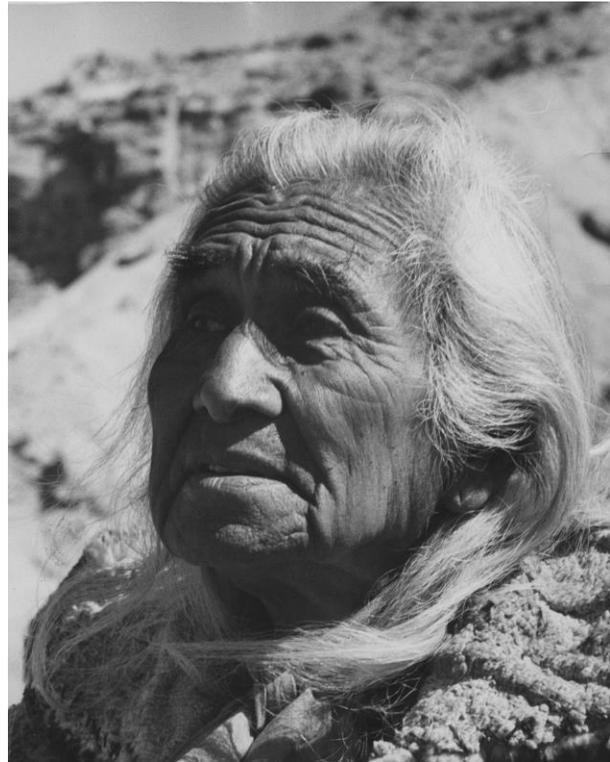


CHIEF DAN GEORGE : ACTOR and ACTIVIST
A Travelling Exhibit - available to borrow in June 2018

Chief Dan George : Actor and Activist

"Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist" is a multi-media exhibit exploring the life and legacy of Tsleil-Waututh Chief Dan George (1899-1981). The exhibit will examine Chief George's influence as a First Nations rights activist and his career as an actor. Although centered on Dan George, the exhibit will delve into significant events and individuals in the First Nations rights movement in BC and Canada as well as the wider history and portrayal of First Nations people in film and television.

Dan George (born *Geswanouth Slahoot*) was raised on Burrard Indian Reserve #3 and became a student at North Vancouver's St. Paul's Indian Residential School when he was five years of age. The son of hereditary chief George Sla-holt, he spent much of his working life as a longshoreman and logger; he did not start his acting career until the age of 60. During the 1960s and 70s he appeared in many television, movie, and stage productions in which he worked to promote better understanding of First Nations people and challenged the commonly viewed portrayal of First Nations people on screen. Nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the film *Little Big Man* (1970), he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1971.



Chief George came to national attention in 1967 when, it was said, he silenced a crowd of 32,000 with his *Lament for Confederation* speech at Vancouver's Empire Stadium during the City's centennial celebrations.

How long have I known you. Oh Canada? A hundred years? Yes, a hundred years. And many, many seelanum more. And today, when you celebrate your hundred years. Oh Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land.

Those are the first few lines of Dan George's poignant soliloquy *Lament for Confederation*. Widely publicized, the speech was credited with helping revive native political activism in Canada.

The exhibit will also consider other significant figures, events and milestones in the First Nations rights movement, including local Squamish Chief Joe Capilano (1850-1910) who led delegations to meet with the Prime Minister of Canada and the King of England seeking rights for indigenous people, as well as Squamish leader Andrew Paull (1892-1959), a lawyer and political activist, who represented the Allied Tribes of British Columbia, and later the North American Indian Brotherhood.

The exhibit will draw on the North Vancouver Museum & Archives' archival and artifact collection, including paintings, photographs, and memorabilia donated by Chief George's friend and one-time personal assistant Lorraine Fenkner. The exhibit will be supported by additional materials from other collections and repositories including the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the George family.

Logistics

Space requirements for the exhibit range between 600 and 1,000 square feet. The exhibit is being designed in modules so it can be expanded or reduced to fit the available space. Archival materials, paintings, and selected artifacts are included, as is a large wall-mounted timeline of significant dates and events in the relationship between BC's indigenous people, the province of BC and the government of Canada. Audio and video recordings with excerpts from Chief George's performances and speeches can also be included, pending copyright negotiations.

Booking Information

The exhibit will open at the North Vancouver Museum in Presentation House in June 2017. It will be available to interested museums and aboriginal cultural centres following its North Vancouver Presentation.

If you would like to indicate potential interest in hosting this exhibit, have your institution's name added to the list of potential venues and receive more information about the exhibit content, costs and logistics please contact Nancy Kirkpatrick, Director, NVMA (kirkpatrickn@dnv.org 604-990-3700 ext. 8001).



Clint Eastwood and Chief Dan George with another actor on the set of the film *The Outlaw Josey Wales* (1976).

Chief George on the beach at the Tsleil-Waututh Reserve on Burrard Inlet, ca. 1970s.

