

# FIRST NATIONS

## History

The Laichwiltach (Laichkwiltach / Lekwiltok / Ligwithdaxw) peoples are part of the Nation now commonly referred to as the Kwakwak'awakw ("Kwak'wala speaking people"). The Kwakwak'awakw Nation's territory extends from Cape Mudge to the mouth of Bute Inlet in the south to Smith Inlet in the north and around the northern part of Vancouver Island to Quatsino Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Laichwiltach are the southernmost of the Kwak'wala speaking people. First recorded contact by the Europeans with the local First Nations people occurred at the ancient village of Tsa-Kwa-Luten, "the gathering place," on Quadra Island, by Captain George Vancouver in 1792. At that time Tsa-Kwa-Luten was inhabited by the Coast Salish peoples. Sometime after the British explorers were here, approximately 1841, the Salish abandoned this village and surrounding villages and retreated to the south. The Laichwiltach peoples then took possession of the rich salmon fishing grounds and the strategic trading position offered by the narrow Discovery Passage. At that time the Laichwiltach peoples were made up of the We-Wai-Kai of Cape Mudge, Wei-Wai-Kum of Campbell River, Walatsama of Salmon River and Kwiakah of Philips Arm. Villages were established in Campbell River and at Cape Mudge on Quadra Island, making this area the southern most territory of the Kwak'wala speaking peoples.



**Kwanwatsi, which means 'place of thunder', the gukwdzi (Bighouse) Campbell River Indian Band**



**Thunderbird and Raven Spirit  
(by Mark Henderson)**



**Kwagiulth Museum and Cultural Centre**

The **Kwagiulth Museum and Cultural Centre** is located in Cape Mudge, on Quadra Island. Just ten minutes from downtown Campbell River, sail by scheduled ferry to Quadra Island's scenic shores. The Potlatch Collection at the Kwagiulth Museum and Cultural Centre at Cape Mudge Village features sacred ceremonial objects such as masks, headdresses, coppers and other regalia used in Kwagiulth winter ceremonies. There's a vintage photograph collection, gift shop, and, on a nearby beach, over fifty ancient petroglyphs.



**Tsakwaluten Lodge. Quadra Island**