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## Sechelt artist receives BC Creative Achievement Award



L-R: Keith Mitchell, Chair of BC Achievement Foundation, Sechelt artist Shawn Hunt and the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. Hunt received a cash prize as well as the Seal of the British Columbia Creative Achievement Award for First Nations' Art.

Friday, November 25, at the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel, the BC Achievement Foundation recognized six BC artists for their First Nations' Art. Among them, Sechelt's own Shawn Hunt (Heiltsuk) was honoured as one of the recipients. 'A Celebration of Stories of the Past and Visions of the Future' was the theme set for the evening, and the caliber of the artists' work spoke well for the future of First Nation's art.

Hunt is a Heiltsuk artist; he is a multidisciplinary artist who works in red cedar, sterling silver, paint, glass, water and fire. By engaging the contemporary context with art forms rooted in rich, historical traditions, Hunt tells his stories and challenges his audience. He apprenticed with his father, J. Bradley Hunt, and also received his BFA at UBC and a studio art diploma from Capilano College. Shawn's work has been exhibited at the Museum of Art and Design in New York, the McCord Museum in Montreal, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, as well as the Bill Reid Gallery and Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver.

The six juried award recipients received \$5,000 and the seal of the British Columbia Creative Achievement Award for First Nations' Art.

Speakers attending the event were the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Michael Audain, Chair, Polygon Homes Ltd., and the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

## Women take home message of zero waste

It was a cold late November day when group of Canada World Youth visited the Gibsons Recycling Depot, but their warm reception made up for it. Fifteen young women from across Canada partnered with young women from South Africa and Kenya. The visit was recommended by one of the host families because the host parent had seen the Clean Bin Project and discussed the concept with the group; these young people were inspired to learn more about recycling and zero waste.

As an energetic group of young women, they believe in making a difference through positive action, which includes volunteering in the communities they visit. Joining a discussion about zero waste, the women learned how jobs and opportunities could be created everywhere by using discards as a resource. Councillor Gerry Tretick and Brian Sadler, (recent candidate for Gibsons Council) were there, leading the discussion on this topic.

Styrofoam recycling and how the depot 'upcycles' Styrofoam meat trays into flower pots fascinated the women. Even in the wet and cold, the women pitched in, cleaning and sorting recycling, getting some hands-on experience. As young leaders they found Buddy Boyd's message inspiring - how they can be role models, advocating and creating a more environmentally responsible tomorrow. They also met Mayor-elect, Wayne Rowe, and discussed the environmental impact of youth as consumers, especially with electronic waste. The favourite stop of the day was the Zero Waste Store where girls found treasures to take home as gifts. Through shared ideas and experiences it was a learning experience for all. Co-operation, learning and fun were a great way for them - and others - to start the move towards zero waste.

by Brian Hubenig for The Local

