

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLOBAL HERIZONS ANNOUNCES 2018 WINNERS

Ottawa, Ontario, Friday July 13, 2018— Across Canada, women are engaging globally and changing the world in so many ways, everyday. But for women who have grown up outside of Canada's urban centres, it can be difficult to access global opportunities, to navigate new environments and to build strong relationships with other women leaders who can help translate their ambitions into impact.

Global HERizons believes in the power of all women to change the world, and provides young women from rural Canada with the opportunity to receive a modest financial contribution to their academic or career ambitions, accompanied with expert mentorship support to help these young women build knowledge and networks to take their ambitions international.

This spring we launched our 2018 Call for Proposals, seeking passionate young women from rural Canada to propose an investment in their globally-minded academic, volunteer or social enterprise project. We received many strong proposals from women in rural communities across the country, and after a rigorous selection process, Global HERizons is pleased to announce the three successful winners of this year's competition:

- **Islay Purcell** is a recent graduate of the University of New Brunswick's Renaissance College, where she received a Bachelor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Leadership. While growing up in Estey's Bridge, New Brunswick she became heavily involved in the Student Hunger Program, which provided her with the opportunity to develop a relationship with the Fredericton Community Kitchen as a volunteer, as well as the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre, where she discovered her love for helping those in need, supporting people with disabilities and advocating for the members of her community who are often overlooked. In addition to mentorship, Islay is receiving funding towards her 12-month volunteer placement with [L'Arche](#) in France (founded by Canadian Jean Vanier). She will also receive support from Global HERizons upon her return from L'Arche to set up a tea shop in her community which will employ people with developmental disabilities.
- **Samantha Wilson** is an East Coast girl, currently living on Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick. Sam trained at St. Thomas University and is a Registered Social Worker who has focused her work thus far with youth, particularly developing self-esteem and wellness programs in rural settings. In the past year, Samantha has been a research project coordinator for a project that aimed to improve pro-social skills and self-esteem in young teen girls in rural Charlotte County, NB. She also started up a Teen Centre at her local Boys and Girls Club on Grand Manan, including developing several self-esteem and wellness programs for young women. In addition to mentorship, Samantha is receiving funding towards a trip to India where she will be counselling rural women and building her understanding of how best to support women in rural contexts. She will also receive support from Global HERizons towards developing a new project on Grand Manan informed by her experience abroad.



- **Alisha Virmani** is an aspiring dentist and a young humanitarian that was born and raised in Hanwell, New Brunswick, and is currently in her third year of dentistry at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia. Alisha is an advocate for anti-bullying and sexual harassment prevention programs, and for the past decade, Alisha has volunteered her time with the Canadian Red Cross to promote healthy relationships and safe school environments. Alisha has worked closely with the New Brunswick Ministerial Committee to have a strong influence on revised anti antibullying legislation surrounding the NB Education Act, and is a Queen's University Chancellor Scholar and the 2013 recipient of the New Brunswick Young Humanitarian Award. Alisha is working with two experienced Global HERizons mentors to explore opportunities to bring some of her experience and expertise to the global stage.

You can find more about our 2018 rural leaders on our website: www.globalherizons.ca

By accompanying our financial support with guidance, insight and perspective from some of Canada's successful female leaders and changemakers, we hope to provide a springboard for rural women who may not have the personal networks and connections to the national and global spaces, but who have the essential knowledge, skills and passion that the world needs to tackle some the most pressing issues facing the planet and its people.

Global HERizons is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that provides financial and mentorship support to young women in rural Canada who want to create positive social change at the national and global levels.

Organization information:

Global HERizons: www.globalherizons.ca

Based in Ottawa, Ontario

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