



Partnership with public libraries brings Syliboy's *Thundermaker* exhibit to New Glasgow Public Library

(Tuesday, May 5, 2015) – New Glasgow, Nova Scotia: Artist Alan Syliboy's 'Little Thunder' character is well-travelled. Among many places, he was on the West Coast for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, then to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton in 2013. This time, 'Little Thunder' is making a local presence as part of Syliboy's *Thundermaker* multimedia art exhibit coming this month to the New Glasgow Library from May 19 - 29. **The launch for the exhibit is in the library Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00pm – all are welcome.**

Through this exhibit, which uses static and multimedia displays of Mi'kmaq motifs and consists of panels and a wigwam, people can experience an important part of legend told from an artist's perspective. They can watch Syliboy's 'Little Thunder' character transform into the Thundermaker, learn about the role his parents and the Mi'kmaq community play in his upbringing, and watch him make thunder for the first time; all at their local public library.

"Join us for Little Thunders big moment when he becomes the Thundermaker, and the boy becomes a man," says artist Alan Syliboy.

"For us, to give people an amazing opportunity to experience a Mi'kmaq legend first-hand through Alan's artwork is very exciting for us - books aren't the only way to learn more about Mi'kmaq culture and sharing stories play an important part in preserving the past as well," says Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian for the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and lead on the provincial project.

In 2007, Alan took part in creating illustrations for the novel *The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi'kmaq tales*, and inspired him to continue his use of the Little Thunder character throughout his works, even co-writing a song with Rachael Henderson for his band Lonecloud, called "Little Thunder." In 2009, Alan collaborated with Nance Ackerman and Paton Francis to create the animation *Little Thunder* for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics which presented the 'Little Thunder' character in motion.

In addition to the exhibit and launch, there will be related events at the New Glasgow Library that include:

- 'Alan Syliboy – My Journey as an Artist' on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- 'Engraved in Stone: The Mi'kmaq Petroglyphs of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada' with speaker Rob Ferguson, Research Associate with Nova Scotia Museum and retired Senior Archaeologist with Parks Canada on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m.

This the second-last stop on the *Thundermaker* public library tour (which began in October 2014) funded with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. For more detail

about *Thundermaker* and related resources, visit www.thundermaker.ca. For a list of upcoming events at the New Glasgow Public Library, visit us to www.parl.ns.ca.

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