UPINNAQTUQ AWARD
To celebrate and be proud of a person's accomplishments
Nunavut Law Foundation

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Nunavut Law Foundation Announces the 2026 Upinnaqtuq Award Winners

October 2026 – The Nunavut Law Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Upinnaqtuq Awards, recognizing four exceptional young people whose leadership, dedication, and commitment are making a positive difference in communities across Nunavut. Established in honour of Justice Beverley Browne's enduring legacy, the awards celebrate the remarkable potential and achievements of Nunavut's youth.

This year's recipients have demonstrated leadership in many different ways: mentoring younger youth, volunteering in their communities, promoting Inuit culture, excelling in athletics, supporting their peers, and serving as positive role models. Together, they represent the diversity, strength, and promise of Nunavut's next generation.

The 2026 Upinnaqtuq Award recipients are:

- **Trisha Killiktee** – Pond Inlet
- **Henri Lagacé**– Iqaluit
- **Tamera Manning** – Iqaluit
- **Wasi Rahman** – Iqaluit

Celebrating Leadership and Community Impact
The Upinnaqtuq Awards recognize a broad spectrum of contributions, from leadership in academics and sports to community service and cultural preservation. These youth have shown exceptional dedication, whether through mentoring their peers, preserving Inuit traditions, excelling in athletics, or leading community initiatives. Their stories of perseverance and achievement are an inspiration to all.

“These awards have allowed the Foundation to recognize and showcase how youth across our Territory are inspiring in their everyday life, whether in their community, at school, in their activities. Many of these youth, that we have come to know for over a decade, have overcome challenges that bring hope as they build their future, one step at a time.” Nalini Vaddapalli, Foundation’s Administrator since 2011.

A Legacy of Inspiration
The Upinnaqtuq Awards, meaning 'pride and celebration' in Inuktitut, were created in 2011 to honor the vision of Justice Beverley Browne, who believed deeply in the potential of Nunavut's youth. This year's awardees continue this legacy by embodying the spirit of service, leadership, and community engagement that Justice Browne championed.

Each recipient has received a certificate and a gift in recognition of their accomplishments. Recipients were selected from nominations submitted by educators, coaches, mentors, and community members from across Nunavut. The Nunavut Law Foundation extends heartfelt congratulations to the winners and thanks the families, teachers, coaches, mentors, and communities whose encouragement helps young people thrive. The Foundation also thanks everyone who participated in the nomination process, helping to shine a light on the positive contributions of Nunavut's youth.

For more information about the Upinnaqtuq Awards or the Nunavut Law Foundation, please visit www.nunavutlawfoundation.ca or contact Nalini Vaddapalli at administrator@nulf.ca.

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About the Nunavut Law Foundation:
The Nunavut Law Foundation is a non-profit organization funded by the Law Society of Nunavut, representing all lawyers practicing law in the territory. Its mission is to support and promote the knowledge of law and the administration of justice in Nunavut.

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