



syiyaya Reconciliation Movement

for all peoples living within the shíshálh homelands

syiyaya September events - for immediate release:

September 11, 2018: The syiyaya Reconciliation Movement is pleased to announce a series of public events for all residents of the Sunshine Coast.

First, in partnership with the Sechelt Public Library, the Movement will be holding a public talk about reconciliation on September 18th from 1:30pm - 3:00pm as part of the library's "Tuesday Talks" series at the Sechelt Public Library. shíshálh Weaver Shy Watters will also be present to weave before the event, from 1pm -1:30pm, in case the public would like to add their stitches to the "Paddling Together" Reconciliation blanket.

Second, we are pleased to invite you to join us for "Weaving Wednesdays" with Shy Watters on September 19th and 26th at the Sechelt Public Library. Shy will weave from 4pm-7pm each week, and all are welcome to come and learn with her. As she completes her blanket in October we will look forward to continuing our public weaving events with Jessica Silvey as our next Indigenous weaver. Our "Weaving Reconciliation" Project is set to run until June 2019, also involving weavers Raquel Joe and kwayimin Andy Johnson in the coming months.

Third, we invite all Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples on the Sunshine Coast to commemorate Orange Shirt Day this September by sporting an orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day officially falls on September 30th each year. SD46 will be marking the day on September 27th this year with a series of activities in their schools. shíshálh Nation will also hold a ceremony on September 27th at around 11am at the Residential School Monument to commemorate this important day.

Orange Shirt Day is commemorated in communities across Canada at the end of September. It grew out of an event held in Williams Lake, BC in 2013 seeking to heal from the legacies of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school and honour IRS survivors. One survivor, Phyllis (Jack) Webstad had her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school there, so now wearing orange shirts has become a symbolic way of cultivating conversations about the legacies of residential schools and honouring both the pain and the resilience of survivors. For more information, see: <http://www.angeshirtday.org/>

About the Movement:

The syiyaya Reconciliation Movement is a local movement for all peoples living within the shíshálh homelands, connecting with broader movements towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. It is a joint initiative between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the Sunshine Coast, offering a local response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, inspired by and dedicated to the Survivors of Indian Residential Schools, including Day Scholars. The Movement was launched at the shíshálh Longhouse in April 2018 by co-chairs ?akista xaxanak Garry Feschuk, former Chief of shíshálh Nation, and Cam Reid, former mayor of Sechelt. Our goal is to create collaborative projects that build relationships and dialogue on the journey towards reconciliation.

For more information about the Movement, check out our facebook page, email us at scsyiyaya@gmail.com, phone or text to: 604-740-6400. We appreciate any and all donations via the District of Sechelt (tax receipts are available for anything over \$25), or in person at events. The syiyaya Reconciliation Movement gratefully acknowledges the support of shíshálh Nation, the District of Sechelt, the Sunshine Coast Community Forest, the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation, and the Sunshine Coast Regional District in sustaining our activities.



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About the Artist:

Shy Watters is a member of shíshálh Nation who also has Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Tla'amin, and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry. Her intricate and beautiful designs integrate the unique patterns of her rich cultural background into her work. Her preferred medium is cedar. Shy has woven with both red and yellow cedar for over 19 years, and continues to explore her art with tenacity and passion. The innovative patterns used in Shy's cedar hats are well known on the Sunshine Coast and her work is sought after for cultural ceremonies. Ms. Watters also offers weaving courses both on the Sunshine Coast and throughout BC, amidst her other commitments to shíshálh Nation and her family.

About the Blanket:

"When I think of reconciliation" Ms. Watters says, "I think of our beautiful Salish Sea that connects us all." For Shy and Coast Salish peoples, the sea "is sacred to our survival as it provides us [with] food, provides us [with the] traditional highway of our ancestors, and connects us through our traditions to gather and potlatch with other nations." As a result, the sea is central to Ms. Watters' design, symbolic of what connects us to reconciliation. In the centre of her design is a cedar canoe. A yellow sun shines above it, with rays emanating out like paddles. As Shy explains, the paddles represent "the past, which isn't to be repeated; the present, where we are coming together now; and the future, where we need to paddle together for future generations so history isn't repeated". The entire design is framed top and bottom with a blue and green 'Salish Eye' design, a common feature of shíshálh and Coast Salish weavings. This is followed by red cedar fringes, evocative of the lush cedar forests that rise above the Salish Sea. The red cedar used in the blanket will all be harvested from shíshálh territory. The sacred blue and green of the eye reflect the colours of the pristine sea, "waters that are now at risk", Ms. Watters indicates.