



**FIRST PEOPLES'**  
CULTURAL COUNCIL

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**BC FERRIES AND THE FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL  
ANNOUNCE INDIGENOUS ARTISTS FOR THE NORTHERN SEA WOLF**

VICTORIA – BC Ferries, in partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC), has commissioned two Indigenous artists to design artwork that will adorn the Northern Sea Wolf. The two artists selected to design artwork for the Northern Sea Wolf are Richard Hunt of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation in T'sakis (Fort Rupert, B.C.) and Danika Naccarella of the Nuxalk Nation in Bella Coola, B.C. The Northern Sea Wolf was named in honour of a First Nations legend in which the Sea Wolf is a manifestation of the Orca. The Sea Wolf symbolizes family, loyalty and the protection of those travelling their waters.

FPCC issued a call for artists last December and invited artists to submit their portfolios for consideration. In February, a jury of Indigenous artists respected in their fields, joined by representatives from BC Ferries, shortlisted the submissions. The adjudication committee based their decision on artistic excellence, artistic style, ability to reflect the character and life of the waters the vessel will traverse, ability to provide materials suitable for fabrication and ability to meet the project timeline.

FPCC then commissioned the shortlisted artists to develop design concepts. This April, they selected Danika Naccarella and Richard Hunt's designs. Danika and Richard are working with BC Ferries to prepare their designs for final refinement and application. The designs will be revealed to the public once they are completed.

The Northern Sea Wolf will provide direct summer service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola, with a connector service once a week between Bella Coola, Bella Bella, Shearwater and Ocean Falls. The Northern Sea Wolf will have a significant role in driving tourism, as well as providing ferry services for local residents. For more information visit [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).

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Quotes and Artist Biographies Attached.

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## Quotes:

“We received many beautiful submissions that showcased the rich culture and heritage of our coast,” said Janet Carson, BC Ferries’ Vice President of Marketing & Customer Experience. “It was difficult to narrow it down to two artists, and we would like to thank all artists who expressed interest in designing artwork for the Northern Sea Wolf. This ship will serve the community and help drive tourism for years to come, and we look forward to introducing it into service this summer.”

“We were honoured to have the opportunity to work with Indigenous artists and BC Ferries to facilitate these beautiful commissions,” said Sarah Pocklington, Acting Arts Program Manager at First Peoples’ Cultural Council. “This important project will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about Indigenous artists and will contribute to a greater awareness of the living artistic traditions of the First Nations people who have resided on these lands for tens of thousands of years.”

“With an achievement like this, and through working with BC Ferries, it is important to me that I provide a strong image and message for our youth: that you can achieve your goals by always continuing to learn and grow,” said Danika Naccarella, Indigenous artist. “Bringing my art to new platforms through amazing opportunities like this, helps me to continue challenge myself as an artist. I am taking part in this partnership not only for myself but to also showcase the strength in my community.”

“I would like to thank BC Ferries and the First Peoples’ Cultural Council for collaborating on this project and choosing my design, Sea Wolf,” said Indigenous artist Richard Hunt. “In my culture, Sea Wolf comes from the Animal Kingdom of Komokwa (the Chief of the sea world). Sea Wolf comes from a big family and so do I. I am proud to have the opportunity to showcase my culture, Gilakas’la.”

## Biography – Richard Hunt

Richard Hunt was born in Alert Bay, British Columbia in 1951. Richard is Kwakiutl and is from T’sakis (Fort Rupert, BC). Richard Hunt’s Kwakwaka name is highly appropriate, considering his accomplishments. Gwe-la-yo-gwe-la-gya-lis means “A man that travels and wherever he goes, he potlatches.” Through his art, his speaking and his dancing, Mr. Hunt has indeed given much to the world.

Richard’s mother was Helen Hunt; her maiden name was Nelson (Kingcome). Richard comes from a family of internationally respected artists, which include his father Henry Hunt, his grandfather Mungo Martin, as well as his brothers, and his cousins. He has lived most of his life in Victoria, where he completed his high school education. He began carving with his father, the late Henry Hunt, at the age of thirteen.

In 1973, Richard began work at the Royal British Columbia Museum as an apprentice carver under his father. The following year he assumed the duties of chief carver in the Thunderbird Park Carving Program. Richard continued in this role for twelve years. In 1986, Mr. Hunt resigned to begin a new career as a freelance artist.

In 1991, Richard Hunt received the Order of British Columbia "... In recognition of serving with the greatest distinction and excellence in a field of endeavor benefiting the people of the Province of British Columbia and elsewhere." This prominent award program was established in 1990. Richard is the first Native artist to be so recognized.

In 1994, Richard received the most prestigious award of his career, The Order of Canada. "The Order was established in 1967 as a means of recognizing outstanding achievement, honouring those who have given services to Canada, to their fellow citizens or to humanity at large."

In 2002, Richard received the Golden Jubilee Medal, the approved creation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honour of the 50th anniversary of Her accession to the Throne, and presented to citizens of Canada "who have demonstrated exceptional qualities and outstanding service to their country."

In May 2004, Richard was accepted into the membership of the Royal Academy of the Arts in recognition for his outstanding achievements within the visual arts. In June 2004, Richard received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria. This prestigious award has a special meaning to Richard because his late father, Henry Hunt was awarded the same degree in 1983.

In October 2009, Richard received the BC Creative Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art. "By interpreting what they see, what they experience and their great cultural traditions, these artists provide a gift to all British Columbians through their artwork," said then Premier Gordon Campbell.

In March 2012, Richard received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne, and is presented to citizens of Canada "who have demonstrated exceptional qualities and outstanding service to their country."

In May 2014, Richard was inducted into Victoria High School's "Wall of Fame". In April 2015, the Victoria TC 10K road race chooses Richard Hunt's design, "Dancing Heron" as their race logo.

In March 2015, the Royal Canadian Mint releases a third coin with Richard Hunt design. The first, "the Welcoming" followed by "Two Loons" and recently, "Mother Feeding Baby". In May 2016, Harbour Air Seaplane Terminal unveiled Richard's artwork, "The Family". In 2017, Roger's Chocolates chooses two Richard Hunt designs, "Hummingbirds" and "Kingfisher" for commemorative tins. This is Richard's fourth and fifth tin for Roger's

Chocolates.

Richard is currently working on a 15-foot totem pole for a private collector.

### **Biography – Danika Naccarella**

Danika Naccarella is a Northwest Coast artist descending from Nuxalk & Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw ancestry from her mother and father's side. Danika first began her art practice in the 7th grade when she moved to her mother's home community of Bella Coola in 2009. While attending Acwsalcta School for her high school years she had the opportunity to create and learn Nuxalk art, culture and language. Danika enjoyed painting with acrylic mediums and continued to dedicate her spare time to painting Nuxalk designs drawn by her art teachers. Eventually, her Nuxalk art teachers encouraged her to start learning how to create her own designs. That began her studies of Northwest Coast art forms, from books to museum research. When the time came to pursue post-secondary education it was without a doubt that Danika would decide to enroll in the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art, at Northwest Community College in Terrace, BC.

While attending Freda Diesing School, she was instructed and mentored from Stan Bevan, Ken McNeil, Dean Heron, and Dempsey Bob. She learned the very basics of Northwest Coast 2D form line drawing, knife making, and basic wood carving in her first year, which gave Danika a very solid foundation. It was in her second year when they began more complex studies and projects such as bentwood box designs and crest mask carving. After completing the Freda Diesing Diploma program, she returned home to her community where she became the Nuxalk art teacher's assistant. She helped plan and teach Nuxalk art lessons for Kindergarten - Grade 12.

In the summer of 2017 Danika was accepted into the Earthline Tattoo Training Residency, where 6 participants became qualified cultural tattoo practitioners which included design application, cultural safety, and the health aspects of tattooing. Danika learned traditional hand poke and skin stitch tattooing. Culture is very strong in the Bella Coola Valley where the Nuxalk Nation strives on teaching and reviving our traditional ways of life. Danika is now reviving traditional tattooing in the Nuxalk community and ensuring that the culture is being translated in a proper and healthy way to bring strength to indigenous identity.

Danika is currently working at Acwsalcta School as a teaching artist. Integrating and creating an art curriculum for the students. She is also working on larger mural projects around the school involving student participation. The projects will focus on awareness to suicide prevention using Nuxalk traditional designs & many other topics around our school. While Danika continues to work within the community, she still creates her own paintings and carvings, but hopes to begin expanding her art practice by working with various artists and experimenting with new mediums including jewelry.