

2015-16

URock Volunteer Award Selection Board



Annual
Report

Message from the Selection Board

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board's 2015-16 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements established in the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 entity. The Selection Board is responsible for reviewing all qualified URock nominations and selects the top ranking candidates for the annual URock Volunteer Awards. The Selection Board operates as an independent decision-making entity in fulfilling this objective.

A 2013 survey by Statistics Canada found that 46.4 per cent of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians 15 years of age or older volunteer, the national average was 43.6 per cent. In total, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians volunteered about 30.2 million volunteer hours or an average of 151 hours of unpaid time each year. The URock Awards recognize the value that youth volunteers contribute to the social and economic well-being of our communities.

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board assists the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to strengthen its relationship with the voluntary and non-profit sector through its work in seeking to recognize the contributions of youth volunteers. The 2015-16 Annual Report covers the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Selection Board membership terms expired on March 31, 2016 and a new board will be selected prior to the 2017 URock Awards Show.

My signature below is on behalf of the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board which is accountable for the results reported in this annual report.

Sincerely,



Des Dillon
Board Member
URock Volunteer Award Selection Board

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1. Overview

The URock Volunteer Awards highlight and recognize the important role young volunteers and youth-led organizations play in making their communities healthier and happier places. The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board (Board) is responsible for reviewing nominations and selecting recipients of the URock Volunteer Award. The Board is appointed by Cabinet and is currently comprised of eight individuals from across the province; four males and four females. The Board does not have a designated chairperson given the independent nature of each member's required activities. When necessary, the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) convenes and facilitates meetings to support the Board's deliberations and selection of award recipients. The decisions made by the board are reached by consensus.

The Board does not have a budget nor does it oversee any type of public funds. The OPE provides administrative support to the Board and assists members with their duties as needed.

Due to a change in direction, the URock Volunteer Award show will now be held biennially, rather than annually. Therefore, the Board will only be active biennially to fulfil their mandate to select qualified recipients for the URock Volunteer Awards. The next show will be held in 2017-18.

Information on the URock Volunteer Award, nomination criteria and past recipients can be found at <http://www.urockvolunteerawards.ca>.

2. Mandate

The mandate of the Board is to select up to eight qualified recipients for the URock Volunteer Awards. The Board may also make suggestions on policies and criteria that guide the selection process.

3. Primary Clients

The OPE is the primary client of the Board. The Board undertakes the independent task of providing the OPE with up to eight qualified recipients for the Awards recognition event.

4. Vision

The vision of the Board is to strive for a fair and meritorious selection process recognizing the most deserving nominees every year.

5. Report on Performance

Issue One: Selecting the Annual URock Award Recipients

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board is mandated to select the Award recipients. The Board may choose up to eight individuals 30 years of age or under and/or youth-led non-profit groups. The nomination process is administered by the OPE which also assists the Board with its administrative needs. This objective below supports the recognition of community volunteers, thereby strengthening the relationship between government and the voluntary and non-profit sector.

This is the second report of the 2014-17 planning cycle.

Objective: By March 31, 2016, the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board will have selected URock Volunteer Award recipients.

Measure: Up to eight nominations are selected to become URock recipients.

Indicators	Accomplishments 2015-16
All nominations are reviewed and considered on their merits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board reviewed all submissions from the 2015 URock Volunteer Award call for nominations made to the OPE.
URock recipients are selected on time for the annual awards show	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board finalized a list of recipients in advance of the awards show.• On May 14, 2015 URock Volunteer Awards were presented to one youth-led group and seven individual youth in recognition of their contributions and leadership.• The profiles of the 2015 URock Volunteer Award recipients are available in Appendix A.

Appendix A: Profiles of 2015 URock Volunteer Award Recipients

Recipient	Bio
<p>Youth Leadership Council of Choices for Youth Hometown: St. John's</p>	<p>The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is a youth-led program of Choices for Youth, an organization that works to empower at-risk and homeless youth in St. John's. The YLC began in 2011 when a group of natural leaders, all of whom were living in Choices' transitional housing, wanted to officially contribute to the programming at the organization. Since then, this volunteer group has grown to a Council of 12 people that inform and critique the programming offered by Choices for Youth, ensuring that the lived realities of the organizations' clients are a part of the decisions around programs that exist for them. In addition, the YLC works in the community to help educate others on the realities of living at-risk and homeless. They have developed and deliver free-of-charge workshops on self-injury, bullying, and self-love to high schools across the province, as well as to the Schools of Social Work, Psychology, and Nursing in the city. When youth homelessness is not a part of an individual's everyday life, the gap between perception and reality on this issue can be enormous. The work of the Youth Leadership Council closes this gap, and connects funders, the community, and support systems to real information and lived experience that saves lives.</p>
<p>Courtney Jones Age: 20 Hometown: Torbay</p>	<p>Courtney Jones is 20 years old, and has been volunteering in her communities for about as long. She received her first formal recognition for volunteering at just 11 years old, and as her nominator says, "has not stopped since!" Over the years, she's raised funds for the Terry Fox Foundation, SPCA, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Janeway Children's Hospital, Children's Wish Foundation, and the Walk for Lupus. She's also leant her musical talents to the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, and athletic ability to the Easter Seals Swim Therapy Program. Courtney has represented her hometown of Torbay in several Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador Pageants, and was selected to represent Newfoundland and Labrador as Miss Teen Northern Avalon at the Miss Teen Canada-World Pageant. She's just finished her second year at Memorial University in St. John's, where she has already achieved the second level of the University's Volunteer Incentive Program, and has ambitions of eventually entering medical school.</p>

<p>Meagan Sampson Age: 23 Hometown: Stephenville</p>	<p>Meagan Sampson is a 23-year-old from Stephenville with a diverse portfolio of volunteer experience. Meagan gives her time and energy to the Virginia Park Community Centre, the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and serves as Charity Representative for her Residence House at Memorial University – and that’s just what she’s contributing to at present! Meagan’s assisted with Sunday School, organized Christmas Food hampers, raised funds for international organizations, and continues to volunteer on campus through the Student Volunteer Bureau and Winter Orientation, empowering other students to get involved. With a diverse set of skills and experience, Meagan serves her communities with a “dedication to volunteerism and those around her that is both inspiring and refreshing,” say her nominators.</p>
<p>Nitish Bhatt Age:16 Hometown: St. John’s</p>	<p>Nitish Bhatt is a 16-year-old resident of St. John’s who is originally from India. His nominators say that his experience as an immigrant has allowed him to see and work to fix the differences of opportunity and equality for people all over the world. In 2009, Nitish created his own child and youth education organization called United4Literacy. Through a variety of fundraisers and awareness campaigns, the now eight-person group has sponsored the education of six children in Kakinada, Southern India. It’s clear, as his nominators say, that “Nitish does not have a single greatest strength; he has many.” Passionate about education, youth homelessness, child poverty, child trafficking, journalism, debate, youth political involvement, and particularly, the environment, Nitish is responsible for a series of outreach and fundraising initiatives across the city that contribute to positive change in our world.</p>
<p>Brittany Tibbo Age: 25 Hometown: Holyrood</p>	<p>25-year-old Brittany Tibbo grew up in Holyrood, and is now based in St. John’s. In her volunteer efforts, she works to promote women in politics, economic development, youth involvement in business, gender equality, and the development of a municipal park in her neighborhood. Whether she’s Vice-Chairing the YWCA St. John’s Board of Directors or teaching elementary-aged children important business skills, Brittany’s nominators say that she “not only gives freely of her time, buy also creates an environment where other people are encouraged to volunteer.” She has been awarded 21 Inc’s Emerging Leader Award: Top 50 Emerging Leaders in Atlantic Canada under 35, as well as the prestigious Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. Through her volunteer work, Brittany is working to create a Newfoundland and Labrador where all young people grow up with equal opportunity and equal voice, regardless of their gender identity.</p>

<p>Mackenzie Dove Age: 19 Hometown: Clarenville</p>	<p>Whether she’s walking the stage at Miss Achievement Newfoundland and Labrador, or cleaning, feeding, and caring for the animals at the local SPCA, 19-year-old Mackenzie Dove from Clarenville is a “hard worker who is always willing to lend a helping hand,” her nominators say. In 2014, Mackenzie was awarded the Clarenville High School Student of the Year and the Lion’s Club Junior Volunteer of the Year Awards, and in 2015, she received the Clarenville High School Scholarship Trust Foundation Scholarship. Now, as President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Parliament, and Charity Representative for her Residence House at Memorial University, Mackenzie continues to work voluntarily making space for and empowering other young people to get involved in their communities.</p>
<p>Megan Glover Age:15 Hometown: Bay Bulls</p>	<p>15-year-old Megan Glover is a young entrepreneur from Bay Bulls. Megan has been an integral member of her school’s Social Action Team, organizing a series of fundraisers and campaigns, many of which have contributed to the school’s Brick Campaign to raise \$10,000 in funding to allow a community in-need to construct a new school building. Megan is a current Easter Seals Ambassador, and as part of this work has launched her own annual fundraising effort, Megan’s Night of Music. The event, in its second year, is a highly-successful charitable music event in aid of Easter Seals and the Brick Campaign, and features performers like Rex Goudie, Michael Duffy, Sean McCann, and Megan herself! Her school principal shared with us that Megan “is one of these young people I spend more time getting out of her way than helping her out. Megan rocks!”</p>
<p>Mallory Basha Age:17 Hometown: Corner Brook</p>	<p>Mallory Basha is a 17-year-old community-oriented volunteer from Corner Brook. Mallory starts her day by providing breakfast to the 1000 students at her high school through the School Breakfast Club. From there, it’s the responsibilities that come with being President of her Student Council, supporting the activities and groups of the school, as well as advocating for student politics and youth issues in her community. After school, she’s organizing fundraisers and campaigns for organizations like Amnesty International, Operation Christmas Child, the 30-hour Famine, the Canadian Cancer Society, and Free the Children. Locally, Mallory has organized a Shoe Drive for kids in her community, and has raised \$1000 through her first-ever fundraiser to ease the cost of a classmate’s lung transplant surgery in Ontario. Like her nominators say, “Mallory is a role model for her peers because of her strong academics, positive personality, community and school involvement, and leadership skills.”</p>