

A graphic celebrating a 25th anniversary. The background is a solid light blue. Overlaid on this are several diagonal stripes in a slightly darker shade of blue. The text "25th" is prominently displayed in the upper half in a large, white, rounded sans-serif font, with a subtle drop shadow. Below it, the word "ANNIVERSARY" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font.

25th
ANNIVERSARY

NWT OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

1991-2016

H

Caroline Cochrane

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs



Helping our friends and neighbours is a way of life in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Sometimes we help out by volunteering with a group or organization in our community. Often we help out in more informal ways, like shovelling snow for a neighbour, sharing food from a hunt or looking after someone's children for free.

In 1991, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) initiated the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards program to highlight the importance of volunteering through recognition of the vital contribution that volunteers make to northern society.

As we celebrate 25 years of recognition of Outstanding Volunteers and volunteering, we are proud to say that, over 932 individuals and groups have been nominated for these awards. In 2001, the Department expanded the program by adding several new award categories to celebrate International Year of the Volunteer.

For several years, artist Sonny MacDonald presented the award recipients with original carvings. In 2001, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation joined MACA in recognizing volunteerism and was the major sponsor for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

In 2005 and 2006 we welcomed Volunteer NWT as our partner in supporting and encouraging volunteerism and in hosting the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

In 2013 we announced the Volunteer Recognition Program that is available to assist communities to recognize and say "thank you" to the many local volunteers that brighten our lives. Community governments can apply annually for up to a maximum of \$1000 financial assistance to support planned community recognition events.

Most volunteers do their work without the goal or desire to be recognized, they do it to make a difference and improve the lives of others. It is important for us to celebrate the successes of these volunteers and to create opportunities to support all volunteerism in the Northwest Territories.

The Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program supports the Government of the Northwest Territories' Mandate commitment to Education, Training and Youth Development and Community Wellness and Safety through recognizing the invaluable support volunteers provide to make our communities better places to live.

This resource is a summary of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients from 1991 to 2016. Their stories inspire and encourage all of us to follow the example of these outstanding individuals and groups.

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1991

Jan Stirling, Yellowknife Outstanding Volunteer Award

Mention the name Jan Stirling in Yellowknife, and chances are someone has a story about how she has helped them, or worked along side them as a volunteer. Mrs. Stirling was a founding member of the NWT Canadian Public Health Association, served on the Board of Directors of the NWT Canadian Mental Health Association, Planned Parenthood, I.O.D.E, United Church Women's Group, the YWCA, and Crime Stoppers.

Mrs. Stirling helped well over 100 immigrant families from Vietnam, Korea and Hungary resettle in Yellowknife. She also received the Storefront for Volunteer Agencies Volunteer of the Year Award in 1984.

Mrs. Stirling has worked as a public health nurse for over 20 years. She is known throughout the North as a kind and caring person.



Jan Stirling receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from MLA Tony Whitford.

1992

Donald Clark, Rankin Inlet Outstanding Volunteer Award

Donald Clark has worked extensively with youth in the Keewatin Region. Through example, he has demonstrated how sport and recreation is a powerful and positive alternative to an unhealthy lifestyle. Mr. Clark has been instrumental in encouraging young people in the Keewatin Region to participate in the Arctic Winter Games and the Keewatin Student Games.

Mr. Clark has been actively involved in leadership roles on many boards and committees over the years, including the Terry Fox Run, Sport North Federation, Rankin Inlet Recreation Committee and the Sport and Recreation Directions Conference.

Mr. Clark has provided continuity and encouragement to the youth of his community.



Donald Clark (left) receives the Outstanding Volunteer Award from MLA Tony Whitford.

1993

Larry Gordon, Inuvik Outstanding Volunteer Award

Larry Gordon has given over 30 years to volunteering. He has been called: "Every organization's dream of the perfect volunteer – and more." As Volunteer Coordinator, Larry recruited over 250 round the clock volunteers for the 1992 Inuit Circumpolar Conference. His superior organizational and people skills ensured that the conference was a total success.

Mr. Gordon has volunteered as a coach, official, organizer, coordinator, town councillor and Arctic College Board of Governors to name a few.

Mr. Gordon is a leader who encourages young and old alike to give back to the community through volunteering. As a role model, he practices what he believes in.



Larry Gordon (right) receives his Outstanding Volunteer Award from MLA Fred Koe.

1994

Max Melnyk, Norman Wells Outstanding Volunteer Award

Max Melnyk was nominated by Commissioner Dan Norris for his extensive volunteer service throughout the Northwest Territories. He has volunteered his time and skills for the past 32 years.

Mr. Melnyk has been closely involved with the Royal Canadian Legion as well as hockey and softball associations. He has given his time to help raise funds through church bingos and other events.

Mr. Melnyk is credited for single-handedly bringing the community together for the raising of the impressive Royal Canadian Legion facility in Norman Wells.



Max Melnyk (middle) receives his Outstanding Volunteer Award from Commissioner Dan Norris and MLA Tony Whitford.

1995

Helene Usherwood, Yellowknife Outstanding Volunteer Award

Helene Usherwood of Yellowknife received the Outstanding Volunteer Award for her extensive work throughout the Northwest Territories.

Ms. Usherwood has been involved with a number of volunteer groups, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, NWT Council for Disabled Persons, Psychiatric Nursing Association of the NWT, Girl Guides of Canada, and Storefront for Voluntary Agencies.



Helene Usherwood and her Outstanding Volunteer Award with the Honourable Kelvin Ng (right) and carver Sonny MacDonald.

1996

Peter Flaherty, Grise Fiord, Nunavut Outstanding Volunteer Award

To the citizens of Grise Fiord, Peter Flaherty is known as an extremely generous, friendly and outgoing man, who is always willing to help out in any capacity.

Mr. Flaherty will arrive at an elder's door, after a snowfall, to clear the steps. He will deliver store items and Hamlet messages, feed dogs, babysit or just offer assistance when he sees a need. He asks nothing in return for his kind acts.

Helping without expectation of reward or recognition is a tradition and a strong value of the Inuit. Through his actions Mr. Flaherty is making a strong contribution to his community as well as his Inuit culture.



Peter Flaherty receives his Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable Manik Thompson.

1997



Al Falconer (middle) receives his Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable Charles Dent (left) and carver Sonny MacDonald.

Al Falconer, Yellowknife Outstanding Volunteer Award

Al Falconer was nominated for his outstanding contributions to senior's programs, services and facilities. He has made a significant positive impact on the lives of many seniors in the NWT. His commitment to volunteerism is as long as his 32 year residency in the North.

Mr. Falconer believes strongly in creating a community that supports seniors. He also believes that the pioneers of the North should be able to remain here in their old age rather than being forced out of their community in later days.

Prior to his involvement with seniors, Mr. Falconer spent his energies promoting youth interests. He gave his time to the Yellowknife Polar Bear Swim Club and the Arctic Winter Games, as well as the Inter-cultural Canada student exchange program.

1998

Pat Bobinski, Hay River Outstanding Volunteer Award

Pat Bobinski is generally known in his home community of Hay River as a reserved, unassuming person who does not seek recognition for himself. However, his countless hours of service over the years has had a tremendous impact on the community.

Mr. Bobinski is one of the founding members of the Hay River Cross-country Ski Club. His dedication is unparalleled. Besides his instrumental involvement in the planning, development and on-going maintenance of the Club, he has been known to sleep at the ski trails in order to ensure they are in top shape for meets.

Mr. Bobinski has also volunteered for the Fire/Ambulance Brigade, Hay River Gun Club and Hay River Flood Watch, to name a few.



Pat Bobinski (middle) receives his Outstanding Volunteer Award from David MacDonald (left) and Ray Young.

1999

Ann Kall, Yellowknife **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

Ann Kall joined the Yellowknife Fire Department in June of 1992 as a Volunteer Firefighter. Since that time, Ann has given countless hours not only to the Yellowknife Fire Department, but to a long list of community fire departments across the Northwest Territories, from Iqaluit to Inuvik.

As the Public Program Coordinator, Ms. Kall has participated and coordinated activities for Child Find Alberta, the Smoke Alarm Testing Program, Fire Prevention Week, and safety and prevention in the classroom.

In addition to receiving the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award, Ms. Kall was presented with the Yellowknife Fire Department's Distinguished Service Award. She often uses her personal vacation leave to fulfil her volunteer activities.



Ann Kall receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from Deputy Minister Bob McLeod.

2000



Grace Mitts receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable Jim Antoine.

Grace Mitts, Hay River **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

Grace Mitts has had a tremendous impact on the people of her community. She is an elder who contributes her time to a wide range of activities involving young and old alike.

Mrs. Mitts has volunteered her time as a counsellor and mentor at the Hay River Youth Centre for many years. She has also volunteered her time to comfort members of the community during their times of personal loss and grieving.

Whether it is organizing and running the Seniors' Soup Kitchen, World Day of Prayer, or volunteering time for musical gatherings, Mrs. Mitts can always be counted on to be there.



Cappy Elkin receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable Joe Handley.

Cappy Elkin, Yellowknife Outstanding Volunteer Award

Cappy Elkin led the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation in the daunting task of raising over two million dollars. The Stanton Foundation required a person with drive, enthusiasm, and the ability to take on any task. Mrs. Elkin's passionate efforts provided ongoing guidance, support and coordination for the 2000 Capital Campaign.

Mrs. Elkin is no stranger to volunteerism. Prior to her involvement with the Stanton Foundation she was involved with youth living with special needs, and worked at her church. Mrs. Elkin has been an active board member of the Yellowknife Senior's Society as well as founding member and President of Autism NWT. She has touched the lives of many people, groups and organizations across the North.

Meryl Falconer, Yellowknife Outstanding Volunteer Award

Meryl Falconer is a long-time Yellowknifer who has done much to increase breast cancer awareness and support in the NWT. She has worked as both a home care nurse and a volunteer.

As a long-term breast cancer survivor Mrs. Falconer has been an inspiration for women who are working through the fear of a cancer diagnosis. Her warm and caring personality and her "never give up" attitude have encouraged others to participate in volunteer activities such as Reach to Recovery and the Run for the Cure.

For many years Mrs. Falconer was the lone voice of the North in the area of breast cancer advocacy, and the only NWT representative at the regional and national meetings. She provided a support service where none previously existed. Many people are grateful for her generous and encouraging support.



Meryl Falconer receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from MLA Bill Braden.



Esther Braden, recipient for the Respected Elder Award.

Esther Braden, Yellowknife Respected Elder Award

Esther Braden volunteered to play the church organ the day after she arrived in Yellowknife in 1964, and has continued to play it to this day.

The list of organizations, societies, committees, boards, associations and agencies that Mrs. Braden has volunteered her time for is extensive. Her activities have ranged from President of the NWT Seniors' Society to delivering music therapy in the extended care unit at the hospital to President of the YWCA.

In addition to her volunteer work, she has been involved in northern economic development, specifically in the tourism and mining sector.

Mrs. Braden cares about others and it's part of her nature to offer to help someone before they ask.

Edna Dow, Hay River Good Neighbour Award

Edna Dow genuinely cares for those who are less fortunate than herself. She chooses to make a difference in her community by sharing her time, understanding and energy. She never gives up trying to make a difference.

Ms. Dow believes that one should never go hungry, especially over the Christmas season. In 1993 she saw a need and started a Secret Santa drive in her community. Ms. Dow has been coordinating this effort ever since.

Ms. Dow has also been an advocate for the disabled, the homeless and those on income support. She works tirelessly, year round, to make a difference in her community.



Edna Dow, recipient of the Good Neighbour Award.

Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department – Outstanding Community Organization Award

The Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department is a team of 20 men and women. These well trained volunteers are the first response team for the Village of Fort Simpson.

It takes a special kind of person to be a firefighter and ambulance attendant. Emergencies are never scheduled – at any time these dedicated volunteers can be called to handle potentially dangerous situations.



The Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department receive their Outstanding Community Organization Award from the Honourable Roger Allen.



Juneva Green, recipient of the Outstanding Board Member Award.

Juneva Green, Fort Smith Outstanding Board Member Award

Juneva Green arrived in the North in 1969 and has not stopped volunteering since. Her volunteer work has had a positive impact on individuals from not only her home community of Fort Smith, but also the South Slave Region and the NWT as a whole.

Her work with the Sport North Federation Board for more than ten years has gained Juneva a reputation of being thorough, calm in a crisis and, above all, fair.

In addition to her board work, Ms. Green has volunteered countless hours to the NWT Ski Division, as a driver for the Fort Smith handivan, as well as fund raising for her church.

Fort Smith and the entire NWT have benefited from Ms. Green's selfless commitment to volunteerism.



Kristine McLeod, recipient of the High Five Youth Award.

Kristine McLeod, Inuvik High Five Youth Award

Although Kristine McLeod is young in years, she is an experienced and respected volunteer for her community, region and territory. Ms. McLeod is the current president of the Nihtat Youth Council in Inuvik, a youth councillor for the Town of Inuvik, youth representative for the Inuvik Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, and the youth director on the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic.

Ms. McLeod is able to identify and relate to the concerns of youth in the communities and take action on those concerns. She believes in taking action on issues rather than just talking about them. She is a role model for her peers and has set a high standard for herself.

2002



Janet Wong receives her High Five Youth Award from MLA Floyd Roland.

Janet Wong, Yellowknife High Five Youth Award

Janet Wong's list of accomplishments at such a young age could fill a book – she certainly is an outstanding young lady. Ms. Wong was President of the Sir John Franklin High School Student Council in her grade 12 year and graduated with honours. She is a positive role model to youth in the community and the NWT. Her active participation with the student council and sports is commendable. Her involvement with S.A.D.D. and the "Stop Racism Challenge" shows her commitment and willingness to raise awareness of issues important in Yellowknife. Ms. Wong has received numerous awards and scholarships in recognition of her leadership skills and academic excellence.

Lori Uhlenberg, Hay River Good Neighbour Award

Lori Uhlenberg has lived in Hay River since 1971. She has been very involved in the Senior Ball Tournaments, whether it was organizing events, selling tickets or keeping score. Her caring nature and remarkable generosity have not gone unnoticed. Ms. Uhlenberg has reached out to many people in need, through her involvement at the Thrift Shop. Ms. Uhlenberg has baked for families in the community – she is always there helping those in need. Her consideration for the well-being of others in the community has had a tremendous impact on many lives in Hay River.



MLA Paul Delorey presents the Good Neighbour Award to Lori Uhlenberg.



Dusty Miller (left) receives his Outstanding Board Member Award from the Honourable Roger Allen.

Dusty Miller, Yellowknife Outstanding Board Member Award

Dusty Miller's 57 years of continuous service to the Royal Canadian Legion has been remarkable. He has served as President and has been on the Executive Committee for nearly all those 57 years. In 1998 he initiated a program called Know Your Veteran. He has accumulated information on all the Veterans in the Northwest Territories, and it is hoped that this resource will be included in the NWT school curriculum. Through his work, Mr. Miller demonstrates his generosity and caring for all the seniors and veterans in town.



MLA Jane Groenewegen receives the Outstanding Community Organization Award, on behalf of the Hay River Thrift Shop, from NWT Power Corporation representative Randy Patrick.

The Thrift Shop, Hay River Outstanding Community Organization Award

The dedicated team of volunteers at the Thrift Shop provide a vital service in Hay River. It has taken hard work and dedication to keep the Thrift Shop running for over 45 years. The proceeds from the Thrift Shop have been donated to organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House in Edmonton, the Soup Kitchen and the Youth Centre in Hay River. The contribution of the Thrift Shop have impacted many people throughout Canada as well as many of our northern communities.



Ed Jeske (left) receives his Respected Elder Award from MLA Bill Braden.

Ed Jeske, Yellowknife Respected Elder Award

Ed Jeske came to Yellowknife in 1958 and has been an active volunteer ever since. In 1964 he won the Good Sportsman Award. Mr. Jeske's efforts towards the formation of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society are very commendable. He has contributed greatly to the community through active participation in the Elks, Lions and Curling Clubs.

His dedication and commitment is an inspiration to all.

Dixie Penner, Fort Smith Outstanding Volunteer Award

Dixie Penner moved to Fort Smith 16 years ago. Since this time she has been a very active member in the community.

Her dedication to the Fort Smith Animal Society is most commendable, when at times she may be the lone voice advocating for animal welfare. She has worked closely with Town administration to establish a new facility for the animal shelter and a new dog by-law. Ms. Penner is currently treasurer for the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. She is also a member of the organizing committee for the South Slave Friendship Festival. Ms. Penner has also coached high school volleyball and has been a judge for territorial kayaking competitions.



Dixie Penner receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable Joe Handley.



Beverly Masuzumi, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Individual Award.

Beverly Masuzumi, Fort Good Hope – NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Beverly Masuzumi has been a volunteer since she was 15 years of age. She started helping out with spring carnivals, Dene Games and community feasts.

Ms. Masuzumi now takes on leadership roles as a Band councillor and board member for the local day care, the District Education and Housing Authorities.

For ten years Ms. Masuzumi has been an advocate for the bereaved, raising funds to bring family members home, making arrangements and ensuring families are provided for. Ms. Masuzumi has a positive outlook on life and a caring nature. She, and her husband Albert, live by the philosophy that the health and education of a community begins at home.

Yellowknife Food Bank, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Group Award

The Yellowknife Food Bank has been in existence since 1991. The strength and commitment of this small group of dedicated volunteers is led by Dave Ritchie. There are no paid staff and funds are spent entirely on the purchase of food. Volunteers buy the groceries, stock shelves, distribute and deliver food.

Despite the fact that Yellowknife has the highest employment rate in the country, the Food Bank serves up to 400 people. Volunteers solicit funds resulting in \$35,000 to \$40,000 worth of groceries being distributed annually.



The Yellowknife Food Bank's Dave Ritchie (right) receives the NWT Outstanding Group Award from the Honourable Vince Steen.

Brad Thomas Elkin Hall, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Brad Hall is a hard-working and thoughtful young man of 17. He has a strong history of volunteer participation while living with and overcoming the challenges of autism. His volunteer activities are an integral part in his life. This involvement provides him with a high degree of personal satisfaction and pride. When Mr. Hall takes on a project, he is very conscientious and shows strong loyalty to that organization. He is known to have a very positive outlook on life.

Mr. Hall has been a Big Buddy in school, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, helped with church bulletins, and is involved with Students Against Drunk Driving and Ptarmigan Ptheatrics. He is a grade 12 honours student at Sir John Franklin School.



Brad Hall, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Youth Award.



Stephen Rowan (right) receives his NWT Outstanding Elder Award from the Honourable Vince Steen.

Stephen Rowan, Fort Simpson NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Stephen Rowan is a strong member of the community in Fort Simpson, who leads by example. He really is a model citizen. He is persistent, well organized and committed. His many contributions are evidence of these qualities.

Mr. Rowan has offered ski lessons and led Jackrabbit skiing for the past 15 years. As an educator, he has provided library services and speakers at the John Tsetso Memorial Library.

With the Fort Simpson Historical Society, he has been a researcher and lobbyist while still finding time to give lectures and tours on the history of Fort Simpson.

Mr. Rowan honours and respects children. He is a role model for what it means to be a good citizen, demonstrating the values of literacy, culture, respect for the land and physical activity. Mr. Rowan has contributed greatly to the community of Fort Simpson.



Deleigh Rausch receives her Outstanding Individual Award from the Honourable Henry Zoe.

Deleigh Rausch, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Deleigh Rausch has contributed over 15 years to the development of Girl Guides in the Northwest Territories. Her belief in the potential of all girls and women has led her to the heart of the Girl Guide movement in the North.

She is well known in her community for her dedication and determination to give the girls a place where they can learn and grow. Ms. Rausch is currently the Territorial Commissioner responsible for membership and training, but her devotion goes well beyond this title.

Ms. Rausch is just as well known in smaller NWT communities for her tireless efforts in developing Guiding leadership.

Lillian Kristensen, Fort Smith NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Lillian Kristensen has been volunteering in Fort Smith since her arrival with her family in 1971. She participated in school programs when her children were younger, at community events like Canada Day and the Wood Buffalo Frolics. In addition, Ms. Kristensen almost single-handedly set up and operated an animal shelter for 15 years, using her own money and donations. Her amazing spirit has inspired others when she participated in events like the Cops for Cancer fundraising event. She is active in her church, twice travelling to Guatemala at her own expense to help build a school. Ms. Kristensen also provides a listening ear and support to the people of Fort Smith when they are in need.



Lillian Kristensen receives her Outstanding Elder Award from the Honourable Henry Zoe.

Aven Manor Entertainers, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Group Award

Dawn Lacey, Theresa Crane, Esther Braden, and Lew Delaney are the Aven Manor Entertainers. This musical group has been visiting the residents and staff of Aven Manor for more than ten years, to sing, dance and play their musical instruments with residents. Their infectious enthusiasm touches residents and staff and fills them with the joy of their music. In addition to smiling faces, the group provides residents with a regular opportunity to feel good.



Aven Manor Entertainers receive their Outstanding Group Award from the Honourable Henry Zoe.



Michelle Mandeville receives her Outstanding Youth Award from the Honourable Henry Zoe.

Michelle Mandeville, Fort Resolution NWT Outstanding Youth Award

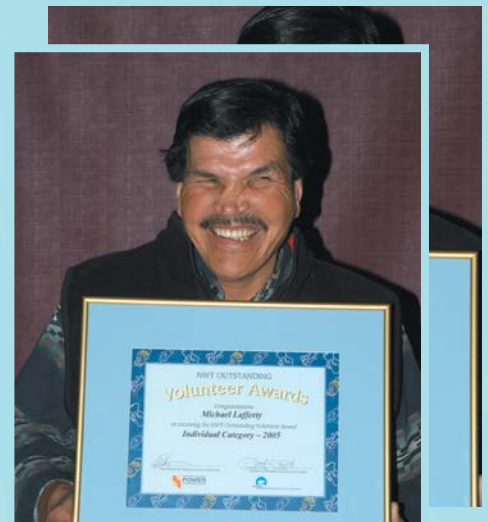
Michelle Mandeville is committed to making the Fort Resolution Metis Council office a better place for its membership, elders and youth. Recently she spent time at the Council office developing a new filing system and organizing archive material on the mapping of trails, cabins, trap lines and spiritual sites. She is a valuable community resource and helps out with community projects whenever she can. Ms. Mandeville is a generous person, good friend, sister, and niece, and most of all, an excellent role model for youth throughout the North.

2005

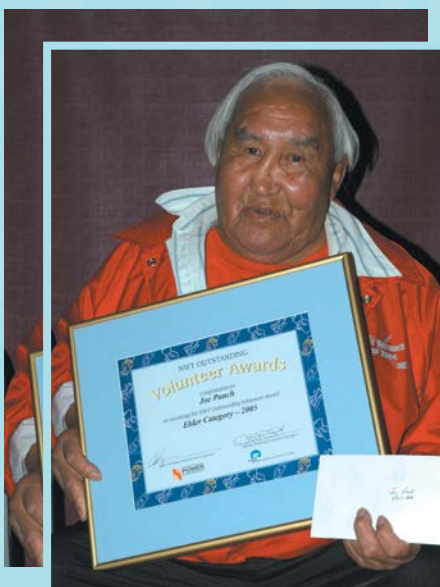
Michael Lafferty, Fort Resolution NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Michael helps elders chop, deliver and pile wood. He is always willing to offer a helping hand for community events, and helps the church and the people with funeral arrangements, specifically digging graves, burying and other duties. He is always willing to help the youth with activities. Michael pays particular attention to the elders and ensures that the elders' houses are free from snow and ice.

The community of Fort Resolution has benefited and continues to benefit from the relentless, unselfish dedication that Michael shows toward helping other community members in good or bad times. Michael is always first in line to volunteer, in any capacity.



Michael Lafferty, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Individual Award.



Joe Punch, Trout Lake NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Joe is well known in the community as a source of assistance and advice. He is very active in community workshops and is a positive promoter of such events. Joe can most often be found sharing his knowledge through stories with the youth of the community. He is also very much a part of community feasts and works to ensure all activities are well attended and everyone feels welcome.

Joe Punch, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Elder Award.

Brittany Scott, Fort Smith NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Brittany is only 11 years old and has taken a strong leadership role in her community. Her greatest involvement is with the Fort Smith Animal Shelter. She has raised money for the shelter through yard sales, a lemonade stand, donated birthday money, done neighbourhood yard work, and started a “Rodent Inn” where people with hamsters and guinea pigs can board their critters as well as a dog walking service (half of this money goes directly to the shelter).

Brittany has the ability to interest others and was a class representative on Student Leadership to raise money for the Tsunami relief at her school. She has helped raise money for the orphans in Uganda through a bottle drive. As a Spark, Brownie and Girl Guide, she has spent hours preparing goodies to bring to the elderly and the hospital.

Brittany has volunteered to train puppies at obedience school, clearing the shelter and walking strays at the shelter. Her deep love and devotion to animals is immeasurable.

Brittany has raised the awareness of her peers, friends, classmates and neighbours by performing these tasks without complaint. Brittany is an inspirational person for every age group.



Brittany Scott holds her NWT Outstanding Youth Award.



Doug Ritchie and Kevin Kennedy represent Ecology North, recipients of the NWT Outstanding Group Award.

Ecology North, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Group Award

The benefits of the work of Ecology North are many. They led a partnership with the community of Wha Ti to produce the first comprehensive Community Energy Plan in the NWT. They helped develop the first NWT environmental legislation in the 1970s, and have contributed extensively to city planning, solid waste management, and energy planning and recycling in Yellowknife. A volunteer organization of dedicated people, Ecology North continues to work hard on these and other issues for the good of us all.

Their work has influenced school programs and government policies. Mentorship on the NWT Economic Strategy Committee, the NWT Greenhouse Gas Steering Committee and the Yellowknife Solid Waste Management Committee reflects their involvement. They currently run two national programs – the One Tonne Challenge for Yellowknife, and the NWT-wide Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Research Network.



Barb Tsetso, Fort Simpson **NWT Outstanding Individual Award**

A true volunteer, Barb gives all of herself to her community. From assisting those with employment barriers to volunteering with the historic society, Open Sky Creative Centre, Cultural Community Traditions programs or her local church, Barb is the first to welcome newcomers to the community. Many individuals have found part-time and full-time employment as a result of Barb's work.

Barb Tsetso, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Individual Award.



Yellowknife Victim Services, Yellowknife **NWT Outstanding Group Award**

Volunteers of the Victim Services unit in Yellowknife significantly impact the lives of their community members. The volunteers provide support for individuals during traumatic times of an emergency. Providing information on community resources and supports while providing emotional support has a compounding positive impact on the community. The volunteers of the Victim Services unit also build a cooperative relationship between emergency service providers.

The volunteers of the Yellowknife Victim Services unit are Aaron Spitzer, Christine Raves, Dayle Handy, Gary Burt, Janice Davies, Jennifer Grant, Kirstin Prescott, Miki Ruth, Patricia Quiring and Wendy Lahey.

Dayle Handy, organizational representative of Yellowknife Victim Services.

Mary Kudlak, Ulukhaktok NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Mary demonstrates a strong willingness to keep her communities well, strong, healthy and whole. A member of numerous volunteer boards and groups, Mary is a leader who inspires others to enhance community well-being. Mary is involved in several boards and committees, including the District Education Authority, Hamlet Council, Tenant Relations, Justice Committee and the Elders' Committee.



Mary Kudlak, recipient of the
NWT Outstanding Elder Award.



Bhreagh Ingarfield, Nahanni Butte NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Bhreagh actively saves the lives of animals with the Nahanni Butte animal shelter. She is an active volunteer with various community-based traditional activities. Bhreagh is an excellent role model for her fellow youth.

Bhreagh Ingarfield, recipient of the
NWT Outstanding Youth Award.

2007

Pat Bobinski, Hay River NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Pat Bobinski's volunteer efforts began over forty years ago as a volunteer firefighter for the Hay River Fire Department. Through the years he has also been involved with the community Flood Watch Committee, the Ski Club and was one of the founders of the Hay River Shooting Club.

Pat has volunteered at many events and served in many volunteer positions from coach to the president of various volunteer associations. The efforts of Mr. Bobinski are recognized not only in Hay River but also by communities around the South Slave region and the entire Northwest Territories.



Mayor Gord Van Tighem and the Honourable Michael
McLeod with OVA Elder recipient Pat Bobinski.

Mike St Amour, Enterprise NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Mike Amour is characterized as a positive energetic individual who gives much of his time to the community by organizing indoor recreation activities and other events like carnivals and jamborees. He has volunteered as a chaperone for all three editions of the NWT Games and is responsible for starting the Junior Fire Fighter club in his community.

Mike's impact on Enterprise and Hay River youth is indescribable. He is a community leader and truly an outstanding individual and role model.



OVA Individual recipient Mike St Amour with Mayor Gord Van Tighem and the Honourable Michael McLeod.



OVA Youth recipient Harley Lang receives his award from Mayor Gordon Van Tighem and the Honourable Michael McLeod.

Harley Lang, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Harley is a grade six student at William McDonald School in Yellowknife. This amazing young person has been involved in a number of activities in support of fund raising for cancer research. To date, his efforts have resulted in over \$30,000 being directed towards this cause.

Harley also volunteers at his school by assisting new students during their transition period. He is a friendly considerate individual that is a positive role model for all youth.



OVA Group recipient St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Team representatives with Mayor Gord Van Tighem and the Honourable Michael McLeod.

St John Ambulance Therapy Dog Team, Yellowknife

NWT Outstanding Group Award

The St John Ambulance Therapy Dog Team is an enthusiastic group of volunteers who regularly visit the Aven Manor and Mary Murphy Senior Centers to bring residents the loving care of a pet dog. Seniors benefit from the love and attention of their adopted pets and regular visits by the Dog Team volunteers.

The Therapy Dog Team also assist with Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals walks and the Northern Tails program that provides reading assistance at the St Johns Kids Summer camp.

2008



Mabel Collinson holds her NWT Outstanding Elder Award.

Mabel Collinson, Yellowknife

NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Ms. Collinson has been dedicated to a number of events and organizations in Yellowknife over the past several years. She can be counted on to be involved in such activities as Canada Day, Senior's Day, Canada Multicultural Day and various events at the Baker Centre. She continues to remain involved and passionate about various activities and events, which have improved the lives of many Yellowknife residents.



Taylor Reid, Hay River **NWT Outstanding Youth Award**

Ms. Reid is a very busy Hay River resident. She is a coach in two sports, Co-President of the Diamond Jeness Secondary School Student Council, Food Bank Bingo Coordinator, SPCA volunteer... the list is endless. Ms. Reid is a role model for all residents of Hay River. She is positive, inspiring and dedicated to making her community a special place to live.

Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Inuvik **NWT Outstanding Group Award**

For over 40 years, the volunteers of the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary in Inuvik significantly impact the lives of their community members. This Group is involved with fundraising activities to provide financial support to many community groups such as the Inuvik Child Development Centre, the Inuvik Figure Skating Club, the Senior Citizen Association of Inuvik and countless youth groups and sport teams.



Eileen White and Corinne MacNeil - Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary with the Honourable Michael McLeod.



George Tsetso, Nahanni Butte **NWT Outstanding Individual Award**

Mr. Tsetso is known as a true volunteer in Nahanni Butte. Often times, you will find Mr. Tsetso assisting at the school, programming a youth activity, grooming ski trails or on the road with a group of youth heading to another community. Mr. Tsetso is a role model for everyone in his community and through his generous spirit; Mr. Tsetso has assisted and inspired many.

George Tsetso receives his Outstanding Individual Award from Bill Graham, Volunteer NWT President.

2009

Myles Erb, Norman Wells **NWT Outstanding Youth Award**

Over the past 4 years this young man has grown in to a leader in his community and within his peer group. He is always ready to lend a hand, whether it's coaching speed skating, volunteering at the Youth & Elders Centre, participating in the Canol Youth Leadership Hike or helping out with community Addictions Awareness and family violence awareness initiatives.

Myles has also represented Norman Wells and the Northwest Territories as an NWT Youth Ambassador at the 2007 Canada Winter Games. He also participated in the 2008 Activate National Youth Leadership Conference where he voiced his opinion on the Canadian Sport system, and on creating action plans to improve sport and physical activity for young people in Canada.

Myles continues to lead by positive example through his volunteering and active role with youth. He is the current Vice-President and a founding member of the Norman Wells Youth Committee. Myles future goals include pursuing a recreation degree and gaining more experience in the recreation field.



Lise Dolen accepts the NWT Outstanding Youth Award from the Honourable RC McLeod on behalf of her son Myles Erb.

Alana Mero, Inuvik

NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Alana Mero's name is synonymous with the word volunteer in Inuvik and the NWT. She dedicates countless hours to making her community a safer and healthier place to live. Some of her recent activities include: the Inuvik Justice Committee, Civil Air Search and Rescue Association, Inuvik Victim Services and Inuvik 50th Anniversary Committee. Alana has also been instrumental as Chair of the Inuvik Interagency Committee which assists other social based organizations with advancing their programs. Alana's more than two decades of volunteering makes her a very deserving recipient of this 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award.



Alana Mero recipient of the NWT Outstanding Individual Award with the Honourable RC McLeod and Mayor of Inuvik.



The Honourable RC McLeod awards Alfred Taniton the NWT Outstanding Elder Award.

Billy Joss Open Committee, Ulukhaktok

NWT Outstanding Group Award

For over 20 the community of Ulukhaktok has hosted the annual Billy Joss Open Celebrity Golf Tournament. The organizing committee is a small group of motivated volunteers who raise a significant of money to cover expenses, organize the tournament, invite and host celebrity sport figures and publicize the event across the north and Canada. The committee also supports other local programs such as Family Literacy, school activities and elder programs. In a small community such as Ulukhaktok, the Billy Joss Open Committee offers economic benefit, inspiration towards active living, pride in community, and pure enjoyment for residents and visitors.



Adele Okheena and Delma Klengenberg - Billy Joss Open Committee receives the NWT Outstanding Group Award from the Honourable RC McLeod.



Ruby Trudel recipient of NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Ruby Trudel, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Ruby Trudel was instrumental in developing Food Rescue, a Yellowknife based organization that rescues and re-cycles usable food from local Yellowknife businesses and donates it to charitable organizations around the city. These include school lunch programs, the Salvation Army, and the Centre for Northern Families and others.

In 2008 Ruby and others worked hard to encourage the Legislative Assembly for the Northwest Territories to pass the Donation of Food Act to encourage food suppliers to donate stale dated food products that they would normally discard. In 2009, the Food Rescue program diverted over 150,000 pounds of food to worthwhile local programs.

Bryan Nitsiza, Wha Ti NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Bryan Nitsiza has volunteered over 1000 hours of time in the last four years to help keep children and youth in Wha Ti active and busy with productive programs. Local kids look up to Bryan and listen to him.

Bryan is always ready to lend a hand to those in need; he dedicates time supporting community groups and organizations, and his super energy sparks and inspires others to volunteer. He is always making time for other people ahead of himself.

He is always positive and always has great ideas when it comes to events. The efforts Bryan puts forth are a wonderful indicator how much he cares for his community and its people.



Bryan Nitsiza recipient of NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Cheryl Hval, Fort Smith NWT Outstanding Individual Award

For over 25 years Cheryl Hval has been a key volunteer in the community of Fort Smith. She has left an indelible mark on countless young people as she coached, guided and mentored in activities such as curling, gymnastics and Guiding.

Cheryl's volunteer work has always provided long-term practical support and leadership in both coaching and administrative roles. As a volunteer Cheryl does not just provide opportunities for children to be active; she is a role model of community commitment and service to humanity. Cheryl's more than two decades of volunteering makes her a very deserving recipient of this 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Award.



Cheryl Hval recipient of NWT Outstanding Individual Award



Victim Services Volunteers, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Group Award

Yellowknife Victim Services Volunteers provide 24 hour emotional support, information and referrals to victims of crime and tragedy. For years these volunteers have continually worked to help their community become healthy and strong by supporting the vulnerable and victimized.

The Victim Services Volunteers ensure that victims of crime and tragedy are not alone. They walk with them throughout their crisis and work with them throughout their journey. We applaud your exceptional efforts as recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Group award.

Kristen Prescott and Kelley Weatherby - Yellowknife Victim Services recipients of NWT Outstanding Group Award



2010 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with Assistant Deputy Minister Sheila Bassi-Kellett

2011

Cappy Elkin, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Cappy Elkin is a role model for building inclusive communities. Retirement hasn't stopped her from tirelessly donating her time - 700 hours annually for the past six years as a driving force behind the Special Olympics Program in Yellowknife and the NWT.

As the Sport Program Coordinator, Cappy recruits athletes and volunteers in her efforts to expand the physical activity and sport opportunities available to individuals with disabilities. The impact of her work and her leadership is immeasurable and inspiring.



Cappy Elkin receives her Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Honourable RC McLeod



Hunter Gray, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Youth Award with the Honourable RC McLeod

Hunter Gray, Norman Wells NWT Outstanding Youth Award

This young man is a volunteer with a heart for caring and giving to others in need or who could use a helping hand. A grade 8 student in Norman Wells, Hunter volunteers extensively in events such as car washes, Christmas concerts, the breakfast program, and helps elementary students day to day at the Mackenzie Mountain School.

Hunter's volunteer work benefits the community too, where he often is found fundraising for a special cause, coaching minor hockey, sharing his fish catch with the elders, or shovelling someone's sidewalk. Hunter positive attitude and strong leadership make him the ideal outstanding youth volunteer.

Donald Finnamore, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Individual Award

For over ten 10 years in his capacity as president of the Yellowknife Lions Club Donald has helped raised funds to support organizations such as the CNIB, the Abe Miller Building, Boy Scouts and the Gymnastic Club. Donald is also a guiding force behind the annual Spook-a-rama which happens during Halloween and provides youth a safe & fun activity.

Donald is also an avid volunteer with the NWT Pipe Band for over 17 years. As their current Quartermaster he is responsible for all the band logistics. Donald can be found volunteering at literally hundreds of community events as a solo piper or member of the NWT Pipe Band. Donald is a dedicated volunteer clearly displaying his belief in service to his community.



Donald Finnamore, recipient of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award Individual with the Honourable RC McLeod

Northern Games Society, Inuvik NWT Outstanding Group Award

Northern culture including traditional games has existed since time immemorial but in recent memory a collection of Elders, resource people, recreation professionals and youth came together from across the Beaufort-Delta to create an annual showcase known as The Northern Games. This huge undertaking requires extensive planning, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and scheduling to host the traditional game contests, the best man/best woman contest, the cultural sharing workshops and the social entertainment, all on top of feeding hundreds of people!

For more than 40 years the Northern Games Society continues to exemplify volunteers who are passionate about what they do; their belief in northern culture and the importance of passing on traditions.



NWT Outstanding Volunteers Jeannie and Edward Lennie with the Honourable RC McLeod



2011 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with the Honourable RC McLeod

2012

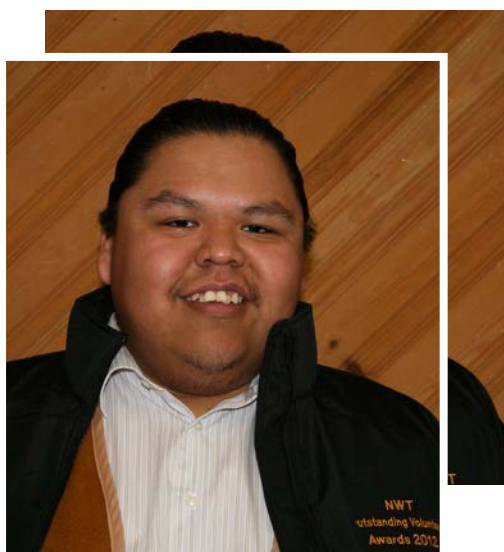
Yvonne Quick, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Since her arrival to the Northwest Territories in the 1960's Yvonne has continuously volunteered with numerous organizations such as the Arctic Ambassadors, the NWT Floatplane Association and the NWT Mining Heritage Society to name a few.

One of Yvonne's strengths as a volunteer is her ability to network and engage other community members and partners in volunteerism. She is a wonderful role model and an excellent recipient for the Outstanding Elder Volunteer award



Yvonne Quick recipient of the NWT Outstanding Elder Award



Marvin Apples recipient of the NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Marvin Apples, Behchoko NWT Outstanding Youth Award

This young man is a passionate volunteer with a heart for caring and giving to his community. When Marvin saw that Behchoko needed a place for youth to gather he began to volunteer his time to organize youth activities in a youth centre. For 7 years Marvin provided leadership & enthusiasm to a group of youth volunteers working together to provide positive opportunities to other youth. Marvin's positive attitude and strong leadership make him the ideal outstanding youth volunteer.

CIBC Run For Our Lives Committee, Yellowknife

NWT Outstanding Group Award

In 2005 the CIBC Run For Our Lives replaced the CIBC Run for the Cure in the Northwest Territories so that it would be possible for funds raised in the north to be invested in support of breast cancer and breast health programs and services needed in the Northwest Territories.

Since its inception this group has worked tirelessly to raise over \$1,000,000 and is responsible for purchase of a digital mammography machine, and for funding the Cancer Patient Navigator staff position at the Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Since the CIBC Run For Our Lives Committee formed, breast cancer awareness, treatment and diagnostics have improved significantly for all people in the Northwest Territories.



CIBC Run For Our Lives Committee - Wendy Anderson and Rebecca Alty recipients of the NWT Outstanding Group Award

Val Gendron, Fort Simpson

NWT Outstanding Individual Award

For over fifteen 15 years Val Gendron has been a constant presence volunteering in Fort Simpson where she is seen as a local Champion. A teacher, a coach, a mentor, and a fundraiser in the sporting community, Val is cheering on youth while advocating team play and participation. The memories, friendships, and life skills that Val unconsciously creates through her actions for her children and her athletes are truly the foundation for creating healthy and confident individuals.

This quote included in her nomination sums it all up. "Its people like Val Gendron who keep communities healthy, and Fort Simpson is a much better place because of Val's contributions."



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Individual Award recipient Val, Gendron



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with the Honourable RC McLeod

Ron Ogilvie, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Ron is selfless and modest person who always puts others before himself. There is no job too little or too big for Ron, he is always willing to lend a helping hand within a moment's notice. For many years, Ron has been an active volunteer with the Yellowknife Seniors Society and the YK2HR (the bike ride from Yellowknife to Hay River). For the last two years, Ron has also volunteered with the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation.

One of the ways Ron loves to help is by driving. With the Stanton Foundation, he frequently picks up event supplies and drops them off; with the YK Seniors Society, he offers rides to seniors whenever they need them; and with the YK2HR, he's the driving support for the bike ride from Yellowknife to Hay River.

Ron continuously encourages others to be healthy in body, mind and spirit. Ron also inspires the people around him through his community involvement and positive attitude towards life. Ron's love of people and altruistic nature make him an excellent recipient for the Outstanding Elder Volunteer award.



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with the Honourable RC McLeod

Alannis McKee, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Alannis is a kind-hearted young lady who continuously strives to improve the quality of life for members of her community. She has a passion to provide supportive and inclusive environments for people with disabilities. This is evident in her volunteer work with the NWT Disabilities Council, Special Olympics NWT and her school's Irish Inclusion Group. Alannis is also the founder and president of the Best Buddies Chapter in the North, a friendship program for youth with intellectual disabilities in the NWT.

Through the Youth Ministry, Alannis plans and runs monthly events offering youth a positive, alcohol and drug-free environment. Alannis is also determined to help preserve the Aboriginal culture, language and traditional ways. While living in Aklavik, she spent a lot of her time volunteering and advocating on behalf of the Elders. She is also a cultural sport facilitator with the Get Active NWT Program and a Traditional Games Demonstrator through the NWT Youth Ambassador Program.

Alannis is a positive role model for her peers and community. Alannis' compassion for others and her strong leadership abilities make her a deserving recipient of the Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award.



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Youth Award recipient Alannis McKee

George Koe Jr., Aklavik NWT Outstanding Individual Award

George is a resilient young man who has overcome many challenges and hardships. George consistently dedicates his life to serving others. He actively participates in his community of Aklavik by volunteering, and showing kindness and humanity to others. He asks for nothing in return except for kindness and respect.

George has been volunteering and helping out his fellow community members for many years. He helps wherever he finds there is a need and is always the first to lend a hand. George can be found on most days shovelling snow from steps of houses and boardwalks around Aklavik. His work shovelling snow has been recognized by community members for making Aklavik safer during the winter months. George is also active within the church community, where he plays musical instruments in church and helps out during church events. Furthermore, George frequently goes to the Health Centre and helps with any needed tasks.

George's kindness, cheerful demeanour and positive attitude brighten everyone's day. His selfless dedication to helping others and his community make George a deserving recipient of the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award.



George Koe Jr., 2013 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient

Children First Society, Inuvik NWT Outstanding Group Award

For over a decade, the Children First Society has worked tirelessly to establish a permanent state of the art childcare and child development centre in Inuvik. Over the years, volunteers have put in countless hours to reach agreements between service providers, design a building, and fundraise. The Children First Society has managed to raise an astounding \$5.8 million for the children of Inuvik through various events, funding proposals, dinners and fundraisers.

The tremendous efforts of the Children First Society have not gone unnoticed within the Territory and Canada. For example, the Children First Society participated in the Aviva Community Fund Campaign to access more money to help make the centre reality. The overwhelming support from their community, NWT and Canada, earned them a \$50,000 donation towards their playground.

This volunteer group has consistently and wholeheartedly kept early childhood education at the forefront with our community's leadership. The Children First Society is a powerful representation of a community together to support children and families, and is worthy of recognition for their volunteerism through the Outstanding Group Volunteer Award.



Children First Society - Paula Guy and Melinda Gillis recipient of NWT Outstanding Volunteer Group Award

Margaret Miller, Inuvik NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Margaret is a quiet and hardworking individual, who enjoys helping others and making a difference in her home community of Inuvik. She was a volunteer board member with the Great Northern Arts Festival for ten years, and continues to volunteer regularly at the Inuvik Food Bank and Arctic Paws. Over the past 12 years, Margaret has also run TV bingo's to fundraise for five different organizations: the Inuvik Food Bank, the Inuvik Preschool, the Great Northern Arts Festival, Arctic Paws, and the Inuvik Youth Centre. Margaret's volunteer efforts have had a profound impact on her community, and her altruistic work makes her a role model for many. In 2013, she was honoured with the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her commitment to helping others.



Margaret Miller, 2014 OVA Elder recipient

Mr. Edward Oudzi, Norman Wells NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Edward has been a dedicated volunteer with a strong impact on the youth of Norman Wells. He devotes much of his free time to teaching traditional skills, and helps organize the annual "On the Land" week-long school trip where he teaches hunting, fishing, and camp-making. Edward also makes himself available for classroom visits and has become both an educational and inspirational speaker. He is very open about his personal experience with residential schools, difficult family life, and past problems with addiction. However, he uses these challenges to teach life-lessons, and make a positive impact on the youth he interacts with. Edward's kindness, and level of influence on the Norman Wells community, is deep and long lasting.

NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award
recipients celebrating in Inuvik with
Premier Robert McLeod



Thomas Norbert, Tsiigehtchic

NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Thomas is always willing to lend a hand and help others in his home town of Tsiigehtchic. Over the past couple years; he has worked many hours volunteering as a fundraiser for community events such as Hand Game Tournaments, and the Spring Carnival. Whether raising funds through bottle drives and bake sales, or volunteering as the canteen supervisor, Thomas is committed to making each event a success. In particular, the Recreation Committee, the Hand Games Coordinator, and the supervisors of the Recreation Department all appreciate the hard work of this young volunteer. The community of Tsiigehtchic also takes pride in having such a generous and selfless community member. Thomas' positive influence is always welcome, and he has become a role model for many.



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Youth Award recipient, Thomas Norbert



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Individual Award recipient, David Taylor

David Taylor, Yellowknife

NWT Outstanding Individual Award

David is a compassionate and dedicated individual with over 20 years of volunteer service in Yellowknife. He first began volunteering for the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association in 1991, and is currently the Yellowknife Zone Commander, NWT Training Officer, and NWT Deputy Director. David has also played a major role in community groups including: the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective as a volunteer board member for over six years; the Yellowknife Speed Skating Club, where he has been a volunteer assistant coach for the past seven years; and the Scottish Country Dancing Club, which he and his wife Cindy have been organizing for over 15 years.

David is a volunteer whose kind-hearted, helpful nature has made him a truly valued community member. He has made innumerable contributions to the city of Yellowknife, and exemplifies the warmth and hard work of Northern volunteers.

NWT SPCA, Yellowknife

NWT Outstanding Group Award

The NWT SPCA is a 100% volunteer-run organization, which for several years, has been committed to improving the quality of life of companion animals across the North. Its impact is widespread, and its efforts remarkable. Through public education and program initiatives, this organization has had an extensive, positive influence on the lives of many. The NWT SPCA offers animal rescue and protection programs, adoption and fostering services, as well as an interest free loan for pet owners who cannot afford the expense of spaying or neutering their pets. Because of the tireless efforts of its volunteers, this organization has grown from a small group of dedicated individuals, to a nationally recognized animal rescue group that will continue to serve the North for years to come.



Premier Bob McLeod with Michelle Rees accepting the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Group Award on behalf of the NWT SPCA

Florence Barnaby, Fort Good Hope

NWT Outstanding Elder Award

Florence is a compassionate and hardworking individual, who enjoys helping others and making a difference in her home community of Fort Good Hope. She is always willing to lend a hand and constantly goes out of her way to help any community members in need. Whether sharing traditional food, interpreting medical visits or providing support to cancer patients and their families, Florence is not only committed to helping others, but also to contributing to a healthy lifestyle in the community.

She is very involved with the Elders Council, despite not being a member and is an especially strong advocate for on the land programs that strengthen the connections between elders and youth, as well as for elder abuse prevention. Florence's volunteer efforts have had a profound impact on her community, and her altruistic work makes her a role model for many



The Honourable Glen Abernethy and Florence Barnaby, 2015 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Elder Award recipient



The Honourable Glen Abernethy with Sandra Ipana and Greta Sittichinli - Muskrat Jamboree Committee the recipient of 2015 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Group Award

Muskrat Jamboree Committee, Inuvik

NWT Outstanding Group Award

The Muskrat Jamboree Committee is a non-profit group that fosters volunteerism and organizes events in Inuvik which nurture a strong sense of community and promote healthy active living. Each year, the committee spends countless hours organizing the Muskrat Jamboree: a four day festival that celebrates the return of spring with activities such as dog races, a community feast, jigging contests, ice chiselling, drumming and many others. The festival is always a huge success, generally attracting up to a thousand people to enjoy the games and events, and to support local vendors.

While the committee dedicate a lot of their time to the Muskrat Jamboree, these tireless volunteers are also responsible for organizing the Kiddies Carnival and countless fundraisers for important causes in their community. Every year, the committee raises awareness and provides financial support to one worthy group in the community. In the past years, the committee has donated thousands of dollars to worthy causes including: the Stanton Foundation, to upgrade their cancer suite; the Church of Ascension and the Igloo Church, to help offset the high heating costs; and the Warming Shelter. The Muskrat Jamboree Committee is a compassionate group of individuals, whose hard work and dedication have had a significant impact on the Town of Inuvik.

Renee Ekendia, Behchoko

NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Renee is always willing to lend a hand and help others in her home town of Behchoko. Over the past couple years; she has worked many hours volunteering for local sporting events such as volleyball tournaments and soccer tournaments. Whether coaching and chaperoning youth at away tournaments, or volunteering as security and the clean-up crew for community functions, Renee is committed to making each event a success. Renee understands the value of volunteering; she is always the first one to offer her help and is often found volunteering her time morning or night. The community of Behchoko takes pride in having such a generous and self-less community member and appreciates all the hard work of this young volunteer. Renee's positive influence is always welcome, and she has become a role model for many in the community.

Marilyn Napier, Fort Smith

NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Marilyn is an enthusiastic and dedicated individual with over 45 years of volunteer service in communities across the NWT. She first began volunteering at the age of 12 with the creation of a Recreation Club in Behchoko. Since then, Marilyn has played a major role in many organizations including: the Native Friendship Centre and Metis Association in Fort Smith and Fort Simpson where she held positions ranging from board member to President; the Native Women's Association of the NWT, where she was elected President from 1992-1997 and 2011-2013 and where she introduced the Sobriety Clause; and the Executive of the Native Women's Association of Canada, where Marilyn worked to increase public awareness on the issue of systemic violence against Aboriginal women.

Marilyn has also volunteered her time with the Native Women's Association's "Indigenous Women's Fund of Canada", the Union of Northern Workers, where she has volunteered for over 20 years and on the Status of Women Council volunteer board. The common threads in all of Marilyn's volunteering are her contributions to cross-cultural understanding in the NWT, her desire to help people live healthy, sober lifestyles, and her willingness to be a life-long learner, constantly taking on new challenges. Marilyn has significantly improved the quality of life in all the communities in which she has lived, from sharing her love of curling, to representing workers and taxpayers, to advocating for the rights of women and Aboriginal women. She has made enumerable contributions to various communities in the NWT, and exemplifies the warmth and hard work of Northern volunteers.



Marilyn Napier, NWT Outstanding Volunteer Individual Award recipient



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with the Honourable Glen Abernethy

Dave Kellett, Yellowknife NWT Outstanding Elder Award

A long-time resident and volunteer of Yellowknife, Dave has volunteered for the past 30 years or so; sometimes giving in excess of 500 hours of his time to help community events succeed. Dave has played a key role in numerous Non-Government Organizations and major annual events in Yellowknife. Some of these include Folk on the Rocks, Ramble and Ride and the Long John Jamboree, and more recently he has been working on an upcoming display at the museum celebrating the 30th anniversary of NWT House at Expo '86.

Dave's reach has touched the arts, sport and recreation, culture and heritage; he is always there behind the scenes dealing with logistics required in hosting events. He builds and maintains equipment and infrastructure, sets up, takes down and cleans event sites. His tireless volunteering has truly made a significant difference to the betterment of the City of Yellowknife. Dave embodies what it means to be a volunteer and he is very deserving of this Outstanding Volunteer Award.

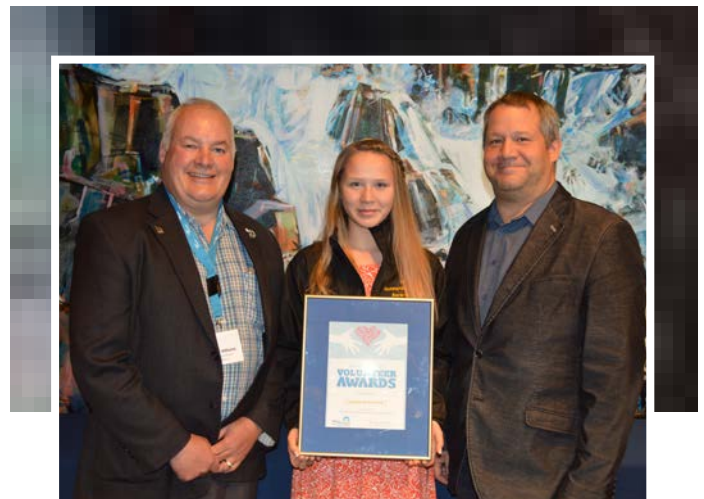


The Honourable Glen Abernethy and Dave Kellett, NWT Outstanding Volunteer Elder Award recipient at Folk on the Rocks

Leona Berreault, Fort Liard NWT Outstanding Youth Award

Introducing Ms. Leona Berreault from Fort Liard, our 2016 Outstanding Volunteer in the Youth category. Leona is a student at the Echo Dene School in Fort Liard where she has contributed over 100 hours of volunteer work in this school year alone. This is a pretty impressive number when you remember she still has all her school work to do! She works hard to do well in school and is constantly asking questions to better her understanding of concepts.

Leona has been moved around a lot this year, and has faced many challenges, but she has never given up on her goals, and keeps a positive attitude. Leona has been a constant support for her little sister, babysitting whenever she is needed and she finds a way to manage her busy schedule around this priority. She is regularly in charge of running Saturday movie nights for Fort Liard students. Leona has excelled at soccer this year and gives all she has to do her best. She has become a leader for her team. In her community, Leona has developed into a positive role model for others and can often be heard explaining the difference between paid work and volunteering to younger students she interacts with. Leona understands the value of volunteering and she is a wonderful representative of community minded spirit.



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Youth Award recipient Leona Berreault with Tom Williams and the Honourable Glen Abernethy



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Group Award recipient Kambaa Carnival Committee- Diane Tourangeau and Crystal Hope with Tom Williams and the Honourable Glen Abernethy

Kamba Carnival Committee, Katlodeeche NWT Outstanding Group Award

Kamba Carnival has been taking place for over 30 years. It is a family oriented and alcohol free event that residents look forward to every year. The carnival focuses on talent shows, dogsled races, northern skill competitions and dances. This annual community event in Katlodeeche helps improve the quality of life and foster cooperation between volunteers and business on the reserve and neighbouring Hay River. The carnival is a huge undertaking that requires dedication and hard work. This group volunteers each and every year to make sure the community has the opportunity to celebrate spring and have a lot of fun together

Charlene Blake, Tsiigehtchic NWT Outstanding Individual Award

Charlene hails from Tsiigehtchic where her 22 year history of volunteering began when she was just a child. Since then her commitment to the well-being of her community has led her to run or assist in a wide spectrum of program areas such as after-school homework programming, information sessions for mothers with small children, elder activities, and programs focusing on healthy lifestyle choices, recreational and traditional activities. Charlene has been instrumental and continues to organizing activities for the elders, the school children and the community. She plays a key role in organizing two annual Tsiigehtchic events; the Mackenzie Jamboree during the winter, and Canoe Daze in the summer. Her impact extends further into the community as she also volunteers with other organizations such the District Education Authority, and represents the Tsiigehtchic Recreation Committee at the Tsiigehtchic Charter Community Council. She is always willing to give a helping hand, offering leadership, guidance, and assisting those who are in need. Charlene has been described as an integral part of community undertakings and her influence has positively impacted the lives of community members as well as visitors.



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Individual Award recipient Charlene Blake with Tom Williams and the Honourable Glen Abernethy



NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients with Tom Williams and the Honourable Glen Abernethy

Summary Chart of Award Recipients

1991	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Jan Stirling , Yellowknife
1992	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Donald Clark , Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
1993	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Larry Gordon , Inuvik
1994	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Max Melnyk , Norman Wells
1995	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Helene Usherwood , Yellowknife
1996	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Peter Flaherty , Grise Fiord, Nunavut
1997	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Al Falconer , Yellowknife
1998	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Pat Bobinski , Hay River
1999	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Ann Kall , Yellowknife
2000	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Cappy Elkin , Yellowknife
		Meryl Falconer , Yellowknife
		Grace Mitts , Hay River
2001	Outstanding Volunteer Award	N/A
	Outstanding Community Organization Award	Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department
	Board Member Award	Juneva Green , Fort Smith
	Good Neighbour Award	Edna Dow , Hay River
	Respected Elder Award	Esther Braden , Yellowknife
	High Five Youth Award	Kristine McLeod , Inuvik
2002	Outstanding Volunteer Award	Dixie Penner , Fort Smith
	Outstanding Community Organization Award	Thrift Shop , Hay River
	Board Member Award	Dusty Miller , Yellowknife
	Good Neighbour Award	Lori Uhlenberg , Hay River
	High Five Youth Award	Janet Wong , Yellowknife
	Respected Elder Award	Ed Jeske , Yellowknife
2003	Outstanding Individual Award	Beverly Masuzumi , Fort Good Hope
	Outstanding Group Award	Yellowknife Food Bank
	Outstanding Elder Award	Stephen Rowan , Fort Simpson
	Outstanding Youth Award	Brad Thomas Elkin Hall , Yellowknife
2004	Outstanding Individual Award	Deleigh Rausch , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Group Award	Aven Manor Entertainers , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Lillian Kristensen , Fort Smith
	Outstanding Youth Award	Michelle Mandeville , Fort Resolution
2005	Outstanding Individual Award	Michael Lafferty , Fort Resolution
	Outstanding Group Award	Ecology North , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Joe Punch , Trout Lake
	Outstanding Youth Award	Brittany Scott , Fort Smith
2006	Outstanding Individual Award	Barb Tsetso , Fort Simpson
	Outstanding Group Award	Yellowknife Victim Services
	Outstanding Elder Award	Mary Kudlak , Ulukhaktok
	Outstanding Youth Award	Bhreagh Ingarfield , Nahanni Butte

2007	Outstanding Individual Award	Mike St. Amour , Enterprise
	Outstanding Group Award	St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Team , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Pat Bobinski , Hay River
	Outstanding Youth Award	Harley Lang , Yellowknife
2008	Outstanding Individual Award	George Tsetso , Nahanni Butte
	Outstanding Group Award	Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #220 , Inuvik
	Outstanding Elder Award	Mabel Collinson , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Taylor Reid , Hay River
2009	Outstanding Individual Award	Alana Mero , Inuvik
	Outstanding Group Award	Billy Joss Open Committee , Ulukhaktok
	Outstanding Elder Award	Alfred Taniton , Deline
	Outstanding Youth Award	Myles Erb , Norman Wells
2010	Outstanding Individual Award	Cheryl Hval , Fort Smith
	Outstanding Group Award	Victim Services Volunteers , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Ruby Trudel , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Bryan Nitsiza , Wha Ti
2011	Outstanding Individual Award	Donald Finnamore , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Group Award	Northern Games Society , Inuvik
	Outstanding Elder Award	Cappy Elkin , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Hunter Gray , Norman Wells
2012	Outstanding Individual Award	Val Gendron , Fort Simpson
	Outstanding Group Award	CIBC Run for Our Lives Committee , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Yvonne Quick , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Marvin Apples , Behchoko
2013	Outstanding Individual Award	George Koe Jr. , Aklavik
	Outstanding Group Award	Children First Society , Inuvik
	Outstanding Elder Award	Ron Ogilvie , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Alannis McKee , Yellowknife
2014	Outstanding Individual Award	David Taylor , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Group Award	NWT SPCA , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Elder Award	Edward Oudzi , Norman Wells
		Margaret Miller , Inuvik
	Outstanding Youth Award	Thomas Norbert , Tsiigehtchic
2015	Outstanding Individual Award	Marilyn Napier , Fort Smith
	Outstanding Group Award	Muskrat Jamboree Committee , Inuvik
	Outstanding Elder Award	Florence Barnaby , Fort Good Hope
	Outstanding Youth Award	Renee Ekendia , Behchoko
2016	Outstanding Individual Award	Charlene Blake , Tsiigehtchic
	Outstanding Group Award	Kamba Carnival Committee , Katlodeeche
	Outstanding Elder Award	Dave Kellett , Yellowknife
	Outstanding Youth Award	Leona Berreault , Fort Liard

