

2014-15

URock Volunteer Award Selection Board



Annual
Report

Message from the Selection Board

The URock Volunteer Selection Board's 2014-15 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 received by the Office of Public Engagement (OPE). The Selection Board, from submitted nominations, 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.

The Selection Board is appointed by Cabinet and does not have a designated chairperson. The Board relies upon the Office of Public Engagement for its administrative needs. In that capacity, OPE makes the necessary staff available to assist the Selection Board in its duties.

It is estimated that there are over 200,000 volunteers in Newfoundland and Labrador who dedicate over 30 million hours of valuable volunteer time to their communities every year. The URock Awards recognize the value that 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 strengthen its relationship with the voluntary and non-profit sector through its work in seeking to recognize the contributions of volunteers. The 2014-15 Annual Report covers the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Des Dillon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

Des Dillon
Board Member
URock Selection Board

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Overview..... | 1 |
| 2. Mandate | 1 |
| 3. Primary Clients..... | 1 |
| 4. Vision | 1 |
| 5. Report on Performance | 2 |
| Appendix A: Profiles of 2014 URock Volunteer Award Recipients..... | 3 |

1. Overview

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board (Board) is comprised of eight individuals from across the province and it annually selects the recipients of the URock Volunteer Award. The Selection 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 Selection Board's deliberations and selection of award recipients. The decisions made by the board are reached by consensus.

The URock Volunteer Selection Board is currently comprised of four males and four females. The Board does not have a budget nor does it oversee any type of public funds. The OPE provides administrative support to the Selection Board and assists members with their duties as needed.

Information regarding nomination criteria for the URock Volunteer Award 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 annual URock Volunteer Award. 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 annual 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

This is the first report of the 2014-17 planning cycle. The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board will report on the same objective, measure and indicators for all three years of the planning cycle.

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. The Board will carry out the same objective for each year of the 2014-17 planning period. This objective supports the recognition of community volunteers, thereby strengthening the relationship between government and the voluntary and non-profit sector.

Objective: By March 31, 2015, 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 2014-15 |
|--|--|
| All nominations are reviewed and considered on their merits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board reviewed all submissions from the 2014 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 15, 2014 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 2014 URock Volunteer Award recipients are available in Appendix A. |

Appendix A: Profiles of 2014 URock Volunteer Award Recipients

| Recipient | Bio |
|--|--|
| <p>Corner Brook Regional High Pride Alliance Hometown: Corner Brook</p> | <p>Corner Brook Regional High Pride Alliance is a school-based group that promotes awareness of LGBTQ issues. Formed in September 2012, the group has already actively promoted and participated in the Corner Brook Pride March and encouraged faculty, students and staff at Corner Brook Regional High to show their “pride” on Pink Day, a day to promote anti-bullying awareness and acceptance of all students. The group promotes education, awareness building and has created a safe space for LGBTQ youth and their allies. The group has also conducted extensive outreach to regional schools and created a tool kit to assist student groups in establishing their own Gay Straight Alliance. This year the group will host the first Provincial High School Gay Straight Alliance Conference. Provincial Government dignitaries, school board officials and an estimated 120 students will be in attendance at this landmark event.</p> |
| <p>Richard Churchill Age: 30 Hometown: Clarenville</p> | <p>Richard Churchill is a 30-year-old who sets himself apart, not only in the sheer number of hours he spends giving of himself, but also the quality he puts into them. The backbone of the local Jackrabbits Nordic Ski Club, he poured hundreds of volunteer hours into the successful hosting of the 2014 Newfoundland and Labrador Winter Games in Clarenville. In 2008, Richard was honoured with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers Association Medal for outstanding contribution to the Faculty of Education and to Memorial University. Since then, he has used his own time to develop innovative ways to use social media in his teaching and student engagement.</p> |
| <p>Raylene Mackey Age: 18 Hometown: Goulds</p> | <p>Eighteen-year-old Raylene Mackey is a strong community-based volunteer. A golf coach with Special Olympics, regular volunteer at St. Luke’s Seniors Home, and die-hard food drive participant, she has improved the lives of others through a diverse list of volunteer activities. Crowned Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador 2013, Raylene wasted no time in using her position to spread her impact even further. In her one-year reign, she has voluntarily attended over 160 events all across the province, giving of her talents in any way possible - singing the opening anthem at an IceCaps game in St. John’s, inspiring listeners of Voice of Bonne Bay Radio in Norris Point, or joining in community celebrations at the Conne River Pow Wow. And when it was time to sweep up after Shave for the Brave, Raylene never shied away from the task!</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Natasha Noel Age:18 Hometown: St. John's</p> | <p>Natasha Noel is an 18-year-old from St. John's who has taken her passion for equality city-wide. Involved in Easter Seals, Rainbow Riders, Student Council, and the Bishop's College Student Action Committee, Natasha was named St. John's Youth of the Year in 2013. From projects ranging from Easter Seals' "Relay on Wheels" allowing able-bodied participants to experience life with restricted mobility, to lobbying for free ice time in order for her to teach a child with Cerebral Palsy how to skate, Natasha inspires others in both her words and her actions. Along with this, Natasha balances studies, leads her student government, participates on five sports teams and contributes to the Bishops Youth Action Committee. She is truly a force for good, and her actions influence all around her.</p> |
| <p>Melissa Thomas Age: 21 Hometown: Mount Pearl</p> | <p>Melissa Thomas is a 21-year-old from Mount Pearl. Melissa has been actively involved in student government at the secondary and post-secondary level. A dedicated fundraiser for a number of causes, in 2013 she hosted the Ronald McDonald House Red Shoe Crew Walk. Melissa has successfully fundraised over \$30,000 for Ronald McDonald House. A longstanding volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club, she has served as a mentor and leader for over 10 years. In addition to volunteering with the organization's afterschool program, Melissa has also been a key organizer for the Club's Black Tie Bingo Gala.</p> |
| <p>Fallon Piercey Age: 18 Hometown: Conception Bay South</p> | <p>Eighteen-year-old Conception Bay South native Fallon Piercey takes pride in excelling in whatever pursuits she puts her mind to, and is known throughout her community for her drive, dedication and dependability. A life-changing experience happened to Fallon when she joined the Duke of Edinburgh program in 2013 and undertook a grueling four-day, three-night backpacking expedition over 60 kilometres from Portugal Cove South to Cappahayden. The completion of the program included voluntary service where she was required to log 15 hours for a bronze award, 30 hours for silver, and 60 hours for gold. Fallon went above and beyond the requirement, logging 160 hours of volunteer time. Her passion and enthusiasm have spilled over to her drive to contribute to her community and make a difference in the lives of others. Fallon has worked tirelessly to coordinate school fundraisers, community food drives, and help plan a school breakfast program. In the process, she has earned a reputation for being engaged, smart, and caring. Fallon is a dedicated member of the Town of Conception Bay South's Youth Advisory Council and in 2013 was nominated for the Conception Bay South Youth Volunteer of the Year.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Donald Slaney Age:19 Hometown: St. Lawrence</p> | <p>Nineteen-year-old St. Lawrence native Donald Slaney is described by his town’s mayor as an “understanding and gifted young man who believes in helping others and making his community a safe and caring haven.” Donald has led the student government of his former school, was instrumental in the founding of a MADD chapter on the Burin Peninsula, and went on to found his own charity supporting education on the African continent. One of the youth attendant’s at the record-breaking World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, he has spent time in both Brazil and Peru conducting humanitarian work.</p> |
| <p>Chanelle Cluett Age:22 Hometown: Wabush</p> | <p>Chanelle Cluett is a 22-year-old from Labrador, currently living in St. John’s. She’s studying to become a teacher, but she doesn’t let that slow down her volunteering. Chanelle helps out wherever she is needed, from school and youth-oriented programs, to baking cookies for Ronald McDonald House residents, to multiple events for charities. The Best Buddy program, Residence Life Council, the Relay for Life Committee, are just a few examples of her volunteer activities at MUN. In addition to Chanelle’s own activities, she helps match other students with suitable volunteer opportunities as a volunteer with the MUN Student Volunteer Bureau. Chanelle finds time for her countless volunteer activities and her studies, and manages to hold two part-time jobs. One of her nominators said that Chanelle “squeezes everything she can out of her day, making her time in the City of St. John’s reach its full potential.” Another says, she “never hesitates to take on more.” Chanelle has already received many awards marking her volunteer service, and now adds a URock award to her list of well-deserved accomplishments.</p> |



Office of Public Engagement

Executive Council

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: (709) 729-1125

Fax: (709) 729-2226

Email: ope@gov.nl.ca