



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2007

## LOCAL YOUTH ACCEPTED ON BOARD ANTARCTIC CLIMATE EXPEDITION

NELSON – Longtime Procter resident Zoë Caron, has been accepted into an international youth environmental leadership program to Antarctica to learn about environmental issues and climate change. The expedition takes place December 26 to January 7<sup>th</sup> and accepts less than 100 students from around the world every year. Caron is on a mission to fundraise \$9,900 for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The Nelson and District Credit Union was the first to pledge support for the initiative with a \$1,000 donation.

"The mandate of Nelson & District Credit Union's Community Investment Program is to enrich the lives of our members and our communities through sponsorship," says Tom Atkins of the NDCU. "By supporting Zoë financially to participate in the "Students on Ice" program we saw a perfect fit with our program."

The expedition, lead by *Students on Ice*, is a unique initiative dedicated to taking students from around the world on unique learning expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Local graduate Rosie Simms attended last year. The ship-based International Polar Year Antarctic Expedition employs modern icebreakers as home. It is the only organization in the world that offers an opportunity for students to be immersed in 'hands on' research activities and lectures, taught by polar experts, educators, and researchers. Caron's participation in the expedition depends on whether she can raise \$9,900 in sponsorships. So far her fundraising efforts have raised \$1500. She is approaching local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals in the community to lend to the cause.

"I am excited and inspired by the natural environment and practical environmental solutions and I'm really looking to build on my education and experience to help me better work on climate change," explains Caron. "I want to be able to communicate, share, and build that enthusiasm in the most effective way and with as many young people as possible – and I see *Students on Ice* as one of many tools to enable me, and many others, to do just that."

Caron was born and raised in the Nelson area, graduating this October with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences and International Development from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She worked for two years with the Sierra Youth Coalition (Sierra Club of Canada), co-founded the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, and is co-authoring *Global Warming for Dummies* with Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, to be published in April, 2008. Caron was recently named one of Canada's top emerging leaders alongside Justin Trudeau in *Alternatives Journal*, November edition and was profiled among *Vanity Fair's* "Global Citizens" in their 2007 Green Issue.

Tax deductible donations can be made online at:

[www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d28056](http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d28056)

Specify: **Fund** - "SYC Sustainability Education"  
**Gift** - "In honour of Zoe Caron"

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