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From: GH RSVP FIN:EX <GHRSPV@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: British Columbia Reconciliation Award
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The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, in partnership with the [BC Achievement Foundation](#), is pleased to announce the third year of the British Columbia Reconciliation Award, recognizing individuals and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, respect and commitment to furthering Reconciliation or inspiring others to continue Reconciliation efforts.

This award celebrates the promise of a shared path to Reconciliation through the incredible work of leaders from all over British Columbia, whose commitment to recognizing past injustices and healing those wounds will lead us all to a brighter future. A selection committee for the award will include representation by Indigenous Elders, BC First Nations leadership and government partners.

Consider and reflect on the efforts of the Elders, leaders, and neighbours in your community who have strived to further Reconciliation. The nominations process is open to any individuals and organizations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous identity who have shown exemplary dedication to asserting truth and Reconciliation initiatives. We encourage you to read [the stories of last year's recipients](#), with the hope their incredible work will inspire you to nominate the brightest in your own communities.

Reconciliation must take root in our hearts, within families, between generations, and throughout our communities. We look forward to supporting this award and its deeply meaningful goal of building our relationships with each other across cultures and social barriers.

Nominate an individual or organization today using the [BC Reconciliation Award nomination form](#) on the [BC Achievement Foundation website](#). The nomination period will close on January 20, 2023.

Please find attached a graphic for sharing on social media, a package of nominations resources, and information about the BC Reconciliation Award.



**British Columbia
Reconciliation Award**

Canoe Paddles Installed at Government House to Launch Call for Nominations for 2023 BC Reconciliation Awards

Two canoe paddles honouring the achievements of the 2021 and 2022 British Columbia Reconciliation Award recipients were installed at Government House on November 22, 2022. The installation of the paddles also marks the call for nominations for the 2023 BC Reconciliation Awards.

The BC Reconciliation Award is a partnership between the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and the BC Achievement Foundation, and recognizes individuals, groups and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, respect, and commitment to furthering reconciliation or inspired others to continue reconciliation efforts. The inaugural ceremony recognizing the 2021 and 2022 recipients will take place at Government House in Victoria in the new year.

The BC Reconciliation Award draws inspiration from the work of the Honourable Steven Point [Xwě lī qwě l tēl], 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and a founder of the Award. His hand-carved red cedar canoe, Shxwtitostel, 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, each years’ recipients receive a print of a canoe paddle decorated by the Emerging Artist recipient of the Fulmer Award in First Nations Art. The 2021 paddle was created by Kwakwaka’wakw artist Cole Speck, and the 2022 paddle was created by Dene and Carrier beader Crystal Behn. The ongoing series of BC Reconciliation Award paddles will be displayed in Government House.

The nomination period for the Awards will be open from November 22, 2022, until January 20, 2023. Nomination forms are available on the BC Achievement Foundation website, bcachievement.com.

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**British Columbia
Reconciliation Award**

Backgrounder:

2022 Reconciliation Paddle

Artist: Crystal Behn, Dene and Carrier

Paddle description by the artist:

“The traditional hand-smoked moosehide has a story. The moose was hunted, its meat fed many families. Tradition and knowledge were passed on from the hunt right to the art that was created from endless hours of preparing the hide. The beaded flower colours represent every nation. The stitching that runs along the edge represents the mothers and grandmothers that stitched together their children's moccasins, many of those children did not return home from residential school. The red flower at the tip represents all the murdered and missing Indigenous woman, all our stolen sisters, the life givers. This paddle is bound together in the middle, my hope is that one day all nations will meet in the middle with understanding and compassion for one another. That all Indigenous nations will be accepted and shown mutual respect.”

2021 Reconciliation Paddle

Artist: Cole Speck, Kwakwaka'wakw

Paddle description by the artist:

“The sea monster has been carrying people through pre-reconciliation as it travels through the ocean. Now it is climbing out of the waves helping to bridge the gap toward reconciliation. No one has seen the sea monster for centuries but now that we are working towards reconciliation, there is hope that we will see the sea monster once again.”

Learn about the 2021 and 2022 BC Reconciliation Award recipients: <https://ltgov.bc.ca/priority-programs/the-bc-reconciliation-award>.

Images of the Reconciliation Paddles and the paddle installation may be downloaded at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/e5nreb5p3s2seat1ff8ah/h?dl=0&rlkey=d9wfvfib1song8xrz8us3jb2t>

Quotes:

The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia:

“As we launch the third year of the British Columbia Reconciliation Award, the image of the paddles resonates stronger than ever. It is through combined effort that paddles move a canoe forward. I see this united strength in our past recipients and look forward to witnessing it in the 2023 nominations. I am deeply honoured to display the Reconciliation Paddles at Government House as a symbol of this ongoing commitment, and I encourage all British Columbians to nominate those whose incredible work toward reconciliation has made a deep impact on their lives or communities.”

Cloy-e-iis, Dr. Judith Sayers (Hupacasath Nation), BC Achievement Foundation Board Member:

“Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is about righting past wrongs. In order for it to be true reconciliation, Indigenous peoples must define what reconciliation is and what is needed to move forward.



British Columbia Reconciliation Award

Bridging the gap between the two worlds through the reconciliation efforts of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples builds the relationships needed for the journey. By recognizing the truths of past wrongs and showcasing examples of how to make things right, others will be inspired to follow.

In its third year, the British Columbia Reconciliation Award continues to celebrate innovative and empowering ways to embark on this journey, designed and decided by Indigenous peoples, allowing them to thrive while making the world a better place. We look forward to celebrating the 2023 award recipients."



Tips for Submitting a Compelling Nomination

The British Columbia Reconciliation Award was created to recognize individuals, groups and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, respect and commitment to furthering [Truth and Reconciliation](#) in the Province of British Columbia; and/or inspired others to do so. Each nomination must include a nomination form completed in full and signed by the nominator and a minimum of **two signed testimonial letters** from two separate individuals, other than the nominator.

To make a testimonial letter stand out, it should:

- Include details and concrete examples about how the nominee has demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, respect and commitment to furthering reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province of BC and/or inspired others to continue reconciliation efforts;
- Indicate the relationship between the writer and the nominee and the length of the relationship;
- Describe the outcomes of the work the nominee has done to advance the [Principles of Reconciliation](#) and how the nominee's work has specifically impacted youth and/or Indigenous Elders; and
- Be current and written specifically for the British Columbia Reconciliation Award program.

A compelling testimonial letter may also include other details such as:

- How things were in the community prior to the nominee's efforts;
- The sustainability of their contribution/s;
- How their efforts have positively impacted the community or province;
- Any extraordinary circumstances or challenges the nominee has faced (i.e. provide biographical or historical context, if helpful); and
- Why the jury should select this submission above the others.

Submission of additional materials such as a biography, curriculum vitae, newspaper articles, video or recorded testimonials, links to YouTube videos, photos, etc., is optional but strongly recommended to give context and texture to the nomination. **A maximum of five items i.e. additional materials (10 pages total and five minutes of video) will be accepted.**

Note:

- Be concise. When describing a nominee, keep explanations clear and to the point.
- Strong nominations often use descriptive words to describe the nominees such as: advocate, leader, innovator, trailblazer, mentor, supporter, commitment, dedication, recognition, determination, exemplary, admired, motivated, passionate, inspirational, extraordinary, resourceful, persevering, tireless, resilient.
- Proofread all documents before submitting them.