

#SLCCWhistler



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre receives \$578,000 Grant from Government of Canada

Funding to Support Sixty Youth Participating in the Indigenous Youth Ambassador Program



December 24, 2018, Whistler, BC – Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC) has received a grant of \$578,000 through Service Canada's Youth Employment Strategy to support the Indigenous Youth Ambassador program, an immersive cultural and business program that teaches the foundations of business through the lens of a First Nations Museum. The SLCC provides a safe environment for youth to gain confidence and work experience in several industry sectors while discovering their personal aptitudes; this funding enables the SLCC to extend this training to sixty youth between now and March 2020.



**Sḵwxwú7mesh Lilwat7úl**  
SQUAMISH LILWAT CULTURAL CENTRE

"The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre is a world-class cultural destination," states Sea to Sky MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones. "A big part of its success is the Indigenous Youth Ambassador program, which provides skills training and cultural and protocol engagement for Indigenous youth. It is an honour to support the SLCC with renewed funding."

This twelve week paid training includes placement in the SLCC's Food & Beverage, Retail, and Cultural Delivery departments with intensive information sessions lead by senior management in Finance, Sales, Marketing, Maintenance, and Operations. Certificate training is also included in the program, providing participants the opportunity to gain their Food Safe Level 1, WHIMIS, First Aid Level 1, and Serving It Right.

"Witnessing each Youth Ambassador's personal journey through the IYA program laments to the team how important, and necessary, the SLCC is to the development of our Nations' youth." Says SLCC Executive Director, Brady Smith. "Unique, hands on training in a group setting fosters them coming into their own, and their comradery is infectious."

Since the IYA Program's inception in 2008 more than 500 youth have graduated from the program and gone on to professional careers as training facilitators, tour guides, restaurateurs, curators, and politicians.

For more information on the Indigenous Youth Ambassador Program visit [SLCC.ca/IYA](http://SLCC.ca/IYA).

### **About the Youth Employment Strategy**

The Youth Employment Strategy is the Government of Canada's commitment to help young people, particularly those facing barriers to employment, get the information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition into the labour market. The Youth Employment Strategy is a horizontal initiative involving eleven federal departments and agencies. It is comprised of three program streams offered by Service Canada: Skills Link, Career Focus, and Canada Summer Jobs. For more details visit [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca).

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **About Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC)**

Spo7ez Cultural Centre and Community Society is a registered Canadian charity and the first centre of its kind in Canada. The Squamish and Lil'wat Nations came together to celebrate and share our cultures with the world while creating meaningful employment opportunities for members of both nations. By sharing where we are from and where we are going, our visitors acquire a greater understanding of our Nations and the shared territories that Whistler resides upon. [www.slcc.ca](http://www.slcc.ca)

