



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2012 Giovanni Castellarin Scholarship Fund Recipients Announced

Whitehorse – The Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and Klondike Visitors Association are pleased to announce that Thomas Beckett and William Thomson have been chosen as the 2012 Giovanni Castellarin Scholarship Fund winners. As this year's successful applicants, Thomas and William will each be awarded a \$1,000 dollar scholarship to assist with the cost of their post-secondary education in tourism.

William Thomson, a graduate of FH Collins, is in his second semester at Thompson River University where he is enrolled in the Sports Event Management program, with plans to switch over to Tourism Management Program in his second year. He spent last summer working for an adventure tourism operator in the territory and looks forward to returning to his job this year. William wrote his winning essay on the importance of a balanced approach to Yukon's wilderness. "I find we tend to look at mining and oil" Thomson said "but we have a lot more to offer from wilderness in the longer term." William would ultimately like to travel the world working in the tourism sector after school before returning to Yukon to start his own business.

Thomas Beckett is currently studying Hotel and Food Administration as part of the school of Hospitality and Tourism and the University of Guelph. He has spent his whole life in the territory and has worked in the accommodations sector every summer since high school. During his work he has taken the time to observe how the hotel sector works together with different tourism operators to offer visitors the best possible experience. It is with a keen eye for enhancing the visitor experience that he is learning from both his professors and peers in Guelph. "I really enjoy the perspectives that people bring to the table in my program", Beckett says of his studies. "Students from across the country have very different views on marketing their destination." Thomas hopes to operate an outdoor adventure company when he is finished school.

Established in 2002 in memory of Giovanni Castellarin, a long-time champion of tourism in Yukon and the Klondike, the GCSF is awarded by the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and the Klondike Visitors Association.

Recipients of the scholarship are each awarded \$1000 to assist with their post-secondary studies in the field of tourism.

For more information, contact:

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