

**URock**  
**Volunteer Award**  
**Selection Board**

**Annual Report**  
**2012-13**

### **Message from the Selection Board**

The URock Volunteer Selection Board's 2012-13 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 1st, 2012 to March 31st, 2013.

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



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

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## **1. Overview**

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

The Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat provides administrative support for the board and assists board members with their selection duties as needed. Information regarding nomination criteria for the URock Volunteer Award can be found at <http://www.urockvolunteerawards.ca>

The 2010-12 URock Volunteer Selection Board is comprised of four males and four females. The selection board does not have a budget nor does it oversee any type of public funds.

## **2. Mandate**

The mandate of the URock Volunteer Award Selection 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 their selection process.

## **3. Primary Clients**

The primary client of the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board is the VNPS. The selection board undertakes the independent task of providing VNPS with up to eight qualified recipients for the annual URock Volunteer Awards recognition event.

## **4. Vision**

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

## **5. Mission**

The limited nature of the URock Volunteer Award Selection Board's mandate makes a mission statement unnecessary. Since the committee is independent of the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat and also has a mandate different from VNPS it did not adopt the mission stated within the VNPS 2011-2014 Business Plan.

## **6. Report on Performance**

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board will be reporting on the same objective, measure and indicators each year in its planning cycle.

## Issue One: Selecting the Annual URock Award Recipients

The URock Volunteer Award Selection Board is mandated to select the annual URock Volunteer Award recipients. The selection 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 VNPS which also assists the selection board with all of its administrative needs. The Selection Board will carry out the same objective each year of this plan covering the 2011-2014 planning period. This objective supports the strategic direction of recognizing community volunteers.

### Objective

By March 31, 2013, 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 2012-13
All nominations are reviewed and considered on their merits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The selection board reviewed all submissions from the 2012 URock Volunteer Award call for nominations made to the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat.</li> </ul>
URock recipients are selected on time for the annual awards show	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The selection board finalized a list of recipients in advance of the annual awards show.</li> <li>• On May 12, 2012 URock Volunteer Awards were presented to one youth-led group and seven individual youths in recognition of their contributions and leadership.</li> <li>• The profiles of the 2012 URock Volunteer Award recipients are available in Appendix B.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Strategic Directions

**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 2012 URock Volunteer Award Recipients

Recipient	Bio
<p><b>Christian Legge</b> Age: 11 Hometown: St. John's</p>	<p>Christian Legge may be 11 years old, but he's been an avid volunteer since the age of five! It all started when he first decided to participate in Young Adult Cancer Canada's (YACC) Shave for the Brave event. Since his first Shave, Christian has personally raised close to \$27,000 for the cause, collecting \$14,000 this year alone. But Christian's volunteerism doesn't end there. Two years ago, he even participated in the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre's Swim for Hope with a broken arm! He is also an animal lover, and regularly raises donations and completes advocacy work for various animal protection and rescue groups, such as Heavenly Creatures and Bird and Small Animal Rescue. In 2012, Christian's outstanding contributions were further recognized when he was awarded the Experience Genie "Hero of the Year" award." Go Christian!</p>
<p><b>Ian Locke</b> Age: 18 Hometown: Meadows</p>	<p>Ian Locke's first passion is theatre, but his community efforts don't end with his position as Student Director of the school drama club. At 18 years old, his leadership extends from his school outward into the community. In recent years Ian has assisted and coached the elementary school running team and helped organize the elementary school chess club. He is an avid volunteer camp counselor at West Haven camp where he volunteers 2-4 weeks of his time each summer. He has also been the coordinator of the student blood donor clinic at Templeton Academy. Along with this, Ian also organizes the proceedings for the Duke of Edinburgh Award –and is a recipient of the Bronze, Silver and Gold medals – and participates in fundraisers such as the Relay for Life and Run for the Cure. Ian is an outstanding example to his classmates and all youth in the province.</p>
<p><b>Regan Burden</b> Age: 15 Hometown: Port Hope Simpson</p>	<p>Regan Burden may be from a small community, but she's big on giving back. As a member of the Bayside Academy student council, coordinator of the student yearbook, and through her work under the Kids Eat Smart Program, this 15-year-old loves to coordinate and lead the way. On top of these involvements, she also took on the role of organizing her school's Shave for the Brave event in 2011, where after everything was organized, she sat in the chair herself and participated. Afterward, Regan donated her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Last summer, she was selected to travel to Iceland, Greenland and the Torngat Mountains in Labrador as a participant in Students on Ice – a program created to bring world's brightest students, educators and scientists together to foster a new</p>

	understanding and respect for the planet.
<b>Jenna Kelly</b> Age:18 Hometown: Spanish Room	Jenna Kelly is a talented young musician and a star in her community. In 2009, this 18-year-old founded the Burin Peninsula Performing Arts Camp with a vision to create a place where youth can share and develop their musical talents. Jenna’s gift for performance is her avenue for giving back. She channels her volunteerism into performing and helping out at community events and fundraisers such as the Marystown annual Take Back the Night and the Relay for Life. Jenna also co-founded Stop the Drama in Africa – a non-profit organization that provided school supplies to underprivileged kids in Africa in 2010. It’s no surprise she was crowned Miss Teen Achievement in 2011.
<b>Ryan Furlong</b> Age: 18 Hometown: Plate Cove West	Ryan Furlong is a strong leader at the age of 18. At school and in the greater community, Ryan serves in a variety of leadership roles and is dedicated to making a positive impact. At school, he is president of the student council and he coaches the junior boys’ volleyball team. He is also a member of the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) advisory group, working with teachers and other students from across the province to improve the implementation and delivery of online courses not available at rural schools. Through his CDLI role, and as a member of his school’s social justice club, Ryan has also been working to address the new and serious issue of cyber bullying. In the greater community, Ryan sits on the provincial board of directors for Newfoundland and Labrador’s Youth Parliament. He also represents his own community – along with 11 others – as a youth representative for BAYnet, a network dedicated to enhancing educational and recreational opportunities for youth in rural communities.
<b>Blair Trainor</b> Age: 26 Hometown: St. John’s	Blair Trainor is a vocal advocate on issues surrounding youth homelessness. In 2009, the 26-year-old launched the Sleep Out 120 awareness campaign that requires volunteers to “live homeless” for 120 hours. The campaign has created an avenue for engaging and educating the general public on the realities of youth homelessness. Over the last two years, Sleep Out 120 has raised over \$25,000 to support youth homelessness initiatives in the St. John’s area. Blair has also put together a tool kit for youth who wish to replicate Sleep Out 120 across the province of Newfoundland Labrador. Blair is an active volunteer with the NL Housing and Homelessness Network, Choices for Youth, and the Community Pancake Breakfast, as well as a board member with For the Love of Learning. Blair has been praised by his peers and mentors as a shining example of youth volunteerism in the province, and we wholeheartedly agree.
<b>Nathan Whalen</b> Age:18	Nathan Whalen is an incredibly active and well-rounded young man from St. John’s. Nathan has been particularly involved with Allied



<p>Hometown: St. John's</p>	<p>Youth in various leadership roles, including provincial president, provincial board member, and 50th anniversary committee member. At 18 years old, he is already a longstanding volunteer coach with the NL Blind Lawn Bowling Team. In 2010 Nathan supported a team of seniors as they travelled to attend a tournament in Netanya, Israel. Nathan has been a community representative on the Bishops College-Booth Memorial West End High School Committee, and was also instrumental in leading Purple Week, Gay-Straight Alliance, Engineers Without Borders, and his school's Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast. As a long time student leader with over six years of service, Nathan has been a leader within his school community. In 2011 Nathan earned several awards in recognition of his dedication to the community, including the TD Scholarship for Community Leadership and the Canadian Association of School Principals' Student Leader of the Year award. Since 2011, Nathan has extended his involvement to include MUN-Oxfam, the MUN Debate Society and NL Speech and Debate and as an ongoing volunteer coach with the Bishops College Debate Team.</p>
<p><b>Holy Name of Mary Academy Eco-Kids</b> Hometown: Lawn</p>	<p>The Holy Name of Mary Academy Eco-Kids are an impressive group of young environmental champions from the community of Lawn on the Burin Peninsula. Their nomination notes that they have "changed their way of life and worked tirelessly to encourage others to do the same." In 2012, the group spearheaded a school-wide paper recycling and composting campaign, organized a monthly community-wide Green Day for recycling, and distributed earth-friendly LED bulbs to every household in Lawn. When faced with the issue of disposable plastic water bottles and paper cups, HNMA Eco Kids led the charge and purchased reusable water bottles for all students and teachers at their school. They've also been active participants in Lights Out Canada, Earth Hour, and National Sweater Day. In March 2011, the Marine Institute's Ocean Net Conference presented the group with the "Eco Champs Award." HNMA demonstrates that youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but are leading the way today!</p>