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WAPIKONI MOBILE OF CANADA SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATION WORKING TO END INDIGENOUS DISCRIMINATION IS A TOP CANDIDATE FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

NEW YORK – June 20, 2017 – In recognition of outstanding achievements to support more inclusive societies worldwide, the [Global Centre for Pluralism](http://www.pluralism.ca/en/), an international education and research organization founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, announced the 10 finalists for the 2017 Global Pluralism Award. Selected by a renowned international jury, [Wapikoni](http://wapikoni.com) Mobile was chosen as a finalist for this year’s inaugural award for their work to teach filmmaking to indigenous youth in remote communities.

“We are witnessing societies worldwide becoming more deeply divided. Creative solutions to building understanding and respect across differences are all the more urgent,” said John McNee, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. “The work of the 10 finalists of the Global Pluralism Award, and all the nominees, is a testament to what can be achieved when pluralism is put into practice.”

The international Award jury, chaired by the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, is comprised of five independent members from various disciplines. The jury reviewed over 200 nominations from 43 countries. After careful consideration, the finalists were selected for their extraordinary, innovative work to advance respect for diversity.

Wapikoni Mobile stood out among the nominations for its work to give a voice to excluded and marginalized indigenous youth through audio/visual creation and free expression. By distributing their work, Wapikoni helps to break down racism, prejudice and discrimination.

The organization established the International Network for Aboriginal Audiovisual Creation (INAAC), whose objective is to use indigenous cinema to raise awareness, achieve social inclusion of indigenous peoples, and promote respect for indigenous rights worldwide. By letting youth speak about their work to a variety of audiences, Wapikoni actively promotes understanding, social harmony, and pluralism with a view to reconciliation.

Of the 10 finalists, three winners will be recognized at the inaugural Global Pluralism Award Ceremony, which takes place in the fall of 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. Each winner will receive \$50,000 to further their work.

About the Global Centre for Pluralism

Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization. Inspired by Canada's experience as a diverse and inclusive country, the Centre was created to advance positive responses to the challenge of living peacefully and productively together in diverse societies.

Members of the Award Jury

- The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, former Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada (Jury Chair)
- Dante Caputo (Argentina), Member of the Council of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights of Argentina; former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Argentina
- Bience Gawanas (Namibia), Special Advisor to the Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Namibia; former Commissioner for Social Affairs at the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government

- Naheed Nenshi (Canada), Mayor of Calgary
- Pascale Thumerelle (France), former Vice-President, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Vivendi, a global integrated industrial group in media and content

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