

VANCOUVER, BC, PRESS RELEASE - Nov. 30, 2009 - The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) is proud to recognize the accomplishments of Kevin Loring, recipient of the 2009 Governor General's Award in Drama- English for his play Where the Blood Mixes. Loring is a member of the Lytton First Nation of the Nlaka'pamux Nation, and is an actor as well as a playwright. The play is set in the Lytton village of Kumsheen.

<<http://www.nationtalk.ca/modules/wfchannel/index.php?pagenum=8>>

<<http://www.nationtalk.ca/modules/wfchannel/index.php?pagenum=8>>

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip stated "The UBCIC recognizes the immense contribution of First Nations people who use literature, visual or performing arts as powerful mediums for expressing our vibrant culture and varied experience. It is our artists who best describe who we are and where we need to go."

Where the Blood Mixes tells the story of Floyd, a First Nations man preparing for a reunion with his daughter Christine, taken into care by social services two decades earlier. Floyd is deeply scarred from his residential school years, and must face the truth about his past in order to move forward in the present. He grapples with the guilt he feels about the loss of his daughter amidst the backdrop of the country's growing awareness about the abuse that First Nations experienced in residential schools. Through sharing his experiences, Floyd embodies one of the play's central themes, the healing power of storytelling.

"Our community is very proud of the dedication and growing public recognition of Kevin's work" said Chief David Walkem of Cooks Ferry Indian Band, Kevin's home community. "As communities, leaders and families we must support our youth to not only dream but to instill in them the hope and determination to achieve their dreams."

Loring worked on the play for nine years and has noted that the most important performance of the play took place in Lytton, among his family and friends at home. Importantly, the Vancouver premier of the play was on June 11, 2008, the day that the Canadian government apologized for the residential school system.

Grand Chief Phillip commented "In recognition of Kevin's achievements, the UBCIC has donated \$500 to Full Circle First Nations Performance where Kevin is a theatre instructor. We invite all communities to support and donate to

their local Arts organization or program."

Where the Blood Mixes returns to Vancouver beginning February 25, 2010 until March 6, 2010, at the Firehall Arts Centre. Tickets are available now at the Firehall Arts Centre.

/For further information:

<<http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>; <<http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>; > Full Circle First Nations Performance

<<http://www.fullcircleperformance.ca/>> <<http://www.fullcircleperformance.ca/>>  
</>

IN: ENTERTAINMENT, HEALTH, JUSTICE

For more information, please contact  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs

Primary Phone: 250-490-5314

Secondary Phone: 604-684-0231

E-mail: [ubcic\[at\]ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:ubcic[at]ubcic.bc.ca)