



# The Ayalik Fund

## Summer 2015 Report



Shania Angohiatok and Ian Kavanna, from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, in the Rocky Mountains for an adventure with Outward Bound Canada

*“There is value in a life fully lived.”*

*~ Neil Falkner*

### **Outward Bound Canada’s Mission:**

*To cultivate resilience, leadership, connections and compassion through inspiring and challenging journeys of self-discovery in the natural world.*

## INTRODUCTION

Outward Bound Canada is thrilled to have partnered with the Ayalik Fund in providing quality wilderness educational experiences to youth from Cambridge Bay. We wish to express our sincere thanks for your support in providing two students with the opportunity to participate in our program this past summer and have an experience of a lifetime.

This program gives participants the opportunity to connect first-hand with some of Canada's most amazing wild areas, interact with other motivated youth and discover their own strengths, abilities and passions. Outward Bound believes it is through the challenges and rewards of a wilderness expedition that youth can develop greater resilience, compassion and self-reliance.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

In 2015 the Ayalik Fund provided funding for two students from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut to attend a Rocky Mountain Discovery Course in Canmore, Alberta in August.

## OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

In reviewing the feedback from the Outward Bound instructors and the thank-you letters from the students, there is no doubt that this expedition was an incredible learning experience for all involved. Shania & Ian certainly made an impression on the other members of their group.



*“At first, team building was awkward, but over time we bonded as people. I really appreciated that all the people in my group were from different places, backgrounds and cultures. It helped me to appreciate how much you can learn from others. Two people from my group lived in the Arctic, so it was extremely interesting to learn about the way they lived and their outlook on life – this trip was the first time they had ever seen trees.”*

– Riana, bursary student from England

## FROM THE INSTRUCTORS

It was a pleasure having Shania and Ian as part of our team. Shania is a thoughtful and joyful young woman and was very articulate about her goals during one-on-one check-ins. She told many interesting stories about her life back in Cambridge Bay and it was wonderful to have that insight on the trip. She also showed a very keen interest in the plants, animals and insects in the area we were travelling through and a desire to learn about them. She was a quick learner who helped other team members when they needed it. She pushed herself every day, especially when we were walking up Blackrock Mountain. She brought a wry sense of humour to the group and a cheerfulness that was great appreciated.

Ian is an intelligent and thoughtful young man, who was always wanting to help others. He was a quick learner -- after watching a demonstration of how to light a fire using flint and steel he picked them up and after a few tries had successfully lit a fire with only a small spark onto the char cloth and dry grass. His humour, love for learning, and helpfulness were an asset to the group.

We wish them the greatest success moving forward with all their future goals and dreams.

*Warm Wishes,  
Jen, Miles & Mira*



## SUMMARY

An Outward Bound Canada expedition is more than just canoeing, kayaking and backpacking. It's an adventure in the classic sense of the word. It's about dealing with the unknown. It's about meeting challenges. And it's about learning; learning about yourself, about others, about the environment and, most of all, about your potential. Our courses compel students to dig deep. With encouragement and support, they transcend the illusion of limitations, and find new strength and confidence within themselves.

All of Outward Bound Canada's programs use the challenges and inspiration of the natural environment – rivers, lakes, mountains and oceans – to bring out the best in everyone. The rewards come from meeting these challenges and accomplishing what was thought to be impossible. Students not only learn the technical skills demanded by travel in the wilderness, they also develop long-lasting attributes that are the hallmark of Outward Bound – adaptability, courage, resilience, responsibility, persistence, integrity, compassion, service to community, and the ability to work well with others – qualities that will last a lifetime.

Outward Bound Canada would like to thank you once again for your generous contribution and for your continued support of our programs. We are proud to help you to continue this living memory of Eric, which enables young Inuit people from Nunavut to see a much bigger world; to encourage them to grow and challenge themselves, to develop leadership skills and to make connections with other youth from around the world. We look forward to providing safe, educational and life enhancing experiences for future Ayalik Fund recipients in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
Laura Hood  
Charitable Programs Manager

~ OUTWARD BOUND CANADA ~

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