



For Immediate Release

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE AT ARCTIC CHANGE CONFERENCE

New AIP prize structure will award up to \$3 million
Two finalists in the running for \$1 million

Québec City, December 15, 2017 -- Last night at the [Arctic Change](#) conference in Quebec City, Kevin Kablutsiak, Executive Director of the [Arctic Inspiration Prize](#) (AIP) provided an overview of the two projects selected as finalists in the **\$1 million category** of the 2017 Arctic Inspiration Prize – **The Arctic Indigenous Wellness Project** and **From-the-Land – Food Ambassadors Program**. One of these teams will be presented with the \$1 million Arctic Inspiration Prize at the [Northern Lights Business & Cultural Showcase](#) in Ottawa on January 31.

The **Arctic Indigenous Wellness Project**, led by Dr. Nicole Redvers from Yellowknife is an urban land-based healing program for Inuit, First Nation and Métis at risk of suicide and/or incarceration that combines Indigenous cultural education with traditional therapeutic interventions in a wilderness urban setting. It aims to improve the mental health of individuals who are often left out of conventional support services by targeting factors that promote mental health and protect against suicide risk including identity, self-esteem, social support, and a sense of community belonging.

The From-the-Land – Food Ambassadors Program addresses Northern food insecurity by connecting people in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunatsiavut and Nunavik through an innovative “Northerner-tailored train-the-trainer” program that will empower food producers to share their knowledge of traditional wild food skills and sustainable domestic meat and vegetable production with people in the most isolated parts of the Canadian Arctic. Jackoline Milne of the Northern Farm Training Institute in Hay River will lead the project.

Under its new prize structure, the Arctic Inspiration Prize will award up to \$3 million this year. In addition to the one \$1 million Arctic Inspiration Prize, up to four \$500,000 prizes will be awarded to teams with smaller scale projects and up to seven \$100,000 prizes will be awarded in the youth category. **A complete list of the 2017 shortlisted projects is available [here](#).**

Earlier in the day, during Thursday’s plenary session, Kevin Kablutsiak, provided an update on 2017 AIP activities including the new prize structure that awards up to \$3 million in three categories including a category for youth teams.

And in a topical session about the Arctic Inspiration Prize, Kevin Kablutsiak provided an update on the AIP’s recent impact evaluation that examined how the prize has supported innovative, sustainable, multi-disciplinary projects that are making immediate and lasting positive impacts in Arctic communities. Conference delegates also heard from past Laureates who presented case studies of their winning projects including:

Eric Solomon, Shelly Elverum, Mia Otokiak, 2013 Laureates: Ikaarvik: Bridging barriers to Inuit youth engagement in locally relevant science and research

Kim Hurley, 2015 Laureate: BHENY: Better hearing in education for Northern youth

Trevor Bell, Joey Angnatok, 2016 Laureates: SmartICE

Heather Ochalski and Diane Obed, 2013 Laureates: The national strategy on Inuit education: National parent engagement initiative

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