



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

First Peoples' News

SUMMER 2024

T'I XWEY KWEMS SQWALTEN! OUR LANGUAGE IS AWAKE!

After more than six years of planning and work, Qualicum First Nation Chief Michael Recalma and his language committee attended the First Peoples' Cultural Council's (FPCC) Annual General Meeting to celebrate the announcement of the pent'ach (pronounced punt-lutch) language reawakening.

"The pent'ach language is a vital part of the Qualicum First Nation's culture and us as people. Language reflects who we are and where we come from," says Chief Michael Recalma.

Pent'ach originates in the territory of the Qualicum First Nation, between Comox and Nanaimo, B.C. Part of the Salishan language family, it is the traditional language of the territory.

Historically, there were also other languages spoken in the region as there is a history of close connections through

marriage and other relations between Éy7á7juuthem and pent'ach-speaking peoples.

When starting the restoration process, the Qualicum First Nation language team did archival research, engaged with the community and created partnerships with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the University of Victoria and FPCC for technical support.

"We are working to fully awaken the language," explains Chief Recalma. "Our vision is that the next generations of pent'ach descendants will understand the importance of being who we are on the lands we are from."

FPCC supported Qualicum First Nation in its efforts to reawaken pent'ach with funding from the Language Revitalization Planning Program in 2021. FPCC's mandate is to assist B.C. First Nations in

their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage.

Congratulations to pent'ach-speaking people for their commitment to revitalizing First Nations knowledge!

First Nations Members of the the pent'ach Language Team at the reawakening celebration hosted by FPCC.



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Stz'uminus Education Society Trail Project
- 3 FPCC Grant Supports Restoration of Historical Cemetery
- 4/5 Events and Projects

- 6 FPCC Internship Supports Film 'Bones of Crows'
- 7 Ts'msyen Artist Weaves Language and Songs into Artform
- 8 FPCC Board and Advisory

STZ'UMINUS EDUCATION SOCIETY TRAIL PROJECT CONNECTS YOUTH WITH THE LAND

FPCC's Heritage Infrastructure Program supports the Stz'uminus Trail Project, which connects youth with their land, culture and teachings as they build an interpretive trail for their community.

The Stz'uminus Sxwi'em' Shelh Story Trail Program – Sense of Place Land-based Education is a project run by the Stz'uminus Education Society (SES) near Ladysmith, B.C. Participants are building a trail and outdoor learning space to provide community members with access to nature, cultural beach sites and improved accessibility between the school, residential



area and cultural food gathering sites.

The trail is a raised boardwalk through large old growth trees and includes a gathering site with a fire pit.

"Being on the trail is magical in many ways," says Harvey Jack. "It's helped me in my journey to better understand myself, to know what I need or see my life clearly. Children, Elders and myself – the positive impact and the uplifting joy I see is amazing. A safe, sacred place for everyone."

The goals and outcomes of the trail project align with a series of Stz'uminus propositions and the SES Strategic Direction informed by Elders, Matriarchs and community members. The work is guided by four principles: "snuwuyulh (sacred teachings), tsi'tsu watul (helping each other), nu stli'ch (love) and nutsamaat (together as one)."

We raise our hands to these young people whose hard work is growing their knowledge and providing a gift to their



Elder George Harris with Harvey Jack, his daughter Mistaya and youth working on the trail. Image provided by the Stz'uminus Sxwi'em' Shelh Story Trail Program.

community. They demonstrate how heritage infrastructure can be developed in many ways.

This project is supported by FPCC through the Government of British Columbia's 150 Time Immemorial funding.

To learn more about the Heritage Infrastructure Program visit fpcc.ca/hip.

FPCC's Heritage Stewardship Toolkit provides information and resources for learning about Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH). To learn more about this toolkit, please visit fpcc.ca/resource/heritage-toolkit-introduction.

FPCC HERITAGE GRANT SUPPORTS RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL CEMETERY

The FPCC Heritage Infrastructure Program is supporting the kwikwəłəm First Nation with its Kwikwetlem Historical Cemetery Restoration Project to protect its cemetery from rising groundwater, restore grave markers and improve accessibility.

Dating back to 1881, the Kwikwetlem Historical Cemetery is located on setłamékmən (Coquitlam I.R.#2). The cemetery is the final resting place of members of this community and some neighbouring First Nations.

Visiting this sacred space is challenging. The walking route includes crossing a major highway, traversing a dike berm and being prepared to encounter a bear.

The location was never the nation's preferred choice, as it is located on a floodplain and traditionally their people were buried on higher ground. They selected the highest land they could find that did not flood at that time.

In 2021, the project received multi-year support from FPCC's Heritage Infrastructure Program. Their initial restoration plans changed when they realized they could not improve the site until the real threats of rising groundwater and increased seasonal flooding were addressed.

"When we saw what the water was doing, how high it was, we knew we had to fix it," explains Councillor George Chaffee, who has taken on the responsibility of restoring and caring for this important space.

"Our people knew a long time ago to put that cemetery there, on high ground. It never used to flood. But all the development, the dikes and now flooding from climate change has changed how the water moves. How can our community heal when we can't bury our people in the right way?"

With support from PGL Environmental and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, the community has installed monitoring wells and has

received training on how to process and analyze the data collected. This data will inform their strategic restoration plans.

The Nation is also using the funding to make the space more accessible and to create a memorial that honours relatives, family members and ancestors who are buried there. The kwikwəłəm community is participating in these plans to ensure a shared community vision for the restoration of their cemetery.

This project is supported by the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation through the Government of British Columbia's 150 Time Immemorial funding.



George Chaffee, Councillor of kwikwəłəm First Nation

FPCC EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Share your story!

Have you received funding from FPCC? Do you have a story about the work your community is doing to revitalize your language, arts, culture and heritage? We want to hear from you! Please reach out to communications@fpcc.ca to let us know you have a story to share about FPCC funded projects. Also check our website and social media channels often as we post more stories about the good work being done across the province.



Language Planning group at the 2023 FPCC Summer Learning Series: huncewstuxw tu xe' xe' sqwel 'Bringing Back the Sacred Language' - Language Revitalization Skill Development, Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), B.C.



(L-R) FPCC-funded Artists Myc Sharratt and Bobby Garcia at Breakout West with FPCC Arts Staff Koralee Tonack and Nikki Rohani.



Myc Sharratt, supported by the FPCC Music Program, performing at the 2023 Summer Learning Series.



Kwiigee Jaad, Rediscovery T'aalang Stl'ang Family Camp Supervisor, sharing in Kuista, Haida Gwaii. Supported by the FPCC Heritage Program.



Sicarii (Leeland) Askew, Skw'wú7mesh sníchim FirstVoices Site Administrator, Xwemelch'stn Village with his daughter Leilani Askew.



Francine from Tsal'alh First Nation language team with FPCC's Revitalization Planning Coach, Glenn Jim, Seton Lake.



(L-R) FPCC Board Members Jaime Sterritt (Wii'nagim'tsiwngnet) and Gerald Lawson (Màlágus) visiting the FPCC booth at the B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leadership Gathering 2023.



Kha'stan Drummers during an opening performance at the FPCC Summer Learning Series.



FPCC CEO Tracey Herbert and Language Program Manager Aliana Parker in attendance at the Governance Council meeting of the Endangered Languages Project.



Elizabeth May, MP Saanich-Gulf Islands with Tracey Herbert, FPCC CEO (L-R).

Sign up for FPCC news! Join our email list to receive email updates on grants, resources, special projects, contests and more. Visit fpcc.ca/signup.

FPCC INTERNSHIP SUPPORTS CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED FILM BONES OF CROWS

'Bones of Crows', the Indigenous-made feature film, recently made waves throughout its successful media tour. An internship role to support the development of emerging film producers was supported by the FPCC Arts Administrator Internships option of the Arts Infrastructure Program.

Film director and producer Marie Clements, an Indigenous woman originally from Vancouver, is the driving force behind the new film and television series by the same name. During filming she was determined to make sure the film's space "supports Indigenous creators having a seat at the table, helping to pave the way for others in the community."

"Artistically, my hope is to execute an unapologetic vision, a cinematic experience that is second to none. We are committed to bringing together the brightest minds and strongest hearts . . . to tell a shared story that is uniquely Canadian, undeniably Indigenous and universally human." - Marie Clements from her Director's Statement.

The Arts Administrative Internship funding provided the opportunity for Marie Clements to mentor Kerriann Cardinal, a Vancouver-based Indigenous storyteller and theatre artist, who was an associate producer on the film.

The experience acted as a catalyst for Kerriann's professional development in the field.

"I knew that when I took on this role, it would open a lot of doors," says Kerriann. "I was going to learn a lot and deepen confidence in myself so that I feel like I could go on to do other projects."

The film is now available (also in French and Cree) on select streaming services.



Please visit www.bonesofcrows.com/the-movie/see-the-film to find out where to watch.

'Bones of Crows', filming day 22 in Vernon B.C. (L-R) Joecy Shepherd, Angel Baribeau, Kerriann Cardinal, Kate Twa, Vincenté Baker, Garry Gottfriedson. Image provided by Derek Rodgers.

FPCC's Arts Administrator Internships provides grants up to \$40,000. To learn more about FPCC's Arts grants, please visit fpcc.ca/programs/about-our-arts-program.

TS'MSYEN ARTIST WEAVES LANGUAGE AND SONGS INTO ARTFORM

Ts'msyen weaver Tina Robinson is receiving support from FPCC's Arts Strengthening Grant to develop her weaving skills through a full-time apprenticeship with renowned Ts'msyen/Nisga'a weaver Pearl Innis. This is Tina's second year of funding, which gives her the opportunity to deepen her skills and knowledge of this important artform.

Tina Robinson (Blackfish clan, Ginaaxangiik tribe, Lax Kw'alaams) currently lives on Kxeen Island (also known as Prince Rupert). She started weaving in 2016 and has been supported by FPCC since 2021. Today, she and Pearl work together in carrying on the knowledge and skill of Chilkat fibre and cedar weaving.

Tina's path to weaving came to her in a dream, igniting a fire in her to learn about her history and language, and to connect with mentors.

"To find out who I am and the work I am destined to do, I could hear songs being sung in S'malgyax," explains Tina. "Even though I didn't speak S'malgyax at the time, I understood what they were saying."

This year, Tina and Pearl are working with cedar. Cedar weaving begins by harvesting bark together in the forest and then preparing it for weaving into aprons and capes.

"I just love spending time with Pearl," says Tina. "We'll sit there and have traditional songs playing in the background while we're weaving. I get lost ... in a good way, and once we get going, my fingers just seem to know what to do. Like it's something I've always known how to do and I'm just remembering how to do it. It's beautiful."

FPCC supports First Nations arts and artists across B.C. to strengthen the diverse artistic expressions that reflect their cultures and identities. To learn more about our Arts program, please visit fpcc.ca/arts.

We thank Indigenous freelance writer Odette Auger for developing the full-length story found at fpcc.ca/stories.



Image Left: Pearl Innis and Tina Robinson (L-R). Image Right: Chilkat weaving sample by Tina Robinson. Images provided by Tina Robinson.

HÍSW_KE (THANK YOU) TO FPCC'S BOARD AND ADVISORY



The Board and Advisory Committee are pictured here at the 2023 FPCC Annual General Meeting in Parksville, B.C. The AGM brings together FPCC Board and Advisory Committee members, FPCC staff and program participants to review the year's achievements and plan for the future. We celebrate our honoured Board and Advisory Committee for their dedication and support.

To view current Board and Advisory Committee members please visit fpcc.ca/board and fpcc.ca/advisory.







Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Tracey's Leadership at FPCC!

As FPCC's CEO, Tracey Herbert has served First Nations communities across B.C. for 20 years, and counting! She continues to increase opportunities for First Nations in B.C. to build skills, develop technology and share Indigenous knowledge to support cultural revitalization.

Learn more about Tracey's leadership with FPCC by visiting fpcc.ca/ceo-anniversary.

First Peoples' News

-  FirstPeoplesCulturalCouncil
-  FirstPeoplesCulturalCouncil
-  First-Peoples'-Cultural-Council
-  FirstPeoplesCulturalCouncil



Published by the First Peoples' Cultural Council
1A Boat Ramp Road, Brentwood Bay, B.C. V8M 1N9
Phone: (250) 652-5952 **Fax:** (250) 652-5953
Email: info@fpcc.ca **Website:** www.fpcc.ca

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is grateful to have our home in the beautiful traditional unceded territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation people, in the village of W̱JŌŁŁP. We have an additional satellite office at Tk'emlups, within the traditional territory of the Secwepemc people.

We gratefully acknowledge the funders whose financial support has contributed to our success. Please visit our funding partners page on the website to see the full list: www.fpcc.ca/about-us/funding-partners.