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# Two women receive **Senate's Canada** 150 medals

Michele Letourneau

Ann Meekitjuk Hanson and Heather Daley both received specially minted **Canada** 150 medals from Nunavut Senator **Dennis Patterson** Feb. 11.

Hanson was Nunavut's third commissioner, appointed in 2005.

"Born on the island of Qakutut, outside Kimmirut, Nunavut, she spent the first 11 years of her life speaking only Inuktitut and living in Qakutut and Kimmirut. She attended schools in Iqaluit, Qamanituaq and Toronto. She studied community development at St. Francis Xavier University and received a diploma with honours in journalism from Nunavut Arctic College," said Patterson, about the respected elder.

"Mrs. Hanson has spent considerable time as a volunteer, helping to start a number of organizations in Iqaluit. These organizations include the Juvenile Court Committee, the Elders Group, the Inuit Cultural Group and the Quinuajuaq Society."

Meanwhile, Daley is the founder and executive director of the 13-year-old Alianait Arts Festival.

"Heather Daley has promoted music and wellness through music for many years in Nunavut," said Patterson.

"Through Heather's fostering and dedication, Nunavut musicians and performing artists have had the immense opportunity to be showcased on both national and international stages, allowing these performers to show the world the vibrant music, art and performances Inuit have to offer as a part of their resilient culture."

Patterson also noted Daley volunteers and serves on several community boards and helps with events and fundraising throughout the community.

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