



TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION  
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

## NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2010

### Tsleil-Waututh Nation to Host Olympic Torch Gathering

**Tsleil-Waututh Nation:** On February 10, 2010 the Tsleil-Waututh Nation will welcome the Olympic Flame at a free public gathering in Cates Park/Whey-ah-Wichen, a traditional village site located just east of the reserve on Dollarton Highway in North Vancouver. The event will kick off at 9:00 AM, with the Torch expected at the park by 10:05 AM, and the event concluding at 10:30 AM.

We will welcome the Flame to our traditional territory, by land and by the waters of our namesake, the Burrard Inlet, in an arrival of true Coast Salish form. The torch will then be blessed by Tsleil-Waututh Elder and Fire Keeper Sla-holt (Iggy George).

In addition to the arrival of the Torch, the morning will include the highly sought after **Inez**, a power house performer from the Sto:lo who blends traditional native sounds with a love for contemporary hip hop and R&B; the emotionally charged beats of Tsleil-Waututh teen **Wolfgang Aleck** who will pound his contemporary drums to a variety of hit tunes; and in anticipation of the Torch arrival in the park, the **Children of Takaya** (traditional dancers of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation) will sing, drum, and dance the stories of its connection to the land and water.

The event will be hosted by **Lorne Cardinal** (Sucker Creek First Nation in Alberta), the well loved actor and director known recently for his role as Officer Davis Quinton in the *Corner Gas* television series.

Other items of interest at the event will include the Artisan Village, a tent area with a variety of artisans showing and displaying a number of traditional artistic skills, including wool weaving, drum making, carving, cedar weaving, and beadwork. Youngsters in the crowd will surely want to visit the free prize tent. Food and beverages will also be available.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation gratefully acknowledges the financial support of our sponsors: The Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, Four Host First Nations Society, and Aboriginal Tourism BC.

#### Performer biographies on next page

#### Media contact:

Andrew Van Eden, Media Relations  
Tel: 604.924.4156  
Cel: 778.231.6074  
Email: [avaneden@twnation.ca](mailto:avaneden@twnation.ca)

3075 Takaya Drive  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7H 3A8  
T: 604.924.3454  
F: 604.929.4714  
E: [reception@twnation.ca](mailto:reception@twnation.ca)



## TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

PEOPLE OF THE INLET

### **Lorne Cardinal – Emcee**

Lorne comes from the Sucker Creek First Nation in Alberta. His television credits include *Renegadepress.com*, *Moccasin Flats*, *Relic Hunter*, *Roxy Hunter* and the movie *North of 60: Distant Drumming*. His performance in the MOW *Tecumseh: The Last Warrior* earned him a First Americans in the Arts nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He also worked with Oscar winners Hilary Swank, Robin Williams, Al Pacino, Susan Sarandon and Gary Sinise to name a few. He has won a Gemini Award for Best Ensemble Performance in a Comedy Program or Series for **Corner Gas** in 2007. Cardinal is also a director of stage and television with such credits as *Renegadepress.com*, *Moccasin Flats* and *Rabbit Fall*. Lorne also does hosting duties for award shows.

### **Inez**

Inez is a Sto:lo singer songwriter with powerhouse talent and universal appeal. As one of Canada's top aboriginal musicians, her blending of traditional native sounds with a love for contemporary hip hop and R&B, brings the best of her culture to the mainstream world.

Exploding onto the Canadian music scene in 2006 and releasing her hit album *Singsoulgirl* in 2008, this proud Sto:lo, Ojibway and Metis artist has been featured at myriad high profile events across the country, not to mention feature spots on national television programs like "Beyond Words".

Inez grew up playing the fiddle with her Metis grandfather and learning the traditional Sto:lo dancing and singing from which her music has evolved. She was recognized in 2008 as a National Aboriginal Role Model by the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) in Ottawa for her contributions to the community.

### **Children of Takaya**

First started by Chief Dan George in the 1950's, as a way to share the rich family traditions of song and dance of the Coast Salish Tsleil-Waututh people, the Children of Takaya have travelled all over the nation, performing at festivals and gatherings of many kinds. The dance group has included generations of family members. Their songs speak to what is important and their stories speak to where they live and where they come from, right here on the Burrard Inlet. The Children of Takaya is currently led by Leonard George.

### **Wolfgang Aleck**

Seventeen-year-old Wolfgang Aleck of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation comes from a long line of family talent. His grandmother sang for the family band, his father is a singer and guitarist, and his brother has been a bass player and singer in recent years. Wolfgang has been playing for six years and currently plays with five different bands. He practices 2-3 hours a day with hopes of getting signed by a record label as a session drummer or with a band.

3075 Takaya Drive  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7H 3A8  
T: 604.924.3454  
F: 604.929.4714  
E: [reception@twnation.ca](mailto:reception@twnation.ca)