

Remembering 'Our Paul'

DAREarts is a national charity that ignites change in at-risk children, guided by the principles of DARE: Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence. We are saddened by the passing of its Chairman, Paul Semple, COO of Noront Resources. Our hearts go out to his daughter, his family and to all those who were close to him.

Paul and DAREarts first connected in 2007, when we were invited by the remote, northern community of Webequie First Nation to engage their young people in creative activities to stem the teen suicides. We worked together with open hearts and minds to find what worked.

Paul and Noront Resources initially supported DAREarts' documentary film called 'Fill My Hollow Bones' that follows the first three years of DAREarts in Webequie, created in large part by the youth themselves. The film premiere was held at TIFF Bell Lightbox and is still being viewed across Canada as inspiration for other young people.

Paul and Noront showed how to make a difference by helping us reach seven other northern communities who also wanted arts' programs for their young people. Moreover, he encouraged new partnerships that engage northern kids in making movies about mining.

DAREarts' Brenda Norton: "Paul spoke passionately about how proud he was of the young people at Noront. He truly believed in the value of young people and how much they are capable of contributing."



Why was Paul so interested in DAREarts? He 'got' it, saying, "You have to start with the youth." He understood the importance of engaging kids in the arts. He saw how the arts motivated them to stay in school, set goals and get jobs to contribute to their community. As 15 year old Judith said, "DAREarts helped me realize that doing fun things will keep your mind off bad things."

Paul genuinely believed that engaging kids in the arts leads to their success, in school and in life. Paul watched 19 year old Trenton, a teen disinterested in anything except hunting. Curious about DAREARTS, he decided to come to school and make mukluks. Like mining, it always takes longer than you think; a month later, giving up his beloved hunting, he finished his mukluks. Trenton told Paul, "Darearts taught me a new lesson in life, that if you fall down you can always get back up stronger."

Why was Paul urging others in mining companies to get involved?

Paul saw new perspectives on prospecting: that mining young minds is what builds tomorrow's work force. He was so proud of the many youth who, through the arts, are finding courage and taking action. They want to work; they want to achieve; they want to give back to their community. For example, last year, eight youths in Marten Falls created a video about mining that won an Ontario-wide competition. Last summer, 15 year old Destiny in Pickle Lake filmed herself saying: "I want to be a miner, just like my dad." In April, 15 year old Judith announced a walk-a-thon from Pickle Lake to Ottawa to raise funds to build a community centre in Webequie. Other Webequie youths wrote a song 'Spirit of the North' singing: "I want to be proud; I want to be strong; I want to be who I am"

After his daughter Alison, these young people are Paul's legacy. Help us continue Paul's work by igniting change in our northern youth to reach their potential. With his family, co-workers at Noront and CIM, DAREarts is proud to announce the [Paul Semple Scholarship Fund for Innovative Mines](#).

Marilyn Field, Founder & President