



## **“Further We Rise” Our Legacy Freeing a Nation**

The stories of our ancestors are left, lost, and fading in time, yet not fully forgotten. We must create new visions, dreams, and legends, utilizing our entire Indigenous history in truth to enlightenment, empowering our purpose and will. Where we nurture our authentic selves, in our own way, on our own terms, evolving the resiliency. Reconnecting the courageous, brave, wise, and loving generations, whose strength to face traumatic life experiences honestly, becomes their power, in transforming their pain to beauty. That will open the heart, mind, and spirit of many, planting a seed of transformation, so we can continue blossoming as a people. It is now, there is nothing left to lose, we must free ourselves with our people, it is our legacy to give, leaving hope for the next generations.

~ Spence Lytton 2021/01/16

Further We Rise is written by Nadine Spence, influenced by Stephen Lytton. Done for the awarded individual 2021 art grant, lead visionary Nadine received through the First Peoples Cultural Councils “Sharing Tradition Arts Across Generations”.

In the development of an indigenous organization, created to support and unite the BC Indigenous natural environment, health, education, arts, culture, and language, it became apparent the quickest way to do this, was through the dreams of the artists, who are our traditional visionaries and inspiration. In knowing there are new Indigenous stories to be told, that do not lay with the idea we have disappeared with the lives of our ancestors, we remain connected to all things in spirit and in heart. Showing we are still fully here, physically alive, breathing the air, drinking the water, nurturing the lands, and rising with the Sun, so “Further We Rise”.

All original participants are Nlaka’pamux and Secwepemc peoples all with their own known and traditionally practiced art forms, empowered and envisioned through their own unique skills and talents connected to all things. Secwepemc and Nlaka’pamux is our official indigenous language and we do belong to a minority struggling arts community that is also in a rural region. Participants created new legends and narratives reflective of their indigenous lives and family histories. They made symbolic coded interpretive maps of their indigenous territories they identified with and drawing and painting visual art pieces that include the characters transformed from the new legends. A 35-inch-tall doll was created in the spirit of the original group of 10 “Further We Rise” participants. The indigenous languages, Secwepemc and Nlaka’pamux, were implemented in the legends and narratives as well as recorded.

The original "Further We Rise" collective consist of ten people of four indigenous generations. With represented masculine and feminine energies of two culturally diverse nations in language and lands. Two elders are fluent indigenous language speakers, who assist the collective in incorporating these languages into their artwork.

Many of the collective members are expert in beadwork, regalia creation, oral traditional story tellers, historians, poets, writers, actors and performers, script writers, dancers, seamstresses, visual artists of soapstone carvers, with talented painters, and artists that use ink, felt, pencil crayon, pastel, charcoal, and sketch.

The collective continues to evolve, move forward, developing and creating new projects together, for their written indigenous stories and visual arts to be transformed into different art mediums, that include music, dance, theatre, performance, and film, but not limited to. The collective members consist of 4 generations from 12- 80 years of age, who all have immensely powerful indigenous passion, vision, talents, and goals in the arts, the natural environment, health, and social issues.

With the many indigenous visions and legacies Further We Rise collective has, we want to make each members artistic dreams a reality together. To continue supporting, sharing, and learning from each other and welcome in other artists interested in doing the same. Collaborations and building partnerships with other artists and organizations that nurtures historic art and journeys. We look forward to meeting new artist, new opportunities, and new adventures, supporting our evolution so "Further We Rise".

We hope to see you at our very first event, called Honouring Our Grandmothers Healing Journey, where we showcase our artists works and talents, and launch the healing journey through sharing our vision history and vision for the future with all. This will happen November 5, 6, 7, at Vancouver Moving Theatres Heart of the City Festival 2021 Downtown east side. With the hopes many will come forward to walk with us on this powerful healing journey.