

Activity Report 2023



Another banner year for Ayalik Expeditions

All the youth pictured above participated in the senior canoe trips, held this year in the beautiful and wild Kipawa region of northern Quebec.

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- The six girls and seven boys, 16 & 17 years old, pictured in our cover photo above, all flew down south to Ottawa in order to join their respective expeditions in Kipawa, definitely more challenging canoe trips, farther from home, than their previous experiences. Paddling remains a core element of our programs, a reflection of our belief in the nurturing power of the land.
- Nine boys and four girls, 14 & 15, participated in canoe trips outside Yellowknife, NWT, organized by longstanding partner [Jackpine Paddle](#). It is impossible to overstate the impact of these 12-day expeditions of introductory paddling in the sub-Arctic wilderness.



- Three girls and six boys joined the tall ship *St. Lawrence II* on one of four legs of the voyage from Kingston, down the river and around the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



[Tall Ship Expeditions Canada](#) is a long-standing partner, providing unique and challenging opportunities for youth to join the crew of Canada's oldest tall ship during its summer voyage.



I've never experienced anything like it! I enjoyed it very much, met a lot of new cool people, and made lots of good friends! I gained confidence, strength, and learned a lot about sailing, which was great. You learn how to be a team, cause we all had to work together moving the sails.

Josephina Mingeriak (15)
from Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River)
on Baffin Island

A total of 42 youth from 11 different communities across Nunavut were signed up for potentially life-changing Ayalik expeditions again this year. Unfortunately, flight disruptions took a greater toll this year, so that several youth were unable to attend at the last minute – such is life in the North. Ayalik will make every effort to ensure that those disappointed this year will have another chance next year.

We are excited to share that as of the end of this summer, Ayalik has provided nearly 200 life-changing trips to Nunavut youth over the past nine years. There will be many more in the years ahead.

At the end of every canoe trip, Ayalik staff present each youth with an Ayalik t-shirt, a certificate of achievement, and the Paddle Canada certificate(s) reflecting their newly acquired skills. This reinforces, in the youths' minds, their remarkable accomplishments: leaving their comfort zone, travelling away from home, to engage in a new and challenging activity. Smiling faces speak to the pride they feel.



Zacharias Qayaq



Shayna Ikuallaq



The total cost for this past summer's programs was over \$300,000. This does not include the general operating costs of the Ayalik Fund at MakeWay Foundation or the administrative and organizational services provided by Northern Youth Leadership to Ayalik Expeditions. While our institutional fundraising ability is growing, Ayalik continues to depend on private donations to support the full range of programming. This year, additional support was provided by a range of grants from Inuit organizations, the federal government, and foundations.



On behalf of youth all across Nunavut

Thank you for supporting this legacy



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