



Nunavut Commissioner presents awards in Baker Lake

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 9, 2018) – The Honourable Nellie T. Kusugak, Commissioner of Nunavut, presented humanitarian, volunteer/community service and bravery awards, special recognition plaques and the Sovereign’s Medal of Volunteers Award at a ceremony in Baker Lake on March 1, 2018.

Humanitarian awards were given to Paul Narkyagik, John Avaala, David and Winnie Owingayak Aquilla and Darlene Nukik-Amaruq, and David and Sheila Mariq.

Volunteer/Community awards were given to David Owingayak, Darryl Simailak, David Simailak, Justin Ukku Tanuyak, Steven Niego and Patrick Qaumak.

Bravery awards were given to Solomon Tulurialik, Elizabeth Alooq, Moses Akilak, David Simailak, Craig Simailak and Peter Etegyok.

Special recognition plaques were awarded to the volunteer fire fighters, the search and rescue, the Canadian Rangers, Baker Lake Minor Hockey Association and the Baker Lake Youth Athletic Association in honor of their support and commitment to their community.

On behalf of the Governor General of Canada, The Right Honourable Julie Payette, Commissioner Kusugak presented the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers to Elder Winnie Owingayak who played a significant role in developing *Tuhaalruuqtut*, Ancestral Sounds, an interactive exhibit of Inuit songs, legends and photographs on display at the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake. Her ingenious effort to preserve the Inuktitut language and the culture of Nunavummiut is also featured as part of the Virtual Museum of Canada.

For Immediate Release

“It’s always a pleasure and an honour to present awards to recipients. They deserve the recognition for their contribution to the community because they put others before themselves,” said Commissioner Kusugak. “The award ceremony in Baker Lake was also a wonderful opportunity to present the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers on behalf of the Governor General of Canada.”

Photographs and information on the award recipients is available on the Commissioner of Nunavut web site: www.commissioner.gov.nu.ca

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For more information, contact:

Martha Nowdlak
Executive Assistant
Office of the Commissioner of Nunavut
Phone: (867) 975-5120
Email: mnowdlak1@gov.nu.ca