

of-its-kind coordinated research program on polar bears and seals in the Canadian Arctic. He has authored or co-authored more than 300 scientific articles, of which more than 225 were peer-reviewed. He has also published five non-technical books which made scientific information available to the general public.

“I am honoured to be recognized by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, which I greatly admire for its commitment to northern science, its strong leadership, and for funding important Canadian Arctic research,” said Dr. Stirling. “The study of polar marine mammals, such as polar bears and seals, is essential to the conservation and management of both the Arctic and Antarctic marine ecosystems, which in turn comprise a crucial component of the total environment of the Earth.”

Dr. Stirling received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and obtained a Ph.D. from Canterbury University in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1969, where he did research on Weddell seals in Antarctica. He has three children and lives with his wife in Edmonton, Alberta.

“As an educator and a mentor, Dr. Stirling has inspired early-career scholars, from undergraduate and graduate students to post-doctoral fellows, to pursue and persevere in northern research,” said Monique Bernier, President, ACUNS. “Many of his former students now live in the North where they occupy positions as territorial or federal government biologists or managers. He is highly respected in the North due to his consideration of Indigenous knowledge, his support for co-management with northern communities and his role as an advocate for the Arctic.”

The Foundation’s support is a catalyst that enables leading Canadian scientists to pursue rigorous exploration of Canada’s North. Since 2007, it has committed more than \$25 million towards northern research and science. More than 150 scholarships have been awarded to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from 27 different Universities. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is committed to ensuring that Weston scholars are well positioned to pursue their passions in northern research.

The Weston Family Prize is administered by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS).

Past awardees include Dr. Serge Payette (2011), Dr. Louis Fortier (2012), Dr. John Smol (2013), and Dr. Charles Krebs (2014).

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, his wife Reta and their children. For three generations, the Foundation has maintained a family tradition of supporting charitable organizations across Canada, with resources directed to projects in the fields of land conservation, education, and neuroscience. In addition, the organization is the largest private supporter of scientific research in Canada’s North. Through its Northern Committee, the Foundation supports leading scientists and fosters innovative collaborations.

About ACUNS

For over thirty years the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) has successfully promoted the advancement of northern scholarship through its mandate and programs. 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 the country.