

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Announcing the Chilliwack Museum's upcoming exhibit: Sí:tel Coast Salish Baskets

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibit, **Sí:tel Coast Salish Baskets**. The exhibit explores the making, trading and collecting of Coast Salish cedar baskets and will feature baskets from the Museum's collection as well as baskets from the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.

The exhibit's name, Sí:tel, comes from the Upriver Halq'eméylem word for basket. The exhibit sheds light on the various uses and functions of cedar baskets throughout Chilliwack's history, beginning with the daily use of the baskets before the arrival of Spanish explorers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. From the 1880s through the 1920s, cedar basket weaving was transformed from a practical domestic need to a source of necessary economic support for Coast Salish families. During this time, most baskets were made with the specific purpose of trading with Anglo-European families. Basket makers created new shapes, uses, weaves, dyes and decoration to accommodate newcomer tastes.

Since the 1960s, there has been a resurgence of basket making in Coast Salish culture. This resurgence has resulted in a new generation of Coast Salish basket makers learning this cultural custom. One featured artifact in the exhibit is a tumpline made by Margaret Jim. Margaret was a weaver of baskets as well as tumplines, a form of strap that attaches over the head of a basket carrier to redistribute the load. Her beautiful tumplines won recognition at the 1964 Canadian Handicraft exhibit in Montreal.

The exhibit opens in the Museum's top floor 'Chambers Gallery' with a reception on **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm** which will include a cedar weaving demonstration by Stó:lō Cultural Tourism. The new Executive Director of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives, Matthew Francis, will also be available to meet and talk with attendees.

For more information or to obtain a photo, please contact Jane Lemke, Curator, at 604-795-9255.

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