



# Celebrating Canada's nature leaders: Finalists announced for the 2021 Nature Inspiration Awards

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OTTAWA, Sept. 23, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada's national museum of natural history and natural sciences, is pleased to announce the finalists and the Lifetime Achievement recipient for its 2021 Nature Inspiration Awards. The 24 finalists will be celebrated and winners announced during an online ceremony hosted by the museum on November 24.

These nature leaders—ranging from individual youth and adults, to not-for-profits and community groups, to sustainable businesses—show leadership through innovative projects that connect Canadians with the natural world.

Their efforts cover broad initiatives that encompass biodiversity and conservation, environmental education, and sustainable practices. Among the finalists are youth who advocate for clean water and healthy aquatic environments, as well as adults who galvanize others to protect ecosystems and to conserve species. Not-for-profits show leadership in education to preserve and promote biodiversity, and the protection of habitats by engaging the community. The businesses being recognized show innovation with the development of “green” products, as well as environmental stewardship programs.

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community of Mulmur. He has dedicated his time and personal financial resources over 20 years for planting initiatives and environmental education about native maple trees. Through his Maple Leaves Forever Foundation, about 130,000 native maple trees have been planted in Ontario, in partnership with nurseries and local municipalities—reinforcing the importance of native species to healthy ecosystems.

"These awards are taking place at a time when the pandemic is reminding us how much we need a responsible connection to nature for our health and wellbeing," says Meg Beckel, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature and Chair/ex-officio member of the selection jury. "All the finalists have something to offer through their innovations, leadership and engagement. We congratulate each of them and look forward to sharing their achievements through our national Nature Inspiration Awards."

The museum is grateful for the support of presenting partner, Facebook; media partners The Globe and Mail and The Walrus, and award sponsors for each category. They are the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (Youth); BDO Canada LLP (Adult); Ontario Power Generation (Not-for-Profit, small to medium); Polar Knowledge Canada (Not-for-Profit, large); Nasco Building Cleaning Inc. (Community Action) and The Mosaic Company (Sustainable Business).

The jury included Shelley Ambrose, former Executive Director/Co-Publisher, The Walrus; Caitlyn Baikie, Education Policy Advisor, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Carolyn Beaty, Director of Granting, The Sitka Foundation; Kevin Chan, Senior Global Director and Head of Public Policy, Canada, Facebook; Philip Crawley, Publisher, The Globe and Mail; Dolf DeJong, CEO, Toronto Zoo; John Geiger, CEO, Royal Canadian Geographical Society; Danika Goosney, Vice-President, Scholarships and Fellowships, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council; Geoff Green, Founder and Executive Director, Students on Ice Foundation; and Erica Thompson, Senior National Director, Conservation

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reduction group, Victoria, British Columbia

- **Jessica Liu**, entrepreneur and creator of KelpNet (biodegradable fishing net), Oakville, Ontario
- **Autumn Peltier**, environmental activist for clean water, Ottawa, Ontario
- **Sarah Syed**, youth scientist with bioremediation using polymers, Toronto, Ontario

#### Individual category (aged 18 and up)

- **Cheryl Alexander**, photographer, filmmaker and activist for wolf conservation, Victoria, British Columbia
- **Melissa Hafting**, mentor for youth and inclusivity in birdwatching, Vancouver, British Columbia
- **Lisa Mintz**, community organizer for environmental conservation, Montreal, Quebec
- **Sonya Richmond**, nature advocate through expedition on Trans-Canada Trail, Sechelt, British Columbia

#### Not-For-Profit category (small/medium organization)

- **Canadian Whale Institute**, whale disentanglement and conservation, Welshpool, New Brunswick
- **eButterfly**, tracking of butterfly biodiversity through citizen-science, Ottawa, Ontario
- **SmartIce**, monitoring of sea ice with Indigenous communities, St. John's, Newfoundland
- **Watersheds Canada**, restoration and conservation of freshwater shorelines, Perth, Ontario

#### Not-For-Profit category (large organization)

- **Canadian Wildlife Federation**, Wild Outside leadership program for youth, Ottawa, Ontario
- **Niagara Parks Commission**, floral art along the parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- **Royal Botanical Gardens**, ecosystem stewardship and conservation, Burlington, Ontario
- **Sheridan College Institute of Technology**, native gardening to restore biodiversity, Etobicoke, Ontario

#### Community Action

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,



- **Li-Cycle Corp.** innovative technologies for battery recycling, Mississauga, Ontario
- **tentree**, sustainable clothing and tree-planting program, Vancouver, British Columbia
- **Whistler Blackcomb**, practices towards a net-zero operating footprint, Whistler, British Columbia

### About the Canadian Museum of Nature

Saving the world through evidence, knowledge and inspiration! The Canadian Museum of Nature provides evidence-based insights, inspiring experiences and meaningful engagement with nature's past, present and future. It achieves this through scientific research, a collection of 14.6 million specimens and artifacts, education programs, signature and travelling exhibitions, and a dynamic web site, **nature.ca**.

### Information for media:

Dan Smythe

Head, Media Relations

Canadian Museum of Nature

613.698.9253

[dsmythe@nature.ca](mailto:dsmythe@nature.ca)

John Swettenham

Vice-President, Marketing and Public Affairs

Canadian Museum of Nature

613.868-8277

[jswettenham@nature.ca](mailto:jswettenham@nature.ca)

### Related Links

- [The Canadian Museum of Nature announces finalists for the 2021 Nature Inspiration Awards. These are youth, adults, not-for-profits from across Canada who show leadership in connecting Canadians with nature through their innovative projects and programs.](#)

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