

NEWS

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 25, 2016 (Victoria, BC):

Indigenous, Sikh, and Chinese cultural projects recognized by BC Museums Association as Outstanding Achievements of 2016

The BC Museums Association (BCMA) has recognized two culturally significant projects, an Abbotsford museum, and the curator of a Prince George art gallery for ***Outstanding Achievement***. The awards were presented October 13, 2016, during the BCMA's annual conference in Whistler.

The BCMA annual awards recognize institutions and individuals who have exemplified excellence in creativity, community engagement and innovation within the Province's museums, galleries and history community.

Three **Awards of Merit** were presented for outstanding, innovative and creative achievements:

Sikh Heritage Museum, 33844 King Road, Abbotsford. www.canadiansikhheritage.ca
Innovative programming and exhibits recognizing and raising awareness of Sikh heritage and history in BC and Canada at the Gur Sikh Temple National Historic Site. The award was accepted by **Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra** of the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies, University of Fraser Valley.

Chinese Canadian Artifacts Project. www.ccap.com
Dr. John Price, Project Director, University of Victoria, and a UVic research team, partnered with 16 museums across the province to compile a database of Chinese Canadian artifacts held by BC Museums. The archive is now publicly available online. The award was accepted on behalf of the CCAP by **Anna Rambow** of Cumberland Museum and Archives and **Aimee Greenaway** of Nanaimo Museum who piloted the project.

The Residential and Indian Day School Art research Project.
UVic Associate Professor of Anthropology, **Andrea Walsh**, led a research and curatorial collective called Residential and Indian Day School Art Research (RIDSAR), to understand the status of children's artwork created in residential schools, in Canadian museum collections. As part of their research, they worked with survivors from the Alberni Indian Residential School on a multi-year exhibition project. This project focused on paintings from that school which, in 2013, had been repatriated to the survivors who created them as children. **Dr. Walsh** accepted the award, accompanied by a group of Residential School survivors.

Page 2...

A **Distinguished Service** award was presented for a unique and substantial contribution over an extended period of time:

George Harris, Curator at Two Rivers Gallery in Prince George, received recognition for his many years of dedication to the development of artists and art in Northern BC.

Each year the BCMA commissions an original work by a visual artist living in the location of the annual conference. The piece that is commissioned by the BCMA is used as the award for the recipients of the organization's highest honors. This year, each honoree received a talking stick created by Squamish Nation artist, Jim Yelton.

Founded in 1957, the British Columbia Museums Association represents the institutions, trustees, professional staff and volunteers of the BC museum, gallery and heritage site community. For more information about the BCMA and the annual Awards for Outstanding Achievement, visit www.museumsassn.bc.ca.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Erica Mattson, BCMA Executive Director
250-356-5694 OR executivedirector@museumsassn.bc.ca