

Order of the NWT Summary of 2021 Nominations

Ms. JoAnne Deneron

Ms. Deneron is a resident of Fort Liard and is nominated for her work in *community leadership*. JoAnne has been selected for or elected to many positions in the community of Fort Liard, where she served with distinction and gained recognition from her community, from public and Indigenous governments in the Dehcho Region and beyond. From a Territorial perspective, JoAnne has served and led many boards and committees. These include Chairperson of Aurora College, Chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board, Board Member of the NWT Science Institute, Board Member of Canadian Polar Commission, President of the Literacy Council of the NWT, Board Member of Business Development Investment Corporation, Executive Member of Dehcho First Nations, and Board Member of the Development Bank. Currently, JoAnne is Chairperson of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. JoAnne is known throughout the North for her strong commitment to her family, to her community and to the NWT and Nunavut. JoAnne's contributions have been recognized by the Government of the Northwest Territories and First Nations Governments and related organizations who continue to request her participation in high level Boards and Committees. JoAnne is also currently serving her third term as Chairperson of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

Mr. Paul Kaeser

Mr. Kaeser is a resident of Fort Smith and is nominated for his work in *business*. Paul was born and raised in Fort Smith, NT. His life in Fort Smith included baseball, curling (he represented the NWT in the 1976 Briar), the volunteer fire department, serving on the NWT Liquor Commission, and his family. However, people know him mainly from his role in running the family owned Kaeser's Store between 1980 and 2007. Over the years managing the store, he has supported local groups and people through donation, providing credit to those in need, employing many people, and supplying excellent service and products. His hard work and good cheer has made Kaeser's Store a pillar of the community. After Paul inherited the family business in 1980, he expanded Kaeser's from his parents small three-aisle store to a larger business consisting of grocery, dry goods, and hardware in 1986, with a further expansion in 2000. His support of local organizations through donations has aided worthy causes. Paul's hard

work in the development and management of Kaeser's Store has improved the character of the town and supported the local economy. Through the work that Paul has done over the years, Fort Smith is a better place to live.

Mrs. Mary Effie Snowshoe

Mary Effie Snowshoe is a resident of Fort McPherson and is nominated for her work in *arts and culture*. Mrs. Snowshoe has excelled as a language/culture teacher most of her life, she teaches on the land programs for students as young as three years old. During the on the land programs, she teaches the importance of the Gwich'in language, naming different parts of the caribou in Gwich'in, demonstrates how to cut up a caribou and how to make dry meat. Mary Effie was a Gwich'in teacher for 23 years before retiring, but she still takes part in community events and is often eager to help those who want to learn her traditional knowledge such as programs on the land, at her camp, in her home, and in the community. Many organizations reach out to Mary Effie for her knowledge of the Gwich'in people and their culture. Mary Effie was awarded the Status of Women Council award in 2008 and in 2019 she received the Indspire award for Culture, Heritage, and Spirituality. Mary Effie goes out of her way to try and keep the Gwich'in language alive whether it is teaching young children in schools, individuals attending culture camps, her own family, or pretty much anyone that wants to learn, she will teach anyone.