



News Release

Xyólheméylh announces winners in social distancing art & video contest

Indigenous kids create unique messages of protection against COVID-19

May 7, 2020

In April Xyólheméylh asked all Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia to create posters and videos to describe their feelings about social distancing and COVID-19.

"We organized the contest to connect with children and youth who may be feeling a myriad of emotions during this strange time and to provide them with an outlet to express their feelings," said Kyla Darby, Executive Director of Programs. "The entries showed a lot of creativity, heart and talent."

Many of the entries expressed unique concerns about the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, concerns about the safety of Elders who carry our history and teachings was a common theme.

The winners were chosen by a panel consisting of the members of the FVACFSS Board of Directors and Elders Advisory Committee. "We received many artistic, creative and thoughtful entries and it was a real challenge to pick a top three. To our young artists thank you for sharing your work and please keep sharing your excellent artistry. The Board is honoured to have been part of this and we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who participated and our congratulations to the prize winners," said Marion Mussell, Board of Directors President.

The winners received cash prizes and their art will be displayed in Xyólheméylh's offices. The agency received many excellent submissions and are proud to announce the following winners:

Poster Category



First Prize
Myka Friesen, 19 years



Second Prize
Jada Michel, 18 years



Third Prize
Cora McIntyre, 15 years

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society

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Video Category:



First Prize
Emma-Lee Kelly, 11 years
Video link

<https://youtu.be/G8y5cakHG04>



Second Prize, Tie
Bella Fitzgerald, 13 years
Video Link

<https://youtu.be/ibQBOJEkaQo>



Second Prize, Tie
Nikita Hance, 11 years
Video Link

<https://youtu.be/tv4coLibylQ>

About Some of the Contest Winners

Emma-Lee Kelly, who is 11 years old, performs a song she wrote called “Six Feet Away.” Emma-Lee is from the Soowahlie First Nation in Cultus Lake, BC and lives in Chilliwack. She loves to play guitar, ukulele, and piano. She is in sixth grade at Mt. Slesse Middle School and cites comedian, singer and actress, Colleen Ballinger as her idol. She is very proud of her First Nations heritage.

Bella Fitzgerald is 13, from Leq’a:mel First Nation and lives in Maple Ridge. She is eighth grade at Garibaldi Secondary and attends the Showstoppers Academy of the Performing Arts in Maple Ridge and loves music, acting and performing.

About Xyólheméylh / Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society (FVACFSS), also known as Xyólheméylh, is a fully delegated Aboriginal child welfare agency providing culturally appropriate and holistic services through prevention, community development and child welfare programs to Aboriginal (Status, Non-Status, On Reserve, Off Reserve, Stó:lō and other First Nations, Inuit and Metis) children, youth and families residing throughout the Fraser Valley.

The agency was established in 1992 and its programs and services were created and executed with special attention to strengthening culture and identity and keeping families together. They work with an Indigenous Board of Directors, an Elders Advisory Committee and a Youth Advisory Committee.

LÉTSE MÓT TÉ SQWÁLEWEL - “With a good mind, a good heart, and good feelings”

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