



For Immediate Release

Fifteen recipients receive Commissioner's Awards in Hall Beach

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 29, 2016) – The Honourable Nellie T. Kusugak, Commissioner of Nunavut, awarded a total of fifteen bravery, volunteer and community service, search and rescue, special skills, humanitarian and youth recognition awards in Hall Beach on February 19, 2016

Bravery awards were given to six recipients: Susan Simonie saved her five kids when their house caught fire in 2009; James Kukkiq, Isacci Angotautok and Solomon Qanatsiaq spent seven days on a moving ice floe; Simeonie Kaernerik spent days at the floe edge searching for the walrus hunters who were stranded on the moving ice, and Isaac Nangmalik found the hunters about 80 miles south of Hall Beach and rescued Isacci Angotautok.

Volunteer and community awards were given to four recipients: Joseph and Gemma Piialaq spent days and nights by their VHF radio to help searchers find the hunters who were stranded on the moving ice floe; Abraham Oolalak is very involved in his community – sharing country food, searching for lost hunter, teaching survival and hunting skills, and helping out the men's healing/support group; Anne Curley has been a community volunteer for many years, even breaking unfortunate news to families when they lose a loved one.

A search and rescue award was given to David Issigaitok who in 1949, at the age of thirteen, spent seven days searching for five people – only two survived.

Special skills awards were given to two recipients: Enoki Irgittuq and Solomon Qanatsiaq's special skills helped them find two hunters who were missing for eight days in 1994.

A humanitarian award was given to Jopie Kaernerik; in 2008, he administered CPR to a woman at the health centre when her heart stopped and she stopped breathing.

A youth recognition award was given to Miranda Qanatsiaq for her involvement in various youth committees. She is a very good role model for youth in Hall Beach and other communities.

“Hall Beach was the first community visit since my appointment as Commissioner of Nunavut, and I thank Amittuq MLA George Qulaut for inviting me. It was a pleasure and an honour to present awards to the recipients. They deserved the recognition for their contribution to their community, because they have all put others before themselves. I hope it helps them heal. We celebrated their leadership, which shows who they are and what they did,” said Commissioner Kusugak.

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