, tenacity and resilience of the Dene people shines from these stories.

Winning the Arctic Inspiration Prize in 2017 was exactly what the Dene Hero Publication Project needed to launch their successful book series.

With AIP funding, the Project Director and Team Leader (Dakota Orlas) travelled to the five Sahtu communities, training Dene Hero champions in each community. AIP funds also enabled the project team to purchase equipment such as laptops and accompanying software for use by authors of the book series.

Best of all, the media generated by the AIP inspired indigenous communities across Canada to consider implementing similar projects.

The Dene Strong project presently, underway in La Loche, SK, is a direct result of the AIP recognition.

The Dene Hero team is forever grateful to the AIP for believing in our vision and supporting our efforts to celebrate Indigenous contributions to Canada.

- **Mary-Anne Neal, Project Director of the Dene Heroes Publication Project**

CONTACT US

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