

**URock Volunteer Award Selection  
Board**

**Annual Report  
2013-14**



## **Message from the Selection Board**

The URock Volunteer Selection Board's 2013-14 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements established in the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 entity. The Selection Board is responsible for reviewing all qualified URock nominations received by the Office of Public Engagement (OPE). The Selection Board chooses among the submitted nominations the top ranking candidates for the annual URock Volunteer Award. The Selection Board operates as an independent decision-making entity in fulfilling this objective.

The Selection Board is appointed by Cabinet and does not have a designated chairperson. The Board relies upon the Office of Public Engagement – Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat for its administrative needs. In that capacity, OPE makes the necessary staff available to assist the Selection Board in its duties.

There are an estimated 197,000 volunteers in Newfoundland and Labrador who dedicate over 35 million hours of valuable volunteer time to their communities every year. The URock Awards recognize the value that volunteers contribute to the social and economic well-being of our communities.

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board assists the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's strategic direction of strengthening its relationship with the voluntary and non-profit sector through its work in seeking to recognize the contributions of volunteers. This Annual Report covers the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

My signature below is on behalf of the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board which is accountable for the results reported in this annual report.

Sincerely,



**Des Dillon**  
**Board Member**  
**URock Selection Board**

# Table of Contents

---

1. Overview .....	4
2. Mandate .....	4
3. Primary Clients.....	4
4. Vision .....	4
5. Report on Performance.....	5
Appendix A: Strategic Directions.....	6
Appendix B: Profiles of 2013 URock Volunteer Award Recipients .....	7

## **1. Overview**

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board (Board) is comprised of eight individuals from across the province and it annually selects the recipients of the URock Volunteer Award. The Selection Board does not have a designated chairperson given the independent nature of each member's required activities. When necessary, the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) convenes and facilitates meetings to support the Selection Board's deliberations and selection of award recipients. The decisions made by the board are reached by consensus.

The OPE provides administrative support to the Selection Board and assists members with their duties as needed. Information regarding nomination criteria for the URock Volunteer Award can be found at <http://www.urockvolunteerawards.ca>.

The 2011-14 URock Volunteer Selection Board is comprised of four males and four females. The Board does not have a budget nor does it oversee any type of public funds.

## **2. Mandate**

The mandate of the Board is to select up to eight qualified recipients for the annual URock Volunteer Award. The Board may also make suggestions on policies and criteria that guide the selection process.

## **3. Primary Clients**

The OPE is the primary client of the Board. The Board undertakes the independent task of providing the OPE with up to eight qualified recipients for the annual Awards recognition event.

## **4. Vision**

The vision of the Board is to strive for a fair and meritorious selection process recognizing the most deserving nominees every year.

## 5. Report on Performance

This is the final report of the 2011-14 planning cycle. The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board has reported on the same objective, measure and indicators for all three years of the planning cycle.

### Issue One: Selecting the Annual URock Award Recipients

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board is mandated to select the annual Award recipients. The Board may choose up to eight individuals 30 years of age or under and/or youth-led non-profit groups. The nominations process is administered by the OPE which also assists the Board with all of its administrative needs. The Board carried out the same objective for each year of the 2011-14 planning period. This objective supported the strategic direction of recognizing community volunteers, thereby strengthening the relationship between government and the voluntary and non-profit sector.

**Objective:** By March 31, 2014, the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board will have met the annual commitment of reviewing URock nominations and selecting recipients.

**Measure:** Up to eight nominations are selected to become URock recipients.

Indicators	Accomplishments 2013-14
All nominations are reviewed and considered on their merits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board reviewed all submissions from the 2013 URock Volunteer Award call for nominations made to the OPE.</li> </ul>
URock recipients are selected on time for the annual awards show	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board finalized a list of recipients in advance of the annual awards show.</li> <li>• On May 25, 2013 URock Volunteer Awards were presented to two youth-led group and six individual youth in recognition of their contributions and leadership.</li> <li>• The profiles of the 2013 URock Volunteer Award recipients are available in Appendix B.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Strategic Directions

**Title:** Volunteer and Non-Profit Sector

**Outcome Statement:** Stronger relationship between government and the voluntary and non-profit sector.

Components of Strategic Direction	This Direction is addressed:			
	In the entity's Activity Plan	In the entity's operational plan	In a work plan for the entity	Applicable to other entities reporting to the Minister
Recognize the work of community volunteers	X			

## Appendix B: Profiles of 2013 URock Volunteer Award Recipients

Recipient	Bio
<p><b>Beyond the Hurt</b> Hometown: Gander</p>	<p><b>Beyond the Hurt</b> is a student run group based in Gander Collegiate; however their work and reach extends far beyond their school community. Formed in 2005, Beyond the Hurt has educated thousands of students throughout Central Newfoundland through a series of interactive workshops, videos and engaging group discussions on the lifetime effects of bullying. The students as a group have demonstrated their dedication to educating not only their school, but students in the surrounding elementary and junior high schools. Beyond the Hurt has initiated a potluck lunch and series of orientation sessions and school visits for students transitioning from junior high to high school. These initiatives have continued to grow year after year. Clearly, Beyond the Hurt has been instrumental in creating a nurturing and welcoming environment for students at Gander Collegiate and beyond.</p>
<p><b>Enactus</b> Hometown: St. John's</p>	<p><b>Enactus</b> is a student-run organization operating out of Memorial University. Originally founded in 1991, Enactus' mission is: "to create local solutions to global economic challenges." With over 60 members running 8 projects, last year they impacted over 4,700 people and added over \$1.5 million to our province's economy. Recent projects include: Based in Business a year-long entrepreneurial program tailored to veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and Bottlepreneur a new system engineered by students which has doubled the earnings for those which rely upon collecting recyclables to provide for their families. Last year alone, this initiative diverted an estimated 1,000,000 bottles from provincial landfills. The group's successes have not gone unnoticed. In six of the past seven years the group has been crowned national champions and in 2008 they won the Enactus World Cup-the first Canadian team to ever achieve this level of success.</p>
<p><b>Sabrina Andrews</b> Age: 17 Hometown: Grand Falls-Windsor</p>	<p><b>Sabrina Andrews</b> truly lives by her motto "How can I help?" She shows passion, dedication and commitment to community development and volunteering. Sabrina's commitments to making her local and global community a better place have yielded great results. As a member of the Grand Falls-Windsor</p>

	<p>842 Bomber Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets for the past six years she exemplified exceptional character and amazing leadership skills. At 17 years of age, Sabrina has already completed all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards as well as being a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Once again this young leader has put her mark on the world and was recently named a Youth Ambassador with the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation's (ACIC) Activate8! Campaign, in this role she has inspired over 1000 online commitments from individuals pledging to make a positive difference in their world.</p>
<p><b>Nicole Furey</b> Age:23 Hometown: Avondale</p>	<p><b>Nicole Furey</b> from Avondale is a volunteer that has demonstrated grace, dignity, determination, and a generous spirit with no limits. Currently 23 years old, Nicole initially volunteered with Girl Guides and then later within the hospital as a candy striper at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital. Nicole's nominators attribute her ongoing involvement with the RCSCC Southern Cross Sea Cadets, as significant in making her the disciplined young leader and extraordinary volunteer she is today. In 2009, her determination was tested when she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. As a sign of their support, fellow residents of Avondale rallied together and fundraised over \$15,000 towards her medical expenses. Nicole has since persevered, battled cancer and resumed her education and volunteer work. In recent years her volunteerism has grown to include many health-related groups dealing with research and awareness for young people including the NL Sexual Health Center, the Canadian Cancer Society and as a peer mentor with Young Adult Cancer Canada. Nicole recently launched the Cancer Fight Club blog which she writes as a source of guidance and courage for cancer victims.</p>
<p><b>John Norman</b> Age: 27 Hometown: Bonavista</p>	<p><b>John Norman</b> is a remarkable community minded volunteer from Bonavista. At 27 years of age he is involved with 18 volunteer organizations and committees and is the president, chair or co-chair of ten groups. John is a "full-time" volunteer with two paid careers beside. Volunteerism is simply his day-to-day life. John is particularly passionate about the restoration of Bonavista's trees and community gardens. To achieve this, he founded the Bonavista Horticultural Society. As a volunteer John is willing to do much of the work and has inspired others with his enthusiasm and vision for his community. John's volunteer involvement is incredibly diverse. He coaches figure skating, chairs a committee dedicated to bringing a dialysis unit to</p>

	<p>Bonavista, and co-chairs a group developing a community wellness center. He is involved with the Bonavista Chamber of Commerce, the Bonavista Historic Townscape Foundation, annual Church Street Festival, and many other organizations. John is also a councillor with the Town of Bonavista and is one of the youngest municipal politicians in the province.</p>
<p><b>Kandice Power</b> Age: 18 Hometown: Paradise</p>	<p><b>Kandice Power</b> is an eighteen year old from Paradise. Since 2009 she has been a volunteer coach with Mount Pearl Special Olympics and her commitment and dedication have enriched the lives of countless young people with disabilities. While a student at Holy Spirit High, she was heavily involved in awareness and fundraising efforts for World Vision, World Aids Day, VOXM Cares Coats for Kids and the CBS/Paradise food bank. Kandice is also an avid fundraiser; her Red Crew Shoe Walk team successfully raised \$12,000 to support Ronald McDonald House. In 2012, Kandice was named Miss Teen Achievement and is a three time recipient of the Paradise Youth of the Year Award and the VOXM Charitable Activities Award. Kandice is currently attending Memorial University and is an active volunteer with a number of campus clubs and societies including: Enactus, Memorial's Student Volunteer Bureau and the MUN United Nations Society.</p>
<p><b>Catherine Price</b> Age:20 Hometown: Fortune</p>	<p><b>Catherine Price</b> has always seen the importance of giving back to her community. From being a long-standing leader for a group of young girls in her home town of Fortune, to her outstanding contribution to the Huntington Disease Society of Canada, which has recognized her with the Dean Cain Memorial Award. The loss of a family member to this devastating disease is what motivated Catherine to start Newfoundland and Labrador's first Young People Affected by Huntington Disease (YPAHD) group. Catherine, with the help from other YPAHD members, has started an annual Hope, Walk &amp; Run for Huntington Disease fundraising event. Catherine's perseverance and leadership in carrying out the Society's mission has made a profound impact on the Newfoundland HD community-providing young people affected by this devastating disease with an opportunity to connect and actively participate in YPAHD activities. Catherine is doing all that while studying at the MUN Center for Nursing Studies and working two part-time jobs. Catherine also recruited students to travel to Dominican Republic as part of a medical team to provide free medical care for those who could not otherwise afford it.</p>

<p><b>Donovan Taplin</b>  Age:18  Hometown: Bell Island</p>	<p><b>Donovan Taplin</b> known as "Bell Island's Boy Wonder" has put his mark on his community, province, and beyond. After a youth learning expedition to the Arctic he was inspired to create the Green Island Society (a youth environmental group). He's also been a volunteer with the Bell Island Tidy Town Committee and Tourism Bell Island. In 2011, he became the first youth member of the Radio Bell Island committee; his leadership and initiative have since paved the way for other youth to get involved. Even while attending school full time, he was a lead member of the committee volunteering up to 40 hours a week and successfully delivering community radio to Bell Island. He also travelled to the province's west coast to assist in the launch of the Voice of Bonne Bay Radio. He continues to be an advisor on the committee for topics which engage youth in the wider community. In recognition of his leadership and outstanding volunteer contributions in 2012 Donovan was awarded the prestigious TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Community Leadership. In February 2013, Donovan was selected as one of eight Global Youth Ambassadors with the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) Active8 campaign. His social media campaign has inspired over 763 commitments to positive social change.</p>
---	--



## Office of Public Engagement

Executive Council

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: (709) 729-5790

Fax: (709) 729-2226

Email: [ope@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ope@gov.nl.ca)