

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AMBASSADORS, a new exhibition at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, opens September 27, 2019



Image by Logan Swayze Photography

AMBASSADORS, the first exhibition of it's kind at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, celebrates the staff family and faces of the Cultural Centre while highlighting their strong sense of connection to their land, their cultures, and each other. Visitors to the Cultural Centre will learn about our Ambassadors' deeply-rooted connections to our immersive Cultural Centre, and the passion they share in belonging to Skwxwú7mesh Lil'wat7ul.

"Our Ambassadors are the heart of the SLCC," says Curator Mixalhitsa7 Alison Pascal. "They bring to life the stories of our people; they share with our visitors what's important to the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. We help train our young people to enter the work force alongside our traditional activities that



reinforce protocols from our nations. Our Ambassadors are young, the SLCC is helping to train our youth to be leaders and mentors... to be teachers of our cultures. It's exciting to see how much our young team has accomplished."

An aspirational and heartwarming exhibition, AMBASSADORS place-bases SLCC Ambassadors in & around the Cultural Centre. What makes this place a home to our team can be gleaned from their biographies, artistic creations, and chosen photo locations.

"What makes this exhibit impactful is the story it tells about the family we have here," says Executive Director, Brady Smith. "We provide meaningful employment for Indigenous youth mostly from Squamish and Lil'wat, and recently we have seen growth in participation from Indigenous youth beyond our shared territories. We credit this to the welcoming, empowering environment SLCC Ambassadors have established together over the past decade."

The AMBASSADORS exhibition embodies what the SLCC strives to accomplish on a daily basis at all levels: from front line to the Board of Directors, we see the SLCC as home and our colleagues as family. In this space, SLCC Ambassadors thrive at developing their business, artistic, and cultural knowledge that they share with all visitors be it in the museum, gift shop, café, or special events departments.

This exhibition was curated by Mixalhítsa7; she chose photographs and art created by SLCC Ambassadors to showcase the people of the land and the authenticity shared within the SLCC's four walls. The exhibition will open Friday, September 27 and remain on display until March 2020 in the SLCC's Gallery 3. For more information visit <u>SLCC.ca/Exhibits/AMBASSADORS</u>.

## 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. <u>www.slcc.ca</u>

