# Legends From The First Nations

## BEAR

The protector of the animal kingdom. With great power and human like qualities, the Bear is known as the Elder Kinsman and is always treated as a high ranking guest. The Bear also symbolizes strength, learned humility, motherhood and teaching.

#### **BEAVER**

Creative, artistic and determined.

Known as the carpenter of the animal Kingdom.

In Haida legend it is the Beaver who was responsible for giving the salmon that the Raven stole to the people.

# **EAGLE**

Symbol of power, prestige and wisdom.

The Eagle also has a strong connection to peace.

Its sacred down represents friendship and its feathers are used for ceremonies and rituals. The Cree consider each feather as having special meaning and distinction.

## **FROG**

A symbol of prosperity, wealth and good luck.

In Tsimshian culture, the Frog is known as the communicator between mother earth and mankind. The Haida carved frogs on their house posts to keep them from falling over.

### **HUMMINGBIRD**

Joyful messengers who represent peace, affection and good fortune. The Hummingbird is a living rainbow that captures the sunlight and turns it into a jewel on its wings, signifying love, beauty and healing. This tiny bird is also called "Sah Sen"

# **KILLER WHALE**

It is a popular symbol for romance as they mate for life. Legend says that Whales can capture a canoe, take it underwater, and transform the occupants into Whales. Thus, a Whale near the shore is a transformed human trying to communicate with his family.

#### MOON

Protector and guardian of the people on earth. Moon spirit changes the way we feel. The Moon is the exclusive crest of only a few of the highest-ranking chiefs among the Haida. An eclipse is said to be a Codfish trying to swallow the Moon.

#### **OWL**

The Owl possesses the knowledge of our ancestors, and is the bridge between the physical and spiritual world.

The Owl ensures a continuation of the great culture of the Northwest Coast, which has lasted for thousands of years.

## **RAVEN**

The creator, transformer and trickster. Legend says the Raven released the sun and moon, and discovered mankind in a clamshell. The Raven also brought the salmon and the water to man, and taught people how to fish and hunt. The Raven is one of the two main crests of the Haida.

## **SALMON**

The Symbol of immortality and wealth, dependability and renewal. The Salmon is the life source, and is always treated with high regard. The great abundance of salmon allowed the culture of the Northwest Coast to flourish.

# SISIUTL

The guardian creature of the supernatural.

This double headed sea serpent has healing power and magic. It possesses supernatural power enabling it to shape shift and transform from animal to man.

# SUN

The provider of healing energy and peace. Released from a box by the Raven, the Sun Chief inhabits the sky and could only be reached by climbing a chain of arrows. The Sun is often carved on totems and masks and sits atop the tallest totem pole.

# **THUNDERBIRD**

Thunderbird possesses supernatural power and is credited for creating storms. When he blinks, lighting comes out of his eyes, and when he flaps his wings, thunder roars. It hunts and eats Whales by using the two lightning snakes kept under his wings.

# WOLF

A symbol of great strength. It is considered wise and powerful, and is known for its strong family ties. In Kwaguilt culture the Wolf is the leader of the animal kingdom. It is admired for its tactful hunting skills, and is the land manifestation of Whale since they mate for life.

