

## A LEGACY OF DANCE

**M**argaret Grenier, a FORED Director, is the daughter of a Gitksan Chief and Executive Director of Dancers of Damelahamid. The group is a traditional Gitksan dance group originally from the Skeena River of northern BC. In their performances, they present masked dances, stories and songs belonging to Chief Kenneth Harris, Margaret's father. The songs depict the industry, growth and development of Gitksan society.

In the Gitksan tradition, such songs and dances could only be performed by the ancient family lineages that owned them. The Dancers of Damelahamid acquired their right to perform these dances because Margaret's father is the traditional owner. The stories told through the dance convey the legends that form the core of environmental responsibility that has been central to Gitksan values and traditions for millennia.

