



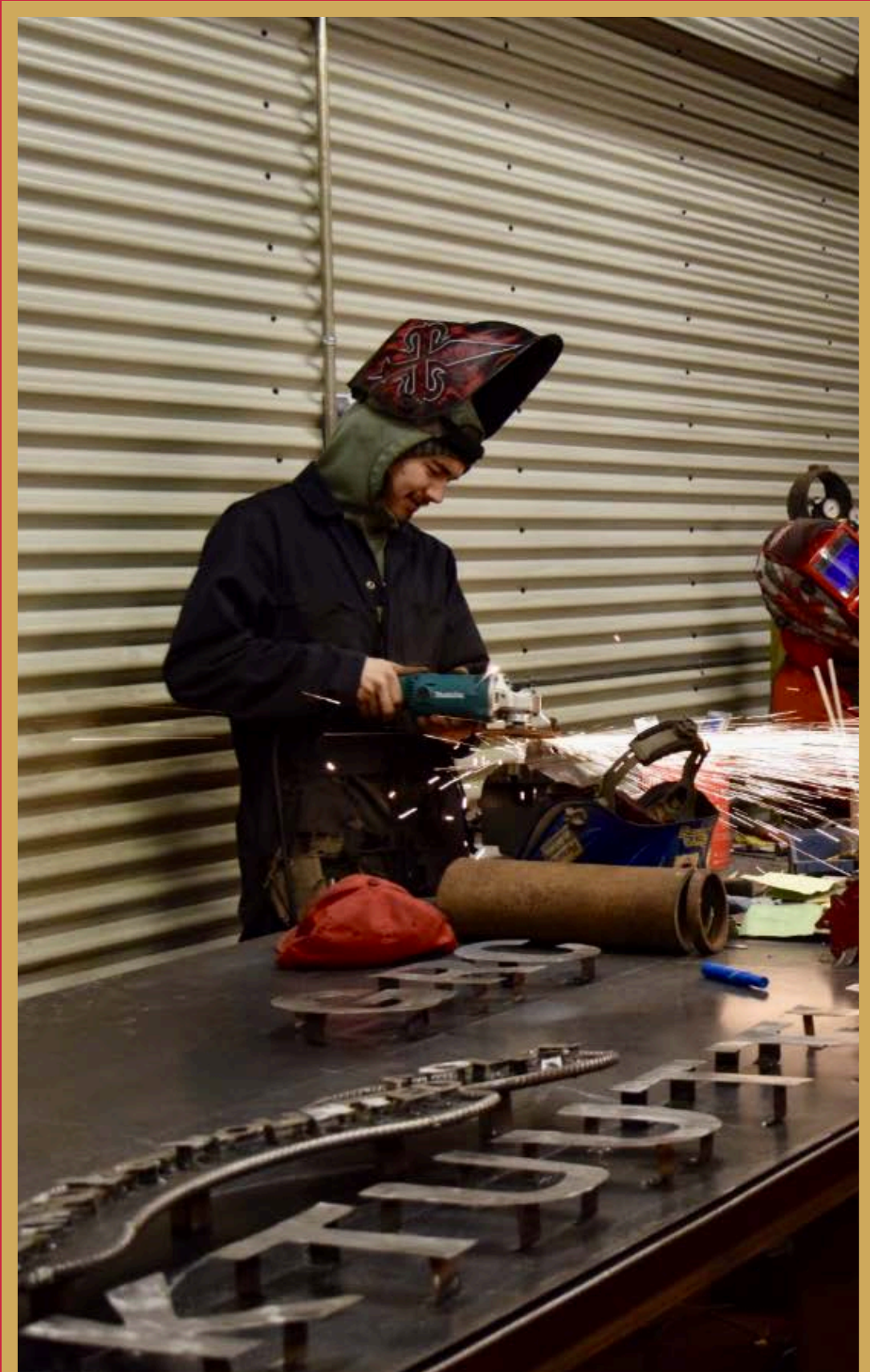
FROM SCRAP TO ART

2018 \$100,000 Youth
Category Winner



Dylan Zukiwsky holds a welded metal fish he made at the Red Fish Art Studio. The distinctive fish references both the popularity of Arctic char in the community and that the studio is housed in a former fish plant (Photo by Madalyn Howitt)





Acknowledgements

The Arctic Inspiration Prize is the largest annual prize in Canada. It inspires, enables, and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change; food security; and the economy.

Nominator: Cynthia Ene

Executive Director, *Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce*

Team: Andrew Kitigon (Team Leader), Kaitak Allukpik, Attima Hadlari, Elizabeth Hadlari, Kerry Illerbrun, Brandon Kavanna, Marla Limousin, Bradley Maghagak, Daryl Taptoona Haynes, Robert Taptoona Haynes

This report was compiled and created by the Qatalyst Research Group, with the help of Ilitaqsiniq, the project team, and AIP.

A Safe Space for Expression

The *Scrap to Art* project was created in cooperation between the Cambridge Bay Municipality, RCMP, Department of Justice, and Kitikmeot Inuit Association as a last-chance opportunity for at-risk youth before being sent to jail. The program has provided at risk youth (aged 18 to 30) of Cambridge Bay a safe space to channel their energy into producing pieces of art from salvaged scrap/discarded pieces of metal through welding.

Red Fish Arts Studio opened September 7th, 2021, where the *From Scrap to Art* project has its own welding space.






Creating Capacity for the Future

Brandon Kavanna works on the metal bison head that later adorned a new sign for the local RCMP detachment. (Photo by Madalyn Howitt)

With AIP Prize funding, the Red Fish Arts Studio were able to buy many long-lasting tools for the *Scrap to Art* space. Some of the tools they added to their space included:

- 2 plasma cutters
- 2 compressors
- 1 MIG Welder
- Fume Extraction
- Cut off saw angle grinder
- Welding tables and cupboards
- Miscellaneous tools

Due to the location of the shop, it was also necessary to freight all items into the community.



“Before the course, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. After the course, I want to do what our instructor Kerry does. I want to use welding to make sculptures and I want to have skills in mechanics I need to work with my hands. I like to go biking and fix bikes.”

Program Participant

Youth—at-Risk to Valued Community Contributors

Youth who were once considered at-risk have learned skills through the Welding Art Project that can be used in vehicle repair and construction jobs, in addition to the artistic skills that they’ve developed while in the program. Building confidence in themselves and respect within their community, youth can continue developing their skills and pursue careers.

Since its inception in 2018, the program has been a testament to the transformative power of dedication and mentorship. (website)



Skills That Carry Youth Towards Success

By taking part in the programming with Red Fish, youth gain hands-on skills like metallurgy, safety procedures, numeracy, literacy skills (reading and designing blueprints), engineering, measuring, mathematics, and balancing.

Youth are also able to improve their communication and comprehension skills, learn to embrace their creativity, persevere when faced with adversity, and embrace the courage it takes to present their creations to their friends, family, peers, community, and the rest of Canada.

The love, consistency, and dedication shown by mentors to youth participants are all carried back to their families and cause positive impacts in their lives.



Photo from redfishartsociety.com





“Our team [is comprised of] nine students embarking on an extraordinary journey of craftsmanship and self-discovery. With sparks of passion igniting their spirits, they're crafting more than just metal; they're forging brighter futures and setting a positive example for youth in Nunavut.”

Red Fish Studios

Employment Opportunities

Red Fish Art's Studio currently employs 9 full-time staff. Previously considered at risk youth, they have gained a sense of pride in the work they do. Participants are fully engaged in the sculpture building process from start/planning process to the end/final product. Red Fish Art Studio have had approximately 20 youth attend and work through the program since inception.

All participants of the program are either gainfully employed - with three working at the Goose Lake mine with B2Gold and one participant working for the program itself as a welding assistant - or working on furthering their education.

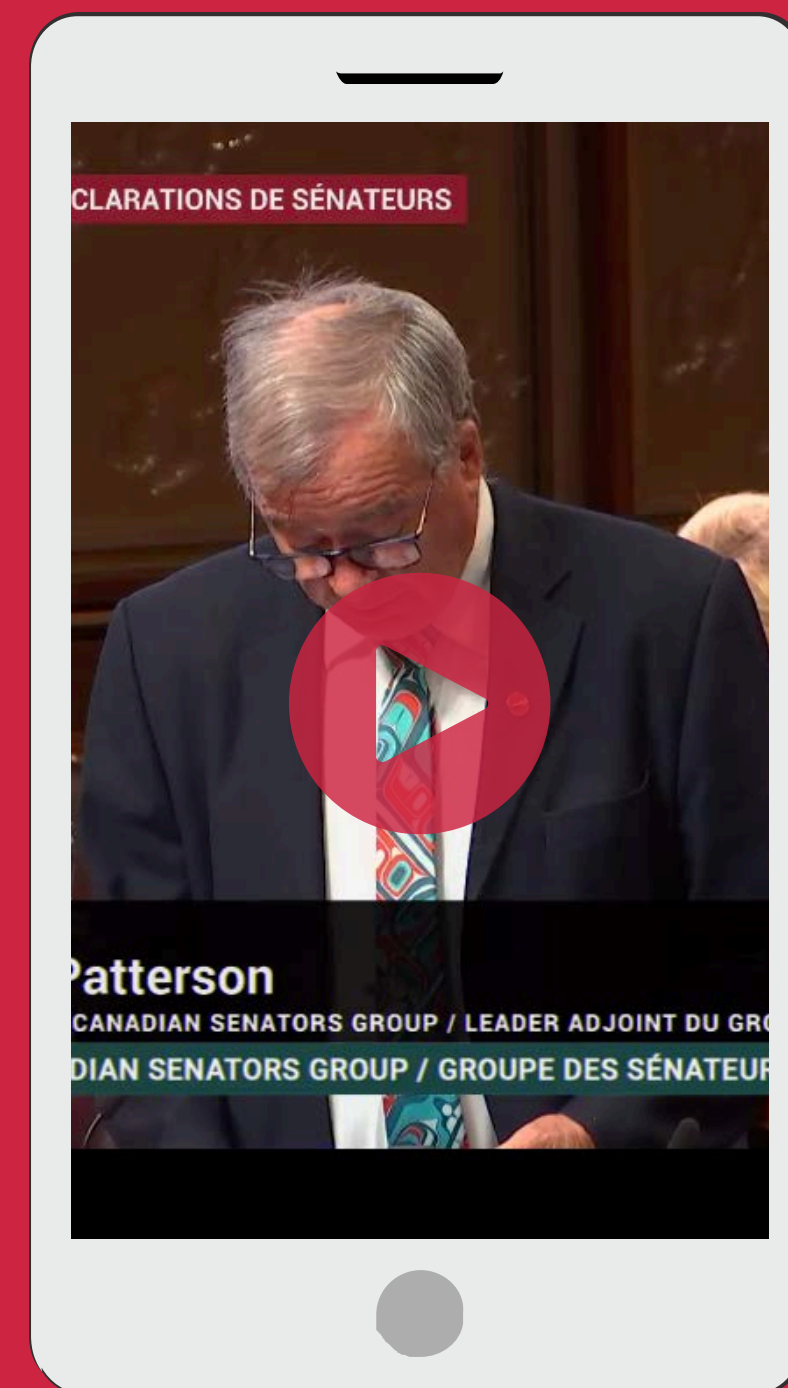
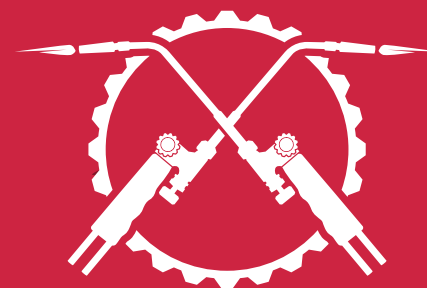


Positive Impacts on Youth and the Environment

Scrap to Art participants have grown their confidence levels and are able to hold their heads high, have pride in their work, and have respect within their community. They've changed their lives and have a reason to get out of bed every day, contribute, and give back to society.

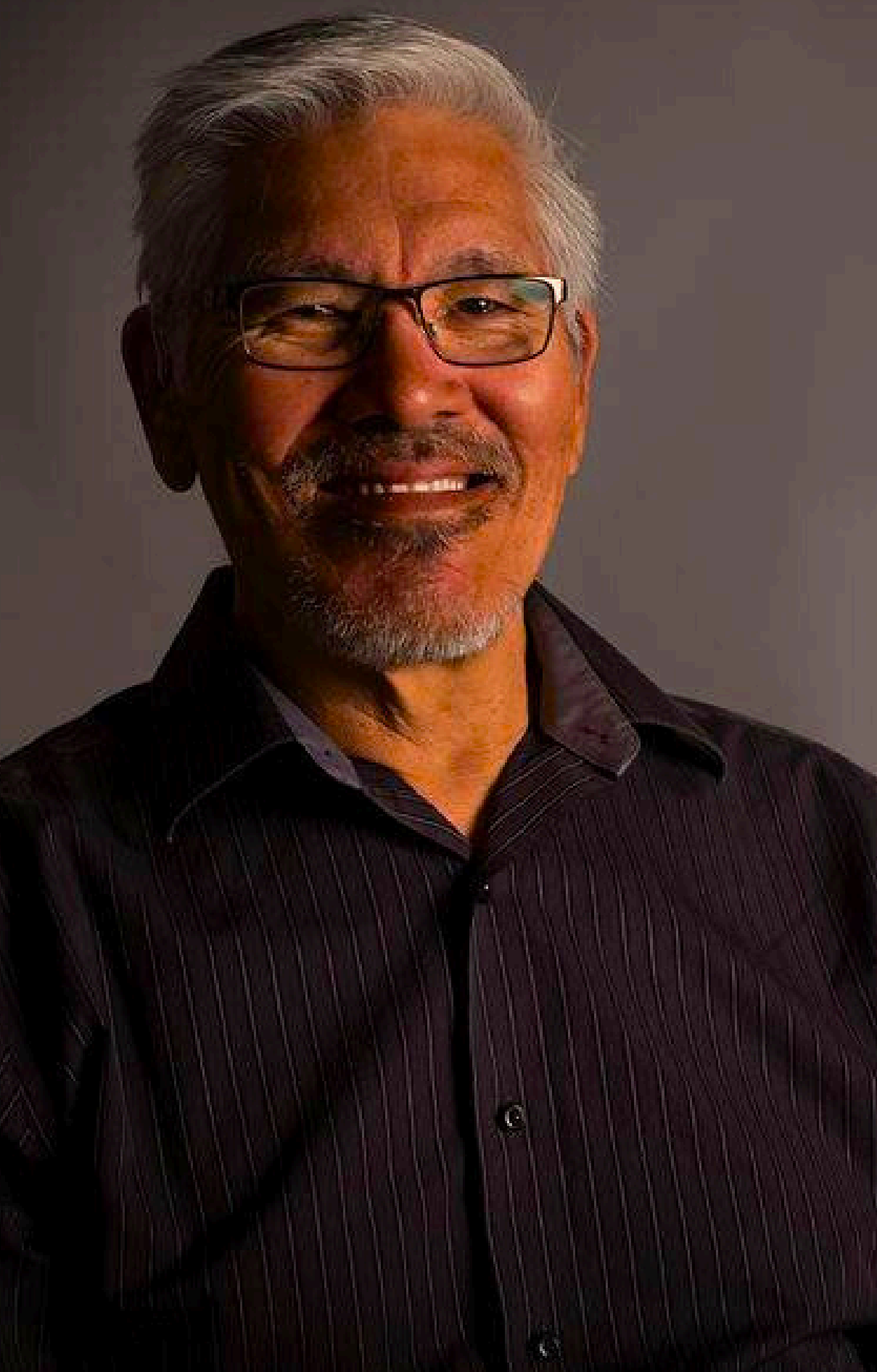
To date, the program enjoys the highest attendance rate of any education program in Nunavut, according to the Nunavut Department of Child and Family Services, and every single participant has remained out of jail and incident-free.

Additionally, since the program's creation, over 700 barrels in the community landfill have been transformed into art.



To watch Senator Patterson's speech about the importance and impact of Red Fish Studios, please click above or visit:

<https://senparlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20231024/-1/12652?mediaStartTime=20231024140455>



Integrating Cultural and Traditional Knowledge

Elder Attima Naalungiaq (Hadlari) (photo by Nunavut Wildlife Management Board)

Scrap to Art partnered with Elder consultant Attima Naalungiaq (Hadlari) because they believe it's important to have Elders' perspectives when representing various arctic animals. Using Elder Hadlari's hunting and traditional skills allowed Scrap to Art to explain the difference in the behaviour, stance, and environment of various wildlife, increasing the artistic range of participants.

"Culture is being expressed within the statues that are being made, they (the kids) went with a theme, their culture is here which then implements a history aspect. We have to learn about the history for what we are pulling from, then you take in language, you are dealing with a lot of different facets." **Mark Slatter**

Building Community Through Public Art

Overlooking the bay, near the old Hudson Bay trading posts, this once unused space is now thriving with ideas and creativity. Red Fish Studios has become the new town square where locals gather to discuss ideas and talk about the future (@arcticfocus on Instagram). The Studio is used by multiple community groups to create and sell locally made artwork, develop digital art projects, and it also hosts the local radio station (CanNor).

The Municipality's strategy to fill their community with public art has instilled residents with pride not only in the community itself, but also towards the youth contributing to the beautification process.



Bison: Photo by Jane George/CBC, **Netted fish:** Photo by Madalyn Howitt, **Wolves:** Photo courtesy of Mark Slatter

A Visit with the Prime Minister



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is the proud owner of multiple works of art created by Red Fish Arts Studio - In 2021 he was presented with the signature red fish metal sculpture created by youth in the program by Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok in Ottawa (photo courtesy of P.J. Akeeagok). In 2022 Mr. Trudeau had the opportunity to visit the Red Fish Art Studio himself, where he and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg were presented with two polar northern star sculptures that were commissioned by Polar Knowledge Canada (photos from Red Fish Art Studio/Mark Slatter).

Country-wide Recognition

Some of the art created by participants include the three-metre Sedna (Nuliajuk), Goddess of the Sea from Inuit legend, sculpture that will eventually make its way to the Governor General's gardens in Ottawa; statues to be used as awards for the Arctic Inspiration Prize; several community arts initiatives; and two sculptures that will be permanently reside within the HMCS Max Bernays in partnership with the Canadian Navy. PM Trudeau was also seen sporting some Red Fish Art Studio merch while at a community feast in Nain, Nunatsiavut, in 2023.

Below: Muskox and kayak for 2021 Arctic Inspiration Prize winners. (Jane George/CBC)
Right: Photograph from @justinpjtrudeau (Instagram)
Far right: Sculpture of Sedna (Nuliajuk)



Looking to the Future

The Red Fish Art Society was created in 2023 as the result of a new agreement between the Red Fish Arts Studio and the Municipality of Cambridge Bay.

The goal of Red Fish Arts Studio is to build upon their programming by securing long-term, stable funding and eventually offering this model throughout Nunavut communities beyond Cambridge Bay.

“It’s a massive win for our community and everyone involved. It just allows us to do what we’re great at and ultimately help more kids.”

Attima Hadlari, on the creation of the Red Fish Art Society.

Photos (left to right, top to bottom): Daniel Mala, Joshua Evetalegak, Tiana Maghagak, Dean Evetalegak, Dodi Mala, Josh Angohiatok, Rylan Angohiatok, Faith Lyall, Ronnie Lyall, Daryl Taptoona-Haynes.



Red Fish Studios Rockstars

Other Partners

The Municipality of
Cambridge Bay

RCMP
Cambridge Bay

Government of Nunavut
Department of Justice

Stripe

AWS

B2Gold

**“The more people get behind programs like this, the
more chances these programs will grow.”**

ArcticFocus.org

