



Leslie McGarry is a member of the Kwagiulth First Nation, one of several bands within the Kwakwaka'wakw territory, located on the northeast part of Vancouver Island and she is grateful for the generous hospitality of the Lekwungen People.

Born and raised on Vancouver Island, Leslie represents the 5th generation of her family to work in the field of Cultural Awareness, a legacy that began with her Great-Great Grandfather, George Hunt, who worked with anthropologist, Franz Boaz to record the cultural heritage and practices of the Kwakwaka'wakw People. Leslie is also a Great- Granddaughter of the late Chief Mungo Martin and the eldest Granddaughter of the late Chief Henry Hunt, both of whom were internationally renowned artists as well as Master Carvers for the Royal BC Museum's totem pole restoration project. The Royal BC Museum is also home to a replica of a Cedar Big House belonging to Chief Jonathan Hunt, Leslie's paternal Great-Grandfather. Leslie's Grandmother, the late Helen Hunt was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, where Leslie was employed for twenty-six years. Leslie's mother, Shirley (Hunt) Ford is an artist in her own right and has created button blankets for international museums as well as the Royal BC Museum and many private collectors.

With this inspirational legacy as a guiding force, and working with many community partners, Leslie provides opportunities to enhance and/or develop awareness and appreciation for the cultural diversity within Canada's Aboriginal Peoples. In her capacity as an Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Leslie relays information that reflects an Indigenous perspective from pre-contact to post-contact history with cultural authenticity and integrity.

From developing school programs in cooperation with the Royal BC Museum to providing cultural support for the BC Legislative Assembly's Parliamentary Education Office, Leslie provides a cultural component derived from the stories, legends, values and traditions that have been passed down through her family for countless generations. Drawing on her own family history and cultural background, Leslie offers guided tours of the Royal BC Museum's First Peoples Gallery, providing her audience with an opportunity to enhance their experience of the exhibits.

BUTTON BLANKETS:

Following the guidance given by her mother, Leslie has created button blanket wall hangings for local schools, and organizations, with one of her works, currently on display in the lobby of the David Lam Auditorium at the University of Victoria.