

# Provincial Route of the Totems

## Salish Bear Pole



CHIEF TZOUHALEM  
WITH THE SERPENT  
(SEENLHQI)

GRIZZLY BEAR  
(KW'UYUTSUN)

BLACK BEAR  
(SPE'UTH)

FROG  
(WUXUS)

Sacred legends of the Quw'utsun' people are represented in this pole. Chief Tzouhalem is dressed in the regalia of a Salish Spirit Dancer: a hair hat, a paddle jacket and a kwutsmín staff decorated with deer hooves. These regalia are still used in Salish winter dance ceremonies. The flood story is represented by the figure of the Frog and is a central legend of the Quw'utsun' people.

Simon was asked to put a Grizzly Bear on the pole, but he said they do not inhabit this area; the Province insisted. So not to offend the spirit of the Grizzly Bear, and show that it would be an honoured guest he put a pile of blankets underneath; a traditional way for the Coast Salish to honour an invited guest (Simon Charlie, Macnair Report, 1999).

*The quality of this pole is exceptional as it represents a period of time in which Simon Charlie produced his best work (Judy Hill, Letter, Nov 2002).<sup>©</sup>*

Totem commissioned by: the Province of British Columbia for the Route of the Totems project.



1966 | Size: 13'11" (4.2 m)

### Hwunu'metse' (Simon Charlie)

Simon Charlie, 1919-2005, was a visionary, a master carver, and a keeper of his cultural heritage. A recipient of both the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia, Simon was known for his passion for teaching carving and Salish traditions to younger generations. In typical Salish style, his totem poles were carved in the round and mostly left unpainted.

Simon is Kwa'mutsun, part of the Quw'utsun' Tribes.<sup>©</sup>

