

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

ACUNS



AUCEN

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
Association universitaire canadienne d'études nordiques

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Aurora College	University of Alberta
Cape Breton University	University of Lethbridge
Carleton University	University of Manitoba
Churchill Northern Studies Centre	University of New Brunswick
Concordia University	University of Northern British Columbia
Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)	University of Ottawa
Labrador Institute of Memorial University	University of Prince Edward Island
McGill University	University of Saskatchewan
Nunavut Arctic College	University of Victoria
Queen's University	University of Waterloo
Trent University	Western University
Université Laval	Wilfrid Laurier University
Université du Québec à Montréal	Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute
Université du Québec à Rimouski	York University
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Yukon College
University College of the North	

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES FOR NORTHERN STUDIES

For over thirty years the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) has successfully promoted the advancement of northern scholarship through its mandate and programs. Established in 1978, ACUNS is a registered charitable organization operating with an office in Ottawa, and active volunteer representatives at over 30 member institutions across the country. ACUNS' governing body is a Council of representatives from each member university, who meet annually to oversee the work of the Association. An elected Executive and Board of Directors are responsible for the activities of the Association between general meetings. As part of the Association's organization and communications strategy, each member institution appoints an individual as its ACUNS Council representative. Council members receive and distribute information from the Association and, in turn, represent their institution or organization at Association meetings.

VISION

Contributing to the well-being of Canada's North, its communities, and its inhabitants by sharing knowledge gained through leadership in northern research and education.

MISSION

ACUNS plays a leadership role in promoting a diverse and comprehensive understanding of the North through facilitation of collaborative research, knowledge mobilization and education.

Contact us:

ACUNS

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www.acuns.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/acunsaucen

Twitter: @ACUNSAUCEN

Executive Director: Jeanette Doucet, awards@acuns.ca / Tel: 613-820-8300 ext.100

Communications Specialist: Andrew Collicott, communications@acuns.ca / Tel : 613-820-8300 ext. 101

Message from the President

Some people are surprised to learn that the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) is a small organization. We have an office staff of two people joined by our part-time bookkeeper, Don Maher. Supporting them however, is a Board of Directors and Council of members from institutions from East to West to North. It is their experience and their knowledge we draw upon to shape our organization's initiatives.

2016 saw some changes at the office level. ACUNS moved from a shared office space with Polar Knowledge Canada to a new location in Ottawa South. We are thankful to CUPE local 4000, for having affordable office space with all the facilities ACUNS needs to operate effectively. We are also pleased to hire a permanent, full-time Communications Specialist, Andrew Collicott. We are looking forward to long term growth of the ACUNS team and its goals.

2017 will see ACUNS Executive Director, Jeanette Doucet, celebrate her three-year anniversary with us. Jeanette is exemplary in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Association and is a great asset in preparing for a series of meetings in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. ACUNS will meet with government representatives, Indigenous groups and research communities of the territories about Social Sciences Humanities and Health Sciences (SSHHS). These meetings will set the framework for offering targeted awards and scholarships in SSHHS, a vital area of study in the North.

ACUNS will work closely with our new CNST Chair, Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot, in upholding the gold standard in the adjudication process. I would like to sincerely thank Heather for accepting this responsibility. I would like also to acknowledge the volunteer work and dedication of all the CNST members which are essential to the ACUNS mission.

During the ArcticNet Annual Meeting in December 2016 in Winnipeg (MB), as the Chair of the Adjudication Committee for the Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research, I was honoured to introduce the W. Garfield Weston Foundation and the 2016 recipient of the award, Dr. John England. Dr. England has a career of over 50 years in the Canadian Arctic and is a strong advocate for the North. I invite you to read more about Dr. England in the annual report and join me in offering my congratulations to him.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Gary Wilson, ACUNS vice-president, and Dr. Audrey Giles, our secretary-treasurer, who's unwavering support I rely on as the Executive on the Board of Directors. My thanks as well to all the Directors who are engaged and passionate about the Association and its goals.

None of this is possible without the support of our membership. Each of you on the ACUNS Council allows us to strive for our Vision and Mission. You make it possible for us to continue to offer great opportunities to early career researchers across the country. You make it possible for us to promote a deeper understanding of the North. You make it possible for us to be a small, but mighty organization.

Thank you,



Monique Bernier
ACUNS President

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Dr. Monique Bernier
Institut national de la recherche
scientifique – Centre Eau, Terre
et Environnement

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University of Northern British Columbia

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University of Ottawa

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York University

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Brock University

Dr. Karla Williamson
University of Saskatchewan

STUDENT DIRECTOR

Élise Devoie
University of Waterloo

Canadian Northern Studies Trust

The Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) is the awards program of ACUNS. The CNST has provided more than five million dollars in scholarships and awards from Association endowments and annual donors in support of northern research since 1982. The Trust continues to be grateful for the generous support of our donors, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, the Northern Scientific Training Program (NTSP), Polar Knowledge Canada (PKC), and the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

Adjudication Committees 2017-2018

CNST Management Committee

Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot (Chair)

Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement,
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Ellen Avard

Director, Nunavik Research Centre, Makivik Corporation

Dr. Christine Barnard

Science Coordinator, Centre des études nordiques (CEN),
Université Laval

Dr. Chris Derksen

Research Scientist, Climate Processes Section, Climate Research
Division Science and Technology Branch Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Dr. LeeAnn Fishback

Scientific Coordinator, Churchill Northern Studies Centre

Amanda Graham

Coordinator/Instructor, Northern Studies, School of Liberal Arts
Yukon College

CNST Natural Sciences Committee

Dr. Nick Lunn (Chair)

Research Scientist, Environment Canada, Wildlife Research – West
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dr. Joël Bêty

Professor, Biology Department, Université du Québec
à Rimouski (UQAR)

Dr. Connie Lovejoy

Professor, Biological Oceanography
Université Laval

Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer

Professor, St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo

Dr. Gita J. Ljubicic

Associate Professor, Department of Geography & Environmental
Studies, Carleton University

Dr. Pat Maher

Associate Professor, Cape Breton University

Dr. Aynslye Ogden

Senior Science Advisor, Yukon Government

Dr. Milla Rautio

Professor, Canada Research Chair in Boreal and Polar Aquatic Ecology,
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)

Dr. Marianne Stopp

Historian, Archaeology and History Branch, Parks Canada

Dr. Rebecca Turpin

Team Lead, Strategic Planning, Science & Technology Program Polar
Knowledge Canada

Dr. Derek Mueller

Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental
Studies, Carleton University

Dr. Scott Lamoureux

Professor, Department of Geography, Queen's University

Dr. Mark Mallory

Associate Professor, Biology, Acadia University

Dr. Kimberly Strong

Professor, Department of Physics, University of Toronto

Message from the CNST Chair

As 2017 comes to a close, we start to look forward to the next CNST adjudication cycle. It is an exciting time of year as we are able to see the kinds of northern research new scholars are undertaking, and direct support to the very best ideas and projects. With almost \$1.4 million in awards, this is no small task or responsibility, and I am grateful to all of the CNST committee members for their contributions.

The CNST adjudication process is split into two parts, the Management Committee and the Natural Sciences Committee (NSC). The CNST Management Committee administers the Trust programs and adjudicates the student and early career researcher awards, as a whole. The Natural Sciences Committees adjudicates the short-listed W. Garfield Weston award applications for a range of scholarships in northern research and archaeology, generously funded by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

The adjudication process from the 2017-2018 awards cycle facilitated the awarding of \$1.3 million in financial support for early career researchers. We received 142 applications from academic institutions across Canada across all CNST Awards. The list of recipients is always an impressive list of individuals doing important work in the North.

Offering these amazing opportunities does not come without challenges. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation offers five awards in northern archaeology. Two Master's awards were granted, leaving one postdoctoral fellowship and two PhD awards unclaimed. We recognize the need to promote the awards as widely as possible to ensure that no opportunities like these are missed. We ask for your help in spreading the word to all your students and fellow early career researchers.

We are also thankful to Polar Knowledge Canada for funding a series of awards at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral level. We have eight Northern Resident Awards, for example, at \$5,000 each for undergraduate students from any discipline. Recipients of the Northern Resident Award must have lived in the North for eight years at some point in their lives. A full list of the awards and criteria is available on the ACUNS website.

None of this high-calibre adjudication would be possible without the dedication of everyone on the adjudication committees. They are a fine group of academics who volunteer their time to ensure the standard and the prestige of the awards are without peer. They do it for their passion for research and science in the North. And for that, I thank them.

Sincerely,



Heather Exner-Pirot, Chair
Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST)

W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (RENEWALS)



Jennifer Provencher

Acadia University

Pathways and effects of plastic-associated contaminants in Arctic seabirds



Laura Thomson

Simon Fraser University

Changing thermal regimes of mountain glaciers in a warming Canadian Arctic



David Yurkowski

University of Manitoba

Ecologically significant areas across the Arctic revealed by multi-decade Arctic marine mammal space-use patterns

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP \$50,000



Louise Chavarie

University of British Columbia

Great Bear Lake Polymorphism: understanding how northern biodiversity is generated and maintained within Canada's largest lake



Andrew Hamilton

University of Ottawa

Ocean forcing of tidewater glaciers in the Canadian High Arctic



Robert Way

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Implications of rapid shrub growth on permafrost environments in northern Labrador



Scott Williamson

University of Ottawa

Reconciling Arctic and elevational amplified warming using Canada's northern climate gradients

DOCTORAL AWARD \$50,000



Sophie Dufour-Beauséjour

INRS – Centre Eau Terre Environnement

From sea ice to radar: study of the link between radar satellite imagery and the characteristics of the ice cover of three bays in Nunavik



Marianne Falardeau-Côté

McGill University

Marine food web dynamics and ecosystem services in a changing Arctic Ocean



Brittany Main

University of Ottawa

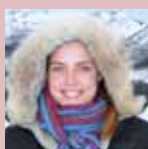
Glacier Surging in St. Elias Mountains Under a Changing Climate



Vaughn Mangal

Trent University

The Impact of Seasonal Variations on organic matter quality and Mercury Bioavailability along the Rapidly Changing Churchill River



Allyson Menzies

McGill University

Biologging Bioenergetics in the Northern Boreal Forest



Michael Palmer

Carleton University

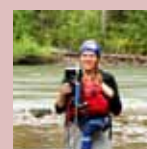
Seasonal investigations of recovery processes in Yellowknife area lakes from 50 years of arsenic pollution



Michael Peers

University of Alberta

Predicting the fitness effects of coat colour mismatch on snowshoe hares



Kara Pitman

Simon Fraser University

How do landscape characteristics affect water temperatures of tributaries feeding into major salmon migration corridors?



Emily Studd

McGill University

The Art of Surviving: Using activity to investigate the role of behavioural modification in a boreal predator-prey food web

W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research

MASTERS AWARD \$15,000



Aude Boivin-Rioux

Université du Québec à Rimouski

Meta-analysis of the structure of picophytoplankton and heterotrophic bacteria in the Canadian Arctic



Kevin Scharffenberg

University of Manitoba

Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Beluga Habitat Use in the Mackenzie Estuary



Maria Cavaco

University of Alberta

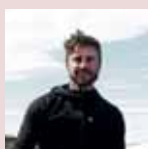
The Unseen: characterizing microbial community diversity and metabolic potential in a rapidly changing high Arctic watershed



Becky Segal

University of Victoria

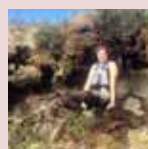
Integrating Remote Sensing and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to Identify Historical and Current Sea Ice Travel Hazards in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut



Gabriel Chiasson-Poirier

Université de Montréal

Hydrogeomorphic factors controlling the routing of surface and shallow groundwater flows in the Niaqunguk River watershed, Nunavut



Marianne Taillefer

Université Laval

Analysis of the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure from the effects of permafrost: the case of the Dempster Highway, Yukon



Jared Gonet

University of Alberta

Science to support pro-active management of Northern Mountain Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada



Gillian Thiel

Queen's University

Spatial controls on the biodegradability of soil dissolved organic matter in a High Arctic watershed



Stéphanie Guernon

Université du Québec à Montréal

The relationship between allochthony and the accumulation of methylmercury in zooplankton in lakes of the northwestern Arctic



Teresa Tufts

University of Calgary

Assessing Temperature Tolerance in Ninespine Stickleback in Response to Climate Change in the Arctic



Maureen Huggard

University of Victoria

Restoration in a northern context: Effects of inoculating *Alnus crispa* with locally harvested *Frankia* bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi



Evan Wilcox

Wilfrid Laurier University

Vulnerability of Western Arctic Tundra Lakes to Climate Change



Connor Mallory

University of Alberta

Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou habitat use and population ecology



Leah Wright

York University

Light level geolocation to measure the survival and reproductive success of Arctic nesting



Sean Murphy

University of Calgary

Hydrocarbon-Degrading Microorganisms in the Canadian Arctic Marine Environment: Community Composition and Optimization for Bioremediation

W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Archeological Research

MASTERS AWARD \$15,000



Gary Beckhusen
University of Saskatchewan
Moose Horn Caribou Fence Project



Jacinda Sinclair
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Revisiting Arvertok: A Reassessment of an Inuit Whaling Settlement

Northern Resident Award \$5,000



Brandon Drost
Yukon College
Will Electric Bear Fencing at Congdon Creek Campground Allow Tent Campers to Return?



Aja Mason
Yukon College
Evaluation of Bear Education Campaign Along the Skagway Road

Canadian Northern Studies Trust Scholarship \$10,000



Ezra Greene
University of British Columbia
Learning the land: An intergenerational study of Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit



Samantha Darling
McGill University
The role of capacity building in Canada's northern research policy

Polar Knowledge Canada Scholarship \$10,000



Megan Sheremata
University of Toronto
Inuit Knowledge of the Cumulative Impacts of Environmental Change in Eastern Hudson Bay



Dana Harris
Brock University
Determining the factors that influence the growth and cellular development of Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) in Yellowknife, NT

Dr. Jim McDonald Scholarship for Northern Research \$5,000



Caroline Ouellet
Université du Québec à Montréal
A critical analysis of the barriers and facilitators influencing access to traditional Indigenous medicines within the mainstream healthcare system



Rhiannon Klein
University of Saskatchewan
From Negotiation to Implementation: Aboriginal Modern Treaties in the Yukon, 1993-2013



Stephanie Pike
Wilfrid Laurier University
Policy, plans and processes for developing and improving the use of hazard maps in adaptation for remote Yukon communities



Cedar Welsh
University of Victoria
Past trends and future change in the hydroclimate dynamics of the Stikine, Skeena and Nass River basins in northern British Columbia

The W. Garfield Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research

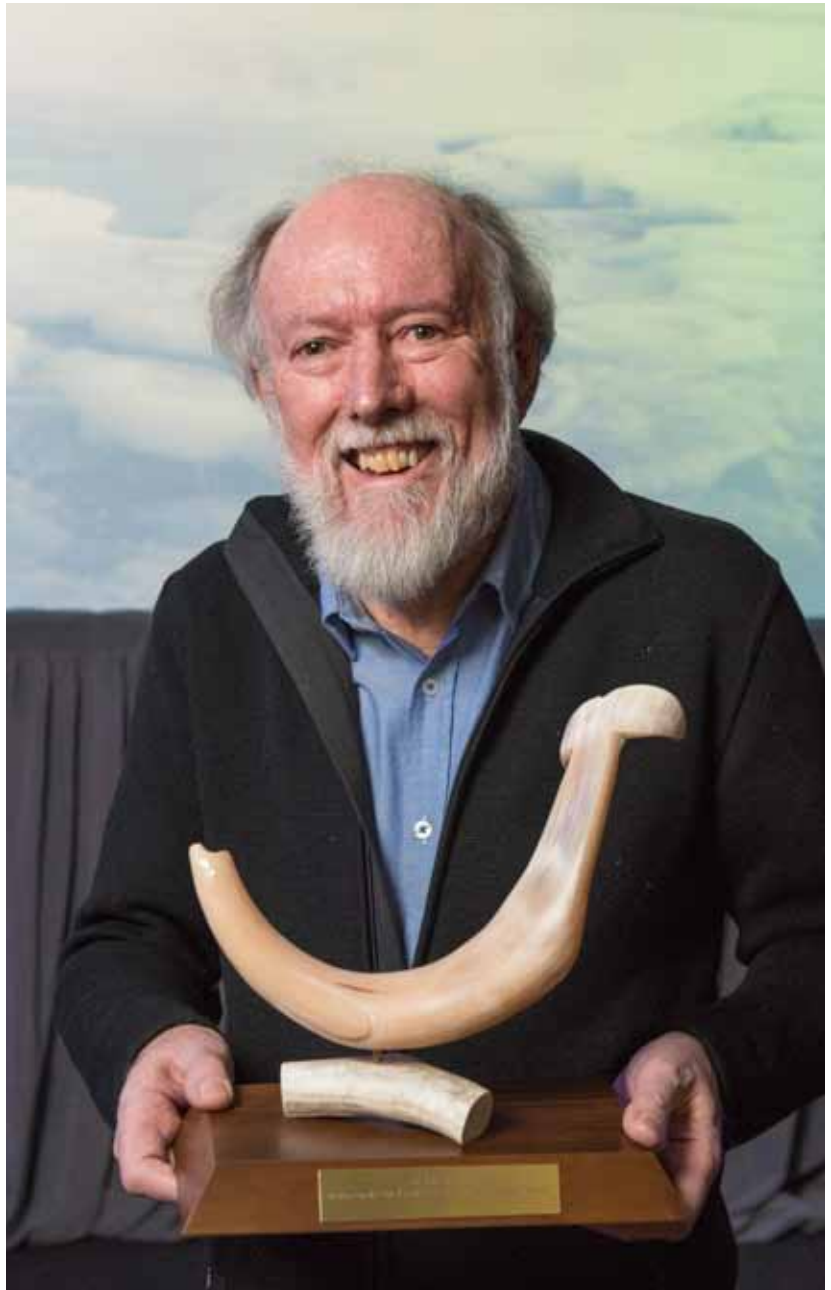
Dr. John England – 2016

"The first thing you do is fall in love with the place. Then you fall in love with the science."

Congratulations to Dr. John England, Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, winner of the 2016 Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

Dr. England conducted his research in the Canadian Arctic for 50 years. His research includes the reconstruction of ancient ice sheets, sea ice and sea level changes that provide the necessary context to understand the impact of modern climate change. Dr. England's findings led to a complete reassessment of the last glacial period in the western Arctic islands that has contributed new insights to international research in the Arctic Ocean.

In addition to his own research, Dr. England has been, and still is, a mentor and guide to early-career researchers in the Arctic and is a tireless polar advocate, promoting Arctic science, public outreach and education.



Dr. John England, the 2016 recipient of the Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research.

The \$50,000 Weston Family Prize recognizes a leading northern researcher in natural science and is the largest of its kind. It is administered and awarded by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS).

Auditor's Report

MCKECHNIE & CO.
Suite 500, 1390 Prince of Wales Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3N6

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors Association of
Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess of revenue over expenditure, and cash flows from operations for the year ended March 31, 2016, current assets and fund balances as at March 31, 2017.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies as at March 31, 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "McGill & Co".

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountant

Ottawa, Ontario
September 7, 2017

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2017

Assets	2017		2016	
	Core	Trust	Total	Total
Current				
Cash	\$ 101,724	\$ 458,987	\$ 560,711	\$ 336,149
Investments	26,999	252,617	279,616	334,955
Accounts receivable	23,272	2,377	25,649	40,799
Prepays	1,384	0	1,384	893
Interfund balances	156,035	(156,035)	0	0
Investments	309,414	557,946	867,360	712,796
	0	6,435	6,435	6,435
	\$ 309,414	\$ 564,381	\$ 873,795	\$ 719,231

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,254	\$ 6,569	\$ 12,823	\$ 6,125
Government remittances payable	2,508	0	2,508	1,543
Awards payable	0	178,328	178,328	210,952
Deferred university dues	13,500	0	13,500	4,500
	22,262	184,897	207,159	223,120
Fund balances				
Restricted	0	181,154	181,154	27,170
Endowment	0	198,330	198,330	198,330
Unrestricted	287,152	0	287,152	270,611
	287,152	379,484	666,636	496,111
	\$ 309,414	\$ 564,381	\$ 873,795	\$ 719,231

Commitments
 Subsequent events

On behalf of the Board:


 Director
 Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017		2016	
	Core	Trust	Total	Total
Revenue				
Government grants	\$ 76,000	\$ 0	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,000
University dues	48,000	0	48,000	36,000
Donations	0	1,492,048	1,492,048	1,074,801
Interest and other investment	201	1,945	3,623	6,074
National student conference	0	0	0	21,975
Project funding	35,000	0	35,000	0
Other revenue	0	0	0	5,222
	159,201	1,945	1,654,671	1,220,072
Expense				
Advertising	1,198	0	1,198	1,036
Awards expense	3,415	0	3,415	3,504
Bank charges	1,022	0	1,022	1,078
Computers and technology	6,321	0	6,321	4,859
Insurance	2,954	0	2,954	2,826
Meetings and conferences	13,706	0	13,706	24,550
Miscellaneous	215	0	215	102
Office supplies	762	0	762	2,062
Personnel	79,917	0	79,917	58,872
Postage	676	0	676	1,410
Printing and copying	4,080	0	4,080	5,499
Professional fees	39,864	0	39,864	28,350
Studentships awarded	0	10,000	1,246,500	1,125,000
Post (catorate) travel	0	0	63,208	53,548
Extended stay travel	0	0	26,836	0
Weston Family Prize expenditures	0	0	1,945	0
Studentships rescinded	0	0	(65,000)	(20,000)
Student conference travel	0	0	0	24,494
Rent	8,024	0	8,024	1,800
Telephone	1,710	0	1,710	1,249
Translation	9,032	0	9,032	7,265
Travel	27,761	0	27,761	14,281
	200,657	10,000	1,273,489	1,341,785
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expense for the year	(41,456)	(8,055)	220,036	(121,713)
Administration allocation	57,997	0	(57,997)	0
Interest allocation	0	8,055	(8,055)	0
Fund balances, beginning of year	270,611	196,330	27,170	496,111
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 287,152	\$ 198,330	\$ 181,154	\$ 666,636