



News Release

March 12, 2021

BC Indigenous Youth Express Their Gratitude Through Art

In these strange times we are living through, Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society (Xyólheméylh) located in Stó:lō Territory decided it was the right time to ask Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia what they are grateful for.

The Agency received over 90 submissions in two age categories – ages 3 to 12: and ages 13 to 19. Common themes were family, Indigenous culture, friends, pets, nature, school, home, art, sports, and ice cream. The winning entries were voted by a panel of Elder advisors and Board of Directors members.

“The art of the children and youth is inspiring and reminds us there is much to be grateful for, and we are grateful for their gifts of artistry,” said Marion Mussell, Board of Directors President.

“We could feel the heart and spirit that went into the many submissions we received” said Penny Trites, Executive Director Staff and Community Relations. “The art the children and youth produced was so uplifting.”

List of Winners

Ages 3 to 12

First Place:

Summer-Quill, 12



Second Place:

James, 8



Third Place:

Taya, 12



Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society

www.fvacfss.ca



Ages 13 to 19

First Place:
Miranda, 16



Second Place:
Angel, 16



Third Place:
Sebastien, 14



One youth said she was “Grateful for mother nature and the land we live on.” Another sketched a portrait of her great grandmother.

The winner’s artwork will be made into Thank You cards for the Agency, as well as displayed in the Agency’s locations in the Fraser Valley. The winners also received cash prizes.

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society is a fully delegated Indigenous Agency providing programs and services to Indigenous children and families on and off reserve within Stó:lō Territory in the Fraser Valley. These programs and services are created and executed with special attention on strengthening culture and identity. FVACFSS focuses on keeping families together, reintegrating children back with their families and discovering and strengthening cultural connections.

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

Contact:

Penny Trites, Executive Director Staff and Community Relations
604-798-1570 / Email: Penny.Trites@xyolhemeylh.bc.ca

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society

www.fvacfss.ca