

CITIZEN RECOGNITION PROGRAM SELECTED RECIPIENTS

October 21, 2015

SELECTED NOMINEES

Nominee Name	Reason for Nomination	Rationale
Malja Najmi-Beauchamp	- Grade 12 student at Father Mercredi High School; part of the Registered Apprenticeship Program as an Instrumentation Technician at Suncor Energy - Completed the YMCA Leadership Program - Volunteer for: Girls Inc., Santa's Anonymous, Canadian Mental Health, United Way, The HUB, MACOY, Jump Rope for Heart, Roses for the Elderly, Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, WinterPLAY, Communities in Bloom, Western Canada Summer Games, Canadian Cancer Society, Science Fair, Festival of Trees, Northern Lights Health Foundation - Academic achievements include: Daughter and Flower of the Year, 2015 Great Kids and Arts Guild Awards, Science Fair and Horse Breeding Awards and represented the RMWB at the Provincial Baking Skills Canada - Role model with excellent time management and a strong work ethic - Facilitated a program to encourage girls (8 – 13) to share thoughts, ideas and life expectations - Advocate for those who have been bullied - She counsels kids who have suicidal thoughts - Raised over \$2,225 on her own for various social programs	These 8 Nominees most exemplified the qualities and objectives of the program. Full, well-rounded nominations. Consensus of the committee.
Regina Oppon	- Pastor of Family Christian Centre - Board member for the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo - Executive Director of Rehoboth Alliance - Involved with Fort McMurray African Association - Organized local International Day celebrations bringing different people, nations, cultures and demographics together - Instrumental in the establishment of the local Black History Month events - Works with multicultural expo, cross-cultural parenting, racial discrimination, housing first summer camps, soccer academy, among others - Works with women and youth to empower them to know their potential and talents - Educates the community of cultural differences and diversity	

		• Current projects are an Immigrant Women's Academy and a Daycare Centre
Tania Dashevich	• Founder & Chairperson, Lake Athabasca Youth Council & Experiential Learning Initiative (which gives Elders and community members the opportunity to learn, teach and be together through cultural, traditional and academic opportunities that are land-based and community based) • Committed to the holistic well-being of Fort Chipewyan and especially the youth • Teacher, Board Member & Volunteer, Athabasca Delta Community School • AA organizer • Heart & Soul goes into the well-being of others • Mentor to young and new staff at the school • Cared for and supported the school and community through 2 recent teen suicides • Mentors local youth to speak at regional events • Encourages cooperation and collaboration over competition • She has become a bridge across several communities in the region encouraging other adults to step up and encouraging youth to listen to what they have to say	
Candace Sturgess	• Anzac Community member, local business owner, volunteer & coach • Coaches Junior High Boys Volleyball Team • Lead the first Grad Committee at Bill Woodward School • A true champion for youth and helping them become productive citizens • Organizes local track & field days • Donates items from her local business • Mentors and guides local youth in work experience opportunities • Volunteers with Lil' Lakers & Scouts • Engaged with the Roots of Empathy program • Leads a Ladies Volleyball Recreation League team in Fort McMurray • "With 3 children under the age of 10, she still makes volunteering a priority"	

Bill Bertschy	• Worked with Big Brother Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo's Full Circle Mentor program • Created and lead the Maskwa Legacy Project for Western Canada Summer Games Opening & Closing Ceremonies (this project involved 138 community members coming together to build 10 ceremonial drums and to learn to drum and sing in Cree and Dene) – Bill will present the drums to 7 schools with the 7 sacred teachings • Initiated the first urban sweat lodge since 2000, allowing hundreds to practice traditional aboriginal sweat lodge ceremonies • Built the first live Medicine Wheel in Fort McMurray • Shares his teachings at the treatment centre • Assisted with the development of the TOTAL Aboriginal Interpretive Trail at MacDonald Island Park • An Elder in the most traditional sense of the word, sharing his experience, his knowledge and his wisdom freely with everyone. • A person for all people, any race, any religion and any culture.	
Dutche Ionnetti	• As a long term resident, he is one of the region's biggest cheerleaders and is passionate about giving back to the community • Volunteer Director of Operations with Fort McMurray Minor Baseball • Donates time and money to help make his community a better place to live • Role model for the community and baseball • Strategic role in upkeep and maintenance of 2 local ball parks • Always available to assist and help out the club and the kids • He exemplifies how someone can contribute to the community by volunteering	
Kelli Stewart	• Dance instructor at MacDonald Island Dance Academy • Always looking for ways to improve the community (SPCA fundraiser, local performances at community events, Sock Hop for Centre of Hope, etc.) • Teaches her dance students about anti-bullying, kindness, respect, social diversity and acceptance • She has the ability to make kids open up and feel comfortable • Role model and mentor for hundreds of children in the region • When asked why she stays in Fort McMurray her response is "Because Fort McMurray is magic"	

Sana Elache	• Has lived in Fort McMurray for 10 years • Joined Leadership Wood Buffalo Board in 2006 • Active community volunteer, inspiring others, through workshop facilitation and leadership skills, to share her passion to make positive change • Member of the 2015 WCSG Bid Committee • Instrumental in the implementation of FuseSocial, a backbone organization merging three non-profit groups • Member of Social Prosperity Wood Buffalo Steering Committee • President of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo • Instrumental in launching the Heart of Wood Buffalo Awards Program recognizing and celebrating excellence in the social profit sector • Her focus has always been improving the well-being of our community	
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NOT SELECTED AS RECIPIENTS

Nominee Name	Reason for Nomination	Rationale
Alichia Googoo	- Provides free dance program for youth at YMCA - Teaches self-confidence, discipline, respect, and a healthy self-image - Ensures the class is open to all community members (not just YMCA members) - Empowers children	Although an excellent contribution over the past few months, the Committee noted the limited timeframe, scope and depth of involvement
Darrel Peters	- Chief Pilot at Phoenix Heli-Flight, successful real estate agent and local business owner - Developed and heads up the Local HERO Foundation - Regional ambassador and advocate when travelling abroad - Unwavering commitment to Fort McMurray's growth and sustainability - Flies the water buckets to battle forest fires in the area	Limited scope – some work related
David Hutchinson	- Volunteer Chair of Transportation for the WCSG - Local bottle drives, community events - Involved in community since Junior High - Volunteer Committee for the Northern Kickoff and the Food Bank - Always ready to volunteer and give back to the community	Limited scope – little impact on community – more on events
Doug Brown	- Member of Enjoying Fort McMurray Group - Volunteer for Community clean-up, SPCA and various community events/programs - Purchased 20 bikes at the Bike auction and donated them to charities - Collect bottles/cans for donation to charities - Always going above and beyond	Limited scope
Eric Tevely	- Head coach with Fort McMurray Minor Hockey League - Implemented cost saving efforts and team building opportunities whenever possible - Owner & President/COO of Inner City Diesel Ltd. who sponsor extra ice time and teams - Ensures kids feel welcome, included and supported - Always available to assist kids and parents	While worthwhile contributions, the Committee noted the limited scope (hockey)

Filipino-Canadian Association of Fort McMurray	• The group maintains their heritage and culture of being Filipino • They partner with local community events by volunteering and performing • Provide local support and awareness to the Philippine Embassy with the passport renewal outreach program • Assist immigrants to find a home away from home and build a local community of support for cultural transitions to a new country	Limited scope – within their own culture
Fort McMurray Filmmakers Association	• Build capacity of local emerging and professional filmmakers while increasing the profile of arts sector beyond Wood Buffalo • Offer learning opportunities and screening events i.e., Film Fear, WinterREELS, National Film Day • Introduced and coordinated the Fort McMurray International Film Festival for 5 years, attracting top-caliber national and international submissions, while elevating local works. • Role models in supporting the arts in our community • Showcase collaborative leadership through partnerships with industry and non-profits	Narrow scope – small sphere of influence
Joanna Torguson	• Founder & President of the Fort Mac Handcrafter's Market • Local teacher & artist • Coaches and mentors local artists and crafters on getting established and promoted • Gives 110% and encourages others to do the same • Has created a community of artists who share and grow together	Narrow scope – not broad enough
Kelsey Ellingson	• Born leader with strong goals in school and sport • Best overall student of the year, honor roll and athlete of the year • Took part in the FC Edmonton Soccer camp and was invited to join the Fort McMurray Fury team for the Alberta provincial championships • Role model, mentor and tutor to younger students • Volunteered for Eagles Nest Bible Camp, Spring clean-up, Canada Day and Heritage Day festivities • Invited to attend the National Aboriginal Awards in Winnipeg • Involved in her First Nations heritage - member of the Aurora Spirit Dancers • Lake Athabasca Youth Council worker	Although excellent contribution the Committee noted more student activities – limited compared to other youth nominated

Mallaz Najmi-Beauchamp	• Alumni of MACOY • Member of Student Association of Keyano College; and Student Mental Health Committee • Always assisting others • High achiever with exceptional marks and fantastic interpersonal skills • Hosts study groups with classmates which resulted in becoming employed as Peer Tutor at Keyano College • Great advocate and role model • Great Kids Award of Alberta recipient in 2014 • Selected to participate in the Minister's Student Advisory Council • Led many fundraising and community projects •	While excels as a student/advocate for education the Committee noted the scope/focus was not broad enough
Mario Bordon	• Created Fort McMurray Smash Bros Community (video game group helping youth and young adults meet new friends through video games) • Assists individuals suffering from social anxiety to get out into a social environment, which helps build self-confidence • Personally covers all costs associated with events and gatherings • Role model in community; proven hard work, effort, dedication, determination, initiative and trying new things • Creating a sense of belonging for those involved in the group	Limited scope – meets certain group (gaming)
Michelle Thorne	• Program Manager, Arts Council Wood Buffalo • Former Artist Educator, Learn Through the Arts Program • Raised in Fort McMurray • Award winning theatre artist • Volunteers for Keyano Theatre • Mentor, Keyano Theatre Drama Force camp and Westwood High School, developing young talent in the region • Co-founder of Theater: Just Because • Attracts collaboration and partnership	Limited scope – too narrow (arts/drama)

Samra Ilyas	• Supervisor & Acting Manager of Alberta Works • Compassionate and empathetic • Goes above and beyond to support nominator with medical issues and housing concerns • Islamic School Council Chair, Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board Secretary, YMIM Magazine “Career Advice” Columnist, Founder of Collaborative for Religious Inclusion • Volunteer for Adopt a Road, Food Bank, Northern Lights Sisters Association and various community events • Builds a culture of inclusion and respect • Respected by staff and team • Provides tools for success while removing unnecessary barriers to accomplishing goals	Limited scope – more work related
Sarah Neiman	• Raised in Fort McMurray, returned after school • Artist Educator and Trainer, Learning Through the Arts • Program Designer & Lead Vocal Instructor, Triple Threat Program • Treasurer & Music representative, Arts Council Wood Buffalo • President, Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association • Vocal Coach, UpTown! Music • Director, UpTown Winter Gala • Westwood Improv Team Alumni • Shares her abilities with anyone who crosses her path	More work related – arts based
Seville Kwan	• Secretary & Past President, Fort McMurray Social Dance Club • Co-organizer, YMM Young Urban Professionals • Nominee of the 2014 Public Service Distinction Award by the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce • Volunteer with Fort McMurray Food Bank, Fort McMurray Air Show • Connecting community members together to turn ideas into actions	Limited scope – too narrow