



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



LILA JOHNSTON

Lila Johnston is a bright light in the Squamish Nation community.

As 'Mum' to nine children she was a busy, active parent, and later, as her kids became busy with school, she worked for ten years at the Molly George Day Care. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, a loving aunt and a caring friend to our community elders.

Based upon her experience at the Kakawis Family Development Center, Lila supports the work of healing programs for women, family, and community. She has been an Elder Counselor to Langara Community College, Vancouver City College, and the Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society Healing Center. She has a 19 year history with the St. Anne Pilgrimage in Saskatchewan.

Since 1990, Lila has been an integral part of the Ta na wa Xwniwn ta a Ímats /"Teachings for Your Grandchildren" - the Squamish Language Elders Group who dedicate time to bring Skwxwú7mesh sníchn, the Squamish language, to the younger generations. Most recently, she sits in as Elder Advisor for the First Nations Court. As a lifelong parishioner at St Paul's Indian Catholic Church, she has worked in recent years to promote a positive relationship between the church and community throughout the Indian Residential School issues. Lila spends time visiting Squamish Nation members in hospital and bringing people who need help with transportation to and from medical appointments and hospital care. She has done this on a voluntary basis for 30 years.

Her kind good humour is a joy to all who share time with this Remarkable Woman.