



Doug LaFortune

Doug LaFortune was born in Bellingham, Washington on August 25th, 1953. He spent his childhood in the Cowichan Valley, on Vancouver Island, B.C.

Doug's family is of Salish ancestry. His father is a member of the Lummi Band near Bellingham, Washington and his mother is a member of the Tsawout First Nation in Saanichton, BC. His grandfather, Richard Harry, was the Tsawout First Nation's last Hereditary Chief.

LaFortune's artistic training includes studying at Camosun College and as an apprentice of the renowned Salish carver Simon Charlie. LaFortune has been working as an artist in several mediums, including carving, drawing, painting, and serigraphy. LaFortune's artistic accomplishments amongst many include, a Salish Welcome Figure, presented to H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth at the Opening Ceremonies of the XV Commonwealth Games held in Victoria, B.C.; he was commissioned to paint the Thunderbird and Killer whale Dance Screen backdrop to be used at the ŁÁU, WELNEW Tribal School Cultural Village. Several of his totem poles stand in Duncan, B.C. At the University of Victoria, his welcome figures stand at the entrance of First Peoples House. In 2004, Doug in collaboration with master carver Charles Elliott carved two 30 foot totem poles for Butchart Gardens' 100th anniversary celebrations, Victoria, B.C. Doug's artwork is displayed at CFRN Broadcasting in Edmonton, Alberta and in various collections located in Japan, Europe and throughout the United States.