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NISGAANATION.CA

For Immediate Release

Nisga'a Nation Celebrates Hoobiyee with Song and Dance, Laay' Pole Raising and International Panel Discussion on Ni'isjoohl Pole Repatriation

February 22, 2023 – New Aiyansh, B.C.: The Nisga'a Nation kicks off its annual Hoobiyee celebrations in Laxgalts'ap this week where several Nisga'a Village, Nisga'a Urban and neighboring nation dance groups will converge in song and dance over a two day celebration on February 24 and 25.

In addition to the exciting line up of performances, the host community, Nisga'a Village of Laxgalts'ap will start off the festivities with a traditional pts'aan (totem pole) raising on the morning of Friday February 24

The pole belonging to the Nisga'a Laxsgiik (Eagle) Wilp (House) of Laay' is a beautiful replication of the original 'Eagle-Halibut Pole of Laay' pole that currently stands at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver. The intricate designs of the pole were recreated by Nisga'a carvers Ts'awit - Calvin McNeil, Sbiyee - Gerald Robinson and Judith Moore at the Laxgalts'ap Carving Shed. The pole will be guided by Nisga'a Simgigat (Chiefs) and Sigidimhaanak' (matriarchs) and carried from the waterfront carving shed to the Laxgalts'ap Community Centre where it will stand permanently after the raising ceremony.

The Nisga'a Ganada (frog) Wilp of Ni'isjoohl will host Scottish officials to continue important preparations for the repatriation of the Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole that stands in Edinburgh at the National Museum of Scotland. Following the Nisga'a delegation's trip to Scotland in August of 2022, on November 30 2022, the Scottish Government accepted the request of Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl – Earl Stephens and Sigidimnaq' Noxs Ts'awit – Dr. Amy Parent to return the pole of their ancestors back to Nisga'a Lands.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to share Nisga'a lip wilaa loom' - Nisga'a way of life with the Scottish officials by bringing them to Hoobiyee celebrations in Laxgalts'ap,” said Dr. Amy Parent. “As with our Wilp (House) pole that they will be

returning to us, they will see how our culture thrives and how our history is told through the beat of the drum, song and dance.”

Sim’oogit Ni’isjoohl, Dr. Parent along with the Nisga’a delegation that traveled to Scotland in the summer of 2022 will participate in an International Panel Discussion entitled [‘Preparing to Bring our Ancestors Home’](#) with the Scottish officials in Vancouver on Wednesday February 22nd. In-person and virtual registration may be found at the link above.

“The Nisga’a Nation has so much to celebrate. It is incredibly encouraging that our culture remains vibrant and strong as we gather in song and dance at Hoobiye,” said President Eva Clayton. “As we enter a new season of harvest, it is imperative we continue to make every effort to keep our language and culture alive and well through our deeply embedded connection with K’alii-aksim Lisims, our Nass River and our lands, mountains and streams.”

[Hoobiye](#) is the Nisga’a Nation celebration of a new season of harvest beginning with the arrival of saak – oolichan that is a staple of the Nisga’a diet. After long, cold winters when supply of preserved foods were nearing depletion, the Nisga’a celebrated the arrival of the oolichan and often shared the bounty with neighboring nations.

Annual Hoobiye celebrations rotate through the four Nisga’a Villages of New Aiyansh, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts’ap and Gingolx. The Nisga’a Urban Local of Vancouver Ts’amiks has also hosted annual Hoobiye – Ts’amiks Edition celebrations in recent years following the official festivities on Nisga’a Lands.

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