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FAIRS



News Release – Immediate Release

NWT Student Uses Modern Technology to Study Historic Aboriginal Land Claim *Video to Debut in Ottawa*

A decades old historical land claim treaty in the Northwest Territory is being revisited through the marvels of modern technology. Julienne Chipesia, a student at East Three Elementary School, interviewed elders from her Inuvik community and explored the lives of her grandparents to delve further in to the Gwich'in land claim treaty.

Her digital project has landed her a starring role in a national history competition and will be one of four videos that will be showcased at the Canada's History Forum in Ottawa this November 18th in conjunction with the Governor General's History Awards. Chipesia will also be invited to a special reception at Rideau Hall on November 19th. Chipesia's insightful video is part of the Young Citizen's program which is organized by Canada's History.

This year's program is dedicated to encouraging students to celebrate the centennial of the Canadian Arctic Expedition (1913-1916). Students from across Canada interviewed important people in their community and filmed short videos on historical milestones that matter most to them about their connections to themes relating to the history of Canada's north. For a view through the lens of all their videos, visit www.YoungCitizens.ca

Other recipients include:

Nicolas Cain – Vancouver, BC – *Sir Samuel Steele*.
Cynthia Pelletier – St. Pascal, QC – *Les légendes inuits (Inuit Legends)*.
Helena Kantowicz – Vancouver, BC – *The Dark Legacy*.

Honourable mentions include:

Emelyne Boals – Kingston, ON – *The Inuit: Myth and Legends*.
Jonathan Iijangiaq – Repulse Bay, NU – *Surviving the North*.
Jake Leslie – Middle Musquodoboit, NS – *Mi'kmaq Culture*.
Emily Mittertreiner – Vancouver, BC – *Search for the Northwest Passage*.
Ève Pelletier – St-Pascal, QC – *Les changements climatiques (Climate Change)*.

Deborah Morrison, CEO and Publisher of Canada's History Magazine remarked, "Through this program, our kids are connecting communities across Canada, empowered with more confidence in their own historical knowledge and have a heightened enthusiasm about our country's history."

The 2013 Young Citizens: Expedition North video project is generously supported by Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, as well as the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Youth Take Charge program. This interactive project encourages students from Grades 4 to 11 to research and film videos on Canadian heroes, legends and key events of the Arctic Expedition.



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"It's encouraging to see young people sharing and deepening their knowledge of Canada," said Jan Belanger, Assistant Vice-President, Community Affairs for Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life. "We hope our support for the Young Citizens program will help participants gain the insights they need to become responsible and engaged citizens."

The Governor General's History Awards bring together students, teachers, historians, museums and community organizations, writers and media producers to celebrate as well as learn from each other. The day prior to the award ceremonies, recipients will participate in a public history forum at the Canadian War Museum. This year's forum, exploring how technology is changing Canadian history, is open to the public to attend onsite or online by registering at www.CanadasHistory.ca/HistoryForum.

About Heritage Fairs

Heritage Fairs began as a pilot community project in Winnipeg in 1993 and has today grown to involve over 110,000 students each year in schools-based and regional exhibitions in more than 100 communities across Canada. Solely driven by a network of volunteer teachers and community history organizations, the program benefits from funding support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life for national coordination by Canada's History Society and the Young Citizen's video component.

About Canada's History Society

Canada's History Society is a national charitable organization devoted to popularizing Canadian history. In addition to presenting the Governor General's History Awards and publishing *Canada's History* (formerly *The Beaver*) magazine, as well as *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, the Society also produces a number of educational and online programs to encourage more discovery, celebration, and understanding about our rich history and culture. More details can be found at CanadasHistory.ca

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