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NEWS RELEASE

Monday, May 6, 2024 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE NUNAVUMMUITS RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO RECREATION RECEIVE CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

IQALUIT – The <u>Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN)</u> is proud to announce that at the <u>Canadian Parks And Recreation Association's (CPRA)</u> Annual General Meeting, held in Montreal on April 30, three Nunavummiuts and a Tri-Territorial training program were recognized for their contributions to the Canadian recreation sector.

Annually presented to individuals, organizations and corporations who demonstrate a high level of commitment, passion and leadership on a national level to the parks and recreation sector, this year's recipients from Nunavut included: **Dawn Currie**, outgoing RPAN Executive Director; **Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq**, Recreation Director, Hamlet of Igloolik; and **Kimberley Young**, Senior Administrative Officer (SAO), Kugluktuk and President, RPAN; along with **Recreation North**, the tri-territorial training program.

CPRA President's Award of Distinction - Dawn Currie, Iqaluit, NU/Kingston, ON

Awarded to those with a history of long-term service and commitment of individuals to the parks and recreation sector on a national scale in Canada, Currie has been instrumental in growing and providing quality programming for youth and children across Nunavut through training and employment opportunities over the past 12 years.

As RPAN's original Executive Director, Currie oversaw the growth of RPAN from its infancy in 2012, to an association that has become the voice for community recreation and youth employment in Nunavut, reaching more than 25,000 youth since inception, and 1,500 youth annually through its programs.

A relentless champion of recreation and sport, children and youth, and physical, mental and social health, for the past 33 years, Currie's work has been felt across the country through her work with RPAN, Nunavut Soccer, Speed Skating Canada and the Sport and Recreation Division of the Government of Nunavut.

CPRA Emerging Leader Award - Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq, Igloolik, NU

Residing in Igloolik, Arnatsiaq joined the Hamlet's recreation team as a coordinator in 2019 where his skills and dedication were quickly recognized by his community as he was nominated and named RPAN's Recreation Leader of the Year.

Arnatsiaq has taken his passion in recreation to deliver meaningful, impactful programs, elevating RPAN's Get Happy Summer Day Camp program and adding the Winter After-School and Camp program to the community's recreation schedule to keep children active and busy after school and during the winter break.

In September 2022, Arnatsiaq enrolled himself in Recreation North's training program, the tri-territorial program, becoming part of an elite group of Nunavummiut to successfully earn his Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership. Not satisfied, Qumangaapik attended the Motivate Canada Youth Summit in Vancouver and Halifax in each of the past two years and has enrolled in advanced learning events with Recreation North that will see him earn his Certificate in Northern Recreation Management this spring.

CPRA Award of Merit - Kimberley Young, Kugluktuk, NU

Awarded to individuals, organizations and community groups in each province and territory who have influenced the parks and recreation sector on a local, regional and/or national level, Kimberley Young has done that for more than thirty years.

In 2015, Young moved to Sanirajak where she led the recreation department, quickly elevating the community's programs to engage residents with a variety of initiatives. Two years later, she was recruited to lead and grow community services in the role of Senior Administrative Officer (SAO).

Now living in Kugluktuk as SAO, she's helped to provide several recreation coordinators with mentorship and training support to elevate recreation in her community. In 2018, Young joined RPAN's board as VP of Finance and ascended to President last year. She continues to work tirelessly to ensure funding is available to deliver quality programs in her community and across Nunavut.

CPRA Partnership Award - Recreation North

Awarded to recreation sector partners whose collaboration, creativity and innovation enrich individual health and community well-being and enhance Canada's parks and recreation community, which describes the Recreation North training program.

Delivered through a pan-territorial partnership between the three territorial recreation and parks associations, with the ongoing support of the territorial governments and the 2015 Arctic Inspiration Prize, the Recreation North training program has become an invaluable tool to help individuals to develop confidence and the relevant competencies among recreation leaders in rural, remote, and northern communities.

With a common vision to reduce barriers and strengthen the capacity for recreation across the North, "Rec" North has reached 68 communities and more than 270 individuals in 5 provinces and all 3 territories since launching a few short years ago. It has, and will continue to improve the education, employability, and lives of individuals to contribute to better, healthier and more active communities through the programs they deliver.

About the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) is a national organization dedicated to realizing the full potential of recreation and parks as a major contributor to community health and vibrancy. Our members include the 13 provincial and territorial recreation and parks associations and their extensive networks of service providers in over 90% of Canadian communities.

About the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut

The Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN) is a not for profit organization dedicated to advancing the recreation sector by broadening the knowledge and experience base of our members and advocating for the value and benefit of leisure and recreation opportunities for all. Incorporated in 2010, our goal has remained constant; to positively impact the health and wellbeing of Nunavummiut through the recreation sector. We are committed to supporting and building healthy communities by developing and promoting recreation.

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