



For Immediate Release: Thursday June 23, 2011
Attn: Arts and Entertainment Editors



Local Indigenous Arts Collective receives national arts project grant.

The Ullus Collective has been awarded a grant of \$28,650, in a highly competitive national media arts competition. The funding was received from the Canada Council for the Arts, for a collaborative proposal exploring prophesy in Indigenous cultures.

“Our proposal is to create land interpreted new media works, sharing discourse about Indigenous dream culture, visions and prophecies. We will be coming together on June 24 & 25, 2011 in Penticton, BC to conduct “artist creation circles.” This will allow us to share collectively our knowledge and understanding of our concepts practiced by Indigenous cultures.” Ullus Chair, Tracey Kim Bonneau. Press is invited to attend.

The *Picto Prophecy Project* was conceptualized in response to growing hype surrounding 2012 end of the world interpretations of Mayan prophesy. This prophesy has captured public imagination through Hollywood style Armageddon themed movies. The Ullus collective hopes to put this hype into perspective through a creative examination of prophesy, grounded in Indigenous experience underpinning a real time context, research and discourse.

Their winning proposal supports the creation of location-based artworks using GPS technology to integrate audio, video and new media into the land. This innovative approach builds on the tradition of storytelling using pictographs, rock landmarks, Totem Poles, and Story Poles. The *Picto Prophecy Project* will be an entertaining and insightful examination of prophecies in the year 2012. Access to the collaborative work will be available through the En'owkin Centre and online beginning in October 2011.

Picto Prophecy is curated by independent visual artist Jennifer Pickering. M.F.A. Participating artists include Ullus members: Victoria Baptiste, Mariel Belanger, Tracey Kim Bonneau, Chris Bose, Bracken H'anuse Corlett and Warren Hooley. Senior artist Cease Wyss will participate as a guest artist and mentor. Indigenous/ Traditional Ecological Knowledge Keeper, Richard Armstrong, will also share his knowledge and expertise.

The Ullus is an Indigenous collective based in Penticton that brings together artists to share knowledge, build skills and develop innovative projects. Senior artist Cease Wyss is from the (T'Uy'Tanat) of the Skwxw'u7mesh Nation. She is an ethnobotanist, media artist, educator, and activist. By fusing her studies in ethnobotany with her practice in media arts, Cease is able to connect her own sense of spirit to those of other people. Her focus in her arts practice is in community, health and healing practices. She works collaboratively through writing, producing, directing and mentoring communities and individuals. Through her work with foods and medicines she continues her journey of understanding the relationship between arts and culture and how it relates to community holistic health. **For more information please contact:** Project Coordinator: Warren Hooley or 250-493-7181 or Jennifer Pickering Curator or 250 317-7263 visit us online: www.enowkincentre.ca



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada