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FROM: Nkwusm Salish Language Revitalization Institute – Arlee, MT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ARLEE - The Nkwusm Salish Language Revitalization Institute is pleased to announce they have received support for a number of programs and improvements that will enable them to carry out their work on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Nkwusm is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to recreate a process whereby the Salish Language is passed from parent to child, elder to youth, in an effort to holistically preserve the language and to perpetuate the Salish tribal way of life and world view. Looking to the future, Nkwusm is dedicated to perpetuating the Salish Language through the creation of comprehensive educational programs that involve people of all ages. In order to fulfill this goal, an immersion school was created for pre-school and primary students, with the future to include students through high school.

The Nkwusm Salish Language Revitalization Institute, located in Arlee, MT, opened its immersion school to its first group of young children in the fall of 2002 with a preschool and kindergarten; it now enjoys students from Pre-K through age 12. The school is a complete academic experience dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Salish Language. The curriculum is translated into the Salish Language and the children are then instructed in their native tongue, with the ultimate goal of creating conversationally fluent Salish speakers.

Nkwusm has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from a small, Ohio-based, family foundation with interests in health, education, and social services. This grant will be used to help develop Salish Language curriculum based around the changing seasons. This curriculum is a holistic, environmental and cultural avenue to educate young children in the Salish Language while fostering an awareness of where they live, who they are, their existence in the “web of life”, and respect and appreciation for the natural world. By using the natural environment to educate young children, learning is not only fun, but becomes much more relevant. The *Changing Seasons Curriculum* “themes” are carefully developed to incorporate the cultural and historical traditions of the Salish people. Each season is broken down into “focus areas” with the months of the year having weekly themes upon which the curriculum will be developed and implemented.

Nkwusm is also grateful to a private donor for a recent contribution in the amount of \$4,500 that will be used to purchase much-needed playground equipment for the school.

Nkwusm extends its deep appreciation for these donations. **For more information on Nkwusm, please contact Tachini Pete, Executive Director at (406) 726-5050 or visit the Nkwusm website at www.salishworld.com.**