



## **C7élksterís re Secwépemc ne Ckúftens ell ne Xqwelténs**

*Language & Culture Department*

### **Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Weykpt,

I am Diena Jules and am a member of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and my traditional names are Sundance Pipe Woman, Yellow Flower Woman, and Black Wolf Woman. I am proud to say that I have 2 daughters, and 5 grandchildren.

Paternal Grandparents: Late Joe Jules and Late Agnes Jules, nee Duncan

Maternal Grandparents: Late Thomas Casimir and Late Sadie (Felicity) Casimir, nee Leonard.

Parents: Late Clarence Jules KIB band councilor and chief, Governor General award, 2009-Cowboy Hall of Fame, Mary Delores Jules, nee Casimir, founder Kamloopa Pow-Wow, Silver Jubilee Award Recipient

Until I was about 4 years old we often lived up in the mountains with our big Clydesdales horses. Horses were always an integral part of our family life until I moved out on my own. Because my parents had 9 children and often raised other children, my grandfathers, my dad, uncles and brothers went hunting and fishing. My grandmothers helped my mom make clothes, plant and harvest the garden, get berries and medicines in the mountains and preserve the meat, vegetables and fruit for the winter.

From 1962 until 1967, I was a dayscholar at the Kamloops Indian Residential School and then I lived there in 1971.

As a teenager, I was a member of the Paul Creek Tribal Dancers with Uncle Mitch and Mildred Gottfriedson. We performed our Secwepemc songs and dances across BC and AB and, in 1975, we went as far as Quebec.

In 1975, I began my employment with the band in leadership roles in the Social Development and Education Departments.

In 1991 I graduated from the NITEP at UBC with my B.Ed., then in 1996, I graduated from the Ts'kel program at UBC in 1996 with my M.A. then worked as a teacher at Skelep School of Excellence.

I moved to Alberta then the Okanagan and returned to Kamloops in 2004 to work as the Education Manager. I tried to retire in 2017, then returned to work as the Museum Administrator and since February 2023, I work as the the Language and Culture Department Manager.

I am an Elder and Traditional Knowledge Keeper of the band and am a very spiritual person. I pray to the Creator for the health, safety and protection of our land, water, animals and ice, I live my values of showing respect and caring to all living things, but most of all, I take time to show my loved ones, especially my grandchildren, how much I love and value them. It is everyone responsibility to *be the change we wish to make in the world.*

Kukwstsésemc

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