

ACUNS 2020-2021 Award Winners Announced

Scholarships in northern research granted as fieldwork is grounded

OTTAWA, ON – June 16, 2020

The **Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS)** is pleased to announce the eleven recipients of the **2020-2021 ACUNS Awards and Scholarships** program. Their outstanding achievements and commitment to Canada's northern communities cover a vast landscape of interests from natural science to political science, health, culture, and education. Presenting this year's winners comes at an unsettling time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With travel bans and research plans cancelled for the summer, our award recipients face unprecedented challenges. The \$95,000 granted today through the **ACUNS Awards and Scholarships** program offers some hope and security during this time of uncertainty.

Congratulations to the recipients of the *2020-2021 ACUNS Awards and Scholarships*.

Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) Scholarship of \$10,000, awarded to:

- **Willow English**, PhD Biology, Carleton University
Project: Carry-over effects in Arctic-breeding shorebirds: a cross-species comparison

Polar Knowledge Canada POLAR Scholarship of \$10,000, awarded to:

- **Abigail Dalton**, PhD Geography, University of Ottawa
Project: Identifying iceberg sources, drift patterns, and potential risk in Canadian waters
- **William Twardek**, PhD Biology, Carleton University
Project: Assessing the fate of returning upper Yukon River Chinook Salmon

POLAR Northern Resident Scholarship of \$10,000 awarded to:

- **Rebecca Canam**, PhD Geology, Simon Fraser University
Project: Structural evolution of the western margin of the South Rae craton, Northwest Territories
- **Erika Hille**, PhD Geography, Queen's University
Project: The geochemical responses of Arctic freshwater systems to regional variability in permafrost thaw across the Canadian Arctic
- **Moya Painter**, M.Sc. Geography, University of Ottawa
Project: Formation and drainage of glacier dammed Donjek Lake, Yukon
- **Jamie Snook**, PhD Public Health, University of Guelph
Project: Co-management and pathways for Inuit Wellbeing
- **Krista Zawadski**, PhD Cultural Mediations, Carleton University
Project: Qatiktalik: Nexus of Colonial Encounters

POLAR Northern Resident Award of \$5,000, awarded to:

- **Melina Tessier**, BA Northern Sciences, Yukon University

Project: Grounded in the North - Enhancing mechanisms of accountability for the extractive industry in Yukon

- **Christopher Yurris**, BA Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University
Project: Incumbent defeats in the Northwest Territories

Dr. Jim McDonald Scholarship of \$5,000, awarded to:

- **Anne-Marie Turcotte**, PhD Social and Cultural Analysis, Concordia University
Project: The Sound of breaking glass - Investigating an act of property destruction committed by Nunavimmiut youth

For more information about the winners, including their photos and for descriptions of our awards, please visit the ACUNS website: www.acuns.ca

“ACUNS recognizes the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has made on students. For northern studies scholars, whose research projects involve on-the-ground collaboration within Canada’s Arctic and sub-Arctic communities, summer is the critical time to get work done. The season may be lost this year, but academic ambitions should not be abandoned. We hope our scholarships will provide the means of support to help our recipients reach their goals.”

- **Gary N. Wilson, President of ACUNS**

“Polar Knowledge Canada congratulates the recipients of the POLAR Scholarship, the Northern Resident Scholarships, and the Northern Resident Awards. It is both a responsibility and an honour for POLAR to help support the next generation of northern researchers, and especially during these unprecedented times. We wish these outstanding students continued achievement and fulfilment as they develop their skills and help increase knowledge and understanding of Canada’s North in all its dimensions.”

- **David J. Scott, PhD, President and CEO of Polar Knowledge Canada**

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About ACUNS: The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies is a national, non-profit academic association. The *ACUNS Awards and Scholarships* program offers up to eighteen prizes each year to Canadian post-secondary students in support of northern research in all disciplines. Award recipients must demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to northern communities. Since 1982, ACUNS has supported hundreds of students, educators, researchers and scientists in collaborative and ethical research, knowledge-sharing, and education. Please visit: www.acuns.ca

About Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR): POLAR is a federal agency responsible for advancing Canada’s knowledge of the Arctic, strengthening Canadian leadership in polar science and technology, and promoting the development and distribution of knowledge of other circumpolar regions, including the Antarctic. Since its inception in 2015, POLAR has been a sponsor of the ACUNS awards program. Please visit: www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge.html

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