



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Additional \$2.8 million for education and research in Northern Research**

OTTAWA, ON – The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) is pleased to announce the extension and expansion of the W. Garfield Weston Awards for Northern Research and the creation of the W. Garfield Weston Postdoctoral Fellowship in Northern Research.

The W. Garfield Weston Awards have been administered by ACUNS and funded by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation since 2007. These premier awards are granted to graduate students who demonstrate leadership in northern natural science research. To date, sixty students (31 Doctoral and 29 Masters students) have been selected as recipients. Since the program's inception, the Foundation has donated over \$1.5 million dollars, providing students with substantial support and high recognition for the work they are doing in Canada's North.

This new commitment by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation will expand the graduate program to allow up to 10 awards in both the Masters and PhD categories each year, and will extend the program until 2015.

The postdoctoral program will further assist the development of the next generation of northern natural science researchers, as they begin their research careers. There are few named postdoctoral programs in Canada and none specifically focused on northern science. This \$60,000 fellowship will create opportunities for researchers to contribute in Canada and on the international stage.

"The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is thrilled to be sponsoring Northern research in Canada. These individuals are doing excellent work in parts of the country that are vitally important to national interest", says Geordie Dalglish, Chair of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation's Northern Committee.

"The W. Garfield Weston Foundation's ongoing commitment to supporting northern science is particularly significant," notes ACUNS President Peter Geller, "as we require the development of the next generation of northern researchers to confront the challenges facing the north today. These new postdoctoral fellowships in northern research, and the renewal and expansion of the student scholarship program, will provide even more opportunities for expanding the frontiers of northern science."

Jennie Knopp, a PhD candidate from Trent University, was the first student to receive a W. Garfield Weston Award at both the Masters and PhD level. Her research is working at the interface of scientific and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to determine the environmental indicators of change on Arctic Char in Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok Northwest Territories. "Being the recipient of the two W. Garfield Weston Awards has made all the difference in my research. Funding has enabled me to spend as much time as needed in the communities, working directly with the Inuvialuit on research of their own natural resources. The awards have also provided many amazing opportunities to expose my work to a wider audience. The receipt of these awards has definitely helped to set my Arctic research career on the right path."

The W. Garfield Weston Awards are administered by ACUNS through its awards program The Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST). Since 1982 the CNST has provided over \$ 3.5 million in scholarships and awards from Association endowments and various donors, including The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, in support of northern research in all disciplines. The annual competition opens in November with a deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Award applications and guidelines can be found at [www.acuns.ca](http://www.acuns.ca).

#### About The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is a private Canadian family foundation, established in the 1950's by Willard Garfield Weston and his wife Reta. In 1924 Garfield inherited his father's company and during his life established bakeries and other successful enterprises throughout Canada and in many parts of the world. Today, these businesses include George Weston Limited and Loblaw Companies Limited, companies in food retailing, processing and distribution. The founders believed that as the funds are generated through the hard work and success of these Canadian companies, grants should be given in Canada for the benefit of Canadians. For three generations, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has maintained a family tradition of supporting charitable organizations across Canada. Today the Foundation directs the majority of its funds to projects in the fields of land conservation, education, and science in Canada's North.

#### About ACUNS

For over 30 years, ACUNS has successfully promoted northern studies by facilitating collaboration between researchers and communities in the North, and by training the next generation of northern researchers. Established in 1978, ACUNS is a registered charitable organization operating with an office in Ottawa, and active volunteer representatives at over 40 member institutions across Canada.

For additional information about the W. Garfield Weston Awards, ACUNS, and the CNST Awards Program go to [www.acuns.ca](http://www.acuns.ca) .

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Interview opportunities are available.

For further information, please contact:

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