



*For Immediate Release*

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**First Nations Summit Celebrates Historic New Design of Vancouver 2010 Medals Congratulates BC First Nations Artist Corrine Hunt for Unique, Symbolic Artwork**

**Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver** – The First Nations Summit today congratulated Canadian Aboriginal artist Corrine Hunt for her traditional, one-of-a-kind design of the Vancouver 2010 Medals. The medals, revealed earlier today, each feature a unique hand-cropped section of larger abstract Aboriginal artworks - a first in Olympics Games' history. Hunt, of Komoyue and Tlingit heritage, created the medals based on two large master artworks, one of a whale (Olympic) and the other of a raven (Paralympic).

"We are very proud of this unique West-Coast design by a First Nation artist and we are especially pleased for First Nations across this country," said Grand Chief Ed John, member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "This symbolic, traditional artwork represents a triumphant moment for all Aboriginal people across Canada and will serve as a lasting, iconic legacy of the 2010 Winter Games."

Each medal will include its own traditional, signature Aboriginal influence that embodies the orca and raven artwork, including elements such as the orca's eye, the curve of the orca's dorsal fin, and the contours of the raven's wing.

A silk scarf will be printed with the master artwork and presented to each Olympian and Paralympian. The Athlete's medal will enable them to see how their medal connects with those awarded to other athletes at the Games, making the whole design complete.

"This historic achievement is an important symbol of First Nations commitment and support for the spirit of the Olympic Games. Every athlete that stands proudly on the podium will hold a piece of Canadian Aboriginal pride, next to their heart, for the world to see, added Chief John."

Hunt also worked closely with Olympians and Paralympians to ensure their direct input was incorporated into the medal's design. Athletes shared their experiences from medals won at previous Games and what they envisioned in future medal designs.

The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).

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