



NEWS RELEASE

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RIVERVIEW LANDS UTILITY BOXES WRAPPED IN COAST SALISH ART

KFN Enterprise LP (KFNE) today announced that its Utility Boxes Wrap project at the Riverview Lands is complete. Each of the 11 utility boxes which are part of a new 25-kilometer electrical distribution system at the Riverview Lands is now wrapped in a unique Coast Salish art design. The project was a partnership between KFNE and BC Housing which manages the Riverview Lands.

KFNE Chief Officer, Special Projects, Andrea Aleck said “The completion of the Utility Box Wrap project is significant. BC Housing in collaboration with Kwikwetlem First Nation (KFN) will work in partnership to include where possible, examples of Coast Salish art within the Riverview Lands, also known to KFN as Səmiqʷəʔelə (Place of the Great Blue Heron). Each utility box at the Riverview Lands is now wrapped in a unique design presented in a vivid colour. Visitors will be able to see and enjoy the art as they move around the grounds. This project was unique in another way as we involved two KFN Youth to help us decide which designs should be chosen to wrap the boxes. Fred Hulbert Jr. and Austin Joe, were part of a Youth Summer Work program and worked through a number of designs before making the final choices. We believe that it is important for KFN Youth to understand that the projects KFNE is managing and the art being displayed, provides a sense of connectivity to the ancestral territory and cultural pride to share the art with the surrounding community.”

KFN Chief Ron Giesbrecht states “We’re very proud that some of our projects at the Riverview Lands will include Coast Salish art. We feel strongly that it is important for visitors to the to understand that our ancestors once lived on those lands and how important the site is in our history. Having art included where appropriate is part of the reconciliation process that will lead to improved relationships between our nation and the communities in the Tri-Cities Region. The fact that two of our youth helped make this project possible is an added bonus for our company and our community.”

Aleck says several of the other projects currently underway at the Riverview Lands will include Coast Salish art and a sense of KFN history in the Tri-Cities region.

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