Northern Researchers Making a Difference in Arctic Communities

Meet the 2021-2022 Recipients of the ACUNS Awards Program

For immediate release

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The message is clear. In northern Canada, the impact of climate change is amplified at nearly twice the rate of the global average. The warnings are overwhelming but there is a generation of students engaged in northern studies who are deeply committed to making a difference. Three student researchers are the recipients of the 2021-2022 Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) Awards. Their studies underscore the importance of Indigenous-led knowledge-sharing and the connection between natural and social sciences in northern communities. The ACUNS Awards Program supports inclusive, collaborative research that responds to northern needs and priorities. Please join ACUNS in congratulating the following recipients.

**Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) Scholarship of $10,000, awarded to:**

**Andrea Hanke**, PhD, Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

*Project: Inuit-academic partnerships: Listening to harvesters to improve caribou conservation*

**Dr. Jim McDonald Scholarship for Northern Research of $5,000, awarded to:**

**Rachel Singleton-Polster**, MA, Geography, Simon Fraser University

*Project: Accounting for the full costs of caribou habitat restoration*

**Gunther Abrahamson Research and Management Award of $2,000, awarded to:**

**Allison Clark**, Master of Sustainability, Brock University

*Project: Tracking Holocene and recent tree-line change using sedaDNA and remote sensing techniques, Northwest Territories*

“Resourcefulness, responsibility, and respect are qualities that distinguish this year’s award winners,” said ACUNS president of the Board of Directors, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox. “Faced with restrictions and a ban on travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, these recipients demonstrated remarkable perseverance under challenging situations. They described how they adapted their fieldwork and community outreach efforts by staying true to their science and focused on the well-being of northern communities. They are beacons of northern research, and their integrity will serve them well in their future endeavors.”

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**About ACUNS:** The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies is a national, non-profit academic association, established in 1978. ACUNS responds to needs and priorities in the territories and provincial north by facilitating collaborative and inclusive research partnerships and educational programming, most notably through our student conference and awards program. Since 1982, ACUNS has supported post-secondary students and early-career researchers in diverse disciplines of northern studies who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to northern communities. To mark the 40th anniversary of the **ACUNS Awards Program**, two new scholarships have been announced. Competition closes on January 31, 2022. For details please visit: acuns.ca

**For more information, please contact:**

Jeanette Doucet  
Executive Director, ACUNS  
awards@acuns.ca

Facebook: @ACUNSAUCEN  
Twitter: @ACUNSAUCEN  
Instagram: @acunsaucen