



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



British Columbia
Reconciliation Award

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the BC Achievement Foundation Announce Inaugural Reconciliation Award Recipients

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, in partnership with the BC Achievement Foundation, is honoured to announce the recipients of the inaugural British Columbia Reconciliation Award. The award recognizes nine extraordinary individuals and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, respect, and commitment to furthering Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province of British Columbia, or inspired others to continue Reconciliation efforts.

Individual Recipients:

- Dawn Drummond
- Doris Paul
- Corey Payette
- Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
- Dr. David Suzuki
- Corporal Christopher Voller

Organization Recipients:

- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast
- xaꞓqanaꞑ ʔitkiniꞑ (Many Ways of Doing the Same Thing) Research Team

“Being part of establishing the Reconciliation award program and serving on the inaugural selection committee has been heart-warming and empowering. Reviewing all the nominations has shown me the power of Reconciliation and how it can change people and community’s lives for the better.” said BC Achievement Foundation board member Kekinusuqꞑ, Judith Sayers. “It shows we can live together and achieve great things if there are willing people working towards a vision of Reconciliation.” The BC Achievement Foundation has several established programs honouring excellence and inspiring achievement throughout British Columbia, including the Indigenous Business Award and the Fulmer Award in First Nations Art.

“The inaugural recipients of this award are shining examples of those in British Columbia who have demonstrated the many approaches to furthering Reconciliation through meaningful action. It is humbling and inspiring to read of their stories, their incredible impacts in their communities, and to learn from their perspectives on Reconciliation. I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity to partner with the BC Achievement Foundation and the selection committee to develop this award and to recognize these exemplary individuals,” says Austin, “Reconciliation must take root in our hearts, within

families, between generations, and throughout our communities. I invite all British Columbia to join us in celebrating these champions, to learn from their stories, and to strive to build relationships with each other across cultures.”

The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, has chosen Reconciliation as one of the key priorities of her mandate. This commitment includes participation in promotion of public awareness of the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

The British Columbia Reconciliation Award draws inspiration from the work of the Honourable Steven Point [Xwě lī qwě l tēl], 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and a founder of the Award. His hand-carved red cedar canoe, Shxwtitostel, currently on display at the BC Legislature buildings, was created as a symbol of reconciliation, with the understanding that “we are all in the same canoe” and must “paddle together” to move forward. In honour of this legacy, this year’s recipients will receive a print of a canoe paddle painted to commemorate the award by Kwakwaka’wakw artist [Cole Speck](#).

The selection committee for the British Columbia Reconciliation Award includes representation by Indigenous Elders and leadership:

- T’esóts’en, Patrick Kelly – Leq’á:mel First Nation
- Nicole McLaren – Métis Nation
- Chief Sophie Pierre – Ktunaxa Nation
- Kekinusuqs, Dr. Judith Sayers – Hupacasath First Nation
- T,lalisam, Dr. Kim van der Woerd – ‘Nám̓g̓is First Nation

Links:

- For background and information about the Award Recipients: <https://ltagov.bc.ca/priority-programs/the-bc-reconciliation-award/>
- The BC Achievement Foundation: <https://www.bcachievement.com/award/british-columbia-reconciliation-award-2021/>

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