



# TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

*CHILDREN of TAKaya – Wolf Clan*

BURRARD INDIAN BAND



June 29, 2011

For Immediate Release

## **TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION REVIVES SACRED TRADITIONAL SPORT OF CANOE RACING AT CATES PARK/Whey-Ah-Wichen**

**Traditional canoes from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Fraser  
Valley will compete in championship canoe races.**

On the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, First Nation paddling teams will compete in traditional canoe races on Burrard Inlet along the foreshore of Cates Park / Whey-Ah-Wichen. The Whey-Ah-Wichen Canoe Festival (In memory of Richard Mervin George) is hosted by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and is open to the public. Festivities will begin at 11:00am and continue until 5:00pm on both days.

Canoe racing is a Coast Salish custom. Paddling teams and their supporters travel during the summer months to compete in various communities throughout the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and Northern Washington.

“Our community is looking forward to hosting this very special event” said Chief Justin George. “Racing is a celebration of our connection with the rivers and the ocean in our territory. It also honors the trade and diplomatic relations we have with our First Nation neighbors. The canoe embodies discipline, respect, teamwork and unity.”

This free event will also include other family-friendly activities and a history display of Coast Salish canoe culture. In addition, Aboriginal arts and crafts vendors will be at the site and a cash food concession including a traditional aboriginal BBQ will be available.

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