

ATTACHMENT A



## **Project Context: Art as an Important Source of Knowledge**

*In discussing the significance of the Welcome Pole, Snuneymuxw leaders have shared that, “in its most holistic sense, Snuneymuxw art honours the natural world as the ultimate source of knowledge, wellness, and renewal and as well as a gentle reminder that these great lands touch every aspect of life. In a modern context, the installation of the Welcome Pole is an invitation to the broader community to think more deeply about a way of being that is built on a foundation of humility, connectivity and reciprocity.”*

Telling stories about Snuneymuxw as a living culture by further acknowledging Sway’a’Lana as a historic village site, and raising awareness about the Snuneymuxw peoples’ ongoing sacred connection to the land is an important aspect of undertaking a Welcome Pole project at Sway’a’Lana. The partnership of the City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre and Snuneymuxw First Nation also foregrounds the importance of partnership between Indigenous peoples who come from all Nations, including urban Indigenous populations, and Inuit and Métis, who are an integral part of Nanaimo’s community. Snuneymuxw leaders, leaders from Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, and Staff are collaborating to create accessible interpretive information to accompany the installation of the Welcome Pole. This important dialogue among partners is intended to create a sense of belonging and pride for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on this land.

## **About the Artist**

Noel Brown is a renowned artist and a member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Brown began carving professionally in 1995 and received inspiration from James Lewis, a prominent Northwest Coast carver. His style has also been guided by the teachings of Richard Baker, Matthew Baker and Darin Lewis. His carvings are on display at the Nanaimo Museum, Vancouver Island University, BC Ferries Departure Bay terminal, and the Nanaimo Cruise Ship terminal.