



The Northpine Foundation appoints Aatif Baskanderi as CEO

Rapidly emerging philanthropic foundation puts entrepreneurial leader at the helm to establish itself as one of Canada's largest private foundations focused on social innovation.

Toronto, Ontario, January 16, 2021 - The Northpine Foundation is thrilled to announce Aatif Baskanderi as its Chief Executive Officer effective January 2021. Aatif joins with an enduring energy, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial mindset to help build The Northpine Foundation into one of Canada's top private foundations investing in the country's underserved communities.

Aatif has an extraordinary career that encompasses engineering, social policy, innovation and storytelling. The common denominator that drives Aatif is serving the greater good of humanity through boundless creativity and curiosity. He completed his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and Master of Technology Management degrees at Memorial University, and a Master of Social Policy & Development at the London School of Economics & Political Science. He helped design one of Blackberry's most popular smartphones and published research to inform federal departments on policy opportunities for emerging technologies in Canada. From there, he led innovation efforts at the British High Commission, a multinational utility company, and most recently, was the Executive Director of Startup Edmonton, the city's early-stage technology startup incubator. Aatif has completed dissertation research in Palestine, managed a malaria prevention project in Sierra Leone and continually works to amplify social impact through innovative business models.

Outside of The Northpine Foundation, Aatif is the Co-Founder of [Salaam B'y](#), a social enterprise built with his wife and health equity advocate, Dr. Nazia Sharfuddin, focused on anti-racism education based on their internationally renowned documentary film about his life growing up as a Muslim Newfoundlander. His community building and anti-racism efforts were recognized by Queen Elizabeth II by being the third Canadian to be awarded [Her Majesty The Queen's Commonwealth Points of Light Award](#). He is also a Member of the [Edmonton Climate Innovation Fund](#) Executive Advisory Committee, Fellow with the [Energy Futures Lab](#) and a Member of the [Next 30 Possibility Panel](#). Notable awards include the [Memorial University Alumni Tribute Horizon Award](#) and the inaugural [Global NL Community Champion Award](#). He founded the [Baskanderi Award in Anti-Racism](#) at Memorial University's School of Graduate Studies.

The Northpine Foundation looks forward to Aatif bringing his leadership acumen, his energy, and interest in human-centred design to become a leading philanthropic organization that innovates to build a thriving Canada.

About The Northpine Foundation

The Northpine Foundation invests in demonstrable, sustainable change for the betterment of Canada. The focus of The Northpine Foundation will be to rigorously support Canada's underserved and underprivileged – people in both urban and rural centres whose opportunities have been limited by economic and social disadvantages. This is done through facilitating, funding and following a spectrum of investments on impactful human-centered initiatives that open up opportunities for some of the most marginalized members of the population. The Northpine Foundation combines best practices with an appetite for risk to manifest its willingness to invest in new, untried approaches, knowing that some may fail. The Northpine Foundation's resources and annual giving capacity will rank it among Canada's top private foundations.

The Northpine Foundation's core value of kindness is exhibited through acting as a professional, innovative, reflective, aggressive, and impactful force for good.

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