



**ᑕᐱᐱᐃᐃᐃ**  
TLA'AMIN NATION

## Expression of Interest

### Design and Carving of a 30-Foot Totem Pole for tiskʷat Coming Home Project Apartment Development

Issued February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Tla'amin Nation is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from experienced First Nations carvers to design and carve a 30-foot totem pole to be installed at the new tiskʷat apartment development.

This pole will be a permanent cultural feature that reflects Tla'amin presence, history, and love for this place. The Nation is seeking a lead carver or carving team with demonstrated experience in large-scale poles, a strong artistic vision, and a commitment to mentorship and knowledge-sharing.

## Project Overview

- **Project:** Design and carving of one (1) approximately 30-foot totem pole. Log provided by Tla'amin Nation.
- **Location:** tiskʷat *Coming Home* Apartment Development, Tla'amin Territory. Carving will take place in the Tla'amin community and will provide transportation and installation of the pole after carving completion.
- **Style:** Coast - Salish style. Descriptive of Tla'amin's ongoing relationship to the tiskʷat village site, the big river, and plant and animal relations.

Tla'amin Nation places a high value on carving projects that support intergenerational learning and strengthen our up-and-coming carvers. Proponents should be prepared to engage the *Tla'amin Cultural Committee* and work in a way that includes participation by Tla'amin apprentices and emerging carvers.

## Mentorship

EOIs must include a clear mentorship component, outlining how Tla'amin apprentices will be involved throughout the project. Tla'amin will provide for/pay mentees through a separate budget.

This may include:

- On-site learning opportunities during design and carving
- Skill-sharing in carving techniques, formline development, and finishing
- Meaningful participation rather than observation only

Preference may be given to proposals that demonstrate a strong, thoughtful approach to mentorship.

## **Submission Requirements**

Submissions do not need to be formal or lengthy. We welcome clear, thoughtful responses that reflect your voice and practice.

### **1. Letter of Interest**

Please include:

- A brief introduction of the lead carver(s) or carving team
- Relevant experience with large-scale poles or public carvings
- Your artistic approach and connection to Coast Salish style works. Please know the carver will have access to the Tla'amin Cultural Committee and Protocol team for visioning and to refine design ideas.
- Confirmation of your commitment to participate in public events
- Any initial thoughts you wish to share about working with Tla'amin Nation

### **2. Samples of Work**

- Images and brief descriptions of previous carvings
- Examples of completed poles or comparable large-scale works
- Links, photos, or printed images are all acceptable

### **3. Proposed Budget and Pricing**

- Estimated carvers' cost is \$48-60k
- Please provide a clear breakdown of fees, materials, travel, and other costs. Carvers should provide their own tools, Tla'amin will provide tools for mentees.
- The carving log, structural base and installation will be provided by Tla'amin Nation.
- Please include any costs you anticipate being associated with mentorship and apprentice involvement (Tla'amin has a separate budget for these costs)
- Tla'amin will issue a 25% deposit at project commencement. All other payment terms are negotiable.

*Budgets are understood to be estimates at this stage and may be refined in discussion with shortlisted proponents.*

#### **4. Mentorship Plan**

- Description of how Tla'amin apprentices will be engaged
- Estimated duration of carving and mentorship activities
- Level of apprentice participation (design, roughing out, finishing, etc.)

#### **Timeline**

- **EOI Submission Deadline: March 20 at 4:00 PM**
- Shortlisted proponents may be contacted for additional discussion or refinement of scope and budget.
- Contract will be awarded April 17
- Carving will commence May 1-15
- Carving will be complete August 15

#### **How to Submit**

EOIs may be typed or handwritten and can be submitted:

- Electronically, or
- In person, dropped off at Tla'amin Government House

**Contact:** Drew Blaney, Protocol Manager [Drew.Blaney@tn-bc.ca](mailto:Drew.Blaney@tn-bc.ca)