

49 LANGARAS VISIONARIES WHO HAVE MADE AND IMPACT

BY: LANGARA COLLEGE

From founders to change makers and visionaries, Langara College recently honoured 49 Langarans who have made an impact at Langara, in their profession, and in the community over the past 49 years.

The award winners included several Indigenous former students, past and present employees, community partners, and outstanding faculty. Others work closely with Indigenous communities in various capacities. Langara is also known as *snəwəyəl leləm̓*, a name given to it by the Musqueam.

Charlene Taylor, the first Indigenous woman to hold the title of director at the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, was one of Langara's Outstanding Alumni Award winners in 2018. Taylor graduated from the Arts & Science program in 1979, and was part of the 49 Langarans Awards selection committee.

“Langara is much more than a college, it is a family,” said Taylor. “Langara provides a sense of belonging and provides valuable experience and learning opportunities to students and alumni alike. Langara has forged meaningful partnerships both with First Nations and the community at large.”

“49 Langarans is our opportunity to recognize the exceptional members of our community over the last 49 years,” said Dr. Lane Trotter, President and CEO, Langara College. “The 49 recipients are ambassadors for the College, and represent the impact that Langara has had in the community; it’s our pleasure to celebrate their achievements and our contribution to their success.”

Meet the 49 Langarans at www.beyond49.langara.ca and start your own journey at Langara today. The award winners included:



H AISLA COLLINS

Haisla Collins, a woman of mostly Tsimshian and Celtic ancestry, is the Director of the Aboriginal Artisan Program at Carnegie Community Centre and an expressionist artist at Raven’s Eye Studio. She also serves as the Community Leader at Indigenous Women Artists, a not-for-profit collective that brings together female indigenous artists for collaborative works. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and spent six years

as the lead singer and harmonica player for the blues & roots band Haisla with Nasty, Brutish and Short. A champion of community and the arts, Haisla has also been a Project Manager at The Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts, Coordinator of the Aboriginal Artisan Program at Carnegie Community Centre, and Director of Raven’s Eye Artist Collective Mentorship Program.



G LEN COULTHARD

Glen Coulthard is an Associate Professor in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies and Political Science departments at the University of British Columbia. He has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Victoria and is an accomplished writer in Indigenous and contemporary political theory. His book *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* has won multiple awards, including the Caribbean Philosophical Association’s Frantz Fanon Award for Outstanding Book, the Canadian Political Science Association’s CB Macpherson Award for Best Book in Political Theory, and the Rik Davidson Studies in Political Economy Award for Best Book. Glen is also a co-founder of Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, a decolonial, Indigenous land-based post-secondary program operating on his traditional territories in Denendeh (Northwest Territories).



W AWMEESH HAMILTON

Wawmeesh Hamilton, a member of the Hupacasath First Nation, is an Associate Producer with CBC Radio Vancouver. He is a contributing writer for CBC Indigenous, CBC Radio, The Tyee, and the National Observer. Wawmeesh was also a reporter and photographer at The Discourse, where he wrote about reconciliation and urban Indigenous people and issues.

A graduate of the Langara Journalism program and the UBC Graduate School of Journalism, Wawmeesh is an advocate for increased deeper journalism in Canada about Indigenous people, communities and issues. He has worked with Journalists for Human Rights to cover Indigenous youth projects across Canada and he lectures nationally to journalism students about deepening their knowledge about Indigenous people and communities and about creating relationships with them. He was the architect of and contributor to the 2018 Jack Webster Award-nominated *The Discourse — CBC Indigenous Series Reconciliation in small towns: Is it happening?* He has won multiple awards for both his writing and photography from the BC-Yukon Community Newspaper Association and the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.



G AIL SPARROW

Gail Sparrow is a former Chief of the Musqueam First Nation. An alumna of Langara, she returned to the College as an Elder-in-Residence, helping to provide a supportive environment for Indigenous students. She played a key role in strengthening the connection between the Musqueam and the College, educating the Langara community on the history, culture, and teachings of the Musqueam and the land on which the College is located. Gail was also instrumental in Langara receiving its Musqueam name, *snəwəyəl leləm̓*, which means house of teachings. Outside of Langara, she has been a passionate community advocate as a Native Employment Specialist with Canada Employment and Immigration Centre, Project Manager with Tribal America Consulting Los Angeles California, Community Development Director with the Musqueam Indian Band, Owner with LIFT Computer Institute, and as the President and Owner of Native Personnel Services.

