

## The Order of The Northwest Territories

25 April 2026

### 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** 35

35 to May 2026

2015	7	
2016	4	
2017	7	New Commissioner
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
2024	1	New Commissioner
2025	2	



**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Alphabetical**

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS /
2017	<b>ANDREW, Paul</b>	Mr	Chief of Tulita and former CBC broadcaster Yellowknife	ONWT
2023	<b>BALANOFF, Helen</b>	Mrs	formerly of Yellowknife / Northern education and literacy	ONWT
2017	<b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b>	Mr	Gwich'in Pilot / Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik	<b>CM ONWT</b>
2018	<b>CARPENTER, Les</b>	Mr	CBC Inuvik / CEO Native Communications Society (Deceased)	ONWT
2016	<b>COURNOYEA, Nellie</b>	Ms	Premier of the Northwest Territories / CEO Inuvialuit	<b>OC ONWT</b>
2021	<b>DENERON JoAnne</b>	Ms	Community Leadership in Fort Laird / Chair WCB	ONWT
2022	<b>DRAGON, Jane</b>	Mrs	Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge	<b>CM ONWT</b>
2018	<b>ELIAS, Lillian</b>	Ms	Specialist in Inuvialuit traditions / fluent Inuvialuktun interpreter	ONWT
2018	<b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>	Ms	Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics	<b>CM ONWT</b>
2019	<b>FULLER, Lyda</b>	Mrs	Executive Director of the YWCA NWT	ONWT
2015	<b>GREEN, Bruce</b>	Mr	Elementary & High School Teacher in Hay River	ONWT
2023	<b>HARDY, Richard</b>	Mr	Fort McPherson / 1 <sup>st</sup> Lawyer Great Bear Region / Pres. Métis Community	ONWT
2025	<b>HURLEY, Dave</b>	Mr	Shaping the Sports North Organization for Youth	ONWT
2015	<b>JACKSON, Lucy</b>	Mrs	Working on Medical Terminology for Aboriginal Languages	ONWT
2021	<b>KAESER II, Paul</b>	Mr	Owner and Manager of Kaeser's Store in Fort Smith	ONWT
2017	<b>KING, Russell</b>	Mr	Founder of Kingland Ford in Hay River	ONWT
2024	<b>KISOUN, Gerald W.</b>	Mr	Commissioner NWT 2014 – ex RCMP; Polar Medal recipient	<b>KStJ ONWT</b>
2017	<b>KOE, Lynda</b>	Ms	Senior Care Yellowknife	ONWT
2015	<b>MacDONALD, Sonny</b>	Mr	Salt River First Nation Self-Taught Carver	ONWT
2019	<b>McBRYAN, Joe</b>	Mr	Owner of Buffalo Airways – Buffalo Joe - Pilot	ONWT
2022	<b>MONTREUIL, Suzette</b>	Mrs	Yellowknife / Work in Social Justice / Cofounded Alternatives North	ONWT
2017	<b>PHILIPP, Jeff</b>	Mr	Internet entrepreneur and founder of SSi Micro Yellowknife	ONWT
2015	<b>PIN, Gino</b>	Mr	Architect Unique Northern Designs / Yellowknife Concerned Citizens	ONWT
2025	<b>ROBERTS, Tammy</b>	Ms	Dedicated her life to children and youth in foster care	ONWT
2021	<b>SNOWSHOE, Mary Effie</b>	Ms	Teaches the Gwich'in language & Programs on the Land Fort McPherson	ONWT
2015	<b>SPENCE, Ruth</b>	Mrs	Executive Director of the YWCA / Yellowknife City Council	ONWT
2016	<b>STIRLING, Jan</b>	Ms	Nurse in Charge of the Public Health Clinic Yellowknife	ONWT
2023	<b>TEYA, Mary</b>	Ms	Formerly of Tulita / Teet'it Gwich'in Band Council / NWT Elders Cmt.	ONWT
2017	<b>THOM, Margaret</b>	Commissioner	NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence	<b>KStJ ONWT</b>
2015	<b>TUCCARO, George Lester</b>	Honourable	Commissioner of the Northwest Territories	<b>CStJ ONWT</b>
2022	<b>VAN CAMP, Richard</b>	Mr	Edmonton / Dene Nation from Fort Smith / Written over 20 Books	ONWT
2016	<b>WHITFORD, Anthony W.J.</b>	HonCaptain	MLA & Speaker NWT / 16 <sup>th</sup> Commissioner / Honorary Captain RCN	<b>KStJ ONWT</b>
2016	<b>WILSON, Marie</b>	Ms	CBC North Lifetime Achievement Award / Reconciliation Commission	<b>CM ONWT MSC</b>
2015	<b>ZOÈ, John B.</b>	Mr	Senior Advisor for the Tłı̨ch̨ Government / Dogrib Archaeology	ONWT
2017	<b>ZUBKO, Tom</b>	Mr	Satellite Telecommunications Entrepreneur North's business base Inuvik	ONWT

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2015**

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2015	<b>GREEN, Bruce</b>	Mr	Elementary & High School Teacher in Hay River	ONWT
2015	<b>JACKSON, Lucy</b>	Mrs	Working on Medical Terminology for Aboriginal Languages	ONWT
2015	<b>MacDONALD, Sonny</b>	Mr	Salt River First Nation Self-Taught Carver	ONWT
2015	<b>PIN, Gino</b>	Mr	Architect Unique Northern Designs / Yellowknife Concerned Citizens	ONWT
2015	<b>SPENCE, Ruth</b>	Mrs	Executive Director of the YWCA / Yellowknife City Council	ONWT
2015	<b>TUCCARO, George L.</b>	Honourable	Commissioner of the Northwest Territories	<b>CS&amp;J ONWT</b>
2015	<b>ZOË, John B.</b>	Mr	Senior Advisor for the Tłı̨ch̨ Government / Dogrib Archaeology	ONWT

**2016**

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



**Honorary Captain Tony Whitford, KStJ, ONWT**

(Anthony Wilfred James Whitford)

**Medals:**

KStJ

ONWT (2016)

125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal (1992)

Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002)

Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012)

Honorary Captain(N) RCN 2010

16<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of the NWT 22 April 2005 to 28 April 2010

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2017  
23 May 2017 Announced – 30 May 2017 Presented**

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2017	<b>ANDREW, Paul</b>	Mr	Chief of Tulita and former CBC broadcaster Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	<b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b>	Mr	Gwich'in Pilot Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik *	CM ONWT
2017	<b>KING, Russell</b>	Mr	Founder of Kingland Ford in Hay River	ONWT
2017	<b>KOE, Lynda</b>	Ms	Senior Care Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	<b>PHILIPP, Jeff</b>	Mr	Internet entrepreneur and founder of SSI Micro Yellowknife	ONWT
2017	<b>THOM, Margaret</b>	Commissioner	NWT from 2017 to 2024/Counsellor Deh Gáh Sch. Fort Providence	<b>KStJ</b> ONWT
2017	<b>ZUBKO, Tom</b>	Mr	Satellite Telecommunications Entrepreneur North's business base Inuvik	ONWT

\* Member of the Aviation Hall of Fame 2015

7



**2018  
24 October 2018 Announced – 30 October 2018 Presented**

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2018	<b>CARPENTER, Les</b>	Mr	CBC Inuvik / CEO Native Communications Society (Deceased)	ONWT
2018	<b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>	Ms	Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics	CM ONWT
2018	<b>ELIAS, Lillian</b>	Ms	Specialist in Inuvialuit traditions / fluent Inuvialuktun interpreter	ONWT

3

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2019**

**15 August 2019 Announced – 20 August 2019 Presented**

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2019	<b>FULLER, Lyda</b>	Mrs	Executive Director of the YWCA NWT	ONWT
2019	<b>McBRYAN, Joe</b>	Mr	Owner of Buffalo Airways – Buffalo Joe - Pilot	ONWT



**2021**

**16 February 2023 Announced – 30 March 2023 Presented**

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

14 May 2024



**Commissioner Gerald W. Kisoun, KStJ, ONWT**

**Order of the Northwest Territories  
By Year**

**2025**

Announced 07 November 2025

Awarded on 05 December 2025

YEAR	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS
2025	<b>HURLEY, Dave</b>	Mr	Shaping the Sports North Organization for Youth	ONWT
2025	<b>ROBERTS, Tammy</b>	Ms	Dedicated her life to children and youth in foster care	ONWT

07 November 2025

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**Order of the Northwest Territories  
Members / Officers of the Order of Canada**

CM	NAME	CM / OC	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS /
2017	<b>CARMICHAEL, Fred</b>	14/02/2009	Mr	Gwich'in Pilot / Pioneer of Northern Aviation Rainbow Air Inuvik	CM ONWT
2016	<b>COURNOYEA, Nellie</b>	14/02/2009	Ms	Premier of the Northwest Territories / CEO Inuvialuit	<b>OC ONWT</b>
2022	<b>DRAGON, Jane</b>	27/06/2024g	Mrs	Elder in Fort Smith / Imparted Wealth of Traditional Knowledge	CM ONWT
2018	<b>FIRTH, Sharon</b>	26/12/1987	Ms	Gwich'in First Nation Cross-Country Skier in four Winter Olympics	CM ONWT
2016	<b>WILSON, Marie</b>	09/07/2016	Ms	Truth & Reconciliation Commissioner / CBC North	CM ONWT MSC

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

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

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

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

