



News Release



July 21, 2017

Canoes coming to Campbell River - Tribal Journeys 2017 lands at Tyee Spit Aug. 5

Approximately 100 canoes carrying First Nations families will draw thousands of visitors to Campbell River in August for Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017.

The Aug. 5 event will take place over several hours. Canoes will leave the shores of Cape Mudge starting at 10:15 that morning and arrive at noon at the Tyee Spit. Once each canoe has been called to shore, they will be welcomed formally to the territory, a process that will last approximately four hours. A public feast at the Wei Wai Kum Thunderbird Hall will follow.

Canoes are coming from British Columbia as well as Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska. Youth delegations from South Korea and Taiwan will also take part.

"Canoes coming from Alaska and California are already underway, and more canoes continue to register. Hotels and campgrounds are full, and we are preparing for thousands of people to take in this historic event," says Jodi Simkin, event director. "We are bringing international news coverage to Campbell River thanks to all the support and interest for Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017."

Although the landing event is expected to draw the most spectators, Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017 canoe families and support teams will remain in the community for several days ahead of the event, and well after the landing at Tyee Spit as ceremonies continue.

"We applaud the extensive efforts of the Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre and the We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum host nations and look forward to celebrating the culture and heritage of First Nations communities along the Pacific Coast," says Mayor Andy Adams. "It will be an extraordinary experience to be part of welcoming the spectacular canoes to the shores of Campbell River, and to take in the feast and ceremony at the Big House."

People following Tribal Journeys canoes will begin arriving in Campbell River as early as Aug. 2. After the canoes land at Tyee Spit, a multi-day protocol ceremony involving celebrations, feasts and performances will continue through Aug. 10 at the Big House.

"During this time, we will officially welcome all the participating canoe families and hear participants speak about their journey. People should expect to see heavy traffic continue downtown," Simkin says.

See next page for important things to know about attending and participating in Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017.

Find out more at: www.tribaljourneys2017.com or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OfficalTribalJourneys/

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Things to know about Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017

- **Dignitaries participating:** First Nations and government dignitaries will take on the role of special pullers during the paddle from Cape Mudge to the Typee Spit. They include:
 - Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon (RCMP canoe)
 - Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould (Cape Mudge canoe)
 - Senators Kim Pate and Larry Campbell (Homalco canoe)
 - Mayor Andy Adams (Pink Paddle – Harry Moon – canoe)
 - Representatives from the Royal BC Museum, Museum of Vancouver, Museum of Anthropology and the BC Museum Association (Klahoose canoe)
 - Honourary canoe positions will also be available for National Chief Perry Bellegarde, BC Premier John Horgan, MP Rachel Blaney and MLA Claire Trevena.
- **International interest:** The event will be covered by CBC National news, National Geographic and Tahiti national television as well as a New York film crew.
- **Elders and veterans:** Parking and shuttle will be available from the City of Campbell River lot across from the Community Centre on Cedar Street. A shade tent will be available for elders and veterans at the landing area on Tyee Spit.
- **Traffic control on Spit Road:** Will begin at 10 a.m. along Spit Road. No public event traffic will be permitted (shuttle drop-offs only). The road will be open for access to businesses operating from the Tyee Spit and for vehicles towing trailers to transport canoes. Airlines will be in operation throughout the day.
- **Public parking and access to Tyee Spit during landing:** The nearest public parking will be available at the Discovery Harbour shopping centre. Seven public shuttles will run, starting at 10 a.m., from outside the former Target store to transport people to and from the landing event until about 4:30 p.m. Please anticipate line-ups.
- **Pedestrians:** People making their way to the Spit on foot should stay on sidewalks and expect the road to be busy.
- **No public event parking at Roberts Reach or along Shoppers Row:** The waterfront site at Roberts Reach will be reserved for Tribal Journeys support vehicles and vehicles towing canoes. Parking time limits will remain in effect downtown along Shoppers Row. (*Note: the Cedar Street lot across from the Community Centre will provide dedicated parking for elders and veterans.*) Find information about other public City parking lots available downtown at:
www.campbellriver.ca/city-services/roads-transportation-parking
- **Public amenities during the landing:** Bleachers and public washrooms will be set up to accommodate crowds. Bring a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen for sun protection and a water bottle to stay hydrated.
- **Evening feast and market:** At 5 p.m., shuttles will begin transporting people from the Tyee Spit to the public feast at the Thunderbird Hall. Starting at 6 p.m., a public feast will feed thousands of people. Expect long line-ups. Tents will be available to accommodate crowds. A public market will also run that evening.
- **Protocol:** Opening ceremonies take place at the Wei Wai Kum Big House across from the Thunderbird Hall. Seating is limited to approximately 1,000 people, and tents will be set up with closed-caption television to allow people to watch the ceremony from outside the Big House.
- **No public event at Cape Mudge Aug. 4:** After 11 hours paddling from Comox, canoes will land at Cape Mudge Friday evening for a ceremony honouring the passing of Rod Naknakim and Frank Nelson.
- **Please note, this is a drug and alcohol free event. No pets or smoking on the site. Photography could be prohibited during portions of the protocol ceremony.**