



**FIRST PEOPLES'**  
CULTURAL COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The First Peoples' Cultural Council Launches**

# **INDIGIFEST**

### **A Celebration of Indigenous Music, Arts and Cultures from Across B.C.**

July 31, 2019 – COAST SALISH TRADITIONAL TERRITORY / BRENTWOOD BAY, B.C.  
– The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) will host Indigifest, an Indigenous music, arts and culture festival at Esquimalt Gorge Park on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen peoples in Victoria, B.C. on August 24, 2019.

The family-friendly, free-admission event will feature Indigenous musicians from across B.C. performing on two outdoor stages. Live musical performances will run from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. with main stage acts performing until 10 p.m.

The Snotty Nose Rez Kids, who recently returned from their European tour and whose album *Trapline* is on the shortlist for the 2019 Polaris Music Prize, will headline the festival. Other performers from across B.C. will be announced in early August.

Indigifest will also host free interactive workshops during the day from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., providing attendees with the opportunity to create art and music with local artists. Other events taking place during the festival include a local Indigenous marketplace of vendors selling unique handcrafted goods and a children's area offering arts and traditional games.

The idea for the festival grew from the FPCC Music Retreat for Indigenous musicians, which was held in Whistler in May 2018. Many of the musicians who will be performing at Indigifest, including the Snotty Nose Rez Kids, came together at the music retreat to grow as musicians and learn from one another. Retreat participants were also mentored by accomplished Indigenous music industry professionals who provided valuable advice on how to advance their musical careers. Other past FPCC arts funding recipients have also been hired in various capacities with the festival, including programming the stages, stage management and running workshops.

The traditional territory on which the festival will be hosted holds strong cultural and historical ties to the Songhees First Nation.

This event is made possible with the generous support of Creative BC, the BC Arts Council and the Province of B.C.

For more information, visit: [www.indigifest.ca](http://www.indigifest.ca)

## QUOTES:

“The First Peoples’ Cultural Council is excited to host the very first Indigifest, in celebration of the ingenuity, vitality and diversity of Indigenous music, arts and cultures from across the province of British Columbia,” said Sarah Pocklington, FPCC Arts Program Manager and Executive Producer of Indigifest. “This is not just a festival – we are thrilled to support and mentor Indigenous artists, musicians, and arts and music administrators who have participated in past FPCC programming and are now building their careers in the industry.”

“This festival is the culmination of over a year of work by these new and developing Indigenous performing artists and technicians,” said Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture. “Congratulations to First Peoples’ Cultural Council for creating a stage for these inspiring artists to share their excellence. Our government supports this festival because we believe in a vibrant arts and culture sector that reflects the diversity in the province.”

“Creative BC is proud to support Indigifest, where people will come together to celebrate and experience the dynamic work of Canada’s talented Indigenous musicians, artists and performers,” said Prem Gill, CEO, Creative BC

“Indigifest is a great addition to B.C.’s cultural landscape,” said Susan Jackson, chair of the BC Arts Council. “This festival shines the spotlight on the exciting creative works of emerging Indigenous artists, and the BC Arts Council is proud to support its inaugural year. I know people in Greater Victoria will enjoy both the traditional and contemporary cultural expressions and performances in this year’s festival.”

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### **About the First Peoples’ Cultural Council:**

FPCC is a First Nations-run provincial crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage in British Columbia. The organization provides funding and resources to communities, monitors the status of First Nations languages, develops policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government and collaborates with organizations on numerous special projects that raise the profile of arts, languages and cultural heritage in B.C., Canada and around the world. For more information, visit: [www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca)

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