



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reconciliation in Action:
Museum of Vancouver announces 2018 Board of Directors

VANCOUVER, BC – The Board of Directors of the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) today announced new additions to its Board of Directors. Christina Clark, Chief Janice George, Melissa Holland, Leona Sparrow, and Karen Thomas were elected at MOV’s annual general meeting for two - year terms.

“The Museum of Vancouver is committed to reconciliation with indigenous communities and the elections of Chief Janice George (Skwxwú7mesh Nation), Leona Sparrow (Musqueam Indian Band) and Karen Thomas (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) mark a new chapter in MOV’s history” said Joan Young, Chair of the Board of Directors, noting that “we believe that MOV is the first Vancouver cultural institution to have elected representatives from the city’s three host nations.”

“I am very pleased to welcome all our new Board members,” said Young. “Each one brings a wealth of experience and expertise in their respective fields that will build on MOV’s priorities, including reconciliation, immigration, natural history, social history and contemporary events and activities. Their commitment and passion for culture and the history of Vancouver will be tremendous assets to MOV,” said Young. “On behalf of the Board, I would also like to extend our thanks to former board chair Jill Tipping, as well as former board members Mary Lou Gazeley and Raymond Greenwood, whose terms concluded at the AGM. We are very grateful for their contributions to the Museum over the last many years.”

Christina Clark, BSc, MHA, is a quality improvement and change management consultant with the Centre for Collaboration, Motivation, and Innovation and principal of Ideate Group. Specializing in health and social systems, Christina has extensive experience providing facilitation, training, coaching, and consultation support to help diverse clients plan, initiate, manage, and sustain system transformation initiatives. Christina also shares her time working as a visual artist focusing on Canadian landscapes. She is an active member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.

Chief Janice George / Chepximiya Siyam is a master weaver and teaching artist from the Squamish Nation. She co founded L’hen Awtxw Weaving House to share the teachings and practice of traditional Coast Salish wool weaving. Chief Janice George graduated from Capilano University, North Vancouver BC, and the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM, USA. She is a hereditary chief, trained museum curator and educator. George also co-organized the 1st Canada Northwest Coast Weavers Gathering, with other Squamish Nation Weavers. She is the co-author of *Salish Blankets: Robes of Protection and Transformation, Symbols of Wealth*.

Melissa Holland believes in volunteerism and sharing skills with the local community. Melissa has previously served on the boards of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation and the College of Physical Therapists of BC, and currently serves on the MPA Society Board. Melissa has over 15 years of experience in the energy and utilities sector and is the Vice President, Project Delivery with BC Hydro. She holds a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts.

Leona Sparrow is the director of Treaty, Lands and Resources for the Musqueam Indian Band. Ms. Sparrow has served on the UBC President's Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Affairs for the past several years and from 1993 to 2003 was an appointed member of the UBC Senate. She has also served on advisory boards for the Peter A. Allard School of Law and the Museum of Anthropology (MOA).

Karen Thomas is from Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver, with family ties to the Semiamoo and Squamish Nations. She graduated with a BA Honours Archaeology, Minor Anthropology from Simon Fraser University in June 2017. She's currently enrolled in an MA Anthropology program at the University of British Columbia. Her research seeks to examine trade relationships and the continuity of ritual in the archaeological record of the Salish Sea region using geochemical analysis and collaborative ethnography to explore the ritual properties of ochre. She sees archaeology as a direct, tangible means of exploring the intangible lifeways of the Ancestors and takes great pride in doing archaeology on their behalf throughout these territories.

They join MOV's current board members: Joan Young (Chair), Nigel Bullers (Vice Chair), Eddy Adra (Treasurer), Pamela Goossen, Dr. Bruce Miller, Linda Morris, Mark Virgin, Virginia Weiler, and Kory Wilson.

MOV's Board of Directors is comprised of individuals who come from a variety of backgrounds, including from Indigenous, legal, financial, non-profit, business, academic and volunteer communities of Metro Vancouver.

MOV is dedicated to encouraging a deeper understanding of Vancouver through stories, objects and shared experiences. The MOV is committed to Reconciliation and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action.

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museumofvancouver.ca The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city. The Museum of Vancouver acknowledges that the city of Vancouver is on the shared, unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

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