

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

2016

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



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	ANDREW, Paul	Mr	Chief of Tulita and former CBC broadcaster Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	CARMICHAEL, Fred	Mr	Gwich'in Pilot Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik *	CM ONWT
2017	KING, Russell	Mr	Founder of Kingland Ford in Hay River	ONWT
2017	KOE, Lynda	Ms	Senior Care Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	PHILIPP, Jeff	Mr	Internet entrepreneur and founder of SSI Micro Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	THOM, Margaret	Commissioner	NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence	KStJ ONWT
2017	ZUBKO, Tom	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	CARPENTER, Les	Mr	CBC Inuvik / CEO Native Communications Society (Deceased)	ONWT
2018	FIRTH, Sharon	Ms	Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics	CM ONWT
2018	ELIAS, Lillian	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	FULLER, Lyda	Mrs	Executive Director of the YWCA NWT	ONWT
2019	McBRYAN, Joe	Mr	Owner of Buffalo Airways – Buffalo Joe - Pilot	ONWT



2021

16 February 2023 Announced – 30 March 2023 Presented

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2021	DENERON JoAnne	Ms	Community Leadership in Fort Laird / Chair WCB	ONWT
2021	KAESER II, Paul	Mr	Owner and Manager of Kaeser's Store in Fort Smith	ONWT
2021	SNOWSHOE, Mary Effie	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	DRAGON, Jane	Mrs	Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge	CM ONWT
2022	MONTREUIL, Suzette	Mrs	Yellowknife / Work in Social Justice / Cofounded Alternatives North	ONWT
2022	VAN CAMP, Richard	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	BALANOFF, Helen	Mrs	formerly of Yellowknife / Northern education and literacy	ONWT
2023	HARDY, Richard	Mr	Fort McPherson / 1 st Lawyer Great Bear Region / Pres. Métis Community	ONWT
2023	TEYA, Mary	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	KISOUN, Gerald W.	Commissioner	NWT 14 May 2024 – ex RCMP / Polar Medal recipient	KStJ ONWT

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

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

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

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

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

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