



MEDIA FACT SHEET

The Arctic Rose Foundation is a charitable organization that supports Northern Inuit, First Nations and Métis youth through Indigenous-led, arts-based after-school programs, and other engaging cultural and creative projects. Our mission is to instill hope for Northern Inuit and Indigenous youth through the creation of physically, emotionally, mentally, culturally safe spaces, and the provision of holistic, adaptable programming that engages, nurtures, and supports them in healthy and meaningful ways.

BACKGROUND

- Founded by Inuk singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark as the Arctic Rose Project in 2012, we grew to become the Arctic Rose Foundation after receiving charitable status in 2016, and were officially incorporated in 2020.
- Programs are Indigenous-led and run in schools and community centres, facilitated by local high school youth and young adults who have been trained and employed by the Arctic Rose Foundation.
- We utilize expressive arts and music, food donations, mentorship and leadership development to intentionally meet Northern Inuit and Indigenous youth where they are, and help them explore their own potential.
- Our programs are designed to be relevant and adaptable to the unique cultural practices and realities of each community in which they operate, and help to bridge the identity gap that has contributed to the mental health and suicide crisis impacting many young Inuit and Indigenous people in the North.
- The Arctic Rose Foundation currently operates in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Arctic Bay in Nunavut.
- Our goal is to expand into every community in Inuit Nunangat, and to every Northern First Nation or Métis community seeking our services.

NEEDS IN THE NORTH

- Northern communities face structural inequities and barriers, including limited access to mental wellness services, health care, education, appropriate housing, healthy food, water, and safe spaces.
- Inuit and Indigenous youth also face cultural disconnects due to the erosion of their culture through the loss of language and traditional knowledge – a result of intergenerational trauma and the legacy of residential schools.
- With young Indigenous populations growing faster than any other demographic in Canada, demand for our programs has increased.
- By providing an emotionally safe space and a cultural connection, we help Inuit and Indigenous youth to recognize the strength, resilience, and knowledge that has always existed (and continues to exist) among their people.

KEY PROGRAMS

Messy Book Program

After-school expressive arts program which guides youth in Grades 5-12 to explore, discover and connect with their traditional and cultural backgrounds. Run by local Community Artist Liaison and Mentor workers (a.k.a. CALM Workers) and artists who are hired and trained to serve as leaders within the program. Youth are provided a safe space, an emotional outlet, and access to Indigenous leaders, artists, role models, and mentors to help them explore their own potential.

Kamajiit (Caretakers) Program

Youth leadership development program designed to mitigate the root causes of high school dropout rates in three Nunavut communities. The program offers Grade 12 students and high school committee members access to vital supports, culturally-grounded creative activities, and mentors through an income and job creating process.

Christmas Food Bank Program

With the support of Arctic Co-operatives Limited and other partners, raises cash and corporate donations to send non-perishable food items to a select Nunavut food bank each year.

WEBSITE

arcticrose.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

@ArcticRoseFoundation on Facebook

@arcticrosefoundation_ on Instagram

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ABOUT THE ARCTIC ROSE FOUNDATION

The Arctic Rose Foundation is a charitable organization that grew out of the Arctic Rose Project, started by Susan Aglukark in 2012. Officially designated as a registered charity in 2016, and incorporated in 2020, the Arctic Rose Foundation works to support Northern Inuit, First Nations and Métis youth through the creation of Indigenous-led, arts-based after school programs, as well as other engaging cultural and creative projects.