

#SLCCWhistler



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler hosting Master Carver Jonathan Joe of the Lil'wat Nation carving a story pole for the Salish Summer Carving Series.

**Updated July 2, 2024 – The Log Blessing and start date for the Salish Summer Carving Series has been postponed from Thursday, July 4 and a new date will be advised.**

**June 27, 2024, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh and Lílwat7úl Territory (Whistler, BC)** – The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler (SLCC) is hosting live carving for the *Salish Summer Carving Series*, with Master Carver Jonathan Joe, Lílwat7úl (Lil'wat Nation), mentoring SLCC Apprentice Redmond Qáwañ Andrews, Lílwat7úl (Lil'wat Nation) from July (TBD) - September 1, 2024. Carving throughout summer at the entrance to SLCC's Great Hall, the story pole will incorporate designs that honour the Declaration of the Lillooet Tribes signed in 1911.

The fifth installment of SLCC's *Salish Summer Carving Series*, the carving will begin with a cedar log blessing ceremony (date to be determined). This year's Lil'wat Nation Artists will carve throughout the summer for the second year of the two-year immersive experience creating a pair of carvings, that featured Master Carver Xwalactun (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh / Kwakwak'wakw / Namgis) mentoring Brandon Hall (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh) carving during the summer of 2023. The two carvings will be sisters, telling a complimentary story and bringing them new life as carving authentic to the territory, and the new pole by Jonathan Joe will eventually stand beside the house post by Xwalactun at the SLCC's entrance on Lorimer Road.

*"The presence of our Master Carver mentoring an Apprentice at the SLCC allows for deep and meaningful conversations that go beyond carving. We continue the longstanding education system of our Ancestors, youth working side by side with Knowledge Keepers and Elders, and at the end is a beautiful carving, a visual reminder that transforms the intangible into tangible wealth, a reminder of how our families connect to the land." Says Mixalhítsa7 Alison Pascal. "I'm excited to have Lil'wat Nation carvers working at the SLCC this year to tell the story of the Declaration of the Lillooet Tribes. It's an important event to státyemc Nation communities including the Lílwat Nation. It's a foundation to how our leaders guide our communities."*

Jonathan Joe shares *"I'm excited to be carving and sharing time together with Redmond this summer, and meet everybody and create this pole for everyone, it's a very inspiring time."*

The carving will feature in the curated *Salish Summer Carving Tour* included with Museum Admission, at 11am Wednesday through Saturday until September 1, 2024 (Start date to be determined). The specially curated tour will be a guided journey with an SLCC Ambassador, beginning with a welcome drum song, storytelling will showcase art and oral traditions from both the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation throughout the Great Hall telling of their distinctive connection to the land of the shared territories. The tour will then introduce this year's *Salish Summer Carving* an immersive carving session connecting with Master Carver and Apprentice. Guests will learn about the Tree of Life and the spirit of each carving, continuing to give to land and culture long after they have fallen.



Through the *Salish Summer Carving Series*, the SLCC cultivates the distinctive Skwxwú7mesh and Líl'wat7úl ways – the authentic Indigenous culture of the shared territories that Whistler stands on, sharing a truly meaningful cultural experience with the community, guests and global audience.

Nation members, Allyship partners, SLCC members, community partners, and guests are invited to witness the Cedar Log Blessing (a date to be determined) at the entrance to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre at 4584 Blackcomb Way, Whistler. Guests are encouraged to join Master Carver Jonathan Joe, and Apprentice Redmond Óáwañ Andrews and experience the *Salish Summer Carving Series* on Wednesday through Saturday at the entrance to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler until September 1, 2024, and can join a *Salish Summer Carving* guided tour at 11am Wednesday through Saturday included with Museum Admission.

The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre gratefully acknowledges the Government of Canada and the Resort Municipality of Whistler for their generous support of the Sister Poles and the Salish Summer Carving Series.

To learn more about this Press Release, Events and Tours visit: [slcc.ca/carving](https://slcc.ca/carving)

The SLCC is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10am – 5pm (Closed Monday). The SLCC occasionally closes early for private events and updates can be found at [slcc.ca/visit](https://slcc.ca/visit)

### About Jonathan Joe

Jonathan Joe, of the Lil'wat Nation, was born and raised in Mount Currie, B.C. and has lived there all his life. Jonathan was interested in carving at a very early age. As a child he was first inspired by a carving hanging on his wall in his family home. He realized his desire to learn more about the art form of carving while he was in elementary school. He started learning how to carve on wood from the First Nations art instructors Jeff Wallace of Lil'wat Nation, and Tyrone Joseph of Squamish Nation at the Xetólacw Community School. Jonathan developed his skills and his own style of carving throughout the years. He works with bark, driftwood and red and yellow cedar. His inspiration comes through the natural beauty of the outdoors that surrounds him. He carves wall plaques, paddles and masks.

Jonathan played a big part on the carving team for the 2010 Olympics and Squamish Lil'wat Culture Centre carving projects. Jonathan is a leading carver in the Lil'wat Nation and has completed several commissioned pieces that are on display in the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre's Great Hall including the one of the 20ft carved longhouse posts from the Spirit Within Carving Project that represent family stories alongside carvers Ray Natraoro, Xwalacktun, Aaron Nelson-Moody in 2012. His story pole honours the Wolf Clan, as the SLCC is located on their traditional territory, and features a wolf howling at the moon, a man, and an istken pithouse. Also showcased are his contributions of River and Lake Canoes, the Lil'wat Spindle Whorl and the Moon Mask.

Jonathan Joe shares *"Being Lil'wat Nation and having spiritual beliefs, inspires my work today, I had a dream of carving a canoe long before I began to carve my first canoe."*

Huy Chexw (thank you) Wa Chexw Yuu (take care) – Squamish Language  
Kukw'stumc' kalap (Thank-you all) – Lil'wat Language

#### 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](https://www.slcc.ca)



Skwxwú7mesh Líl'wat7úl  
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