



Join us for the *21st Annual First Peoples Festival*

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Spirit Square will come alive with the *21st Annual First Peoples Festival*, a free event showcasing the diverse, rich and thriving heritage of Canada's First Peoples. Join us for this celebration of friendship and understanding on Sunday, September 5, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Spirit Square, next to Victoria City Hall. The event is hosted by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre in partnership with the City of Victoria.

Bring the family downtown to enjoy cultural presentations, an artist market, and children's activities. Take the opportunity to meet over 30 First Nations artists, including carvers, weavers, Cowichan knitters, musicians, dancers, and those who practise traditional Aboriginal medicine.

Participants will range from internationally renowned Kwaguilth artist Richard Hunt, the first native artist to receive the Order of British Columbia, to Jonathan Todd, a 16 year old Cree country-folk musician from Vancouver who recently published a CD. Performances by the *Unity Drummers and Singers* will open and close the festivities.

Last held in 2004, the re-introduction of the *First Peoples Festival* would not be complete without a traditional presentation from one of its original participants, the *Khowutzun Tzinquaw Dancers* of Cowichan, BC. Under the direction of Elder Ray Peter, the group has demonstrated their commitment to maintaining their culture by proudly sharing their songs and dances with others around the world.

The festival's goals are to create better understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; provide opportunities for the development of Aboriginal leadership in the community; and to encourage open-minded inquiry into the needs of people of Aboriginal ancestry. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

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Please consider this announcement for your community calendar or events listings.

For More Information:

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