

Gerald Anderson Citation for 2022 MUNPA Tribute Award



Gerald Anderson retired from the Marine Institute in 2018, from the position of Director of Development and Engagement. Before retirement, his contributions to the work to strengthen fisheries and marine education in the North have already prompted his reception of the prestigious leadership award Indspire Award (formerly National Aboriginal Leadership Award) in environment and natural resources and he has also served as Vice-President Indigenous with the University of the Arctic.

A lot of the focus of Mr. Anderson's 30 plus years at the Fisheries and Marine Institute has been on working with Indigenous groups in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut and Nunavik establishing fisheries and marine education and training programs. He has worked with indigenous groups in NL across Canada and feels that many indigenous beneficiaries now work in the marine industry because of this work. Mr. Anderson helped develop Fisheries Development Training plans for Nunavut, Nunatsiavut, Innu Nation, Federation of Newfoundland Indians, and the Labrador Métis Nation. He worked closely with the Miawpukek First Nation in Conne River to develop and deliver a long-term fisheries and marine training program.

His connection to the north stems from where he is from – he was born in the community of L'Anse aux Meadows and as a beneficiary of Nunatsiavut, Gerald's family roots go back to Makkovik, Labrador.

Gerald's post-retirement achievements are indeed truly remarkable and scientifically and sociologically significant. He is just finishing a 5-year term on the Board of Directors for Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR), an organization responsible for advancing Canada's knowledge of the Arctic and operates the world-class, cutting-edge Canada High Arctic Research Station. He is an ambassador of the Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP). He also serves on the boards of SmartICE and SmartICE foundation. This organization works to integrate traditional indigenous knowledge of sea ice with monitoring technology to allow more informed decisions for safe ice travel.

For the first two years following retirement, Gerald worked part-time with the Marine Institute and MUN assisting with the indigenous file. He assisted the MUN/Nunavut Arctic College degree partnership which led to the offering of a Bachelor of Social Work program at Nunavut's Arctic College, Kitikmeot campus, ensuring a strong commitment to beliefs and knowledge of Inuit culture. He has served on various committees since retirement, serving both offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling and First Light, formerly known as the St. John's Native Friendship Center. His work seeks to improve effectiveness of offshore drilling projects, while ensuring highest standards of environmental protection. In response to this report, the Canadian government is proceeding with the development of a Regional Assessment follow-up program.

Gerald is also working part-time with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation in Nunavut, setting up a Fisheries/Economic Development Conference in Iqaluit fostering economic opportunities for the Inuit. He is also a current Commissioner of the Independent Appointments Committee, and has just finished a project with the Harris Center - the establishment of Communication Hubs in the province. He has also agreed to take on a small project with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to carry out an evaluation of housing projects in northern and remote parts of Canada.

There is no doubt that Gerald's post-retirement work is far-reaching and significant, and in recognition to this he is most deserving of the MUNPA Tribute Award.