



Conferred on Dr. Chris Burn on July 2, 2024

The Rotary Club of Ottawa is honored to present Dr. Chris Burn with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to environmental research and community welfare.

Dr. Christopher Burn, Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, is a distinguished academic with a higher doctorate (D.Sc.) from the University of Durham. His research primarily focuses on the permafrost environment of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, addressing the profound impacts of climate change on these regions.

Dr. Burn's scholarly work is prolific, including three books, six edited journal issues, 35 chapters in edited books, 90 refereed journal papers, and numerous other publications. He has secured over \$6 million in research funding, highlighting the significance and impact of his studies.

Since 1987, Dr. Burn has conducted extensive field research in the western Arctic, spending considerable time north of 67°N annually. His dedication involves not only scientific exploration but also active engagement with local communities and agencies. This collaboration ensures that his research addresses practical concerns and benefits those directly affected by environmental changes.

Dr. Burn is also a dedicated mentor, having supervised 26 Master's and six Ph.D. theses. Many of his graduates now work in northern regions, contributing to the development and implementation of solutions for northern communities. In 2017, he launched Canada's first Master's programs in Northern Studies at Carleton University, which include experiential learning placements in the North, further demonstrating his commitment to training future leaders in this field.

His collaborative projects with northern agencies, such as the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Parks Canada, have led to significant advancements in understanding and mitigating climate change impacts. Notable projects include research on Herschel Island-Qikiqtaryuk and the resilience of the Dempster Highway to climate change.

Dr. Burn's expertise is highly valued by regulatory boards and government committees. His contributions to public decision-making processes, including the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway review, have been crucial in shaping sustainable development strategies in Canada's North.

In recognition of his contributions, Dr. Burn has received several prestigious awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and the Polar Medal presented by the Governor General of Canada.

Dr. Chris Burn exemplifies the Rotary's ideals through his dedication to environmental research, education, and community service. His work has significantly enhanced the welfare of northern communities and beyond, making him a truly deserving recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award.

Dr. Burns please come forward to receive your Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Criteria for Awards to Non-members Paul Harris Fellow Award:

At the Club's request Rotary International issues a certificate in the awardee's name and a PHF pin, both for presentation with the award citation to the awardee. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary. A nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Has made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly enhanced the welfare of the community at the local, national/international level; or
- b. Has made an outstanding personal or business contribution that has significantly improved understanding and generated mutual respect between or among people of different races, cultures or countries; or
- c. Has performed outstanding community service in support of youth, the elderly, the underprivileged, the disabled or the developmentally challenged; or
- d. Exemplifies the qualities of the good citizen and provides a role model of the ideal community builder.