



Expedition takes youth on educational journey to the Arctic
Students on Ice to launch 2017 Arctic Expedition with youth, leaders, scientists, elders & artists

Gatineau, Quebec: July 17, 2017 - On August 8, more than 120 high school and university students from across Canada and around the world come together in Ottawa to begin a two-week expedition to the Canadian Arctic and Greenland with Students on Ice (SOI). They are led by an expert team made up of more than 80 scientists, artists, Inuit leaders, dignitaries and polar explorers on a life-changing journey of discovery, reconciliation and adventure. Expedition dates are August 8 – August 23, 2017.

A pre-expedition program for Northern students participating in the 2017 expedition will run from August 6 – 8 at Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa to assist these students in becoming confident ambassadors for their homeland throughout the journey. This year's expedition will involve 44 Inuit youth and 18 Inuit staff from the Canadian Arctic and Greenland – more than ever before.

Using key educational themes including diversity and inclusion, truth and reconciliation, the environment, and youth engagement, participating youth will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the Arctic through hands-on learning in science, history, culture, arts, policy and governance.

“To explore the Arctic with youth and experts from around the world, enables a unique learning opportunity to bridge cultures and allow for passionate, globally-minded and solution-driven conversations and initiatives to flourish,” says Expedition Leader Geoff Green. “This expedition will be the beginning of a life-long journey, and a very important step for youth to gain the inspiration, education and motivation needed to become leaders in their communities and around the world.”

Beginning in Ottawa, this ship and land-based journey will explore the communities, coasts and fjords of Canada's Eastern Arctic before crossing the Davis Strait to western Greenland. The expedition will involve encounters with Arctic wildlife, including whales and polar bears, zodiac cruises among icebergs and ice floes, visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites, Canadian National Parks, and other Northern communities, paddling traditional Inuit qajaqs (kayaks), and hands-on land and ocean-based research and learning.

The expedition team represents students and staff from around the world, including Canada, U.S.A., Mexico, Greenland, Micronesia, China, Hong Kong, Italy, Argentina, New Zealand, Germany, Monaco, India, and Malaysia.

SOI's impressive educational team includes Nunavut Education Minister the Honourable Paul Quassa, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman, scientists Roger Bull and Kieran Shepherd with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Bronwyn Keatley, Senior Science Advisor at Fisheries at Oceans Canada, Inuit throat singer and beat boxer Nelson Tagoona, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada president Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Executive Producer of Climate One, Greg Dalton and authors Deborah Webster and James Raffan.

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STUDENTS ON ICE

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Through the generosity of [partner organizations](#), more than 80 per cent of youth participants are supported to participate in this transformational, life-changing experience. The 2017 Students on Ice Arctic Expedition is made possible through partnerships with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Parks Canada, Canada Goose, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Makivik Corporation, Kativik Regional Government, Leacross Foundation, WWF-Canada, Canadian Heritage, the U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Adventure Canada, Oceans North Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, The Schad Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, The Beatrice Snyder Foundation, First Air, the official airline of Student on Ice, and more than 30 other incredible supporters.

To learn more and to follow the journey, visit studentsonice.com

About the Students on Ice Foundation

The Students on Ice Foundation is an award-winning organization offering unique educational expeditions to the Antarctic and the Arctic. Our mandate is to educate the world's youth about the importance of the Polar Regions, support their continued growth and inspire and catalyze initiatives that contribute to global sustainability. Since 2000, Student on Ice has taken more than 2,500 youth from 52 countries to the Polar Regions.

To arrange interviews or request more information, please contact:

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