



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wildfire Recovery Support Program - BCEDA & Nations Creations Partnership

Chilliwack, BC, June 1, 2018: The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA), and Nations Creations, a social enterprise in Chilliwack, owned by the Stó:lō Nation, today announced an exciting new partnership to assist BC communities impacted by wildfires of 2017.

Nations Creations has launched a new series of work featuring four original works of art, designed by Indigenous Artists. This series, all designed to provoke wildfire awareness, will be for sale on shirts, limited edition prints and other collectibles items. A large portion of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork will go towards a special fund to support community-based economic development initiatives in those communities impacted by the wildfires. An official application process will be developed once enough product has been sold to allow for distribution to as many community groups as possible.

“We are thrilled with the partnership we have developed with Nations Creations. Not only does this partnership support the incredible work of Indigenous artists, it will also help to support communities so badly impacted by the wildfires of 2017,” says Dale Wheeldon, President and CEO of BCEDA. BCEDA is the most engaged and active Economic Development Association in Canada dealing with Economic Recovery of communities impacted by disasters and we are happy to be able to work with Nations Creations in identifying other ways in which we can help.”

“BCEDA seemed like the logical choice of partners to work with to support the sale of the artwork. The designs developed illustrate the talent of our Indigenous Artists,” said Nordina Newton, Program Coordinator at Nations Creations. “We look forward to promoting this artwork to raise funds through this initiative to support Indigenous and local communities with some funding to help rebuild local economies.”

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About BCEDA

The BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is the leading professional association of economic development practitioners in the Province of BC. BCEDA currently has over 500 members from communities throughout the province. BCEDA provides services that help member communities grow and expand new and existing businesses, attract new business investments, and work towards strategic infrastructure investment, land use planning,

and community enhancement. BCEDA started Canada's first Economic Disaster Recovery Program in 2013 to assist communities impacted by disasters.

About Nations Creations

Nations Creations is a social enterprise that began in October 2016 by Stó:lō Nation. Thanks to a partnership-based Labour Market Training Project funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, this project supports workers interested in training in warehousing and on sophisticated, computer-based light manufacturing equipment while also supporting Indigenous artists. Nations Creations makes multi-use of Indigenous art designs by creating t-shirts, mugs and other collectible items featuring the work of local artists. Local Indigenous Artists, who have joined Nations Creations in a royalty-based agreement, receive a royalty for each item sold with their design, the remainder of the proceeds are returned to the social enterprise to employ more workers in manufacturing and sales and help support local youth initiatives.