



Skw̓xwú7mesh Lil'wat7úl
SQUAMISH LILWAT CULTURAL CENTRE

WHISTLER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre presents the Coast Salish Wool Weaving Revitalization Project in Gallery 3

Transfer of Knowledge from Elders to Youth Apprentices Carries on Squamish Nation Wool Weaving Traditions



August 29, 2018, Whistler, BC - The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre is hosting a weaving intensive lead by Squamish Nation Elders Chepximiya Siyam Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph to Apprentices Cheximiya Allison Burns Joseph (Squamish Nation) and A7xwil Travis Billy (St'at'imc and Secwepemc Nations, adopted into Squamish Nation). This transfer of knowledge from female to female and male to male is in line with traditional knowledge-transferring practices of the Salish peoples; these pairs will create two pieces side by side, one by the females and one by the males. The foursome built their looms together, designed their patterns, and are working together Tuesdays and Wednesdays through until Tuesday, October 9, 2018 in Gallery 3.

"One of the greatest things I can do is pass on my knowledge and keep our culture alive," says Chepximiya Siyam. "The need is so huge, and all people are hungry to learn about it."



Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Lil'wat7úl
SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE

WHISTLER

Access to Gallery 3 is included in museum admission and guests are encouraged to observe this transfer of knowledge during their visit to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre.

A reception celebrating the completion of the apprentices' work will be held the first week of October 2018; further details will be announced soon.

About Chepximiya Siyam Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph

Chepximiya Siyam Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph have been instrumental to the revitalization of weaving in the Squamish Nation. Their dedication to sharing the techniques and history of weaving over the past fifteen years has greatly contributed to the growth of Squamish Nation's weaving population from one remaining knowledge keeper to more than 2,500. Chepximiya Siyam and Skwetsimeltxw co-founded L'hen Awtxw Weaving House (<http://weavinghouse.com>) to share the teachings and practice of traditional Coast Salish wool weaving and have co-authored "Salish Blankets: Robes of Protection and Transformation, Symbols of Wealth", published in 2017. The passing of knowledge and skills is part of their life calling.

About Apprentices Cheximiya Allison Burns-Joseph and A7xwil Travis Billy

Cheximiya Allison Burns-Joseph graduated from the Indigenous Youth Ambassador Program in 2006 and since then has been employed at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in several capacities, currently facilitating the Indigenous Youth Ambassador program and overseeing the craft department. Cheximiya also enjoys a career as an artisan wool weaver, and has been involved in several art exhibitions and fashion shows.

A7xwil Travis Billy is a graduate of the Indigenous Youth Program and is currently a Cultural Ambassador and part of the Performance Team at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. A7xwil is a captivating drummer, singer and a skilled weaver and craftsman. He is proud to share his knowledge with visitors to the Cultural Centre.

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

MEDIA CONTACT

Mandy Rousseau, Manager of Marketing and Communications, Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre
mandy.rousseau@slcc.ca | M: 604.964.0990 ext. 2230 | D: 604.964.0995 | C: 604.938.3760

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



Skwxwú7mesh Lilwat7úl
SQUAMISH LILWAT CULTURAL CENTRE

WHISTLER

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 walk away with an informed opinion, instead of a biased one. Ignorance, as in not knowing, is replaced with information that is true. www.slcc.ca