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For Immediate Release

The Sidney Museum and WSÁNEĆ School Board to host film screening of two WSÁNEĆ productions

Sidney, British Columbia, June 5, 2024 - The Sidney Museum & Archives and the WSÁNEĆ School Board are hosting a film screening of two WSÁNEĆ productions at the Museum on Monday, June 17 at 10:00am. The museum will be showing an animated short, *ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ*, and the film *ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ* followed by a discussion and questions with Elders.

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ is a four-minute animated short of the WSÁNEĆ Origin story produced by PENAC (David) Underwood.

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ, which translates to “Birthright/heritage of/to/for our relatives of the deep” showcases the WSÁNEĆ worldview and relationship with their traditional territory. The film describes the displacement of WSÁNEĆ peoples from *ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ* and their subsequent efforts to reclaim and fully restore this relationship today. The videos call upon settlers to aid WSÁNEĆ in these efforts by engaging in reconcili-ACTION. It was directed by SXEDTELISIYE (Renee Sampson) & Tye Swallow.

Showcased in the midst of the Museum’s ongoing featured exhibit, *Our Living Languages: First Peoples’ Voices in BC*, the film draws upon traditional knowledge and the SENĆOŦEN language to explain how the WSÁNEĆ belong to the land and why colonial notions of land ownership do not apply to WSÁNEĆ’s relationship with *ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ*.

“These films represent an important learning opportunity for non-Indigenous allies”, says Michael Goodchild, Executive Director of the Sidney Museum. “We’re always looking for ways to engage in meaningful reconciliation with First Nations communities, and to have the opportunity to host these productions, produced to provide settlers with a clear path forward, is humbling.”

For WSÁNEĆ communities, the films represent a unique opportunity for skilled educators and knowledge-keepers to teach *ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ* settlers about their history, and how the legacy of colonialism continues to shape it today.

We respectfully acknowledge the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SET, TINES on the territory of the WSÁNEĆ People including the BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁ,UTW (Tsawout), WJOĒĒLP (Tsartlip) and WSÍKEM (Tseycum) First Nations.



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These films have been created as a project by the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board, the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, and the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

The Sidney Museum is located at 2423 Beacon Avenue, in the lower level of the Old Post Office building. The Museum is open seven days a week from 10:00am-4:00pm. Entrance is by donation. Please visit the Museum's website for more details on the current and upcoming events and exhibitions.

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For more information contact:
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