

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2008

**Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre  
Reweaving the Culture**

(Whistler, British Columbia, Canada) --- Northwest First Nations people were historically called the Weavers of the Pacific Northwest. Now, with the help of The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, British Columbia, and funding support from RBC, the Salish Weaving Program has identified the accomplished weavers of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation, has researched historical blankets, baskets, and other weavings and is training a new generation of weavers.

The Squamish weavers are creating contemporary designs, as well as traditional ones. The techniques used for these weavings were based on those of the blankets worn by Chief Joe Capilano and ten other Chiefs on their famous 1906 trip to London to meet the King of England.

Among the Lil'wat people, under the auspices of the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, the fine art of cedar basket weaving is also beginning to flourish again. The remaining master weavers have been identified and the center is providing a venue for them to pass on their considerable knowledge to a new generation.

A world-class attraction, showcasing the distinct cultures of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation, the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre is opening June 2008 in North America's premier alpine resort and event site for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Located in the premier alpine resort of Whistler, British Columbia in a spectacular natural setting on a 1.76 hectare (4.35 acre) site, the center is evocative of a Squamish longhouse and Lil'wat *Istken* (earthen pit house). Squamish and Lil'wat hosts will welcome guests as they approach on a walkway graced with pictograph-adorned boulders, magnificent welcome figures, and hand-carved cedar entry doors. Once inside, massive spindle whorls, canoes, intricate weavings and dramatic drumming are set against a spectacular backdrop of mountains seen through huge glass panels.

The culturally rich program options and authentic arts add a new dimension to the already remarkable Whistler experience. In addition to a Class A museum, an 80 seat theatre, a café featuring food First Nations flair, and a gift gallery with authentic Squamish and Lil'wat art, the Centre offers guided and self-guided tours, performances, and artisan demonstrations.

The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, "where rivers, mountains and people meet," is the result of an unprecedented partnership between two distinctly different First Nations, the Coast Salish Squamish people and the Interior Salish Lil'wat people, to showcase their respective cultures. For more information on the Cultural Centre, go to [www.slcc.ca](http://www.slcc.ca) or for event booking, contact the sales department by email at [sales@slcc.ca](mailto:sales@slcc.ca) or by phone at (604) 898-1822.

- 30 -

**Media Contacts:**

Nora Weber  
TerraCom Communications Group  
P: 604 504 4457  
E: [noraw@terracomgroup.net](mailto:noraw@terracomgroup.net)

Summer Dhillon  
TerraCom Communications Group  
P: 604 614 4609  
E: [summer@terracomgroup.net](mailto:summer@terracomgroup.net)

