

For Immediate Release

## **Grants Available to Support First Nations and Indigenous Communities to Bring their Ancestors and Culture Back Home: 2020 Repatriation Grants Open September 8<sup>th</sup>**

VICTORIA – Applications for 2020 Repatriation Grants open September 8<sup>th</sup> and support BC First Nations and Indigenous organizations to fund the repatriation of ancestors, cultural property, and cultural heritage.

For decades Indigenous leaders have worked tirelessly to support the return of their communities' ancestors and cultural patrimony. The B.C. government is providing \$500,000 to the BC Museums Association (BCMA) to fund Indigenous communities across the province to support a range of repatriation research and initiatives.

“When culture is taken from communities, it leaves a hole that cannot heal until it is returned home,” says *Chepximiya Siyam*’ Chief Janice George, Cultural Consultant for the 2020 Repatriation Grants and Hereditary Chief of the Squamish Nation. “Through this funding, First Nations communities can return cultural items homes, culture that in many cases has been missing for centuries.”

First Nations communities and Indigenous cultural organizations will be eligible for research grants of up to \$15,000 for earlier-stage repatriation work and project grants of up to \$35,000 for support work that is already in progress. Grant guidelines and the online application form can be found on the BCMA’s Indigenous Culture & Heritage portal: <https://indigenous.museumsassn.bc.ca/>. The deadline for applications is 11:59 pm on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, or until available 2020 funds are allocated.

The BCMA respectfully acknowledges the decades of work and advocacy Indigenous leaders and communities have undertaken to support the return of their ancestors and cultural patrimony. We thank the B.C. government for their support of the 2020 Repatriation Grants and extend appreciation to the Royal BC Museum and the BCMA Indigenous Advisory Committee for their expertise, time, ideas, partnership, and guidance.

### **Quotes:**

#### **Jodi Simkin, president, BC Museums Association**

“First Nations throughout British Columbia are eager to have their ancestors and related cultural patrimony repatriated. This funding demonstrates a commitment to helping achieve this important and essential step in the reconciliation process and the BCMA is proud to support this work.”

**Dan Smith, chair, BCMA Indigenous Advisory Committee, and member, Wei Wai Kum First Nation in Campbell River**

“This funding allows museums, archives, and Indigenous peoples new opportunities to work together towards decolonization and realizing the goals set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. True, meaningful, and lasting reconciliation must include the return of Indigenous culture back to Indigenous communities.”

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**To review guidelines and to apply:**

<https://indigenous.museumsassn.bc.ca/repatriation>

