

Vedder Road Roundabout Public Art Partnership

The Vedder Road Roundabout Art Project was a public art partnership between the City of Chilliwack and the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe with the support from Stó:lō Nation to celebrate the history of the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe and Stó:lō Nation in the spirit of reconciliation and remembrance.

The art sculpture features a traditional Stó:lō / Coast Salish canoe on top of the upper ring, supported by eight traditional paddles. The upper ring is embossed with the Halq'eméylem phrase "Ey kwesé é mi", along with its English translation "Welcome - It's good that you are here". The Coast Salish ring design: "United", celebrates the abundant waters of the Stó:lō territory, the cycle and return of the Sacred Salmon bringing seasons of renewal, fertility and prosperity together. The ring design is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Designed by Bon Graham, [b.wyse] including original font design

Of the eight paddles which support the upper ring and canoe structure, seven have emblems that represent the seven Ts'elxwéyeqw communities and one has the City of Chilliwack logo. The seven communities and their logos are identified in Figure 2. Completing the project is landscaping that reflects the natural Vedder River vegetation.

The artwork was designed by Squiala First Nation Chief David Jimmie and Bon Graham, [b.wyse] (Stó:lō/Snunéymuxw artist), in consultation with the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe and the Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council and with support from the Chilliwack Public Art Advisory Committee and City Council.

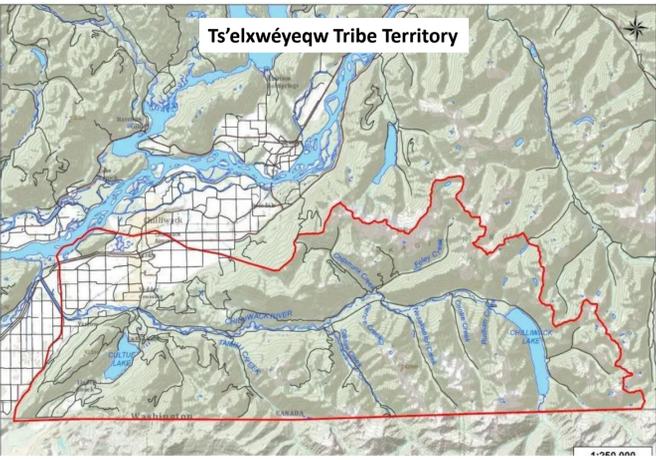
The Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe



The Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe provided the following information:

The Ts'elxwéyeqw are the First People of the Chilliwack River Watershed in the Central Fraser Valley of southwestern British Columbia. Our tribal name, 'Ts'elxwéyeqw' is commonly known in English as 'Chilliwack'. We are one of the tribes of the Stó:lō (Stah-lo) – People of the River – as our livelihood was very much connected to the Fraser River. Ts'elxwéyeqw is one of the major river systems of the lower Fraser River Watershed and extends into northwestern Washington State. We are part of the broader Coast Salish collective whose lands surround the Salish Sea of the North American Pacific Northwest.

The Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe's Traditional Territory covers over 95 thousand hectares of land in southwestern BC and is rich in Ts'elxwéyeqw cultural history, natural beauty and resources. The Territory is the ancestral home and spiritual realm of the Ts'elxwéyeqw communities of Áthelets (Aitchelitz), Sq'ewqéyl (Skowkale), Shxwhá:y, Th'ewá:li (Soowahlie), Sxwoyehálá (Squiala), Ch'íyáqtel (Tzeachten) and Yeqwweqwí:ws (Yakweakwioose). The Territory encompasses the entire Chilliwack River Valley including Chilliwack Lake, Chilliwack River, Cultus Lake and areas, and parts of Chilliwack municipal areas.



"We are honored to participate in the design of the artwork which demonstrates our people's strong historical connection to water. As we strengthen our relationship with the City of Chilliwack, we show our citizens that our community is stronger when we can find common goals and work together," Chief David Jimmie.



Figure 2

Yakweakwioose



Skowkale



Soowahlie



Squiala



Tzeachten



Shxwhá:y



Aitchelitz

