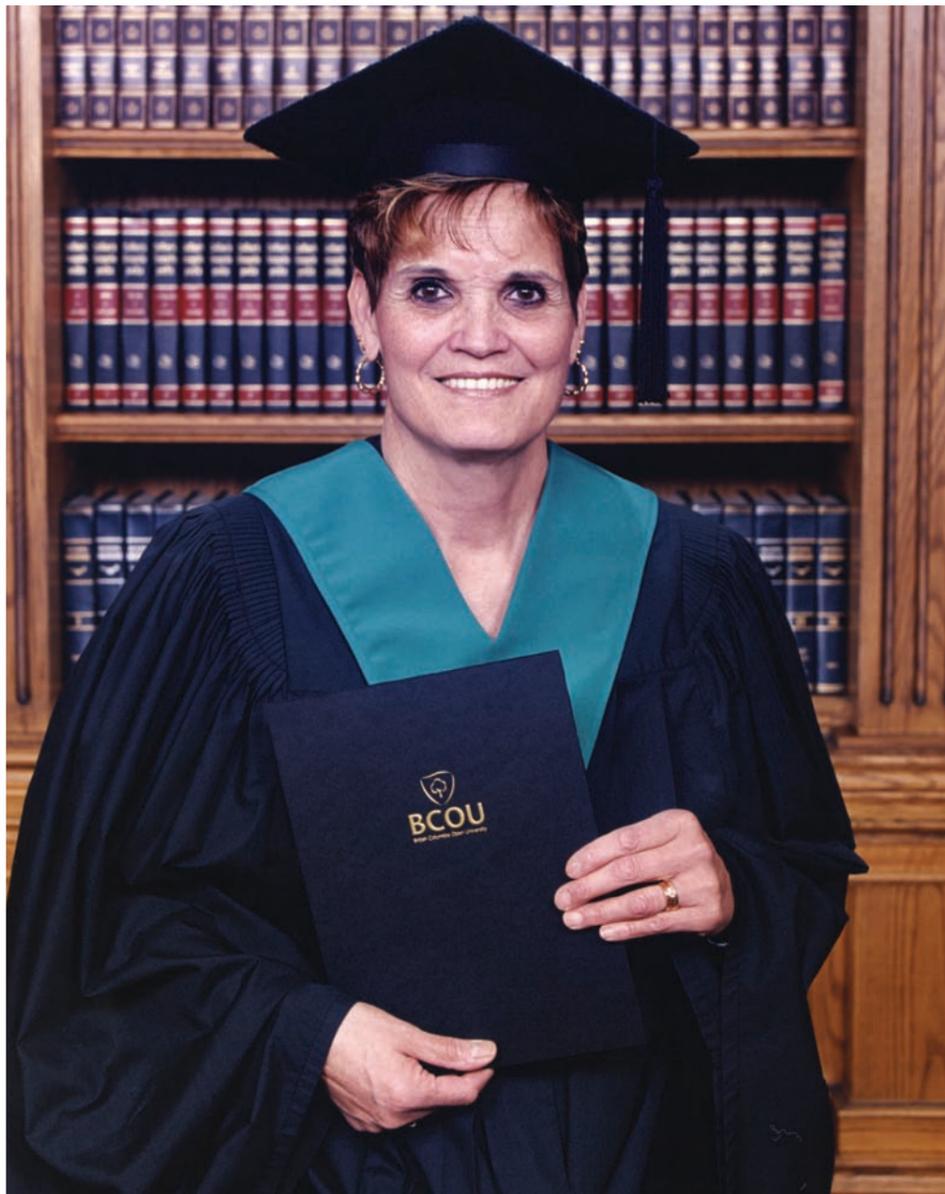


REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



DARLENE FRANCES POINT

Darlene Point is a residential school survivor. She attended the Convent in North Vancouver at the age of 5 and left at 18, in 1962. That same year, her brothers Eddie and Ernie just *knew* that if Darlene ran in the Pageant, she'd become the Buckskin Totem Princess of all First Nations. She ran, and indeed, she won!

Thus, Darlene plunged into the rich traditions of Musqueam, a culture rooted in commercial fishing. From canoe pulling to family sports, Darlene provides an unbreakable link in the ancestral chain, passing on knowledge from her mother and grandpa to her four children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren. She holds the Musqueam ties through her mother, Mary Jane (Molly) Campbell; her brother Ernest served as Chief of Musqueam for 14 years; and her husband of 43 years, Gerald Point, was also of Musqueam ties.

Darlene spent over 7 years serving her people as a home care attendant with knowledge in diabetes and foot care; then in 2005, she became the first in her community to attend Langara Community College. During her practicum at Vancouver Native Health Society she learned about substance abuse, mental health, chronic disease, homelessness and poverty. When she received her Certificate in Hospice and Palliative Care, she was the only Band Member to have achieved this level of certification.

Darlene has responded to life's challenges (including breast cancer) by becoming stronger and wiser. A healer, a mentor to youth and a support to her Elders, four words define her spirit – *understanding, healing, empathy and strength*. She is indeed a Remarkable Woman.