



## **Stó:lō Welcome Figures Celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Chilliwack Visitor Centre**

**Chilliwack, BC – June 7, 2017** – Tourism Chilliwack, in partnership with the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre announce the hiring of Terry Horne, artist and Chief from Yakweakwoose band. Mr. Horne is carving two Stó:lō Welcome Figures at the Chilliwack Visitor Centre to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, a project funded in part by the Government of Canada.

“As the City of Chilliwack's population continues to grow, so does its popularity as a hub for visitors from around the world. Whether they come to experience the great Canadian outdoors or immerse themselves in our ever growing cultural mosaic, Chilliwack is an easy choice. Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday is a time to celebrate our country and embrace who we are as a community and what better way to express this than to invite integral members of our city to illustrate what that means,” commented Brian Minter, Chair of Tourism Chilliwack.

“The goal of this project is to foster relationships between the Stó:lō and other members of the community, beginning at a young age. By installing hand-carved Stó:lō welcome figures at the Visitors Centre, we will be able to represent the importance of the Stó:lō to both our community and the visitors who come by our Centre.” said Allison Colthorp, Executive Director, Tourism Chilliwack.

To draw interest to the project, the carving of the welcome figures is taking place on-site, where visitors have the opportunity to interact with the carver and receive insight into the process that goes into creating these welcome figures.

Recently, the school curriculum in British Columbia has been redesigned to discuss the history of B.C's First Nations Peoples in depth to allow for a more profound awareness of their significance both historically and in the present day.

The Chilliwack School District invited all elementary students in the District to visit the onsite carving during the month of June, in addition to touring the Atchelitz Threshermen's Museum, located behind the Visitor Centre.

"The opportunity to be a part of this project is relevant for each and every student and each and every teacher and staff in our schools. Seeing our skilled Sto:lo community members in action is key, and we are fortunate to have Terry Horne, an accomplished carver and young Chief of Yakweakwioose, working on this project. This partnership between Sto:lo Nation, Tourism Chilliwack and Chilliwack School District is ideal as we are all working together to build understanding of Aboriginal culture, community and beyond" said Brenda Point, Chilliwack School District Vice Principal of Aboriginal Education.

The welcome figures will be completed by mid-August at which point there will be an unveiling ceremony to present them to the community and any visitors at the Centre on that day.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Allison Colthorp  
Executive Director, Tourism Chilliwack  
44150 Luckakuck Way, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4A7  
Work: 604-858-8121 Cell: 604-819-6866  
Email: colthorp@tourismchilliwack.com