

# REMARKABLE WOMEN

*Honouring Women From Our Vancouver Communities*



*Photo courtesy The Siyamin Artist Cooperative*

*Pam Baker*



*Photo courtesy Lindsay Hubley*

*Virginia Johnston*

**Pam Baker**, ancestral name **Hi-mi-ka-las**, is of Squamish and Kwakiutl descent. Pam played women's fast pitch for 30 years with other Squamish youth. She also played basketball, lacrosse, and soccer. Due to sports injuries, she could no longer play and began her journey to become one of the most 'inspirational coaches', an honour bestowed upon her by the All Native Basketball Association of British Columbia. In 1988, she established her business, Touch of Culture, and developed self-esteem, life skills and cultural awareness workshops for Aboriginal youth. She is the coach of two North Shore Wolves, Intermediate, and Senior men, and hoping to start a new junior team. In 2009, Pam coached the North Shore Wolves Intermediate Basketball team to the All Native Championships.

**Virginia Johnston** is of Coast Salish and Ojibway descent from the Squamish and Brokenhead Nations. She is a youth ambassador, spokesperson, role model and mentor for the First Nations Snowboard Team. Included in her list of many accomplishments are being featured in the Aboriginal Sports Gallery at the BC Sports Hall of Fame, and recipient of the 2008 Proclamation for International Women's Day by Mayor Samuel Sullivan, in recognition of her sharing her personal story to get where she is in athletics. Going into her fourteenth season of snowboarding, she is one of the elite team competitors disciplined in FIS boardercross and will be training in half pipe and slope style. Most recently she was selected to be a 2010 Olympic Torchbearer in Qualicum, BC on November 2, 2009.