British Columbians Carve a Moment in History: 2008 Spirit Pole Tour
FAQ’s

➢ WHAT is the 2008 Spirit Pole Tour?
BC150 is helping celebrate the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games by sponsoring a very special, province-wide event. The Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole tour will take place over 13 weeks, beginning in May 2008. A 20-foot red cedar log will be transformed into a ceremonial Spirit Pole as it tours the province. Under the guidance of master carver Carey Newman, people in 50 communities will be invited to carve a section of the pole. Participants will also learn about traditional carving methods and First Nations history.

On July 28, the NAIG Tribal Journeys Canoe participants will deliver the completed Spirit Pole to Cowichan Bay. The pole will be presented to Aboriginal Team BC at the opening ceremonies on August 3 and will remain in the Cowichan Valley after the Games are completed.

➢ WHERE and WHEN is it taking place?
The Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole tour will take place over 13 weeks, beginning in May 2008. The Spirit Pole will be transported to various locations throughout the Province. See attached schedule for more information on location dates and times.

➢ WHAT takes place at a Spirit Pole event?
The Spirit Pole arrives and is set up at selected locations. Set up takes approximately 2 hours and includes creating a central focus using the flat bed trailer which is used to form the staging and carving area. There is also an education exhibition that highlights BC First Nations diversity and history, a demonstration carving area and an area for cultural performances.

Spirit Pole event will begin with a special welcome ceremony. After the ceremony, people are invited to carve on the pole with the guidance and supervision of the carving team. Schools are invited to bring individual classes to participate. Carving will take approximately 30 minutes per class, so it is recommended that teachers contact Angie Mallhi to schedule a carving time.

➢ WHO can I contact if I have further questions?
Teachers who would like to make arrangements to bring their class to the Spirit Pole can contact Angie Mallhi by email: Angie.Mallhi@gov.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 356-0440.