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## **GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM GIVES HONOURABLE MENTION TO WAPIKONI MOBILE FOR THE 2017 GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD**

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO BREAK DOWN DISCRIMINATION THROUGH FILMMAKING**

**OTTAWA– October 3, 2017** – In an effort to promote indigenous rights and social inclusion, the Canadian non-profit organization [Wapikoni Mobile](#) uses filmmaking to engage with indigenous youth in remote communities and give them a voice. The [Global Centre for Pluralism](#), an international research and education organization dedicated to advancing respect for diversity around the world, has recognized Wapikoni Mobile with an honourable mention for the [2017 Global Pluralism Award](#).

“Indigenous peoples in Canada have faced racism and discrimination for generations,” said John McNee, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. “Wapikoni Mobile helps to break down racism, prejudice and isolation by connecting Canada’s indigenous youth with the latest filmmaking tools and techniques to tell their stories. Wapikoni has not only enhanced filmmaking in Canada with new voices and perspectives, but also provides youth with incredible educational opportunities.”

Wapikoni Mobile strives to combat isolation and suicide among First Nations youth while developing artistic, technical, social and professional skills. Wapikoni Mobile distributes their film creations throughout communities by organizing 200 screenings per year at locations ranging from remote high schools to prestigious film festivals. In an effort to build new relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people, the young directors are encouraged to speak about their films and the creation process following the screenings.

Wapikoni Mobile has mentored 4,000 individuals from five First Nations communities in Canada, offering audio and visual services and ongoing training. The organization has amassed international acclaim and numerous awards including winner of the 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Prize of the Montreal Council of Arts in 2012.

Wapikoni Mobile also established the International Network for Aboriginal Audiovisual Creation, which uses cinema to promote respect for indigenous rights and social inclusion throughout the world. Many of the organization's participants have won full scholarships at prestigious international film schools and helped start the Idle No More movement.

The Global Centre for Pluralism, founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, will recognize Wapikoni Mobile, along with six other honourable mentions and three winners, Daniel Webb of Australia, Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya and Leyner Palacios Asprilla of Colombia, for their commitment to building more inclusive societies on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Global Pluralism Award Ceremony in Ottawa, Canada.

### **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.

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### **Award Winners:**

[Leyner Palacios Asprilla](#), Comité por los Derechos de las Víctimas de Bojayá, Colombia [Alice Wairimu Nderitu](#), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Kenya  
[Daniel Webb](#), Human Rights Law Centre, Australia

### **Honourable Mentions:**

[ATD Quart Monde](#), France  
[BeAnotherLab](#), Spain  
[Fundación Construir](#), Bolivia  
[Hand Talk](#), Brazil  
[Sawa for Development and Aid](#), Lebanon  
[Wapikoni Mobile](#), Canada  
[Welcoming America](#), United States