



**NUNATSIAVUT**  
Senani jarini kajusimanik pivallianimmut  
10 Years of Continued Progress

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## SmartICE recipient of prestigious Arctic Inspiration Prize

A community-government-academic-industry collaboration that integrates adapted technology, remote sensing, and traditional Inuit knowledge to promote safe travel in northern coastal environments is one of three initiatives to receive the coveted Arctic Inspiration Prize for 2016.

Led by Dr. Trevor Bell of Memorial University, the SmartICE (Sea-ice Monitoring and Real-Time Information for Coastal Environments) team also picked \$400,000 of the \$1.5 million handed out during an award's ceremony held in Winnipeg last evening.

Launched in 2012 and often called the Nobel Prize of the North, the Arctic Inspiration Prize is awarded to teams whose research and projects translate knowledge into action for the benefit of the people of the Canadian Arctic. The objective of total prize is to assist winning teams implement their plans of action.

Dr. Bell was nominated by Clint Davis, chair of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, and Levi Barnabas, chair of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation in Nunavut.

“With SmartICE, Dr. Bell and his team of researchers demonstrate the commitment to innovation that will have a significant impact on Inuit Nunangat,” says Mr. Davis. “It was an honour to support the nomination of this unique project.”

SmartICE is a partnership between Memorial University, the Nunatsiavut Government, industry and the Government of Canada. It provides locally relevant information for sea-ice travel in two pilot communities – Nain, Labrador, and Pond Inlet, Nunavut – where, like many other places in the North, sea-ice is part of the winter highway, the travel route to country food and a fundamental part of culture and well-being.

The Nunatsiavut Government, through the Environment Division of its Department of Lands and Natural Resources, has been assisting Dr. Bell in his research, given the importance of sea ice to Labrador Inuit.



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“Sea ice is part of who we are as a people. It’s a part of our culture and way of life,” says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe, noting that many Nunatsiavumiut sometimes refer to themselves as *Sikumuit*, which in English means *people of the sea ice*.

“I want to congratulate Dr. Bell and his researchers, and to thank them for the work they are doing on behalf of Labrador Inuit,” adds President Lampe. “Through this research we will be better equipped to adapt to the impacts of climate change on our traditional way of life.”

This is Dr. Bell’s second time being associated with the Arctic Inspiration Prize. In 2013, he was principal research partner of *SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik: the Sustainable Communities Initiative* of the Nunatsiavut Government that was named one of three overall recipients. That project focused on providing healthy housing solutions for Nunatsiavut communities that addresses changing climate, infrastructure requirements and Inuit housing needs and preferences.

Presented by the Rideau Hall Foundation, the Arctic Inspiration Prize is administered on a voluntary basis by ArcticNet, a Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada that brings together scientists and managers in the natural, human health and social sciences with their partners from Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies and the private sector. The objective of ArcticNet is to study the impacts of climate change and modernization in the coastal Canadian Arctic.

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