

## **Crystal Martin-Lapenskie**

Crystal is a young creative professional with expertise in Inuit-specific project management. She has extensive experience in reviewing and evaluating programs and services and developing culturally sensitive program policies. Crystal is known for her advocacy work in Inuit communities and globally to enhance programs and services that best meet the needs of Inuit particularly socio-cultural and socio-economic impacts and the ever-changing climate in Inuit Nunaat. Though relatively new to the film and production industry, Crystal's creative and high energy brings unique stories to media. Crystal is co-producer and co-executive director of Indigenous Geographic. For Inuit-specific content, Crystal will lead and coordinate with Inuit communities to ensure that content is captured through Inuit-lens.

## **EXPERIENCE:**

### **CO-FOUNDER, INDIGENOUS GEOGRAPHIC | December 2021 - Present**

- A partnership between Metis filmmaker and producer, Matt LeMay, Crystal co-produces and hosts shows

### **CO-OWNER, LAPENSKIE MASONRY CONTRACTING INC. | April 2021 - Present**

- A partnership with her husband, Crystal is responsible for the administration of the business

### **ASSOCIATE, INUIT ADVISOR, ARCTIC SECURITY CONSULTANTS | April 2020 - Present**

- Crystal is a trusted advisor to Arctic Security Consultants as the Inuit benefit expert. Crystal supports the review and development of Inuit-specific training/benefit management plans/proposals and acts as subject matter expert as needed in relation to Inuit affairs and the arctic.

### **PRESIDENT & CEO, OKPIK CONSULTING INC. | October 2017 - Present**

- Offering project management services focused on improving policies, programs, and services for Inuit organizations or those working in Inuit Nunangat. Crystal also offers facilitation and development of client-focused programs.

### **REGIONAL MANAGER / ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CANADIAN NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CANNOR) | December 2018 - September 2019**

- Responsible for implementing the economic development goals within Nunavut and coordinated with local development agencies, businesses and municipal/territorial governments to expand on economic opportunities. Crystal was responsible for overseeing the Agency's program and policy guidelines and ensuring staff evaluated applications reflecting departmental timeline and practices. Crystal regularly analyzed the economic opportunities and challenges and addressed them accordingly with clients to achieve goals.

### **CULTURAL POLICY ADVISOR, TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT | November 2016 - October 2017**

- Responsible for advising, guiding, and educating internal stakeholders as well as decision makers at Provincial learning ministries toward a more focused and knowledgeable approach to the design and framework of Inuit education in Ontario. Crystal's work and advocacy led to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Education, Ontario and Tungasuvvingat Inuit that allows future communication and collaboration on any Inuit student learning across the province. Crystal was also responsible for internal and external policy development.

### **INUIT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, RAYTHEON CANADA LIMITED, NORTH WARNING SYSTEM | January 2015 - November 2016**

- Delivering and maintaining the Inuit Training and Development Program (ITDP), and the Inuit Benefits Management plan contractual requirements. Crystal maintained six core programs under the ITDP, including up to 20 participants. She was responsible for developmental performance evaluation, recruitment, mentorship, and classroom engagement in STEM. She was also responsible for the Company's 2-million dollar program budget.

### **INUIT YOUTH IN TRANSITION WORKER, TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT | January 2014 - January 2015**

- Assisting Inuit youth leaving care transition into adulthood by helping them identify, access, and navigate adult service systems relevant to their needs in an Inuit-specific approach. This position also included coordinating programs, events, cultural education and developing information sessions.

### **INUIT YOUTH ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR, TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT | October 2013 - January 2014**

- Developing and delivering programs for Inuit youth through Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ), mentorship, cultural education/activities and recreational activities.

### **COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER, GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT | July 2013 - September 2013**

- Providing counseling for children, families and groups; investigating and actioning in child welfare activities; recruitment of foster parents/home visits, referrals, auditing files, reporting, policies and procedures.

## EDUCATION:

- **INDIGENOUS ADVOCACY POLICY: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AFFAIRS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TRAINING INSTITUTE | 2021**
- **APPLIED MANAGEMENT, ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | 2016**
- **SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER, ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | 2013**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Crystal participates actively in the community as a volunteer where she can. In June of 2019, Crystal was elected for a two-year term as President for the **National Inuit Youth Council**, a national body representing Inuit youth in Canada. She sat on the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) board of directors, the Inuit Circumpolar Council board of directors, and participated at the Inuit-Crown partnership committee advancing Inuit youth priorities. Crystal was also identified by the International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council as an **Emerging Leader for Canada** and has been engaged in this program from 2019-2022 mentored by the Chair.

Crystal is an Ambassador for the **Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP)**. The AIP recognizes and promotes the extraordinary contribution made by teams in the gathering of Arctic knowledge and their plans to implement this knowledge to the real-world applications for the benefit of the Canadian arctic, arctic Peoples and therefore Canada as a whole. The Prize is up to \$3 million each year for organizations making a difference in the Canadian Arctic.

Crystal sits on the **Kamatsiarniq Advisory Council** guiding departmental priorities aimed at maintaining Inuit children and youth remain with families in their communities.

Crystal is the Inuit representative for the Renfrew County District School Board, and the Renfrew County Catholic School Board's **Indigenous Education Advisory Council's (IEAC)**. IEAC supports the learning of Indigenous students and families within the school boards.

Crystal recently joined the **United Way East Ontario's Advisory Council**. The United Way harnesses the strength needed to address systemic challenges, raise support and advocate for change.

## AWARDS

- **Alumni of Distinction:** Crystal was awarded [Alumni of Distinction in Community Services from Algonquin College](#) in 2021 for her ongoing advocacy work across Inuit Nunangat (circumpolar homelands). She was also nominated by Algonquin College for the 2021 Premier's Award for Outstanding Ontario College Graduate for her Community Service efforts.
- **Women of Color, STEM:** Crystal was awarded Rising Technology Star in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from the [Women of Color](#) in 2016 for her contributions to STEM activities in classrooms across Inuit Nunangat. She was the first Canadian and first Indigenous woman to receive this award.

## ARTICLES

- <https://www.pembroketoday.ca/2021/07/29/women-of-influence-crystal-martin-lapenskie/>
- <https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/four-things-know-about-arctic-policy-and-sustainable-ocean-management-canada-and-norway>
- <https://thenarwhal.ca/cop26-indigenous-delegates-climate-change/>
- <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/inuit-react-governor-general-mary-simon-parliament/>
- <https://www.nunavutnews.com/news/inuit-traditional-knowledge-reawakening-says-president-of-niyc/>
- <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2019/10/03/the-inuit-agree-on-a-common-writing-system>
- <https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/05/18/women-leaders-are-running-this-country-and-we-should-keep-it-that-way/248410>

- <https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2019/12/16/international-inuit-leaders-call-for-more-decisive-action-on-climate-change/>
- <https://www.cjrfund.org/news/2020/3/10/the-youth-at-the-heart-of-cop25>
- [https://www.mcst-rmiusp.org/images/MEPC/coral-and-ice\\_black-carbon-impacts\\_crystal-martin-lapenskie\\_in\\_p23421.pdf](https://www.mcst-rmiusp.org/images/MEPC/coral-and-ice_black-carbon-impacts_crystal-martin-lapenskie_in_p23421.pdf)
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/menstrual-pads-arctic-1.5448420>
- <https://tearawhatu.org/te-whare-wananga/2019/12/10/ice-and-identity-in-the-arctic>

#### **COMMERCIAL VIDEOS:**

- <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/video.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMfN2y571Pg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E70piPoSzSg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKvUF4xCgAl>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtbCR1L2amk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMfN2y571Pg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEsuHVYJGrk>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxTAN\\_aQeyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxTAN_aQeyw)

#### **ADVOCACY VIDEOS**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBU08h4iKio>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSzlyCj8Bkk&t=5s>
- <https://podcasts.nu/avsnitt/unikkaat-unipkaat-ungipaghat-nallunairutet-circumpolar-waves/inuktitut-podcast-series-niyc-president-crystal-martin-lapenskie-CukcNLcg7R>

#### **VOICE OVERS**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R4\\_XBfglv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R4_XBfglv0)