

For immediate release  
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#### First Nations Artist Arthur Vickers to receive Order of British Columbia

Victoria, BC - Lieutenant Governor Steven Point announced yesterday that internationally renowned artist Arthur Vickers will be receiving the Order of British Columbia this summer in recognition of his art, his charity work (CNIB, Camp Good Times for children with cancer) and his role in keeping First Nations heritage alive.

"It's absolutely unbelievable," says Vickers. "I find it really quite an overwhelming honour."

This award comes on the heels of Vickers recently opening his Shipyard Gallery in Cowichan Bay on Vancouver Island, B.C., as a special place to meet art lovers and collectors. It has been an incredible journey for Vickers, who remembers listening to the waves against the boat, eyes wide with wonder as a six-year-old, as he travelled the B.C. coast with his grandfather. As they fished, his grandfather 'ya'as' told him of the traditions and legends of his family.

Fifty-four years on, Vickers is an internationally renowned artist and he still draws from his experiences with his grandfather as inspiration for his art. His work in original serigraphs, sketches, carvings, 23 and 24 karat gold reliefs is appreciated worldwide. No stranger to accolades, Vickers has also received the Order of St. John for service to humanity and an honorary doctorate in Fine Arts from the University of Victoria in 2006.

#### The Shipyard Gallery-

Located in Cowichan Bay, just an hour's drive north of Victoria, B.C., the gallery is in a converted portion of a shipyard building that dates back to 1926. The conversion of the 1,100-square-foot facility was designed by Bruce Wilson of Bruce Wilson Canada. The interior is highlighted by cedar and fur beams and a truss system that is held together by a hand forged 40 foot long metal turn-buckle. The 15-foot ceilings are covered in canvas and the windows have canvas draperies.

Placed on a high beam is a model canoe that Vickers has placed to honour his grandfather who was a canoe carver on the central coast of BC and an inspiration for Vickers' creativities as a young boy.

The gallery has been created to show Vickers' works in his many and varied mediums, from his hand pulled original serigraphs, sketches, and carvings, to 23 and 24K gold relief works. From First Nations traditional to still lifes to vistas of landscapes, Vickers's work celebrates life on the coast.

His creations can be found in collections around the world, and the gallery is a place where collectors can meet the artist and he can talk with them about each individual piece, its inspiration, its legend and the techniques used.

The village of Cowichan Bay (population 2,600) has recently undergone a revitalization and the Arthur Vickers Shipyard Gallery adds to the quaint beauty and destination appeal of this seaside community. Fine restaurants, shopping, eco tours and whale-watching excursions are also attractions that bring tourists to Cowichan Bay.

The guest book in Vickers' gallery, which has been only open for a few short weeks, already includes over 1,000 names from places as far away as Qatar.

Arthur Vickers Shipyard Gallery -1719 Cowichan Bay Road, Cowichan Bay, B.C. 250-748-7650. Guests are encouraged to call ahead to book a special visit.

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Note to editors: Interviews with Arthur Vickers are available, as are gallery tours. Images are also available.

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