



Skwxwú7mesh Líl'wat7úl
SQUAMISH LÍLWAT CULTURAL CENTRE
WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

where rivers, mountains and people meet

For Immediate Release:

Lil'wat Nation's Antólaya7 (Vera Edmonds) receives 2011 BC Creative Achievement Award for First Nations Art

Whistler, October 24, 2011: Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC) is proud to announce; Lil'wat Nation' Antólaya7 (Vera Edmonds) has been listed as one of the five recipients of the Annual BC Creative Achievement Award for First Nations Art, a juried competition celebrating artistic excellence in traditional, contemporary and media art. Vera Edmonds a master cedar root weaver who practices traditional Lil'wat weaving, was chosen based on her work that is on display at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler and the Lil'wat Culture Centre in Mt. Currie. Her work is outstanding from a technical perspective and her dedication to use her art to educate and inspire people locally, regionally and internationally has made her an inspiration for her community.

Vera Edmonds work has been viewed by tens of thousands of guests over the years at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre and the centre's Aboriginal Youth Ambassador Trainees work with Edmonds to learn about the cultural significance of weaving as well the traditional techniques. Edmonds has also been an integral part in restoring many of the baskets found at the SLCC.

Each recipient will receive \$5,000 and the seal of the British Columbia Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art.

Many of Vera Edmonds pieces can be viewed at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre's newest exhibit the Lil'wat Nation's Weaving Wisdom Exhibition, on display until January 31st.

About the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC)

The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, winner of the 2010 National Tourism Award for Cultural Tourism Excellence, showcases the art and heritage of the Squamish and Lil'wat Aboriginal people in an experiential format. The spectacular Centre features a museum, modern gallery, exhibits, gift shop, café, theatre as well as hourly cultural performances and guided tours with local First Nation Ambassadors.

Antólaya7 - Vera Edmonds

Vera Edmonds is a master cedar root weaver who practices and teaches traditional Lil'wat weaving. Edmonds learned the art form from her grandmothers and today her contemporary basketry is both technically and aesthetically outstanding. She is committed to keeping the Lil'wat weaving tradition alive by teaching the younger generations.

Lil'wat Nation Weaving Wisdom Exhibition

Lil'wat Nation is highly regarded for basketry and weaving; a practice that continues to be passed down through the generations. It requires an incredible mix of technical knowledge, creativity and dedication and is something that the SLCC is highlighting this fall and winter. This collection of contemporary and traditional cedar and pine woven pieces is the largest public display of its kind.

Funding for the exhibition was provided by a range of sponsors including Government of Canada – Western Economic Diversification, Canadian Heritage and the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation. Many of the baskets have been donated from private collectors seeking to support educational activities at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre.

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Photo Gary Fiegehen: Lil'wat Nation' Antolaya7 (Vera Edmonds) assists young women in learning the traditional weaving techniques. High res photo available

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

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