



# The Confluence

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## CNC instructor unveils Olympic art in Vancouver today

### Editor, Confluence

A CNC Fine Arts and New Media instructor has been commissioned by Coca-Cola to do a piece for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Kim Stewart is unveiled her unique, artistic Coke bottle last week (Jan. 14) in Vancouver.

Stewart's interpretation of the Coke bottle is a six-foot tall fibreglass piece painted in red and white with black ravens travelling up and through a bubbly, floral world. It's illuminated by a solar panel in its interior.

"It's the idea of the Metis culture caught between the First Nations and Caucasian people. It's a refinement process. The Metis didn't fit in, but now we do and we have found our place in Canada," said Stewart, who is Metis.

Last spring Stewart responded to a call for Aboriginal art for the 2010 Olympics by the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC). As part of its Aboriginal Art Bottle Program, Coca-Cola, a major Olympic sponsor, was seeking Aboriginal artists to reinterpret the contoured Coke bottle to celebrate the diversity of Canadian Aboriginal art and culture to the world. During the Games, the unique bottles will be auctioned to collectors from around the

world. Proceeds will go toward the Vancouver 2010 Aboriginal Youth Legacy Fund to support sport, culture, sustainability and education initiatives for First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

Stewart's submitted proposal was among 100 applications the soft drink company received from First Nations, Inuit and Metis amateur and professional artists across Canada. A qualified Aboriginal art adjudication panel chose 15 pieces and Coca-Cola provided a base bottle in whatever medium the artist wanted to work in.

Sticking to her plan, Stewart asked for a six-foot tall Coke bottle that was first delivered to CNC and then made its way up Highway 97 to her home studio in Salmon Valley. Using acrylic paint, she first painted it yellow, then added red and finally the graphics of the ravens and the floral designs. The only difficulty, she said, was figuring out how to insert the green energy solar panel in its interior.

"I took traditional Metis floral designs and modernized them on my computer," said Stewart.

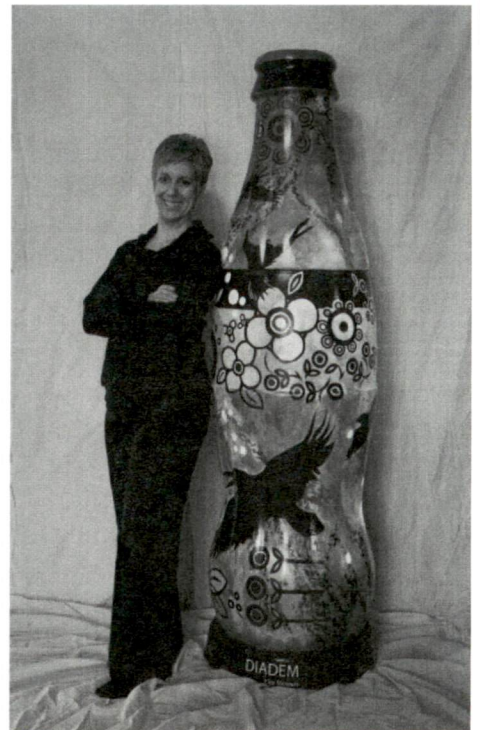
Finding the time to put her plan in motion was tough for Stewart, who is raising a family, teaching full-time at CNC and is also studying for her Masters of Arts Education at Simon Fraser Univer-

sity.

"I'm very happy with how it turned out," she said. "It's great to be acknowledged as an intellectual and talented person who has worked on a display so others can see it. It's great to be connected to so many amazing Aboriginal people."

Stewart said she will pass on what she has learned to her CNC students.

"I can go to my classes and show them the process," she said. "If they can figure out a sketch, they can figure out a Coke bottle."



Kim Stewart with her design