



**BC Achievement
Foundation**

Annual Report 2022-23



About BC Achievement	I
Letter from the Executive Director	2
Map - Celebrating Awardees Throughout the Province	3
Letter from the Chair	4
2022-23 First Nations Art Award	6
2022-23 Applied Art + Design Award	12
2022-23 Indigenous Business Award	18
2022-23 British Columbia Reconciliation Award	22
2022-23 Community Award	28
Tributes	32
Board of Directors	34
Thank You to Our Donors	37



BC Achievement Foundation

602 - 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1

604-261-9777
info@bcachievement.com
www.bcachievement.com

We are grateful at the BC Achievement Foundation to live and work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəjəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səɫilwətaʔ (Tsleil Waututh) Nations.

20 YEARS OF CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC Achievement Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to honour excellence and inspire achievement throughout British Columbia. Established in 2003, BC Achievement delivers five annual award programs that recognize the accomplishments of individuals, groups, and organizations in the areas of community leadership, applied art + design, First Nations art, Indigenous entrepreneurship and reconciliation.

Celebrating the spirit of excellence in our province, BC Achievement serves to honour the best of British Columbia. By recognizing the accomplishments of our province's entrepreneurs, artists, innovators, and community leaders, its award programs pay tribute to exceptional people, doing exceptional work.

Mission

To honour excellence and inspire achievement throughout British Columbia.

Vision

BC Achievement recognizes, celebrates, and stewards outstanding British Columbians while elevating their stories of excellence; it inspires others to build stronger and more engaged communities.

Programs

- British Columbia Reconciliation Award
- Community Award
- Indigenous Business Award
- First Nations Art Award
- Applied Art + Design Award

Over the past 20 years, BC Achievement has honoured more than 1,100 community leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, visionaries, and volunteers. The only organization of its kind in Canada, BC Achievement continues to share the stories of exceptional individuals who are doing exceptional work.

Providing a platform for BC's cultural, social, artistic, and economic landscape, BC Achievement showcases the innovation and spirit of excellence that thrives in our province. Every one of our recipients is a conduit for change, the effects of their work rippling outward, building momentum while impacting countless lives and communities.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm thrilled to highlight the significant accomplishments and growth at BC Achievement in our latest annual report. Our steadfast commitment to recognizing excellence and inspiring achievement has garnered increased support, solidifying the foundation's pivotal role in building and nurturing stronger, more engaged communities throughout the province. Beyond each program, the foundation's extensive online film archive, and its ELEVATE monthly communications and blog posts supporting social media activity, all ensure British Columbians are celebrated!

In the Fall of 2022, post-pandemic euphoria translated into a substantial increase in overall engagement across all BC Achievement programs and throughout the four phases of delivery. This positive trend continued into our 2023 programming. Through new partnerships, we've successfully live-streamed presentation events, reaching a broader audience and providing real-time coverage of awardee recognition for families and communities.

A sincere thank you to our partners, donors, and sponsors for investing in our work. Donations have improved across all programs, and we express gratitude to our supporters for contributing to the development of stronger, more engaged communities. As we celebrate 20 years of the BC Achievement Foundation, we salute our partnership with the Office of The Lieutenant Governor of BC, collectively contributing to our province's reconciliation journey by highlighting those leading the way.

Looking ahead to 2024, we aim to build on the success of the past five years, incorporating valuable lessons from the pandemic and the new world which has emerged. Our focus is on scaling up sustainably by expanding our reach to



encourage more nominations, sharing more success stories as part of the amplification phase, and creating meaningful alumni programming while inspiring lasting change.

I feel honoured to collaborate with the remarkable BC Achievement team, and I extend my personal thanks for their commitment in each of the multiple roles they play. Special appreciation goes to our engaged volunteer board of directors, guiding and supporting program efforts. We are confident that each program is poised for success as we are continually inspired by the awardees whose stories we are privileged to tell.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Cathryn Wilson'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cathryn Wilson
Executive Director

CELEBRATING AWARDEES
THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

BC Achievement celebrates success across the entire province. We are proud to honour the awardees and the communities they represent.

First Nations
ArtAward

Kamloops
Masset
Sooke
Victoria

Applied Art +
Design Award

Chilliwack
Vancouver x 2
Victoria

Indigenous
Business Award

Alert Bay
Chilliwack
Dawson Creek
North Vancouver x 2
Prince George
Sooke
Williams Lake

BC
Reconciliation
Award

Burnaby x 2
Campbell River
Prince George
Victoria
Williams Lake

Community
Award

Ashcroft
Bowen Island
Brisco
Burnaby x 2
Delta
Lillooet
Masset
North Vancouver
Richmond
Salmo
Surrey x 3
Vancouver x 4
Victoria
West Vancouver



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In the Fall of 2022, we united to revive BC Achievement's in-person ceremonies, celebrating the remarkable achievements of our First Nations Art, Applied Art + Design, and Indigenous Business award recipients. The return to gathering, uplifting individuals and their communities, was met with exceptional participation, igniting a collective sense of jubilation.

Under the visionary leadership of Anne Giardini, who chaired the foundation from 2018 to 2022, BC Achievement not only persevered but thrived. It advanced its mission of elevating excellence and inspiring achievement, even in the face of pandemic challenges and beyond. I am deeply honoured to have assumed Anne's role as BC Achievement's Board Chair in December 2022. On behalf of the entire board, we express our profound gratitude for Anne's legacy, guiding the foundation's evolution and expanding program delivery as we enter our third decade. We are also thankful for her ongoing guidance in her role as past chair.

My sincere appreciation goes out to our dedicated board members for their steadfast support of BC Achievement's mission. Our board remains resolute, engaged, and committed, each of you serving as ambassadors for our work - thank you. A warm welcome to our newly appointed board members, Aisha Amijee, and Denise Williams. We are honoured to have your expertise.

Last December, we bid farewell to three board directors: Chris Derickson, John Montalbano, and Yuri Fulmer, whose exceptional leadership contributed to the foundation's sustainability in unique and meaningful ways. We are indebted to each of them.

Our gratitude extends to our diligent and purpose-driven staff who carried out their work to deliver programming that elevates our mission.

Looking forward to the upcoming Fall celebrations, BC Achievement is eager to honour the remarkable entrepreneurs of the 2023 Indigenous Business Award program on November 1, 2023 at our annual gala celebration. Equally exciting is the celebration of



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

the Polygon Award in First Nations Art recipients at The Roundhouse in mid-November, where a combined exhibition will showcase both of our art programs. November 22, 2023 will mark the Applied Art + Design presentation celebration, bringing the exhibition to a close.

In January 2024, BC Achievement is honoured to partner again with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for a presentation at Government House, recognizing the 2023 BC Reconciliation Award recipients in another meaningful ceremony. We remain grateful for the shared partnership between our two organizations in delivering this important award program, and thank the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia for her stewardship of this joint initiative.

Over the past year, BC Achievement had the privilege of honouring and amplifying the stories of extraordinary groups and individuals who demonstrated resilience and excellence. Their stories serve as beacons of inspiration when we seek new leadership and vision.



The future shines brightly for BC Achievement, and we eagerly anticipate continuing our journey of elevating excellence and inspiring achievement. Your support fuels our optimism, and we anticipate more remarkable stories and accomplishments in the years to come, collectively uniting the spirit of excellence in our province.

With great confidence in our future,

Walter Pela, FCPA, FCA

Board Chair





BC Achievement First Nations Art Award

WHERE ART & CULTURE INTERSECT

The award program honours and uplifts First Nations artists throughout British Columbia. The program celebrates First Nations artistic traditions by creating a vibrant platform for community engagement, mentorship, and visual storytelling.



The First Nations Art Award program was launched in the fall of 2006 to recognize BC First Nations artists for excellence in traditional, contemporary, or media art. The annual program is designed for artists who are committed to their practice; have accumulated a body of work; and who are recognized as artists within their communities.

This year's awardees were selected by an independent jury that included: Nathan Wilson, Nuuchah-nulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry and 2020 recipient; Shawn Hunt, Heiltsuk and 2011 recipient; and Xémontélót Carrielynn Victor, Cheam First Nation and 2018 recipient.

We are grateful to the guidance of program advisors: Connie Watts, Past Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and artist of Nuuchah-nulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry and Brenda Crabtree, Past Director, Aboriginal Programs, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, a member of the Spuzzum Band with both Nlaka'pamux and Sto:lo ancestry.

BC Achievement was proud to present a combined exhibition in November 2022 at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, showcasing the 2022 award recipients for both the First Nations Art Award and the Carter Wosk Award in Applied Art + Design.

The Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre

From 2018 to 2022, the First Nations Art Award program was made possible through the generous support of the Vancouver-based Fulmer Foundation. In 2023, BC Achievement was pleased to welcome Polygon Homes as the new program supporter.



James Harry 2021 awardee with Latham Mack, 2022 awardee

"At Polygon, we are delighted to continue partnering with the BC Achievement Foundation to support the First Nations Art Award. We believe that supporting the arts is important for community building, cultural enrichment and education and we look forward to honouring First Nations artists." - Neil Chrystal, President of Polygon Homes.

2022 FIRST NATIONS ART AWARD RECIPIENTS

FEATURED 2022 AWARDEE

Latham Mack, Kamloops Nuxalk

"When I'm carving it's almost like I lose myself and I'm right into the piece trying to feel it, to bring it to life."

Latham Mack has been practicing his Nuxalk nation's art since he was a child. Growing up in Bella Coola surrounded by artistic family members and attending Acwshalcta School exposed him to culture and art at a very young age. As a youth artist he would sell his painted plaques to travellers waiting at the BC Ferries terminal.



Dempsey Bob 2007 recipient with Reg Davidson, 2022 recipient

He learned carving from his late grandfather, hereditary chief Lawrence Mack, and by grade 10 he helped carve a 20-foot totem pole with Tony Speers. At Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art, Latham was mentored by world-renowned artists Stan Bevan, Ken McNeil, and Dempsey Bob.

And now, with years of carving experience to back him, up Latham is keen to keep the tradition alive. "Our ancestors never carved our masks to hang on the wall. Keeping the tradition alive I got my own kids now that I'm looking forward to passing down that knowledge for them to carry forward."

As an established artist, Latham's works are found in collections around the world, from UBC's Museum of Anthropology to the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in

Seattle, Washington, and many private collections in-between. As a Nuxalk artist Latham has stayed faithful to traditional forms, bending them to form his own contemporary style.

"Winning the award shows my journey as an artist. Working with all my teachers and mentors – I couldn't have done it without them. And my family and friends have been a big support." - Latham Mack

**Reg Davidson, Masset
Haida**

Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement

"It was an honour to receive the award. I worked at my art all my life and never ever thought of getting an award for what I do. It moves our nation forward as a people as one of us is being recognized for what they do – it motivates other people."



Reg Davidson is a master Haida artist recognized for his numerous and significant contributions to protecting and advancing Haida culture. He is known for producing significant traditional ceremonial objects such as masks, bentwood drums, and dance regalia. Reg, an accomplished dancer, has mentored and taught two generations of Haida children the importance of Haida language and traditional song and dance. As an avid fisherman, he has provided his elders with food while participating in ecological protection projects that help safeguard the abundance of sea life in Haida Gwaii.

Reg's carvings have been commissioned locally and internationally, and many can be viewed right throughout the province, including a large sculpture grouping of the Blind Halibut Fisherman at Vancouver International Airport.

Over many decades of committed artistry, Reg at his studio, has trained, taught, and employed many artists who live in and off Haida Gwaii. With no art schools in Haida Gwaii, Reg has become a necessary agent of artistic education for younger local artists. Reg's most recent project is a memorial pole in dedication to the life of his nephew Ben Davidson.

Jamie Gentry, Sooke
Kwakwaka'wakw
Crabtree McLennan Emerging Artist

"Our art forms are part of our culture, and I think any way we can uplift, and shine a light on culture is beneficial. Hopefully it encourages further connection as well as inspires others in community to connect and create."

Kwakwaka'wakw artist Jamie Gentry grew up immersed in culture and surrounded by talented artists. From a young age she was drawn to working with her hands, whether it was sewing, beading, or weaving. For the last eight years,

Jamie has been making custom moccasins for clients – each pair is cut, beaded, sewn, and carved by hand. Her goal is to make meaningful connections through moccasin making, contributing a purposeful product to the world, building connections, and sharing culture. Her belief is that by making a connection with the maker and the product, we are more likely to hold that product closer to us, and it is less likely for that product to end up in a landfill. Jamie's focus is on style, comfort, and durability with an emphasis on sustainability.



2022 Awardee, Jamie Gentry



**Qwul'thilum Dylan Thomas, Victoria
Lyackson First Nation**

"Living in the city detached from my culture in my early years, it was the art that drew me in to the culture and made me want to learn more."

Born in Victoria, Qwul'thilum Dylan Thomas is a Coast Salish artist and member of the Lyackson First Nation of Valdes Island, through his grandfather, Clifford Thomas. Although Dylan grew up in the urban setting of Victoria, he was introduced to Coast Salish art at a young age which ignited a lifelong passion for the art

form – and, eventually, led him to seek guidance from established artists. Dylan received training in jewellery techniques from the late Seletze (Delmar Johnnie) and studied under Rande Cook in various mediums of Northwest Coast art. Over the past four years, Dylan has shifted his focus towards wood and stone carving and is now mainly focused on exploring Coast Salish sculpture. In 2019, Dylan was selected by the City of Victoria as the Indigenous Artist in Residence where he aimed to “create work that meaningfully honours the local Indigenous people – past, present, and future”.



2022 Awardee, Dylan Thomas



"3-Finned Killer Whale Mask"
Latham Mack



BC Achievement
Carter Wosk Award
Applied Art + Design

TRANSFORMING THE ORDINARY INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY

The Carter Wosk Award in Applied Art + Design honours excellence and inspires achievement throughout the province. By shining a light on the intersection of art and design in our lives, we celebrate the innovative and fearless spirits who create it. More than an award program, it is an investment in the cultural and economic fabric of our province.



The awardees of the Applied Art + Design program enhance day-to-day life while enriching our collective experiences. Launched in the Fall of 2004, the program recognizes up to four BC artists annually, for artistic excellence in functional art. The program includes the Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist designation, named in honour of the late BC-based furniture designer. The award celebrates Judson's legacy, talents, and entrepreneurial creativity by supporting, mentoring, and highlighting emerging talent within BC's thriving cultural community of artists and designers.

The 2022 recipients were selected by an independent jury comprised of the following past recipients: 2018 Awardee Henry Norris, New Format Studio, metal furniture and objects design studio; 2015 Awardee Renée Macdonald, Westerly Handmade Shoes; and 2018 Awardee Claudia Schulz, hat design.

BC Achievement was proud to present a combined exhibition in November 2022 at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, showcasing the 2022 award recipients for both the Carter Wosk Award in Applied Art + Design and the First Nations Art Award programs.

Each of this year's recipients stand out as innovators in their chosen field. Their work merges beauty with purpose, and their offerings serve to elevate the human experience, every single day. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to program founder and advisor Sam Carter, Professor Emeritus at Emily Carr University. His visionary guidance, dedication, and wisdom have shaped the program, cultivating a vibrant community of creativity that will continue long into the future. As the 2022 program closed, BC Achievement retired the Carter Wosk name of the award program. The foundation is grateful to the Yosef Wosk Family Foundation, whose generosity has supported over a decade of celebrating applied art + design in BC.

2022 CARTER WOSK AWARD IN APPLIED ART + DESIGN RECIPIENTS

FEATURED 2022 AWARDEE

Caine Heintzman, Vancouver
Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist

"With lighting, we're accentuating space, but the light is sometimes a decoration or jewellery, but it's also creating an atmosphere, an emotion."

Lighting designer Caine Heintzman has always been curious about the materiality and fabrication of the objects and equipment that allow him to enjoy the natural environment as an outdoors enthusiast. He found himself naturally inclined to industrial design as he's inspired by ritual and everyday useful objects that help improve people's lives.

Having studied and trained at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and Kunsthochschule Berlin



2022 Awardee, Caine Heintzman



Weissensee, lighting became one of his very early interests. Caine is now one of three co-founders of ANDlight, a decorative luminaire design studio and manufacturer. He applies rigorous material research, technical know-how and an understanding of lighting technology to an artful practice.

Caine's lighting designs communicate how functional art objects can become economic commodities as well as affective agents in the circulation and amplification of ideas imbued with cultural meaning. Borrowing from a philosophy of "design as art," Caine's designs enrich the landscape of creative expression emerging from British Columbia.

In 2022 the Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist designation, named in honour of the late BC-based furniture designer, was presented to Caine Heintzman. In response, Caine shares the following: "The role of the creative person in the community is to communicate and share culture. I'm grateful and honoured to be part of this group of alumni."

Robert Anderson, Victoria
Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement

"It is important to draw attention to the work of craftspeople in applied arts and design by honouring them with these kinds of awards for excellence in their field. It is a public endorsement and reminder of the value of hand crafting which celebrates individual achievement over mass manufacturing which dehumanizes it."

Master luthier Robert Anderson is committed to hand-building musical instruments that are objects of beauty. Constructed with the highest level of craft, Robert's stringed instruments are designed to be sensitive to the player's intent, with a sonority which can only be achieved by hand-building.

Robert follows the traditions of the old masters, using carefully selected and aged woods, hide glue, and dovetail neck joints. For the best tone, he then French polishes each instrument. Over 25 years of instrument making has deepened his understanding of materials, acoustic design,



2022 Award of Distinction recipient, Robert Anderson



2022 Awardee, Louise Perrone



and hand-building methods, resulting in subtle, incremental changes which improve tone, volume, and ergonomics. In an age when cheap, factory-made instruments are overwhelming the market, Robert also instructs and mentors aspiring instrument builders in the tradition of luthiery, keeping alive the spirit of inquiry and skill development fundamental to the craft. Robert feels fortunate to work in a field where he can create the tools that enable musicians to fully give expression to their art.

Louise Perrone, Vancouver

"For my friends and colleagues in the art jewellery community near and far. As a rather niche area of the fine craft world, a win for me is a win for all of us. I hope to see more of us receiving the recognition that you so richly deserve."

UK born Louise Perrone never intended to become a jeweller or a Canadian. However, three years after visiting Canada she graduated from Alberta College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jewellery and Metals and was awarded the Governor General of Canada's Academic Medal.

Now, twenty years later, her textile jewellery explores issues of gender, labour, and sustainability by combining goldsmithing traditions with hand-sewing. Using materials derived from domestic and industrial textile and plastic waste, Louise's work involves altering plastic objects and enveloping them in fabric, inviting a consideration of what jewelry can conceal and reveal about the maker, the wearer, and ourselves.

Louise's work has been shown in numerous local, national, and international exhibitions, including solo and two-person shows at the Craft Council of BC, and group exhibitions featured in New York City Jewellery Week, JOYA Barcelona, and Athens Jewellery Week.

Louise is passionate about teaching her skills to others and works as an instructor in the Jewellery programs at LaSalle College Vancouver and Vancouver Community College. She's also motivated to create opportunities for artists to thrive and has given back to her community by serving in leadership positions with various artist and craft organizations.



Cathy Terepocki, Chilliwack

"Making objects that have a story, that people can share, that people can pass on or gift to people, and talk about – I feel that elevates the objects and gives them a little bit more meaning."

Cathy Terepocki is a ceramicist whose practice is driven by innovation, process, and material. She is interested in unconventional processes and crossing boundaries between different industries and artistic practices and so she is consistently researching, developing glazes and new techniques.

Practicing in Fraser Valley, Cathy has immersed herself in the community making connections and creating work that is strongly rooted and reflective of her natural surroundings. Her Chilliwack River Clay series was harvested with shovels and buckets from the local river and her current project includes making tiles from wild clay. Cathy has had a diverse practice exhibiting, teaching, designing, and producing multiple collections of work, and she has exhibited internationally. The local clay research has opened up opportunities for community engagement and has allowed this ceramicist to create meaningful work and, in turn, contribute to the culture of the place she calls home.



2022 Awardee, Cathy Terepocki



"Chilliwack River Clay – Glaze Colour Tests"
Cathy Terepocki



BC Achievement Indigenous Business Award

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE & OPPORTUNITY

The Indigenous Business Award (IBA) program celebrates and honours excellence in Indigenous business throughout British Columbia. Sharing powerful stories of innovation and persistence, the program endeavors to inspire Indigenous entrepreneurs as they forge their own path to excellence. Now in its 14th year, the program counts over 210 remarkable individuals and businesses among its alumni.



In shining a light on local Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses, we illuminate aspects of their work which create economic opportunity, increase Indigenous representation, and foster cultural resurgence in communities across the province. Alumni, awardees and supporters belong to a vibrant community, bound by purpose, and working towards a better future together.

In August 2022 BC Achievement was honoured to welcome Satuts Stsuhwum (North wind strong and clear) Angela Marston as IBA Program Director. With her lived experience as a First Nation woman from Stz'uminus First Nation, Angela brings an Indigenous lens to BC Achievement programming. In 2022, the IBA program theme was *thuysaynum*: preparing the path, directing the feet. As Angela explains: "We are all working to mindfully build respectful and meaningful relationships to prepare the path for the next generation."

The IBA program is open to entrepreneurs, businesses, educational and financial institutions, professional services, social enterprises, First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. Once again, this year, we were inspired by the ingenuity, foresight, and focus amongst each of the nominees. Awardees were selected by members of the 2022 jury panel which included Jessie Ramsay, Leah George-Wilson and Jeff Ward.



Elijah Mack 2021 awardee with Dark Arc Welding, 2022 awardee

2022 INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AWARDEES

Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement:
Chief David Jimmie, Chilliwack

Young Entrepreneur of the Year:
Dustin & Ashley Kucher – Dark Arc Welding Inc., Dawson Creek

Business of the Year – one-to-two person enterprise:
dk Architecture, North Vancouver

Business of the Year – three-to-ten person enterprise:
Culture Shock Life, Alert Bay

Business of the Year – 11+ person enterprise:
Warrior Plumbing, North Vancouver

Community-Owned Business of the Year – one entity:
M'i nuw'ilum DBA Cheanuh Marina, Sooke

Community-Owned Business of the Year – two or more entities:
Sasuchan Development Corporation, Takla Landing

Business Partnership of the Year:
Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd., Williams Lake

After a two-year hiatus the highly anticipated, sold-out, IBA Gala Dinner returned to the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver in November 2022. IBA recipients were awarded \$2,500 each and received a recognition film commissioned and produced by BC Achievement, a medallion and lapel pin designed by renowned First Nations artist Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, along with a commemorative certificate and letter from the Premier recognizing their achievements.

The 2022 IBA program was presented by BC Achievement in partnership with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and was



2022 Award of Distinction recipient, Chief David Jimmie

generously supported by: Vancity; Enbridge; TD; Teck; BC Hydro; BC Transit; CN; New Relationship Trust; Ovintiv; Pembina; Seaspac; Simpcw Resources Group; TELUS; Port of Vancouver – Vancouver Fraser Port Authority; Western Indigenous Pipeline Group; All Nations Trust Company; Bennett Jones; Coast Capital Savings; Copper Mountain Mine; FortisBC; Dentons; Ledcor; and West Fraser.

We are deeply grateful to our new and longstanding sponsors. Their generous support serves to reinforce the achievements of every single IBA nominee.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Chief David Jimmie, Chilliwack

“Winning an award like this highlights the whole vision, and gives a good avenue to young people – they can be successful at anything they want to do. Keep working at, having the vision and, at the same time, looking after Mother Earth and making it healthier.”

A collaborative leader, Chief David Jimmie lends his expertise to establish growth opportunities while serving his community and the organizations which sustain it. He is Chief and CEO of Squiala First Nation, President of the Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council and President of Ts'elxwey'éqw Tribe Management Limited. He also serves as Chair and Vice President of Finance for the Western Indigenous Pipeline Group and is the owner / operator as a licensed residential builder of DJC (DJimmie Construction). Before he was first elected Chief in 2009, DJC built 224 homes and 175 apartment units for communities in Chilliwack and Westbank. DJC is currently building 309 townhouse units and a 200-unit condo project at Base 10 in Chilliwack plus 108 townhouse units and a 215-unit condo project at Shelter Bay in Westbank. Chief Jimmie's ability to forge relationships and bridge the gap between groups has created economic spinoffs and partnerships that have been valuable for each of the organizations he works with to diversify revenue streams.

With an MBA from Simon Fraser University, Chief Jimmie's efforts focus on creating partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. His traditional name, Lenéx wí :ót, meaning “One who works for the people”, embodies his leadership philosophy as he believes strong relationships are key to creating capacity for his people.

Chief Jimmie is a board member of the Chilliwack Hospital Foundation, the Sts'ailes Development Corporation and Tourism Chilliwack. He has served as co-chair of the AFN National Committee on Fiscal Relations with Canada, the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce, and the board of New Relationship Trust. Chief Jimmie's commitment to inclusivity reflects his intent to unite the Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds. A changemaker who leads by example, Chief Jimmie is an inspiration and mentor to everyone he aims to serve.



FEATURED 2022 AWARDEE

Business of the Year – three-to-ten-person enterprise:

Culture Shock Life, Alert Bay

"We started our business trying to find ways to be self-sustainable. We come from a family that practices our traditional ways. When people come to Culture Shock, they become our friends. I think my gran would be really proud of us. It shows Indigenous women that it can be done. One of our teachings is to carry a good heart."

Andrea Cranmer and her sister Donna Cranmer are the owners of Culture Shock Life. Founded on a solid foundation of respect for ancestry and tradition, the gallery is 100% First Nations owned and operated and is deeply rooted in the rich

traditions of the 'Namgis people. Located in Alert Bay, Culture Shock is an important cultural hub of the community, selling a range of exquisite and affordable Indigenous designed and produced jewellery and wearable art while showcasing the award-winning films of its late co-founder (and sister to Andrea and Donna) Barb Cranmer.

Supporting and developing Indigenous artists and craftspeople drives the unique business of Culture Shock which also operates an intimate café welcoming and enabling visitors and locals to interact with the owners, staff and each other. Culture Shock creates the space for the understanding and sharing of Indigenous knowledge with all who visit, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, and with those who live in the area.



2022 Awardee, Culture Shock Life



British Columbia Reconciliation Award



HONOURING THOSE WHO FURTHER RECONCILIATION

BC Achievement, in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, launched the inaugural British Columbia Reconciliation Award in November 2020.





Now in its fourth year, this program recognizes excellence in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province of BC. The Award honours individuals, groups, and organizations who demonstrate exceptional leadership, integrity, respect, and commitment to furthering reconciliation, and inspire others to continue reconciliation efforts.

2023 BRITISH COLUMBIA RECONCILIATION AWARD INDIVIDUALS HONOURED

Dr. Danièle Behn Smith Victoria

Dr. Danièle Behn Smith is Eh Cho Dene of Fort Nelson First Nation and Franco-Manitobain/Métis from the Red River Valley. Danièle has dedicated her medical career to serving rural and First Nations communities across Canada. In 2014, she transitioned to a functional medicine practice, embracing a complex systems biology approach to family practice that aligns with Indigenous approaches to health and healing. Danièle has also served as a board director for the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, director of education for the University of Alberta's Indigenous Health Initiatives Program, and site director of the University of British Columbia's Aboriginal Family practice residency. Danièle challenges the existing ways of knowing and operating within the healthcare system and society at large to improve the well-being of Indigenous communities.

Chief Willie Sellars Williams Lake

Chief Willie Sellars' leadership embodies integrity, respect, and a commitment to furthering reconciliation. His efforts inspire others to participate in the collective journey of healing and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. A member of the Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) of

the Secwepemc Nation, Willie was first elected to WLFN Council in 2008. After serving on WLFN Council for a decade, he was elected as Chief in 2018 and is currently in his second term of office. Both as a WLFN employee and an elected official, Willie advocates for reconciliation, recognizing the need for healing from the impacts of colonialism, residential schools, and the Indian Act.

Willie always strives for the betterment of his people, writing children's books, dancing in powwows, playing competitive sports, and engaging in various other community initiatives, and promoting unity and mutual respect among all Canadians.



2023 Awardee, Dr. Danièle Behn Smith



2023 Awardee, Chief Willie Sellars



2023 Awardee, Dr. Barney Williams



2023 Awardee, Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn

Klith-wii-taa, Dr. Barney Williams Campbell River

Klith-wii-taa, Dr. Barney Williams, a hereditary leader from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, is renowned for his expertise in Indigenous healing and counselling. Fluent in the Nuu-chah-nulth language, he integrates traditional teachings into his work, particularly in the realm of mental health. Throughout his career, Barney has held notable positions as an executive director and social service administrator, specializing in counselling

areas that encompass youth, community prevention, crisis intervention, and addictions. His contributions include the establishment of a ground-breaking counselling program for Indigenous peoples at Vancouver Island University. The program served as a model for the integration of traditional healing knowledge with Western approaches, marking a crucial step towards holistic and culturally responsive care.

Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn Burnaby

Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn (Otahkotskina) is an Indigenous engagement leader in archaeology and academia whose trailblazing efforts have paved the way for subsequent generations of Indigenous scholars and students to thrive in these fields. Eldon joined Simon Fraser University (SFU) faculty in 2002 and helped establish the Department of Indigenous Studies in 2012, serving as its inaugural Chair until 2017. As a speaker of the Blackfoot language, Eldon is dedicated to its preservation. He has contributed his voice to narrate animated videos that incorporate Blackfoot for teaching mathematics. Eldon is now exploring the potential of artificial intelligence to create language learning instruments that allow citizen linguists to participate actively in preserving it. His research explores the potential of machine learning to revitalize Blackfoot and ensure that his generation is not the last to speak it.

2023 BRITISH COLUMBIA RECONCILIATION AWARD ORGANIZATIONS HONOURED

Last Post Fund – BC Branch Burnaby

The Last Post Fund (LPF) is dedicated to ensuring that no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral, burial, or military gravestone due to insufficient funds at the time of their death. Over 18,000 Indigenous



Veterans served in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in World War I, II, the Korean War, Afghanistan and other peace keeping missions – often receiving minimal benefits while facing discrimination when they returned home.

In March 2019, LPF established the Indigenous Veteran Initiative as part of its mission and in alignment with the efforts of the federal and provincial governments towards reconciliation and building a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples. This initiative aims to commemorate and honour Indigenous Veterans by addressing two key components: the Unmarked Grave component and the Traditional Name Marking component.

The Exploration Place & Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Prince George

Prince George's The Exploration Place (TEP) works alongside Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (LTFN) to safeguard and conserve their cultural assets. In a strong partnership, TEP serves as the designated repository for LTFN's material history. Together, they have jointly undertaken various initiatives such as developing exhibits, facilitating the repatriation of the return of cultural objects to LTFN and other northern communities, and conducting digitization projects to preserve a vast collection of Dakelh oral histories. TEP and LTFN also prioritize Indigenous programming that aligns with local school board curriculum, and they have future projects in the pipeline including the establishment of a culturally safe childcare centre. These collective endeavours mark significant milestones in deepening the trust and understanding between TEP and LTFN, resulting in a true friendship, and setting an inspiring example to other museums nationwide.

Museums from across Canada have sought guidance from TEP and initiated similar



2023 Awardee, Last Post Fund - BC Branch



2023 Awardee, The Exploration Place & Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

processes in their own regions. The partnership between TEP and LTFN provides hope that a museum can build the relationship needed to redress a colonial past. The trust and understanding established within this partnership ensure that Northern BC's museum is a place where cultural learning and practice honour traditions and celebrate a collective future.

The commitment of these recipients to working toward reconciliation is inspiring and provides hope for stronger relationships and communities.



Cloy-e-iis, Dr. Judith Sayers
BC Achievement Foundation Board Member

"Reconciliation acts as the cornerstone for meaningful connections and bridging the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. By acknowledging the historical injustices and illuminating transformative actions, we inspire others to tread the same path. As we enter the third year of the British Columbia Reconciliation Award, we continue to shine a light on empowering approaches that allow Indigenous peoples to flourish while positively impacting all communities. Congratulations to the awardees, and heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our shared journey of reconciliation."

The Honourable Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

"For the third year of the British Columbia Reconciliation Award, I continue to be inspired by the impact and meaning of the achievements of the 2023 recipients, and across all nominations. The recipients demonstrate commitment to community, education, and recognizing the challenges of the past while honouring those who came before us. They are an inspiration to me, and to all British Columbians, in their call to do the hard work of reconciliation and support its transformative power to create real change."

The British Columbia Reconciliation Award draws inspiration from the work of the Honourable Steven Point [Xwě́ł̓ t̓ qwě́ł̓ t̓ éł̓], 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and a founder of the Award. His hand-carved red cedar canoe, Shxw̓t̓it̓ostel, currently on display at the BC Legislature buildings, was created as a symbol of reconciliation, with the understanding that we are all in the same canoe and must paddle together to move forward. In honour of this legacy, this year's recipients received a print of a canoe paddle designed by Kwakwaka'wakw

artist Jamie Gentry to commemorate the award. Gentry is the Crabtree McLennan Emerging Artist recipient of the 2022 First Nations Art Award.

The selection committee for the 2023 British Columbia Reconciliation Award included the following individuals:

- ǫ́i-ǫ́, Dr. Christopher Horsethief – Ktunaxa Nation
- T'esóts'en, Patrick Kelly – Leq'á:mel Nation
- Nicole McLaren – Métis Nation
- Cloy-e-iis, Dr. Judith Sayers – Hupacasath Nation
- T̓ł̓alisam, Dr. Kim van der Woerd – 'Namgis Nation
- Chief/Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir - Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
- Xyolholemo:t, Brenda Crabtree – member of the Spuzzum Band with Nlaka'pamux and Sto:Lo ancestry

The awardees from the inaugural offering of the program – the 2021 recipients – as well as the 2022 award recipients were recognized in a formal award presentation ceremony held in Victoria, BC, on January 12, 2023 in the presence of the Honourable Janet Austin, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. We look forward to celebrating the 2023 British Columbia Reconciliation Award recipients at a ceremony in January 2024.

Awardees receive a BC Achievement Award medallion and lapel pin featuring a design by renowned First Nations artist, Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, a framed certificate signed personally by the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and a BC Achievement Foundation board member, and a letter from the Premier.



2021 Reconciliation Awardees



2022 Reconciliation Awardees



BC Achievement Community Award



BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND SKILL

The Community Award shines light on the contributions of extraordinary British Columbians who build stronger, more resilient communities and serve as examples of service and generosity. Each of these individuals has served with thoughtfulness and purpose to improve and enrich the lives of the people and places around them.



Now in its twentieth year, the Community Award continues to reflect the spirit of excellence, vision, and commitment of those who impact their community in meaningful ways.

"This year's Community Award recipients demonstrate exceptional commitment to making their communities – and our province – healthier, happier, and more hopeful. From ambitious students to established entrepreneurs, the honourees show us how everyone can have a hand in building a stronger BC. Their stories are sure to inspire British Columbians across the province." - The Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC

The Community Award recipients were selected by an independent jury panel, whose 2023 members included Mayor Sarrah Storey of Fraser Lake, Mayor Maja Tait of Sooke, past recipients Kal Dosanjh of Surrey, Julie Fowler of Penticton, and Sqwulutsultun William Yoachim of Nanaimo.

2023 COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Connie Cocchia, West Vancouver
Dr. Amy Gilchrist, Victoria
Jack Gin, Burnaby
James Harry Sr., Burnaby
Kat Hartwig, Brisco
Simon Daniel James, Bowen Island
David Lemon, Delta
Meeka Morgan, Ashcroft
Gerry Nellestijn, Salmo
Kim North, Lillooet
Don Philip Peters, North Vancouver
Stephanie Quon, Vancouver
Esther Rausenberg, Vancouver
Sahara Shaik, Vancouver
Jessie Sutherland, Richmond
Upkar Singh Tatlay, Surrey
Gary Thandi, Surrey
Kiranjot Kaur Toor, Surrey
Spencer van Vloten, Vancouver
Kihlyahda Christian White & Candace Weir-White, Masset



Recipients of the 2023 Community Award were recognized in a formal presentation ceremony held in Victoria, BC on May 10, in the presence of The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Award recipients received the BC Achievement medallion and lapel pin designed by renowned artist Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, along with a commemorative plaque certificate and letter from the Premier of BC recognizing their achievements. The artwork captures the spirit and purpose of the award program: "Cultural hero: spirited, undaunted, fearless, bold. Raising our awareness to a higher understanding."

BC Achievement Board Chair, Walter Pela, announced a new designation for the Community program at the 2023 ceremony:

"As we celebrate the first two decades of honouring the citizens who build community in this province, I am pleased to announce a new category saluting youth who are leading the way - The Emerging Leader Award designation - launching with the 2024 Call for Nominations. As we look to the future and the challenges that lie ahead, it is more important than ever to recognize the achievements of youth in our province. They are the ones who will lead us forward, and we need to support and encourage them every step of the way."



The goal of this new designation will be to recognize and celebrate the strength, courage, and skill of young people who are making a difference in their communities and striving to make BC a better place. This distinction will acknowledge the incredible dedication and efforts of young leaders. Through this empowerment, a ripple effect will transpire – one that resonates far beyond the initial act of service.

FEATURED 2023 AWARDEE

Kat Hartwig ***The Mitchell Award of Distinction***

"It has been heartwarming to learn about the commitment, kindness, and vision embodied in the work of the award recipients. It can feel as though this remarkable work is eclipsed by the seemingly

insurmountable challenges facing society today – so celebrating our successes through the BC Achievement Community Award helps to bolster our fortitude to carry on."

The Mitchell Award designate of the Community Award is selected by the BC Achievement Foundation Board in consultation with the program's community. The award recognizes an individual who, through their work and/or volunteer activities, demonstrates an unwavering commitment to elevating people around them. The recipient has a unique and selfless leadership. This year's Mitchell Award of Distinction recipient is Kat Hartwig of Brisco, a champion of environmental conservation, whose selfless leadership style empowers others to lead and excel.

As the founder and Executive Director of Living Lakes Canada, Kat Hartwig has demonstrated unwavering commitment to freshwater protection in BC for the past two decades. Recognizing that global water challenges caused by climate change need to be addressed at local community levels, Kat's desire to empower communities to find climate adaptation strategies has tripled water monitoring activities in the Columbia Basin alone. She had an instrumental role in many large-scale, environmental conservation initiatives. Kat was one of the initiators of the Jumbo Wild campaign, a key grizzly bear and wildlife corridor located in the Purcell Mountains. She continues large-scale conservation work for the Columbia Wetlands, one of the longest undisturbed wetland ecosystems remaining in North America.

An advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous voices in water management and Indigenous Knowledge in water policy and science, Kat has prioritized strong working relationships with First Nations. Her commitment to water stewardship is interwoven with a desire to empower young people to make a meaningful contribution towards addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis facing their generation.



2023 Awardee, Kat Hartwig



2023 Awardee, Meeka Morgan & 2023 Jury Member, Julie Fowler



2023 Community Awardees

HONOURING THOSE WHO LIFT US UP



Christopher Derickson



Yuri Fulmer



John Montalbano

At BC Achievement we often find ourselves in awe of the achievements of the nominees and recipients we honour. The same can be said for the members of our board, all of whom serve with enthusiasm and integrity, while balancing their own monumental professional and personal commitments. This year we say farewell to three of our longstanding board members: Christopher Derickson, Yuri Fulmer, and John Montalbano.



Christopher R. Derickson

“It is an honour to serve an organization which is devoted to recognizing and celebrating the talents and achievements of our fellow British Columbians. The BC Achievement Foundation is an essential part of building positive and vibrant communities throughout our province.”

Christopher Derickson has been involved in his community for the past 20 years working with youth and has served on community boards and commissions. Chris brings seven years of Council experience prior to being elected Chief in 2019. He is a founding Partner of Alderhill Planning Inc. where he worked on business development and operations with Indigenous communities and organizations from across Canada. Furthermore, he is an active board member having served as Secretary and Treasurer on the All Nations Trust Company Board of Directors and the Premier’s Selection Committee for the BC Medal of Good Citizenship. Chris previously served two terms as the Chair of the Okanagan College Board of Governors and is a faculty member at the University of Arizona Native Nations Institute, the Banff Centre, and a lecturer at SFU’s Beedie School of Business. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University, a Juris Doctorate from the University of British Columbia, and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Political Science from the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Chris is the recipient of several academic awards and a recipient of the Business in Vancouver Forty Under 40 award.

Yuri Fulmer, OBC

“Recognizing extraordinary achievement not only benefits the recipients and their communities but inspires all of us to create a better Canada for all Canadians.”

Currently serving as Capilano University’s fourth chancellor, Yuri Fulmer is the Founder and Chairman of Fulmer & Company; an investment

firm that makes both private equity and venture investments and has a strong history of aligning philanthropy with business in order to create robust communities. Amongst many community and professional involvements, Yuri is the National Chair of the Board of United Way Centraide Canada and Co-Chair of the Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society. Yuri has received the BC Achievement Community Award (2010), the Order of British Columbia (2010), the Spirit of Vancouver Award (2011), and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012) in recognition of his contributions.

John Montalbano

“It is important to highlight and celebrate the achievements of those that make our communities stronger. Humility and celebration are not mutually exclusive, nor necessarily conflicting. We have much to celebrate within our communities.”

John is former CEO of RBC Global Asset Management, Canada’s largest investment management firm and among the 50 largest in global rankings with over \$400 billion in assets under management. John is currently Principal of Tower Beach Capital Ltd., a private enterprise focused on venture capital investments. He serves on numerous boards including the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aritzia Inc., AbCellera Biologics Inc., the Asia Pacific Foundation, St Paul’s Hospital Foundation (Chair), The Vancouver Police Foundation (Past Chair) and WindMill Microlending. John holds a Chartered Financial Analyst designation and a Bachelor of Commerce, with Honours, from University of British Columbia (UBC). He is a Leslie Wong Fellow of the UBC Portfolio Management Foundation and holds an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Emily Carr University.

OUR BOARD

PUBLIC - APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Aisha Amijee

It is an absolute honour to serve with an organization which is dedicated to uplifting entire communities from every corner of British Columbia. From our small towns to our bustling metro cities, when we recognize individuals who serve their communities, we inspire and connect all of the communities we belong to. It is a chance to celebrate each other and our collective united spirit as British Columbians.



Kevin Bent (Treasurer/Secretary)

As a proud British Columbian, I believe it's important to recognize and celebrate excellence in our province. This helps strengthen and build community spirit and inspire present and future generations.



Christopher Gaze, OBC (Vice Chair)

BC Achievement reaches every corner of British Columbia and recognizes the excellence and the good that the people of our Province do for the betterment of all. Being honoured has a massive impact on individuals, their family and their friends. I am deeply proud to serve on the Board and to play a small role in furthering this noble mission.



Anne Giardini, OC, OBC, KC (Past Chair)

It is a hallmark of successful organizations and societies that they not only recognize achievements but celebrate them. All of us – if we are lucky – have a memory of giving or receiving recognition for an act of creation or collaboration or inspiration or community building. BC Achievement exists to shine light on those whose actions make this province a better place for us all.



Carol Anne Lee, OBC

It is an honour to be involved in an organization that celebrates the incredible contributions and achievements of our fellow British Columbians. It is wonderful to recognize accomplishments that inspire us all. Building stronger, more inclusive communities across BC is so important for the future of our province, now more than ever.



OUR BOARD

Scott McIntyre, CM, OBC, LLD (Hon.)

Honouring British Columbians of exceptional cultural and social achievement is a compelling mandate, one that makes an important contribution to the province. I am enormously proud of having been involved with BC Achievement since its establishment in 2003.



Walter Pela, FCPA, FCA (Chair)

British Columbia is built by truly remarkable people doing incredible work in varied fields throughout the province. They deserve to be recognized and celebrated, and their achievements amplified, inspiring all of us in our ambitions to make an impact.



Cloy-e-iis Judith Sayers, OC

I really enjoy being able to work with BC Achievement to identify people to honour in the various areas we do awards. It is such positive work setting the stage to find people we can hold up and say to the world, "this is what they have achieved."



Denise Williams

Acknowledging and appreciating the beautiful gifts that people from across the province share to make our world a better place is an absolute honour. Achievement takes many forms and I look forward to shining the light on those doing incredible things in and out of plain sight.



OUR BOARD

GOVERNMENT - APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Hon. David Eby, KC

BC Achievement gives us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the best and brightest in British Columbia. Honouring inspiring individuals for their contributions to our communities encourages others to step up and do the same. BC Achievement fosters a spirit of generosity and selflessness throughout our province.



Hon. Lisa Beare

The BC Achievement Foundation recognizes and celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of people in this province. The Foundation highlights the best among us, and in doing so, inspires a spirit of excellence that helps build strong and prosperous communities. I'm proud to serve on the board of the Foundation and delighted to have the opportunity to exemplify those whose remarkable achievements contribute to our growth and success as a province.



Kelli Paddon, MLA

The amazing and diverse people of BC are the heart of our province. The BC Achievement Foundation gives well deserved recognition to incredible British Columbians and, in turn, inspires us all to explore our own excellence.



Hon. Rachna Singh

To celebrate and acknowledge the incredible work of British Columbians, in various fields, across our diverse province. BC Achievement honours excellence and serves as an inspiration to all of us to strive to do the same.



WITH WARM GRATITUDE TO

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- Anne Giardini
- Jane Osler
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