

Calgarian among those shortlisted for Everyday Political Citizen Award

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A unique project celebrating political activism has released its short list of diverse nominees from across the country, including Calgarian Cheri Macaulay, founder of CivicCamp.

Everyday Political Citizen was developed by Samara Canada in 2013, a non-partisan charity dedicated to reconnecting citizens to politics. The project aims to celebrate positive political role models and their contributions to their communities in hopes of recognizing diversity throughout the country.

As part of three short lists categorized by age, 21 Canadians were selected by a panel of prominent Canadians after being nominated by friends and family.

As Calgary's only nominee, Macauley is well known as founder of CivicCamp, a non-partisan, public advocacy group working to help citizens improve the places in which they live.

According to Samara Canada's website, where all shortlisted nominees are profiled, Macauley was also an inaugural member of Mayor Naheed Nenshi's Civic Engagement Committee that launched the 3 Things for Calgary project.

"These initiatives encouraged individuals to create meaningful, positive change in the city, and both seeded other engagement activities and collectives not just in Calgary, but in other municipalities."

Macauley also helped create Little Free Library, one of the city's first public libraries offering free book exchanges in small containers along local sidewalks.

"Whatever the medium, she's always willing to share what she's learned about crafting quality communities, bridging connections between groups and individuals, and help others advance their local community projects."

Other notable Alberta nominees include Edmonton Oilers' captain Andrew Ference, who promotes sustainability projects and green initiatives to audiences that may traditionally not pay close attention to environmental issues. Through the NHL Players Association he also created a carbon-neutral program that has more than 500 NHL

players purchase carbon credits to offset the environmental impact of a travel-heavy professional athlete lifestyle.

Also, 26-year-old Cory Nicotine, from Saddle Lake First Nation northeast of Edmonton, was nominated after creating “Knowledge is Powwow,” a unique program educating vulnerable youth to different cultures, religions and social justice issues.

Final winners will be announced Dec. 3 by jury member Rick Mercer.