



NANAIMO MUSEUM

100 Museum Way, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J8
TELEPHONE 250 753.1821
info@nanaimomuseum.ca www.nanaimomuseum.ca

Media Release – First to Experience VMC Voices of the Snunéymuxw website – April 20, 2009
For Immediate Release*

In conjunction with Nanaimo Museum, students at Bayview School in south Nanaimo were the first to experience the Virtual Museum of Canada website *Voices of the Snuneymuxw First Nation* recently.

This interactive web site brings together a number of Snuneymuxw cultural objects that are in museums around the world, including fish hooks uncovered through archaeological digs, and features them along with items from the community such as a lacrosse stick from a local championship team.

Each object is the centre of a class discussion that includes the environment, history and stories of the Elders, the community today, and the traditional language of the Snuneymuxw people. Their Island Hul'q'umin'um' dialect maintains the connection to the knowledge of the Snuneymuxw ancestors and Elders, and is designed to teach the students about the strength within their community. The Snuneymuxw First Nation's traditional territory surrounds the Nanaimo River Estuary.

Through online exhibits, free games, and images, the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) brings together art, culture, and heritage from Canadian museums. The public can view this innovative web site at www.snuneymuxwvoices.ca.

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For more information, please call Bobbi Williamson at 250-753-1821



students at Bayview School