



ORDER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 2023 INDUCTEE



Helen Balanoff

Congratulating Mrs. Balanoff, a long-time northerner born in Scotland who now resides in Victoria, BC. Nominated for her outstanding contributions to *education*, Mrs. Balanoff has dedicated over 40 years to advocating for the educational rights of children and adults alike. She strongly believes in the transformative power of literacy and learning, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to participate fully in society. Known for her innovative thinking and 'can-do' personality, Mrs. Balanoff has been honored with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Ministerial Literacy Award.





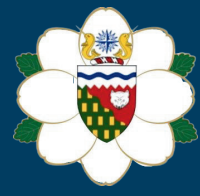
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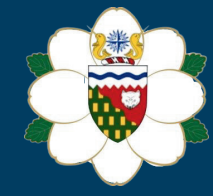
Richard Hardy

Congratulating Mr. Hardy, a long-time northerner born in Fort Norman (Tulita), who lived in Inuvik and Yellowknife for over 50 years before settling in Nanoose Bay, BC. Nominated for his contributions in *professions and other occupations*. Mr. Hardy, a pioneer from the “Great Bear Region,” earned his law degree from the University of Saskatchewan, becoming its first lawyer. He also served as President of the Metis Association. Despite his demanding schedule, Mr. Hardy generously provided pro bono advice to organizations, notably the Fort Norman Metis Community. Recognized for his selflessness, he received the Confederation of Canada Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.





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Mary Teya

Congratulating Miss Teya from Fort McPherson, nominated for her contributions in Community Leadership. Miss Teya, hailing from Fort McPherson, is celebrated for her dedicated **community leadership**. She is renowned for her advocacy for elders, utilizing her Gwich'in Language to share its knowledge and engage in a wide range of community initiatives. Miss Teya has served on the Tetlit Gwich'in Band Council and the NWT Elders Committee, and contributed to the Justice Committee and Housing Board of Directors. Known for her commitment to organizing holiday events and activities, she spent years devoted to St. Matthews Church, where she shared her expertise in the Gwich'in language with younger generations. She ascended to Lay Leader and was ordained as Deacon in 2000, retiring in 2019.

