

Carving Lost Family History: Indigenous and Ukrainian Cultural and Historical Revival in the Face of Colonialism

Indigenous Ukrainian Relationship Initiative
A joint project of URDC and KuFC

Join master carver **Ivan Rosypskye** (Heiltsuk–Ukrainian), and historian **Keith Thor Carlson** for a conversation about identity, memory, and reconciliation. Through carving and research, Rosypskye explores his Ukrainian refugee father's long-buried story alongside his mother's Heiltsuk traditions of cultural resistance. This project brings together art, history, and storytelling to show how identities suppressed by colonialism can be revived and honored, offering pathways toward reconciliation. A documentary on the carving process will open the event.

Ivan Rosypskye is a First Nations master carver of Ukrainian-Heiltsuk heritage. He has been carving since 2001, as learned from local artists in his home town of Powell River, British Columbia.

Keith Thor Carlson is a professor of history at the University of the Fraser Valley and a Tier One Canada Research Chair in Indigenous and Community-Engaged History.

Moderated by Shelby LaFramboise, Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, kihêw waciston, MacEwan University

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6 November 2025

5 – 6 p.m.
Food Sharing at kihêw waciston

6 – 7:15 p.m
Carving Lost Family film screening and discussion

kihêw waciston
Indigenous Centre,
MacEwan University

This event is co-hosted by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre and kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre at MacEwan, in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

