



Association of
Canadian Universities
for Northern Studies

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THE W. GARFIELD WESTON
FOUNDATION



churchillnorthernstudiescentre

Majority Support Teaching More Arctic Content in Schools: Poll

Dr. Louis Fortier awarded \$50,000 prize for Lifetime Achievement at International Polar Year Conference

Toronto, ON & Montreal QC – April 25, 2012 – Against the backdrop of a new survey that reveals an overwhelming majority (94 percent) of Canadians agree that students should learn more about Canada's arctic resources and the role of northern science, [The W. Garfield Weston Foundation](#) has announced that Dr. Louis Fortier has been awarded the \$50,000 *Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research* for his work focused on the impacts of climate change on the Arctic. The results of the survey, commissioned by [The Churchill Northern Studies Centre](#) with the support of the Foundation, along with the prize winner were announced today at the [International Polar Year Conference](#) in Montréal.

"Dr. Fortier embodies what a lifetime of research can achieve," says Michael Goodyear, Executive Director, Churchill Northern Studies Centre. "By actively engaging northerners in the early planning stages of [ArcticNet](#) and through his dedication to the multidisciplinary use of the [Canadian Research Icebreaker Amundsen](#), Dr. Fortier has helped ensure that arctic science not only remains top of mind for Canadians, but also serves the people of the North."

Canadians also support the ongoing work of researchers in the North. The poll shows that 80 per cent of Canadians agree that "northern research can help make informed decisions about the potential impacts of developmental progress in the North."

"My work reflects the ongoing collaboration and open dialogue on key arctic issues with colleagues around the world, Inuit partners, the private sector, and policy makers in several Federal departments. Together we have been able to explore, document, and synthesize the impacts of climate change and modernization on all aspects of the Arctic world, including the human dimension," said Dr. Louis Fortier, who is the Canada Research Chair on the Response of Arctic Marine Ecosystems to Climate Change and a [Professor at Université Laval](#) since 1989. "The Weston Family Prize truly reflects a lifetime of national and international networking in many disciplines, and I'm thrilled to receive this honour."

Northern Researchers Important to Canadians

The survey also reveals that Canadians are keen to provide a refuge for northern species: nine out of 10 respondents support wildlife reserves for northern animals and plant species.

"Canadians overwhelmingly tell us that northern research is critical to appreciating the importance of the Arctic. Knowledge and discovery about the north should be a fundamental part of our Canadian identity," said Christian Bauta, member of the [Northern Committee](#) and a director of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. "One of the primary goals of the Foundation is