



*Petro-Canada is a Suncor Energy business*

## **PETRO-CANADA 2010 LEGACY POLE**

*Located at the Four Host First Nations 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion*

Suncor Energy, as owner of the Petro-Canada brand, has partnered with Squamish Nation carver and local artist Klatle-Bhi to commemorate its sponsorship of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games through the creation of the Petro-Canada 2010 Legacy Pole.

The 22-foot totem pole, designed by Klatle-Bhi, tells the story of all nations coming together to celebrate the 2010 Winter Games. It also tells the story of the ancestral spirits and mythical creatures that inhabit the Sea-to-Sky region including the frog, the bear, the whale and the Thunderbird.

Main characters within the pole:

- Thunderbird** To the Northwest Coast Aboriginal peoples, the Thunderbird is the most powerful of all spirits. It is said that when he flaps his wings, thunder crashes and lightning flashes from his eyes. On the 2010 Legacy Pole, the Thunderbird represents the Coastal Black Tusk Mountains, where the Thunderbird is said to land.
- Bear** The Bear is a great hunter known for its strength, power and human-like qualities. On the 2010 Legacy Pole, the Bear represents the lands between Vancouver and Whistler.
- Whale** The Killer Whale is the guardian of the sea and is the most admired of all the whales by the Northwest Coast Aboriginal peoples. On the 2010 Legacy Pole, the Killer Whale represents the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Vancouver.
- Frog** The Frog is a powerful messenger who can travel between the underwater world and dry land. The Frog sits at the bottom of the 2010 Legacy Pole, bright-eyed, despite carrying the weight of the pole.
- Athlete** The 2010 Legacy Pole features a human face within the chest of the Thunderbird, which represents an Olympic athlete, who strives in life to follow his or her dreams.
- Four Faces** Within the 2010 Legacy Pole, on the back of the Killer Whale, Klatle-Bhi has carved four faces, representing four races of people who will be coming together – as equals – for the 2010 Winter Games.

Throughout the course of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, the totem pole will stand in front of the Four Host First Nations 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion at the corner of West Georgia Street and Hamilton Street in Vancouver, B.C. Post-Games, the pole will travel to Calgary, AB, where it will reside at the Suncor Energy Centre.

(more)

### **About Klatle-Bhi**

Klatle-Bhi (pronounced Cloth Bay) was born to the Squamish people. His name was given to him by his grandmother and means Head Killer Whale of a pod of Killer Whales.

Klatle-Bhi's interest in the arts began 20 years ago when he first studied the works of his ancestors. Since then, he has created feast bowls, prints, clothing, jewelry and traditional mask carvings, for which he is most known. His work has been featured in museums, galleries and private collections across North America and Europe. Klatle-Bhi is self-taught, through his own research as well as apprenticing alongside respected teachers such as Wade Baker and Simon Dick of Kwakiutl heritage, T. Richard Baker of Haida heritage and Rick Harry of Coast Salish/Kwakiutl heritage. Klatle-Bhi is now a teacher in his own right, apprenticing young Aboriginal artists.

Klatle-Bhi is a spiritual man who practices sweatlodge ceremonies, cold-water baths and mountain vision quests. He also uses his own artwork as a source of purification and learning. He grew up exposed to the Kwakiutl culture of masks, dancing, singing and potlatch ceremonies through his family lineage.

### **About the Project**

Suncor Energy, through its Petro-Canada brand, is committed to promoting Olympic values beyond sport. The Petro-Canada 2010 Legacy Pole is a reflection of this support, as it celebrates the gathering of people from around the world and provides them the opportunity to experience Aboriginal culture, a key element of these Games. In working with Klatle-Bhi on this totem pole, Suncor Energy wants to promote the talent and growth of Aboriginal artists in Canada and create a legacy that will last well beyond the 2010 Games.

### **ABOUT PETRO-CANADA**

Petro-Canada has a proud 22-year history of supporting Canadian athletes and is a National Partner and the Official Oil and Gas Sponsor of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. In addition to fuelling all Vancouver 2010 fleet and motor coach vehicles, Petro-Canada is fuelling the dreams of hundreds of Canadian athletes through a number of grassroots initiatives. These initiatives include the Petro-Canada Athlete Family Program where the company will host approximately 500 family members in Vancouver so families can watch their loved ones compete live at the Games. Petro-Canada also provides funding for 50 pre-carded athlete and coach pairs through a program called 'Fuelling Athlete and Coaching Excellence' (FACE).

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### **For more information on the Petro-Canada 2010 Legacy Pole or to coordinate an interview with artist Klatle-Bhi, please contact:**

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For more information on other Petro-Canada Olympic and Paralympic Games initiatives, please visit [petro-canada2010.ca](http://petro-canada2010.ca)