



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



Photo by Ali Lohan

RAVEN-WING (LORELEI HAWKINS)

Cross-culturally adopted when she was young, Raven-Wing (Lorelei Hawkins) is committed to helping people come back to their culture and feel that they belong. She believes in the possibility of change and reconciliation and has volunteered her time to make the world a kinder place.

Educated with traditional teachings, Raven-Wing feels a responsibility to share her knowledge, especially with the young, including her own grandchildren and great grandchildren. She teaches simple truths – how to respect elders and how to respect oneself. She's helped many Vancouver street youth move on from destructive patterns, get clean, and live fulfilled lives. Often, the youth she has mentored have helped others in turn, creating a positive cycle of change.

Raven-Wing believes that people should know about aboriginal history, including the harms that were done – the sterilization of aboriginal women, suggested and forced abortions and forced adoptions of aboriginal children. She works to change the power imbalance between male and female and get back to aboriginal norms of mutual respect. It doesn't matter who you are, Raven-Wing will reach out to you. She believes that it takes everyone to make a difference, and that everyone is equal.

In 1986, Raven-Wing began teaching the Medicine Wheel Perspectives workshop at Carnegie Centre through the Cultural Sharing program. The workshops continue to this day, now at Raycam Community Centre through the Stepping Stone Vision. In 1981, Raven-Wing became founding Elder there.

Raven-Wing's work is all carried out on a volunteer basis. This Remarkable Woman regards it as a way to practice nonjudgmental compassion, and good, kind, gentle ways.