Canadian Polar Medal

25 June 2026

TERMS

The Polar Medal will recognize those who have contributed to or endeavoured to promote a greater understanding of Canada's Northern communities and its people. It will also honour those individuals who have withstood the rigours of the polar climate to make significant contributions to polar exploration and knowledge, scientific research, and the securement of Canada's Northern sovereignty.

Any person or group will be able to submit a nomination of a person who is eligible to be awarded the Polar Medal. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year. Nominations will be received by the Chancellery of Honours and reviewed by an advisory committee, which will make recommendations to the governor general.



BARS

Each subsequent award of the Medal to the same person will be indicated by a bar, which will be in silver with raised edges and bear a centred silver maple leaf.

DESCRIPTION

A silver octagonal medal that is 36-mm in diameter. The edge of the obverse is decorated with small denticles.

OBVERSE

The obverse depicts a contemporary crowned effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title (left side maple leaf with ELIZABETH II DEI; right side GRATIA REGINA with a maple leaf following and the word "CANADA" at the bottom).

EIIR medal is an older crowned Elizabeth II facing right.

REVERSE

The reverse bears a representation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner St. Roch depicted in the Arctic near a tall iceberg and two crew members standing on the ice.

MOUNTING

A suspension bar adorned with a representation of the North Star, with limbs evoking strong winds, water currents and the aurora borealis.

NAMING

Nil

RIBBON

The white, watered ribbon is 32-mm wide. A silver rosette is worn in undress when a second bar is awarded.

DATES
The medal was announced on 23 June 2015

OTHER
The design of the Polar Medal was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, as part of the Chancellery of Honours, based on a concept by Major Carl Gauthier of the Directorate of Honours and Recognition section of the Department of National Defence. The medal will be manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint at their Ottawa facility. The program will incorporate and replace the **Governor General's Northern Medal**, created in 2005 by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson. The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, will administer the Polar Medal program.

ISSUED
38 recipients to June 2026

Governor General Mary Simon presented 2 Polar Medals is May 2026, the first Polar Medals that she presented. Louis Arbour presented 4 Polar Medals in June 2026. However, from June 2021 to May 2026, no Polar Medals were announced or presented. Another review?

Canadian Polar Medal Recipients

Date	NAME	TITLE	POSITION	DECORATIONS /
08/07/2015	**ALLARD, Michel**	Prof	Geography at Université Laval	--
23/06/2026a	**ANDRE, Alestine**	Ms	Preserving & Revitalizing Gwich'in traditional knowledge	--
06/12/2016a	**ANINGMIUQ, Elisapi**	Ms	Cultural Teacher Tukisigiarvik Wellness Centre	--
03/10/2016a	**BERNARD, Yves**	CPO2	RCN - RCN Diver Expertise in Robotics *HMS Erebus*	CD
01/10/2015	**BERNIER, Marc-André**	Mr	Chief of Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology	--
10/09/2019	**BROWN, Curtis L.**	Mr	Educator in Nunavut and NWT	--
01/11/2018a	**BURN, Christopher Robert**	Prof	Carleton U. / Expert on Permafrost in Yukon	
29/08/2018a	**CAROLL, Carolyn**	Ms	Principal of Two Schools in Hay River, NWT	--
10/09/2019	**CHATWOOD, Susan Jennifer**	Ms	Scientific Director Institute for Circumpolar Health Research	--
08/07/2015	**DOUGLAS, Marianne**	Ms	A Canadian Experienced Arctic Field Scientist	--
23/06/2025a	**GREIG, Martha Koneak**	Elder	Devoted herself to the well-being of Kuujjuaq, Quebec	--
08/07/2015	**GEIGER, John**	Mr	CEO Royal Cdn Geographic Society *HMS Erebus*	--
08/07/2015	**GRANT, Shelagh**	Prof	History Trent University / Northern Science Award	--
01/11/2018a	**HALLENDY, Norman E.**	Mr	Preservation of Northern Indigenous Culture	--
08/07/2015	**HARRIS, Ryan**	Mr	Senior Underwater Archeologist Parks Canada *Erebus*	--
27/02/2017a	**HEINERTH, Jill**	Ms	Expert Technical Diver Royal Cdn Geographical Society	--
06/12/2016a	**HIK, David**	Mr	Understanding Tundra Ecosystems in the Arctic	--
06/12/2016a	**JENSEN, Marilyn**	Ms	Reclaim Tlingit culture and values	--
28/05/2026a	**LACKENBAUER, P. Whitney**	HLCol / Prof	Trent Univ. / 1st Cdn Ranger Patrol Group / Arctic Governance	--
08/07/2015	**KAMOOKAK, Louie**	Mr	Inuit Historian – *HMS Erebus* find	ONu
08/07/2015	**KISOUN, Gerald W.**	Mr	Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik / Comm NWT 2024	--
21/08/2018a	**KOBALENKO, Jerry**	Mr	Skied, Hiked, Sledded & Kayaked 16 000 km High Arctic	--
23/06/2026a	**KRITSCH, Ingrid Diana Kritsch**	Ms	**P**romoting Gwich'in traditional knowledge in the Cdn Sub Arctic	--
06/12/2016a	**MACDONALD, Robie**	Mr	Internationally respected geochemist	--
06/12/2016a	**MAY, Cecil Francis**	Lieutenant	CO of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps	CD
01/10/2015	**MOORE, Jonathan**	Mr	Senior Underwater Archaeologist & Sonar Operator	--
08/07/2015	**MORGAN, Anne**	Ms	Executive Director Parks & Rec Assn of Yukon	--
28/05/2026a	**PARENTEAU, Marie-Pierre**	Ms	Adoption UNs Declaration the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act	--
19/06/2017a	**RAIDER, Ann Maje**	Ms	Director Liard Aboriginal Women's Society Watson Lake	--
03/10/2016a	**SAVOIE, Donat**	Mr	Expert in Inuit Governance over 30 Years	CQ
19/06/2017a	**SCURVEY, Darlene**	Ms	ECE at Duska's Head Start in Whitehorse	--
10/09/2019	**SMOL, John P.**	Professor	Biology Queen's University; Expert on Environmental Change	OC
08/07/2015	**STENTON, Doug**	Mr	Nunavut's Director of Heritage – *HMS Erebus*	--
06/12/2016a	**SUEDFELD, Peter**	Professor	UBC / Understanding effects of Isolation in Polar Stations	--
08/07/2015	**TOOTOO, Dorothy**	2nd Lt	CO Cadet Program in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut	ONu
19/03/2015a	**TROMBLEY, Fay**	Ms	Food Insecurity in Tuktoyaktuk	--
03/10/2016a	**VINCENT, Warwick**	Professor	Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies	--
23/06/2026a	**WILSON, Gary Norman Wilson**	Professor	University of Northern BC / Teachers on Inuit self-governance	--

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

ALLARD, Michael -- GH: 06 July 2015
Professor - Geography at Université Laval Québec, Quebec CG: 08 July 2015



"A researcher with the Centre for Northern Studies and a professor of geography at Université Laval since 1975, Michel Allard has contributed significantly to research projects exploring the impact of melting permafrost on the natural environment and infrastructures in Nunavik and Nunavut. His research has also examined the vulnerability of Nunavut's Inuit communities to global warming, as well as the development of adaptive strategies."

DOUGLAS, Marianne -- GH: 06 July 2015
Experienced Arctic Field Scientists Whitehorse, Yukon CG: 08 July 2015



"Marianne Douglas is recognized as one of Canada's most experienced Arctic field scientists. She has helped promote a better understanding of northern Canada through a variety of public outreach work, sharing her expertise on scientific, economic, social and cultural issues impacting the North. In addition, she has conducted extensive research in the southern polar regions."

GRANT, Shelagh -- GH: 06 July 2015
Historian, Researcher, Author, Editor Peterborough, Ontario CG: 08 July 2015



"A historian, researcher, author, editor and adjunct professor, Shelagh Grant has taught history and Canadian studies at Trent University for 17 years. Her academic research drew her to Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Baffin Island and other remote Arctic locations. As the first historian and first woman to receive the Northern Science Award, she was active on various Inuit policy advisory committees, editorial boards and northern scholarship committees."

Medals: Polar – EIIR Diamond Jubilee

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

GEIGER, John Grigsby Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society	-- Ottawa, Ontario	GH: 06 July 2015 CG: 08 July 2015
HARRIS, Ryan Senior Underwater Archeologist with Parks Canada	-- Ottawa, Ontario	
KAMOOKAK, Louis Inuit Historian	Onu (photo right) Gjao Haven, Nunavut	
STENTON, Doug Director of Heritage, Government of Nunavut	-- Iqaluit, Nunavut	



"John Geiger is the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society; Ryan Harris is a senior underwater archeologist with Parks Canada; Louie Kamookak is an Inuit historian; and Doug Stenton is the Government of Nunavut's director of Heritage. All four played essential roles in the success of the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition. Their passion, dedication and perseverance contributed directly to the discovery of the wreck of Sir John Franklin's *HMS Erebus* in September 2014—and to the resolution of one of polar exploration's greatest enigmas. Their collective efforts have strengthened our understanding of Canada's North and cultivated a keen, nationwide interest in discoveries yet to come."



Ron Harris Louie Kamookak, ONu GG Doug Stenton John Geiger

John Grigsby's Medals: Polar – EIIR Golden Jubilee – EIIR Diamond Jubilee
Louie Kamookak's medals: Order of Nunuvut - Polar – EIIR Golden Jubilee

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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

KISOUN, Gerald ("Gerry") W. -- GH: 06 July 2015
Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik Inuvik, Northwest Territories CG: 08 July 2015



"A well-respected Elder, Mr. Kisoun has worked tirelessly at strengthening the awareness and understanding of northern Canada and its peoples. As the community liaison officer in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, this dedicated community leader and active volunteer sits on a number of boards, including the Inuvialuit Harvesters Assistance Program, and acts as a liaison with local schools for science and heritage fairs."



MORGAN, Anne -- GH: 06 July 2015
Executive Director of the Recreation Parks Association of Yukon Whitehorse, Yukon CG: 08 July 2015



"Anne Morgan is a pillar in community recreation throughout the North. As executive director of the Recreation Parks Association of Yukon, she has significantly contributed to developing sustainable programs and services in rural and remote communities. A fervent supporter and advocate of active living, she is committed to promoting healthier lifestyles, particularly among children and youth."

TOOTOO, Dorothy ONu GH: 06 July 2015
Second Lieutenant – Cadet Program Rankin Inlet, Nunavut CG: 08 July 2015



"Second Lieutenant Dorothy Tootoo is the officer responsible for sustaining the cadet program in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Demonstrating unwavering commitment to the program, she has enlisted the support of Elders within the community to establish a mentoring program. In addition, as the residence manager at Arctic College, she seeks out every opportunity to help students persist in their studies and achieve their goals."

She was awarded the Order of Nunavut in 2022.

Medals: Order of Nunavut - Polar – EIIR Diamond Jubilee

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

BERNIER, Marc-André -- GH: 01 October 2015
Community Liaison Officer in Inuvik Ottawa, Ontario CG: 01 October 2015



"Chief of the Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology Service, Mr. Bernier has worked on and directed many shipwreck excavation projects in Canada and abroad. As a senior project coordinator, he has researched the HMS Erebus archaeological site under the ice in the Arctic Ocean. He and his team documented the famed flagship of the lost Franklin Expedition with extraordinary photos and videos."

Medals: Polar Medal – EIIR Diamond Jubilee

MOORE, Jonathan -- GH: 01 October 2015
Senior Underwater Archaeologist and Sonar Operator Ottawa, Ontario CG: 01 October 2015



"As a senior underwater archaeologist and sonar operator, Mr. Moore helped to unlock the mysteries of the lost Franklin Expedition. He spent six field seasons between 2008 and 2014 searching the Arctic Ocean for the wreck of HMS Erebus, and was part of the Parks Canada team that discovered and dived on the shipwreck in September 2014."

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

BERNARD, Yves CD GH: 03 October 2016
Petty Officer 1st Class - RCN Halifax, Nova Scotia Date: September 2014
RCN Port Inspection Diver with Expertise in Robotics – Discovery of the wreck of HMS Erebus



"A Royal Canadian Navy port inspection diver with expertise in robotics, Petty Officer 1st Class Yves Bernard made significant contributions to the discovery of the wreck of Sir John Franklin's HMS *Erebus* in 2014. He was among the first divers and the very first navy sailor to dive down to the site since Franklin's crew disembarked the *Erebus* 165 years earlier."

Medals: Polar – EIIR Diamond Jubilee - CD

SAVOIE, Donat CQ GH: 03 October 2016
Mr Montréal, Quebec Date: 30 Years Plus
Expert on Inuit Governance



"Donat Savoie is an expert on Inuit governance with over 30 years of experience in Aboriginal sovereignty negotiations. He is also a leading advocate for the prevention of homelessness in Nunavik, as well as for services and shelters for homeless Inuit in Montréal. He is committed to making Inuit culture known throughout Canada and is a champion of Canada's North and its communities."

Medals: CQ – EIIR Golden Jubilee – EIIR Diamond Jubilee - Polar

Awarded Chevalier de L'Ordre de Quebec (CQ) in 2000.

VINCENT, Warwick -- GH: 03 October 2016
Professor - biology at Université Laval Québec, Quebec
Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies



"A professor of biology at Université Laval and the Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Studies, Warwick Vincent is an internationally renowned limnologist. He has done extensive research on aquatic microbial ecology, light and primary production, and ecosystem responses to climate change with an emphasis on Arctic and Antarctic waters. Additionally, he has heightened the understanding of environmental change in Canada's North through his strong leadership as the scientific director at le Centre d'études nordiques in Québec."

Medal: Polar

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

ANINGMIUQ, Elisapi -- GH: 06 September 2016
Ms Iqaluit, Nunavut
Cultural Teacher and Counsellor at the Tukisigiarvik Wellness Centre

"As a cultural teacher and counsellor, Elisapi Aningmiuq has developed key initiatives at the Tukisigiarvik Wellness Centre including physical health and wellness programs, food programs, suicide intervention and counselling sessions. She has been a strong advocate for rebuilding Inuit culture and identity, and has accordingly dedicated herself to preserving traditional skills and knowledge."



Medals: Polar – EIIR Diamond Jubilee

HIK, David -- GH: 06 December 2016
Professor – University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta
Innovative work on understanding Tundra Ecosystems in the Arctic

"David Hik has been instrumental in fostering international collaboration on Arctic issues and the development of extensive research networks. Through his sustained and innovative work on understanding tundra ecosystems in the Arctic and alpine environments, he has greatly contributed to strengthening Canada's research presence in the North."



JENSEN, Marilyn -- GH: 06 December 2016
Founder and Group Leader Dakhká Khwáan Dancers Whitehorse, Yukon
Reclaim Tlingit culture and values

"Marilyn Jensen provides pathways to foster healing and reclaim Tlingit culture and values within the community of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. As the founder and group leader of the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers, Ms. Jensen has made significant contributions to cultural revitalization through the traditional art forms of song, drumming, dance and storytelling."



POLAR MEDALS
Citations

MACDONALD, Robie -- GH: 06 December 2016
Research Scientist - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Victoria, British Columbia
Environment Earth & Resources at Centre for Earth Observation Science University of Manitoba



"An adjunct professor of environment, earth and resources at the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba, Robie Macdonald is an internationally respected geochemist. Published in over 170 peer-reviewed journal articles, his innovative interdisciplinary research on the Arctic Ocean has examined sources of organic carbon using biomarkers as well as the interaction between sea ice and runoff in arctic coastal systems."

MAY, Cecil Francis CD GH: 06 December 2016
Lieutenant – Army Cadet Corps in Arctic Bay, Nunavut Arctic Bay, Nunavut
Commanding Officer of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

"As the commanding officer of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Arctic Bay, Nunavut, Lieutenant Francis May has displayed exemplary dedication, superior effort and professionalism in delivering a highly effective training program that focuses on physical fitness activities including sports, marksmanship and biathlon competitions. His tireless leadership has positively inspired the community and resulted in strengthening civic-mindedness and northern traditions among the youth entrusted to his care."

SUEDFELD, Peter --- GH: 06 December 2016
Professor - UBC Vancouver, British Columbia
Professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia



"Professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia, Peter Suedfeld has conducted field research in both polar regions. Principally interested in understanding both the pathogenic and salutogenic psychological effects associated with isolation in polar stations, he has provided key insights into the leadership styles and personality characteristics of individuals who thrive in such extreme conditions."

POLAR MEDALS
Citations

TROMBLEY, Fay --- GH: 19 March 2016
Sister Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories
Partnership with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to address food insecurity in Tuktoyaktuk

"Sister Fay Trombley collaborated with local community leaders and built. By reinvigorating the food and clothing distribution centre, she demonstrated remarkable determination and leadership. The success of this partnership has become a blueprint for multiple northern communities similarly struggling with food insecurity."



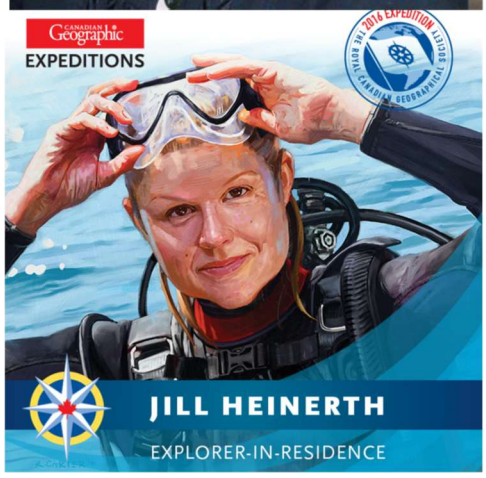
POLAR MEDALS
Citations

HEINERTH, Jill --- GH: 27 February 2017
Ms Mississauga, Ontario
Expert Technical Diver and Writer for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

"Jill Heinerth is an expert technical diver, writer, photographer, filmmaker and the inaugural explorer-in-residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Considered one of the most accomplished explorers and underwater cave divers in the world, she has excelled at this high-risk activity with unparalleled skill. Her work has helped researchers unlock the history of climate change while broadening our understanding of the underwater ecosystems present in both the Arctic and the Antarctic."







POLAR MEDALS
Citations

RAIDER, Ann Maje --- GH: 19 June 2017
Ms Watson Lake, Yukon Date: 1999 to 2017
Execute Director Liard Aboriginal Women's Society



"Ann Raider has demonstrated exemplary dedication to community healing and enhanced safety. As the executive director of the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS), she was instrumental in the creation of the Together for Justice community safety protocol which, in collaboration with the RCMP, established a framework that profoundly strengthened community-police relations in Watson Lake, Yukon. This protocol has since been adopted by communities throughout northern Canada and has achieved similar successful outcomes."

Ann Maje Raider was the first democratically elected Chief of the Liard First Nation, 1992 to 1998.

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SCURVEY, Darlene --- GH: 19 June 2017
Ms Whitehorse, Yukon
Early Childhood Educator at Duska's Head Start

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"As an early childhood educator at the Duska'a Head Start Family Learning Centre, Darlene Scurvey actively promotes the preservation of traditional language and culture. With the assistance of elders, she provides preschool-age children with a range of culturally relevant learning experiences that incorporate social interaction and language instruction."

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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

CAROLL, Carolyn -- GH: 21 October 2018
Ms – Principal of Two Schools in Hay River Hay River, NWT Date: 1988 to 2018

"Carolyn Carroll has been a catalyst for significant positive change and improvements among her students. The principal of two schools in Hay River, she has implemented creative programs and policies that have infused the schools' curricula with Indigenous language and culture. Her sustained efforts have thereby created an inclusive learning environment that is representative of the broader community within which the students are now thriving."



Carolyn Carroll is the principal of both Harry Camsell School (K-3) and Princess Alexandra School (Gr. 4-7) in Hay River, and was selected to receive this award to recognize her 30 years spent as an NWT educator. Over her career she has led a culture change in her schools, shifting the way instruction is provided and how assessment is used to inform decision-making.

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KOBALENKO, Jerry -- GH: 21 October 2018
Mr – Professional Writer and Photographer Canmore, Alberta
He has skied, hiked, sledded and kayaked more than 16 000 kilometres through the High Arctic



"Jerry Kobalenko received a Polar Medal. He has skied, hiked, sledded and kayaked more than 16 000 kilometres through the High Arctic over the course of 30 separate expeditions. A professional writer, photographer and ardent Arctic adventurer, he has brought his love, passion and knowledge of Canada's North to a broad national and international audience through his many publications and lectures."

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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

BURN, Christopher Robert -- GH: 01 November 2018
Professor – Carleton University Ottawa, Ontario
Internationally recognized expert in the domain of permafrost and ground ice in Yukon

"Christopher Robert Burn is an internationally recognized expert in the domain of permafrost and ground ice in Yukon and the western Arctic. A professor of geography and environmental studies at Carleton University, he is equally adept at fostering meaningful and productive partnerships with relevant stakeholders in Canada's North, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the effects of climate change on permafrost terrain and tundra ecosystems."



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HALLENDY, Norman E. -- GH: 01 November 2018
Mr Carp, Ontario
Preservation of Northern Indigenous Culture

"Norman Hallendy is an Arctic ethnographic expert and the foremost non-Inuk authority on Inuksuit and Inuit sacred sites. Noted for his insatiable curiosity, he has nurtured a close relationship with the people of Baffin Island, allowing him to rigorously document an extensive body of traditional knowledge. In so doing, he has greatly contributed to the preservation of northern Indigenous culture for future generations."



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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

BROWN, Curtis L. -- GH: 10 September 2019
Mr Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

"Curtis Brown has worked in education in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for more than 30 years. Currently serving as superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), he strives to improve the state of education in Canada's northern communities. As an advocate for alternative programming and expanded opportunities for students, he has contributed to above-average student outcomes, notably through the SSDEC's award-winning Leadership 4 Literacy initiative. Dr. Brown's efforts have stimulated the revitalization of local Indigenous languages and their use in schools and in the broader community."



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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

CHATWOOD, Susan Jennifer -- GH: 10 September 2019
Ms Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

"Susan Chatwood has devoted her career to improving health services in remote northern communities. She is currently the scientific director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research, as well as an associate professor at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health. Through her leadership and research initiatives, she has advanced public health policy to meet the specialized needs of people living in Canada's North, while ensuring that Indigenous perspectives and traditional approaches are integrated into innovative health care practices."



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SMOL, John P. OC GH: 10 September 2019
Professor – Queen's University Kingston, Ontario

"Paleolimnologist John Smol is one of the world's foremost experts on environmental change. A Canada Research Chair and professor of biology and environmental studies at Queen's University, Dr. Smol has been at the vanguard of scientific discovery related to lake ecosystems for over 30 years. By studying ancient lake deposits, he ascertains how they have historically responded to patterns of global change and human impact. His research, which measures the effect of climatic change in the Canadian North, has led to tangible policy changes and heightened public awareness."



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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

LACKENBAUER, P. Whitney -- GH: 28 May 2026
Professor – Trent University Peterborough, Ontario
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group



"For research on Arctic governance and for his commitment to security, notably as honorary lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group."



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Parenteau, Marie-Pierre -- GH: 28 May 2026
Department of National Defence Ottawa, Ontario



"For championing the security, sovereignty and protection of the Arctic and for her role in the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Marie-Pierre Parenteau
Candian Federal Government

October 2025 – Present	Director, Policy & Center of Expertise, Indigenour Affairs, Infrastructure and Environment
July 2022 – October 2025	Deputy Director General, Academic Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, Public Safety Canada
June 2021 – July 2022	Director, North and Ontario Regions, Infrastructure Canada
December 2019 – June 2021	Director, Inuit-Crown Partnerships and Policy, Reconciliation Secretariat Responsible for the Secretariat of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) and federal lead on the co-development of the Inuit nunangat Policy, Nanilavut, the Qikiqtani Truth Commission and Inuit housing
June 2017 – December 2019	Manager, Strategic Program Policy, Transport Canada National manager for the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) initiative and the Proactive Vessel Management (PVM) initiative under the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP)

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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

ANDRE, Alestine -- GH: 23 June 2026
Elder Whitehorse, Yukon

"Gwichya Gwich'in Elder Alestine Andre has advanced public understanding of the North through her lifelong dedication to documenting, preserving and revitalizing Gwich'in traditional knowledge, oral history and land-based practices. As a leader at the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, she was instrumental in language renewal efforts and cultural heritage research, which have advanced understanding and respect for ethnobotany, archaeology and place-name documentation. Her contributions have ensured these traditions are protected for future generations."



Medals: Canadian Polar Medal – EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal

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GREIG, Martha Koneak -- GH: 23 June 2026
Elder Kuujjuaq, Quebec

"Elder Martha Koneak Greig has devoted herself to the well-being of her community. In her many roles, including that of social worker, she has consistently supported healing among individuals of all ages in Kuujjuaq and the broader Nunavik region. By sharing her own story as a residential school Survivor, she has brought international attention to the struggles of other Survivors and their successive generations. Her advocacy has helped elevate reconciliation discussions globally, contributing to the papacy issuing a formal apology to Indigenous peoples."



Medals: Canadian Polar Medal – KCIII Coronation Medal

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KRITSCH, Ingrid Diana -- GH: 23 June 2026
Ms Sherwood Park, Alberta

"Ingrid Diana Kritsch is a cultural anthropologist whose career has focused on preserving and promoting Gwich'in traditional knowledge in the Canadian subarctic region. As the founding executive director of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, she collaborated with Indigenous communities in ways that honoured and amplified their leadership. She later served as research director, overseeing heritage research, policy development and documentation of oral history. She has been named an honorary Gwich'in for her extraordinary commitment to the culture and region."



Medals: Canadian Polar Medal – EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal

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POLAR MEDALS
Citations

WILSON, Gary Norman -- GH: 23 June 2026
Professor – University of Northern British Columbia Prince George, British Columbia



"Dr. Gary Norman Wilson is a professor at the University of Northern British Columbia who has focused his educational career on Inuit self-governance, regional autonomy and multi-level governance in the North. He has also written extensively on these subjects throughout his tenure. His advocacy for Indigenous leadership extends beyond traditional education to the international stage, where he has actively served on the board of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association and notably co-convened one of its global conferences."

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