



**Dr. Evelyn Voyageur, RN, BScN, PhD**

Evelyn Voyageur is of the Kwa-kwa-ka-wak Nation, of the Dwadainox tribe in British Columbia and has four children (Joy, Carl, Ivan and Ernest), 15 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. She speaks Kwa kwa la fluently.

Having returned to school over 45 years ago, Evelyn says, "I never dreamed of coming as far as I have or achieving such success." Through hard work and determination throughout her educational years, she received many awards; i.e., \$100 from DIA for having excellent marks, \$50 from I.O.D.E. (Victoria Chapter) for excellence in LPN training, \$1,500 from Provincial Aboriginal while attending University of Victoria (UVIC) for her BScN, and was one of the first recipients of the Award of Excellence in Nursing from the First Nation and Inuit Branch, of Health Canada.

Evelyn has a broad range of experience working in hospitals and communities in Alberta and B.C., as well as, having worked on nursing curricula with the UVIC and North Island College. Presently she is employed by North Island College teaching First Nations Cultural Awareness and is the Elder in residence. With such a wealth of knowledge, experience and Traditional Knowledge it is no wonder she receives numerous requests to speak to other Nursing Schools and organizations on this topic. She worked on the "Nursing in Aboriginal Communities in Canada" with UVIC and also the Safety Models.

Evelyn feels privileged to work with the Indian Residence School Society, where she counselled many survivors.

Today, she continues to advocate the Schools of Nursing to make their curricula more cultural friendly, so that every nurse who works with First Nations' people or another race can make a difference by understanding the people they administer to. Evelyn says, "She wants to see all Schools of Nursing teaching Cultural Safe Practices."