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February 16, 2010

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **FESTIVAL OF ABORIGINAL ARTISTS**

#### ***Sharing Local Aboriginal Culture Through the Arts***

Abbotsford, BC – Eight Aboriginal artists from a variety of disciplines will showcase their talents and cultures through 17 performances and workshops taking place in March. These free, family friendly events will be hosted at various Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) and Surrey Public Library (SPL) locations.

“Our library systems have joined forces and worked together to create cooperative programming to promote Aboriginal arts as a way of sharing culture and building memories,” says Ada Con, diversity coordinator at FVRL. The artists will share their culture through music, dance, storytelling, crafts, and art workshops.

“These performances are a way to honour Aboriginal culture and help provide valuable links between our library systems and the Aboriginal community,” says Mary Murphy, manager of learning services at SPL, “the artists act as a link between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples to promote intercultural understanding and communication.”

The events have been funded by a grant from the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy, FVRL and SPL. For more information please visit [www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca) or [www.spl.surrey.bc.ca](http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca).

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[www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca)  
**Read. Learn. Play.**

WHITE ROCK PITT MEADOWS CLEARBROOK FORT LANGLEY MOUNT LEHMAN AGASSIZ BOSTON BAR YALE  
CHILLIWACK YARROW LADNER PIONEER GEORGE MACKIE ALDERGROVE TSAWWASSEN LANGLEY MURIEL ARNASON  
BROOKSWOOD MURRAYVILLE MSA CENTENNIAL WALNUT GROVE HOPE MAPLE RIDGE MISSION TERRY FOX

## Festival of Aboriginal Artists Schedule

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### Saturday, March 6

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#### Opening Ceremony

Newton Library: 1 - 3 pm  
(Doors open at 12:30 pm)

Featuring Wild Moccasin Cellist, dancers and honoured guests.  
Catering by Kla-how-eya Culinary Arts program.

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### Saturday, March 13

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#### Gracie Kelly

Stó:lō, Cedar Craft  
Fort Langley Library: 10:30 am - 12 pm  
Newton Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

#### Amy Eustergerling

Cree, Storyteller For All Ages  
Cloverdale Library: 10 - 11:30 am  
Maple Ridge Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

#### Curtis Clearsky

Blackfoot/Anishinabe, Hip Hop Artist  
Mission Library: 10:30 - 11:30 am  
Clearbrook Library: 2 - 3:30 pm  
(funded by FVRL)

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### Saturday, March 20

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#### Quentin Harris

Neskonolith , Drawing Workshop  
White Rock Library: 10:30 am - 12 pm  
Semiahmoo Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

#### Michael Visser

Cree, Powwow Dancer  
Cloverdale Library: 10 - 11:30 am  
City of Langley Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

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### Wednesday, March 24

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#### Lore Gibson

Cree, Storyteller for Children  
Strawberry Hill Library: 10 - 11:30 am  
Ladner Library: 1:30 - 2:30 pm

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### Saturday, March 27

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#### Curtis Clearsky

Blackfoot/Anishinabe, Hip Hop Artist  
Strawberry Hill Library: 10 - 11:30 am  
George Mackie Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

#### Lisa Shepherd

Métis, Dance: Jigging  
Port Coquitlam Library: 10:15 - 11:30 am  
Fleetwood Library: 2 - 3:30 pm

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www.fvrl.ca  
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## About Fraser Valley Regional Library

Fraser Valley Regional Library is the largest public library system in British Columbia, with 24 community libraries serving over 670,000 people in its service area. Established in 1930, it is funded with taxes raised in the community it serves, plus a Government of BC operating grant. The governing Board consists of elected officials representing 15 member municipalities and regional districts. With its mission "to connect people to the world of information and ideas," FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

### FVRL Member Libraries

<i>Agassiz</i>	<i>Aldergrove</i>	<i>Boston Bar</i>
<i>Brookwood</i>	<i>Chilliwack</i>	<i>Clearbrook</i>
<i>Fort Langley</i>	<i>George Mackie</i>	<i>Hope</i>
<i>Ladner Pioneer</i>	<i>City of Langley</i>	<i>Maple Ridge</i>
<i>Mission</i>	<i>Mount Lehman</i>	<i>Muriel Arnason</i>
<i>MSA Centennial</i>	<i>Murrayville</i>	<i>Pitt Meadows</i>
<i>Tsawwassen</i>	<i>Terry Fox</i>	<i>Walnut Grove</i>
<i>White Rock</i>	<i>Yale</i>	<i>Yarrow</i>

### About Surrey Public Library

Established in 1983, Surrey Public Library serves its 305,000 registered borrowers from nine community locations. Using its guiding mission "to provide and promote access to local and global information and ideas, encourage literacy and support lifelong learning for all Surrey residents," SPL continues to develop responsive library services in a diverse and growing city.

### SPL Member Libraries

<i>Cloverdale</i>	<i>Fleetwood</i>	<i>Guildford</i>
<i>Newton</i>	<i>Ocean Park</i>	<i>Port Kells</i>
<i>Semiahmoo</i>	<i>Strawberry Hill</i>	<i>Whalley</i>

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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