



PRESS RELEASE

**THE EXPLORATION PLACE MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTRE
AND THE LHEIDLİ T'ENNEH FIRST NATION RECEIVE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S
HISTORY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

*A new gallery is the result of a historic partnership between
a museum and an Indigenous community in British Columbia*

Ottawa, November 22, 2017 – For the establishment of a gallery called *Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning*, the Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre in Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in British Columbia have received the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming, which was presented in Rideau Hall today by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada. This award recognizes innovative projects developed by organizations dedicated to culture, community life, and heritage, which encourage the dissemination of history by citizens in the community.

Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning is the result of a historic partnership between the Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The goal of this agreement, which makes the museum a legal repository of cultural materials from the Lheidli T'enneh community, is to gather all collections held by other institutions and create a central home for the nation's cultural assets.

To mark this milestone in the longstanding partnership, a new permanent gallery called *Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning* was created. The museum and gallery are located within Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park in Prince George—the site of the traditional hunting grounds and village for the Lheidli T'enneh Nation. The gallery is a learning place for community members, with open programming space to allow for knowledge transfer, research, cultural expression, and healing.

"This honour, shared with our friends from the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, is humbling. By creating *Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning*, we are re-establishing a space in the heart of the Lheidli traditional territory to both learn and teach this generation and tomorrow's leaders. To have our country celebrate this decades-long friendship by bestowing this award upon us means more than I can succinctly express in English, so I will use a Dakelh word to express the depth of our gratitude: Snachailya," states Tracy Calogheros, Chief Executive Officer, The Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre.

"*Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning* is an inspiring model that illustrates the way in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can preserve and showcase their cultural assets to promote a better understanding of our history. It is a remarkable space that allows us to celebrate an Indigenous nation in all its richness," says Janet Walker, President and CEO of Canada's History.

In addition to the Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke also received a Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming for its activity *History Goes to the Market*. Each award comes with a \$2,500 prize.

Three additional projects acknowledged as finalists also attended the award ceremony in Ottawa: Orbit Films Inc. for *Nikkei Stories* (Vancouver, British Columbia), The Age Advantage Association for *Mapannapolis! Annapolis Community Mapping Project* (Annapolis County, Nova Scotia), and Université de Montréal for *Parcours Montréal Citoyen* (Montreal, Quebec).

For more information on this year's award recipients, please visit CanadasHistory.ca/Awards

About the Governor General's History Awards

The Governor General's History Awards were established in 1996 to recognize excellence in teaching Canadian history. In partnership with Canada's leading national history organizations—including the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Museums Association, Historica Canada, and Experiences Canada—, Canada's History has worked to expand the awards to recognize the many different ways history is taught, communicated, and celebrated by Canadians. The Governor General's History Awards now provide an annual opportunity to bring together students, teachers, historians, museums, community organizations, writers, and media producers to celebrate Canadian history and to learn from one another.

About Canada's History

Canada's History is a national charitable organization whose mission is to promote greater popular interest in Canadian history, principally through its publishing, education, and recognition programs. In addition to administering the Governor General's History Awards and publishing *Canada's History* magazine (formerly *The Beaver*) and *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, Canada's History produces a number of educational and online programs to further encourage the exploration and understanding of our shared culture and history.

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