



For Immediate Release

Eleven recipients receive Commissioner's Awards in Pond Inlet

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 20, 2015) – The Honourable Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut, awarded a total of eleven bravery, volunteer and community service, special skills and long service awards in Pond Inlet on April 15, 2105.

Bravery awards were given to two recipients: Nathan Ootoova and Jessie Peterloosie. Nathan Ootoova saved Jacobie Maktar when they were younger. Jessie Peterloosie rescued a drowning 12-year-old boy.

Volunteer and community awards were given to seven recipients: Sheati and Leah Tagak, Appia Qiliktee; Lizzie Simonie; Isaac Qiyuapik; Regilee Ootook and Rhoda Pewatualuk.

Sheati and Leah Tagak have been providing and sharing country food with everyone in the community for many years. Appia Qiliktee has volunteered numerous times for social events. Lizzie Simonie volunteers for different causes, including fundraising events. Isaac Qiyuapik, a 70-year old elder, has been volunteering since 1995 as the local radio announcer. Regilee Ootook has been a caregiver all her adult life. Now in her late 60s, she continues to be a safe haven for the children of Pond Inlet. Rhoda Pewatualuk has been volunteering to provide support for families during difficult times in Pond Inlet and Igloodik.

A special skills award was given to Gamailie Kilukishak. In 1946, he and his father, Qajaakuttuk, searched for a group of missing people, and they were successful.

A long service award was given to Ookookoo Quaraq. He has proudly served Nunavut and Canada for over 50 years as a member of Canadian Rangers.

“This was a very special ceremony in that it turned out that mostly Elders were recognized”, said Commissioner Edna Elias.

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