

MEDIA RELEASE

Inuit-led organization receives National award for innovative solutions to address FASD in Nunavut

(November 21, Iqaluit) The Piruqatigiit Resource Centre has been announced as the recipient of the third annual Claudette Bradshaw FASD Innovation Award for their work to address fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in Nunavut and support families impacted by this disorder.

Awarded annually by the Canada FASD Research Network, the FASD Innovation Award celebrates the work of individuals and organizations across Canada who have created innovative solutions to address FASD in their communities. It was named in honour of the late Claudette Bradshaw to recognize her work on FASD, early education, and homelessness.

Piruqatigiit is the creation of Jennifer Noah and Noah Noah. In 2016, they saw the lack of FASD-specific services and supports in Nunavut and started providing free support for community members and education for Government departments. They founded Piruqatigiit as a nonprofit society in 2018. It is the first organization to provide FASD-informed supports and services in Nunavut.

Piruqatigiit is a grassroots organization that serves individuals with suspected and confirmed FASD across Nunavut. Everything they do is centred on Inuit-led and informed knowledge and worldview. All their service provision, knowledge translation, and communications are translated in English and Inuktitut.

“Piruqatigiit” means grow/growing together. Since their inception, the organization has grown significantly. They now operate two physical locations and are opening a new FASD assessment and diagnostic clinic this month. This is the first community based FASD diagnostic clinic in the territory.

Other recipients of the award include the Lakeland Centre for FASD for their 2nd Floor Women’s Recovery Centre and the NB FASD Centre of Excellence for their Dreamcatcher Model of FASD service delivery.

Quotes

“Piruatigiit Resource Centre has applied for the Claudette Bradshaw FASD Innovation Award because we are innovation at our core. We strive to support Nunavut communities through innovative programming, resource development and knowledge translation activities that are culturally safe.”

Jennifer Noah, Co-Executive Director, Piruatigiit Resource Centre

“We have admired the work that Piruatigiit does to provide support and services that are culturally-safe and community-driven. We are so pleased to announce that they are the recipients of this year’s award. Their effort and dedication to address FASD in Nunavut is unparalleled and their achievements speak for themselves.”

Audrey McFarlane, Executive Director, Canada FASD Research Network

“The innovation and dedication shown by Piruatigiit Resource Centre to address inequities and enormous gaps for Nunavummiut affected by FASD and other neuro-diversities is a tremendous resource to Nunavut.”

Connie Kwon, Iqaluit Music Society

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