



***R E L E A S E***

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## **Advisory Council Announces 2015 Appointments to the Order of Nunavut**

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 18, 2015)** - Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council George Qulaut today announced that Messrs. Tagak Curley, C.M., William Lyall, C.M. and Father Robert Lechat, O.M.I., will be this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

On January 1, 2010, *The Order of Nunavut Act* came into force. The objective of the Order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural, social or economic well-being of Nunavut. The Order is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

Tagak Curley of Rankin Inlet was a founding member and first President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. He served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories from 1979 to 1987, and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut from 2004 to 2013. Mr. Curley has held a number of positions in the private sector, including that of President of the Nunavut Construction Corporation. Mr. Curley has received numerous awards in recognition of his contributions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and an Aboriginal Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Curley was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2003.

Father Robert Lechat of Richelieu, Québec, came to Canada from France shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War. For close to half a century, Father Lechat served in dioceses across the North, including approximately 25 years in Igloolik and Hall Beach. Father Lechat is renowned for his many decades of contributions to the preservation and promotion of the Inuit language.

William Lyall of Cambridge Bay was the founding President of Arctic Co-operatives Limited and currently serves as its 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. He also currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Nunavut Trust. He served as a Member of the Council (Legislative Assembly) of the Northwest Territories from 1975 to 1979 and as Vice-Chair of the Nunavut Implementation Commission. Mr. Lyall has received numerous awards in recognition of his contributions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Mr. Lyall was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2004.

“Tagak Curley and Bill Lyall have both made significant contributions to Nunavut as elected representatives and business leaders,” said Speaker Qulaut. “As a life-long resident of Igloolik, I can personally attest to the esteem in which Father Lechat is held for his commitment to the well-being of Inuit and our language.”

Her Honour Nellie Kusugak, whose personal ceremony of investiture into the Order of Nunavut as its Chancellor was held earlier today, following her swearing-in as Commissioner of Nunavut, will preside over the upcoming investitures of Messrs. Curley and Lyall.

The 2015 investiture ceremony will be held in the fall of this year on a date to be announced. The ceremony will be held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and televised live across the territory.

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For more information:

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