

Partnership with public libraries brings Syliboy's Thundermaker exhibit to Nova Scotia

(Sept 22, 2014) - Antigonish, Nova Scotia: 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, on display at public libraries throughout Nova Scotia.

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," which 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.

The Thundermaker tour, funded with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, will be starting in Antigonish. The official launch for the exhibit will be Tuesday, October 7th at 2:00pm at the Antigonish Town and County Library, where it will be on display until October 24th. The exhibit will be on display at public libraries until June 2015, for more detailed information about the tour visit www.thundermaker.ca.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Eric Stackhouse

Chief Librarian, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Tel: (902) 755-6031