



Photo by Wayne Sawchuck



Photo by Ryan Dickie

## Call to all artists: Wild Words North Art Exhibition

Calling all artists of the Peace-Liard – quilters, potters, painters, sculptors – whatever your discipline. This year’s inspiration for the Wild Words North Art Exhibit will be the writing of Fort Nelson’s Ryan Dickie and Rolla’s Wayne Sawchuck that speaks of their long experience exploring the Muskwa-Kechika.

The Wild Words North Art Exhibit is an online exhibition of visual art during the Wild Words North Writing Festival in September. Submissions will also be considered for inclusion in the Muskwa-Kechika exhibit as selected by the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

### How to Submit your Artwork

1. There is no entry fee,
2. Artists can submit up to three pieces by submitting digital images of their work to [edplrac@gmail.com](mailto:edplrac@gmail.com),
3. Work will be included in a dedicated virtual exhibit page on the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council website and will be promoted via social media,
4. The Dawson Creek Art Gallery will include the pieces in the September exhibition *no small choices: stories of the Muskwa-Kechika* which will be on display during the festival weekend. Works must be delivered to the gallery by September 6,
5. Work can be inspired by one piece of writing, an excerpt from the writing, or a combination of lines from both pieces,
6. Deadline for submission of work is August 31, 2021.

If you require any more information, please contact Donna Kane at [edplrac@gmail.com](mailto:edplrac@gmail.com).

***See the back or second page for the featured writing!***

**To learn more about the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area go to:**

[www.themuskwa.com](http://www.themuskwa.com) to view a trailer for the soon to be released *In the Land of Dreamers*

<https://vimeo.com/62464008> to view The Muskwa-Kechika: A Delicate Balance about the process of establishing the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

[www.muskwa-kechika.com](http://www.muskwa-kechika.com) to view the Advisory Board website

**The M-KMA lies in the traditional territories of the Kaska Dena, Treaty 8 and Carrier-Sekani.**

The following are First Nations Communities found within or adjacent to the M-KMA.

**Treaty 8 First Nations:** Halfway River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation

**Kaska Dena First Nations:** Kwadacha First Nation, Daylu Dena Council, Dease River First Nation, Fireside, Muncho Lake.

**Carrier-Sekani:** Tsay Keh (say-kay) Dene.

## FEATURE WRITING

### **Ryan Dickie, Fort Nelson, BC**

Indigenous photographer and videographer

[www.winterhawkstudios.com](http://www.winterhawkstudios.com)

I've long dreamed of this place. I feel like I've been here once before. As we ascend the highest reaches of the continental divide, I pause for a moment to catch my breath, savouring the last glimpses of the Tuchodi valley as it sinks further and further below the hard worn trail left behind us. Startled by our intrusion, a grizzly bear and her yearling cub scramble to a more comfortable distance high above the scree slope to the off-side of the saddle. Even from afar, the respect she commands is undeniable. Still reeling from the encounter, we mount up and continue trudging up Misery Pass.

I've got an eye on the weather. Ominous clouds and rain shower curtains are sweeping through the snow-capped peaks to the front of the pack-string. Look up and there, a young bull moose nearing its prime strides through the scrub brush beside us. It's velvet and hide as dark as this morning's coffee. I am certain the day is growing long, and we have a ways to go yet. One boot in front of the other, I find myself living deep in the moment. I am immersed in the lived experience of my ancestors. I can feel their footsteps ahead of my own. I keep looking for something they may have left behind. Perhaps a blaze in a tree, or an old camp-site near the creek. No such luck. To tread lightly is the old way.

This connecting past would not be possible if this place had been stripped of its values like so many others. It remains as primitive as it always has, and that today, is our fortune. As we crest the shoulder of Misery, a handful of stone sheep and mountain goats dot the rocky void we find ourselves in. They effortlessly navigate terrain not made for the foot of man. Everything has its place.

Leading our horses along, enduring grit subsides. Heart pounding, we summit just as the storm begins to break. Sun rays seemingly sent from another dimension, cut through the misty clad trail ahead. Flanked by waterfalls and arctic lupine, down below lies our camp on the upper Gataga. A warm fire and a hot cup of tea await. The day of all days. Heaven and earth might well have collided up here, but I am certain I have never felt more alive.

### **Wayne Sawchuk, Rolla, BC**

Photographer, author and wilderness guide

[www.go2mk.ca](http://www.go2mk.ca)

Step out of the Gataga cabin summer or winter and listen for a moment. No motors intrude, no clicks and bangs and calls of humanity – we're much too far from civilization for that. Then a raven, far off, cawing- and again. Ah, there's wind in the trees and a snap from the fire in the stove. Listen harder – there's a rhythmic thumping, steady and strong – it's the beating of your heart.