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# *News Release      Communiqué*

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## **Government of Canada Celebrates Major Improvements to Newly Named Kwisitis Visitor Centre at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve**

*Collaboration with First Nations marks new era for centre*

**Ucluelet, BC, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011** –Today, major improvements to the newly named Kwisitis Visitor Centre at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve were completed. These were made possible in large part by funding from the Government of Canada’s Economic Action Plan. As part of today’s celebration, the centre was re-named the Kwisitis Visitor Centre and a carved post was unveiled by the Yuu-thlu-ilth-ath First Nation.

“It is a pleasure to celebrate a new era for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve’s much loved visitor centre. Government of Canada investments in this project provide new exciting interactive exhibits and ensure this building is ready to welcome millions of visitors in the years ahead,” said Dr. James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Alberni. “The name, carved post and exhibits could not have been possible without strong collaboration with the Yuu-thlu-ilth-ath and the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Working Group. I am grateful for their contributions and look forward to continuing to work closely together in the future.”

“World-class facilities like the Kwisitis Visitor Centre help Canadians connect to the natural wonders and rich cultural history that makes Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and our country as a whole so unique,” said the Honourable Peter Kent, Canada’s Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada. “Our Government values that connection, and is proud to celebrate this centre’s revitalization as just one of Canada’s important Economic Action Plan projects.”

This year, Parks Canada is proudly celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the first formal national park service organization in the world. Parks Canada is a world leader in managing protected areas and works to ensure that Canada’s treasured natural and historic heritage places are presented and protected for all Canadians to discover and experience. A total of \$374 million dollars was invested in the refurbishment of Parks Canada facilities within the framework of Canada’s Economic Action Plan.

For additional information, please see the accompanying backgrounder at [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca) under **Media Room**.

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