

## MARCEL CÔTÉ AWARD 2017 - RECIPIENT

This award is presented to Quebecers who demonstrate extraordinary leadership qualities and help improve public policy and public discourse at the municipal, provincial, national and/or international levels.

**Gabriel Bran Lopez, André-Yanne Parent and the Youth Fusion First Nations and Inuit Programming Team for their programming which tackles school dropout rates and engages students in learning through hands-on, real world experiences across Québec and particularly in Indigenous communities.**

### Gabriel Bran Lopez – Emerging Leader



FOUNDING PRESIDENT, YOUTH FUSION

In 2009, Gabriel Bran Lopez founded Youth Fusion, an award-winning charity that works to lower dropout rates, employs over 250 people in Quebec and Ontario, and works on a weekly basis with over 15,000 students, including 4,500 Indigenous youth in Inuit and First Nations communities. The charity specifically focuses on experiential learning; Gabriel launched, among other educational programs, a video gaming creation project with Ubisoft as well as a fashion design project with ALDO Group. Moreover, he also co-founded *FIRST*

Robotics Quebec and the annual Robotics Festival, two initiatives implemented in collaboration with Bombardier.

In 2015 and 2016, Gabriel was President of the *Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal (JCCM)*, the largest youth chamber in the World, and led a successful two-term mandate that contributed to transforming the JCCM into a key player for emerging leaders. Under his leadership, the JCCM created an innovative – and its first – micro-financing fund with *Aéroports de Montréal* to support 375 entrepreneurial ideas.

