

#SLCCWhistler



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day with immersive cultural experiences.

Free Admission is offered from June 21 – July 3*, 2022 in partnership with CIBC.

June 2nd, 2022, Whistler, BC (Skwxwú7mesh and Lił'wat7úl) - The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler is set to host immersive cultural experiences celebrating the spirit of Skwxwú7mesh and Lił'wat7úl - Whistler's authentic Indigenous experience, with Free Admission from June 21 – July 3*, 2022 in partnership with CIBC, to honour National Indigenous Peoples Day and June's Indigenous History Month.

With the new exhibition *Ancient Medicine* opening, two unique Indigenous wellness offerings connect guests with ancient medicine, and ceremonies and a chance to savour local cuisine. As part of the pop-up, culinary series in partnership with Cornucopia – the offerings celebrate the spring season with a fresh perspective, to nourish the body and mind. Beginning the weekend of June 18, the Holistic Tour and Indigenous Tea Offering welcomes guests with a drum song and short film, and a Cultural Ambassador who will guide an interpretive walk through the Salish Forest, presenting herbs and medicinal plants that grow in the region. Following in the Longhouse, guests experience an Indigenous tea offering to learn and savour the healing benefits of traditional teas, served with First Nations traditional bannock.

On the evening of June 19th, the Spo7ez Wellness Feast offers guests a wellness journey brought to life through authentic Indigenous cultural sharing, that blends ancient medicine storytelling in the Great Hall and showcases the new Ancient Medicine exhibit, followed by an intimate smudge ceremony on the Mezzanine patio. Then through experiential dining, guests enjoy a shared feast inspired by the spring season and traditional ingredients, and showcases Spo7ez Performers in regalia sharing songs from Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation.

On National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, guests are invited to connect with Cultural Ambassadors as they share live carving and performances, storytelling, guest speakers, and craft activities. The Spo7ez Performance team will open for the Spiritual Warriors, whose music is inspired by the land and life in the coast mountains of the Lilwat Nation, with their unique blend of indigenous chants and contemporary roots, rock, reggae with a distinctly west coast sound. An Artists Market on the Mezzanine patio will feature traditional and contemporary offerings from artists of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nation. Following musical performances, Hip Hop Artist known as The Prophet and SLCC Ambassador – Jay Natrell will offer Spoken Word. In the spirit of community, Lululemon will host Yoga in the Istken Hall the morning of June 21st, in celebration of both National Indigenous Peoples Day and International Day of Yoga.

The SLCC's new exhibition – Ancient Medicine: From Feast to Famine to Freedom, officially opens in Gallery 3 on the morning of June 21 with guest speakers and cultural sharing on the Mezzanine. Showcasing the



connection to the land of Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation and holistic approaches to health and wellness of their families, including physical, emotional, mental and spiritual and food as medicine. The exhibition includes flora, fauna, food and medicine of the territory and contemporary artists including Rosalie Dipcsu and Levi Nelson of Lil'wat Nation and Melanie Rivers of Squamish Nation. Following the opening ceremony, Curator Alison Pascal will host a talk in the exhibition.

Featured at the SLCC on July 1, the Spo7ez Performance team will present songs in traditional regalia on the Mezzanine patio following a guest speaker series. Cultural Ambassadors will host guided tours including the Interpretive Forest Walk of the Salish Forest, and the Paddling through the Nations Tour with live carving of the Community Reconciliation Canoe, What We Treasure and a tour of the new exhibition – Ancient Medicine. Ambassadors will host a Drum Circle in Whistler Village in the late afternoon.

A feature of the Summer Salish Carving Series in 2022 - the Centre showcases live carving of the Community Reconciliation Canoe. An immersive experience led by Master Carver Ray Natraoro and SLCC Apprentices, guests have a chance to experience taking a turn at carving the canoe or signing one of six paddles. As a symbol of partnership and spirit of reconciliation, cedar shavings can be carved and collected as a keepsake, with a chance to be returned to a special place on the territory to honour the local Indigenous connection to the land.

Free Admission is offered to all guests from National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 through to July 3* in partnership with CIBC. Guests are invited to join immersive experiences including welcome song and guided tours through the museum, to learn more about the two distinct cultures of Skwxwú7mesh and Lil'wat7ul', accessing the Great Hall and exhibits, featuring a short film, to delve deeper into our stories, shared territories, and living heritage. Guests can explore authentic Indigenous artwork and keepsakes in the Gallery and Gift Shop - Whistler's largest First Nations Gift Shop, and enjoy Indigenous-inspired cuisine at the Thunderbird Café.

Executive Director Heather Paul shares, "On National Indigenous People's Day, we celebrate the culture and presence of the Original People of this land. It is a day to imagine this continent as Turtle Island, unbounded by borders and connected not by a nationality, but instead a humanity that is alive between the mountains, plains, ice fields, lakes, and seas, woven together by the lessons of ancestors who have lived here since time immemorial. By making the SLCC free admission between June 21st and July 1st, we aim to bridge a connection between the two days, joyfully recognizing the unparalleled rich history of contributions Indigenous People have made and continue to make in our lives every day while we reflect, revere, respect, and reconcile on the personal decision of what Canada Day means to each of us."

*Regular Hours are Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm (Closed Mondays)

For more information and to see the full cultural programming visit [SLCC.ca/nipd](https://slcc.ca/nipd)

MEDIA CONTACT

Nadija Veach, Marketing Manager, Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre
nadija.veach@slcc.ca | M: 604.964.0990 | D: 604.964.0995 | C: 604.902.5005

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

