

Salish Artist Len McKay Carves Eagle Feathers for ASTTBC



Len McKay, a Salish carver, has been supplying cedar eagle feathers to ASTTBC who in gift the feathers to leaders in BC who are contributing their talent to the growth and development of the province. Len, pictured above in the ASTTBC office, displays his work from a raw block of cedar to the finished eagle feather.

ASTTBC CEO struck up a relationship with Salish carver Len McKay who has been supplying eagle feathers to ASTTBC for almost two years. The feathers have been gifted to a number of leaders in BC in consideration of their role in advancing technology education and careers or leadership in other areas of endeavour linked to ASTTBC's mandate. Len recently visited the ASTTBC office to drop off another supply and while there showed John the progress of his work from a block of cedar to the finished product. "Len has become a part of the ASTTBC family, contributing his talent to the Association's work to advance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and technology careers," said Leech. "He and I have spent a fair bit of time getting to know each other."

Len's home name is Nlaka'pamux Nation, Boothroyd Band, Boston Bar, BC, Interior Salish. Len learned his craft from his uncle Geo McKay, his art name. Len and his mother, Susan, have a great, caring relationship which is evident to John as eagle feathers are crafted, delivered and presented. "I have yet to meet Susan but we text back and forth and in the process I have come to know more about their family. The relationship deepens," said Leech.

John Leech concluded, "It is a real delight being able to report on Len's contribution when presenting one of his eagle feathers to very deserving leaders throughout BC." John has presented feathers to First Nations leaders, BC Cabinet Ministers and MLAs, elected officials at the national and local level, leaders in business and industry and with various organizations.