



United Nations Association in Canada

Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

UNA-Canada Announces the Winner of its Inaugural Youth Global Citizen Prize

Ottawa: 2020 December 10: Today marks UN Human Rights Day. United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is proud to mark this day with the announcement of the winner of its inaugural **Youth Global Citizen Prize**. UNA-Canada invited young Canadians between the ages of 18 and 30 to share their perspectives on what qualities, for them, makes a Global Citizen. UNA-Canada received an abundance of thoughtful, inspiring, and innovative submissions, in a spectrum of creative formats, for jury consideration.

The winner of the \$2000.00 prize is **Monique Sereneo** for her evocative video “We are all Stardust”. Originally from Winnipeg, Monique is currently living in Calgary where she works for the marketing and communications team at the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, an organization focused on strengthening the non-profit sector through research, advocacy, and programming. She volunteers for YYC Growers + Distributors, the Calgary Migratory Species Response Team, and serves on the Board of Directors for Volunteer Airdrie. “As someone who hopes to live a life aligned with the values of global citizenship, it’s an honour to have my submission selected for the 2020 Youth Global Citizen Prize. I truly believe that global citizenship is a lifelong journey, and I hope my video helps to impart the idea that there is value in simply being able to recognize that a better world is possible and taking small, but definite steps to achieve it.”

Given the wealth of thought and perspectives among the submissions, the jury also opted to give an Honourable Mention to **Nicole Pinto** for her powerful poem “*To be a Global Citizen*”. Originally from Ontario, Nicole is also in Calgary, as a Research Associate at the University of Calgary’s School of Public Policy. “Contemplating the question ‘What makes a global citizen?’ has convinced me all the more that global citizenship is not earned, and is rather, a born right and responsibility. I have come to realize that humanity is vibrant and diverse, but that there is certainly more that brings us together than drives us apart. This shared bond is what makes us all global citizens”.

"So much of the work of UNA-Canada is focused on youth - especially youth facing barriers - supporting them in their journey to building a better world. This prize, endowed by an anonymous donor, allows us to showcase the talent and desire to 'be the change' among Canadian youth." Kate White, President & CEO of UNA-Canada.

UNA-Canada established this prize to honour staffer and delegation head Stéphanie Lacroix, along with delegates Micah Messent, Danielle Moore and Angie Rehorn – all fine young Canadian Global Citizens themselves, who shared the excitement and optimism of working to improve our world by making their lives serve as an inspiration to their peers. They were all lost en route to meetings of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya in March, 2019. “These luminous people were compassionate leaders, dedicated to the conviction that they could build a better future for our country and the global community. They knew they could make the world a little better through their actions. They set an example which continues to inspire so many, These remarkable and courageous young Canadians will be forever remembered.”

For more information, please contact:

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The United Nations Association in Canada

The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is an historic, national charitable organization providing a leading policy voice on multilateralism in Canada, and innovative programming focused on the Sustainable Development Goals with 30,000 members from coast to coast to coast. UNA-Canada was a founding member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and today holds the elected Vice-Presidency, representing global civil society. Celebrating 75 years of Canadian support for an effective United Nations.

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to educate and engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical international issues that affect us all. We believe that a strong and effective United Nations is essential if we are to secure a future based on equality, dignity and justice for all. UNA-Canada is dedicated to promoting constructive Canadian participation in the United Nations system and to **growing global citizens** in Canada who embrace the principles of the UN Charter.

Our Work

UNA-Canada engages citizens and decision makers at every level of Canadians society. We invest across generations, bringing empathy-based educational resources on health, citizen education, diversity, peace and the environment to both the best and the brightest and to most marginalized youth within Canada and in the world's poorest countries.

We meet our mandate with a national network of branches, volunteers and education programmes that are inspiring and mobilizing Canadians in support of the principles and critical work of the UN. By **growing global citizens**, we are building a stronger, more outward looking Canada ready to accept the greatest challenges of our time.



Growing Global Citizens § Citoyens du monde à venir

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