



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Indigenous Voices initiative launches at Vancouver Island Regional Library**



*Tuesday, January 8, Vancouver Island, BC:* Vancouver Island Regional Library's (VIRL) Sidney/North Saanich branch is getting set to host VIRL's first Indigenous Voices event. Tsawout Elder, Lorena Dulay will visit the branch on Friday, January 19 from 10:30 – 11:30 am to share her family history with library visitors.

"Indigenous Voices is an important part of our commitment to reconciliation for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our community," said VIRL's Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno. "The events being organized across our system are wonderful opportunities for people to learn from the lived experiences of the Elders, and to come away with a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures, histories, and stories."

In addition to her talk on January 19, Lorena will also visit the Sidney/North Saanich branch to discuss the following topics:

- **February 16:** Impact of residential schools on First Nations
- **March 16:** Healing the residential school traumas
- **April 20:** Energy therapy used by First Nations people many years ago

More information about these programs will be available closer to the event dates.

#### **About Lorena Dulay**

Lorena's traditional name is That-Sul-Wut from her great grandmother from Valdes Island, BC. Most of her time is spent with the Tsawout Craft Group either knitting, beading, making jewellery, or cedar weaving and the rest of her time is spent working in her community. She is a Reiki Master with over 20 years of experience and she offers drop-in Reiki treatments out of the Tsawout Health Dept.

#### **About Indigenous Voices**

As part of VIRL's efforts to facilitate reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community, we are working with Indigenous Elders across our system to



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share stories and skills related to Indigenous culture and experiences. The programming is based on the Elders' unique skills, interests, experiences, and passions. Some examples include storytelling, talking circles, drumming, and discussions on Indigenous cultures.

Throughout 2018, Indigenous Voices programming will roll out at 24 branches across the VIRL system. More information is available at [virl.bc.ca/indigenous-voices](http://virl.bc.ca/indigenous-voices).

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