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## Local Indigenous artist engaged to bring Nations' culture to Royal Inland Hospital (RIH)

KAMLOOPS – In partnership with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, the Secwépemc Health Caucus, the Two Rivers Métis Society and the RIH Foundation, Interior Health is pleased to announce Indigenous artist Chris Bose as the lead artist to design the 'cultural wall' in the new Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Tower at Royal Inland Hospital.

"The new installation is an example of how we can work together with local partners to help make health facilities in B.C. more welcoming," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "I look forward to the completion of this important art project to see how it helps the Royal Inland Hospital better represent local communities, making it a more inclusive place for all patients."

When complete, the wall will be an artistic representation of Secwépemc traditional territory, honouring guest Nations to the region.

"I'm thrilled to be given this responsibility, to bring together so many different cultures into one artistic representation," said Bose. "There is incredible artwork represented in all of the Nations in this area. To have art that represents our people in the hospital, it means a lot. To be able to show the culture of the different Nations and help make the hospital more welcoming to our people, that is our goal."

As part of the design process, Bose is engaging with members of the Nations whose traditional territories surround Royal Inland Hospital, including the Secwépemc, Dākelh Dené, Tsilhqot'in, Northern St'at'imc, Nlaka'pamux and Syilx. Bose is also working with the Two Rivers Métis Society in Kamloops and Métis Nation BC and has engaged with Inuit Peoples living in the area.

"This artwork will provide a warm welcome to all people who enter the hospital, honouring the rich diversity through the region and serving as a clear reflection of our shared commitment to cultural safety," said Interior Health President and CEO, Susan Brown. "As we look toward the opening of the Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Tower at RIH, I would like to thank Chris Bose and all of the project partners for their support."

"On behalf of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc I am so pleased to have a well-known and talented artist such as Chris Bose to facilitate the design of the wall project," said Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) of Secwepemcúlecw Kukpi7 (Chief). "We have every confidence in Chris's ability to complete and capture the essence of who we are within Secwepemcúlecw, showcasing our beautiful territory. We see the wall project design as an opportunity to educate, create awareness and take steps towards meaningful reconciliation, while providing inclusion to us, as the direct local First Nation, and to all Indigenous clients of RIH."

"As Louis Riel said in 1885, 'My people will sleep for 100 years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back,'" said Dean L. Gladue, Director, Region 3, Thompson/Okanagan, Métis Nation of BC.

Bose, a Secwépemc and Nlaka'pamux multi-disciplinary artist, is well-known in the Kamloops art community. A resident of Kamloops, he is a founding member of the Arbour Collective, an Aboriginal

arts collective based in Kamloops, and is a facilitator of community arts events and workshops, bringing art to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Funding to support the RIH 'cultural wall' is being provided by the RIH Foundation. The wall will be located on the first floor of the Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Tower at RIH and will be complete when the tower opens in July 2022.

### **Quick Facts:**

- Construction of the Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Tower at RIH began in the fall of 2018 and it is scheduled to open to patients in July of this year, with large care spaces, plenty of natural light and a welcoming environment.
- Each floor will feature a spirit animal motif as selected by Secwépemc Elders and supported by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Chief and Council.
- Patient rooms in the new tower are private, single-patient rooms, each with their own washroom. Other features include a new main entrance, first-floor atrium and new patient registration area.
- The tower will include child and adolescent mental health services; obstetrical services; a neo-natal intensive care unit; a mental health and substance use inpatient unit; a surgical services suite with new operating rooms; medical surgical inpatient units; respiratory therapy services as well as a rooftop helipad.
- Once the tower opens in July 2022, construction of Phase 2 renovations will commence and will include a significant renovation and expansion to the emergency department as well as enhancements to pediatrics, post-anaesthetic recovery and the morgue.
- The capital budget for the project is \$417.1 million, to be shared between the Province (\$203.5 million), Interior Health (\$21.6 million), the Thompson Regional Hospital District (\$172 million) and the RIH Foundation (\$20 million).
- The RIH Cultural Wall Committee includes members from the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, the Secwépemc Health Caucus, the Two Rivers Métis Society, the RIH Foundation, Royal Inland Hospital senior leadership and Interior Health Capital Planning & Projects.

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