

KASKA TRIBAL COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

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KASKA LEGENDS PERFORM AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL

WATSON LAKE, YK - The Kaska Legends, an alternative rock band from the Yukon, will be performing at the Plaza of Nations during the Vancouver International Aboriginal Festival, August 30-September 1. They are the only Yukon based band performing at the event.

“It is the achievement of a lifetime,” said singer-songwriter Brian Ladue. “We love to perform and we love to be on stage. This gives us a great opportunity to be seen and it is a dream come true -- an opportunity to play in front of an audience of thousands.”

Bass guitarist Dennis Shorty teamed up with Brian Ladue last year and they have watched their band rapidly rise in popularity, averaging about one performance every week for the last two months.

Both are experienced musicians. Dennis previously performed with Keyah Chii while Brian, who plays lead guitar, has 12 years of experience singing with the Ross River Drummers.

In addition to being an accomplished musician, Dennis is a well-known Kaska carver. Brian works as a Wildlife Technician for the Yukon Territorial Government.

Brian says they are thankful for the community support they have received and credits the Kaska Dena Council, Liard Aboriginal Women’s Society, Ross River Cultural Revival Society, and Dave Porter for making the Vancouver performance possible.

Both Dennis and Brian grew up in the Kaska traditional territory. The Kaska Nation includes five First Nations in the southeast Yukon and northern British Columbia. Their traditional territory covers about 25 per cent of the Yukon, adjacent areas of Northwest Territories and about 10 per cent of B.C. The Kaska land claims are part of the first comprehensive claim accepted by Canada under its 1973 policy.

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