

November 2025 Speaker Series

Date: Tuesday November 26th at 2:00 pm
Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney

Speakers: Mavis Underwood

Topic: TBD

Bio: Mavis Underwood

Mavis is a continuous learner. She began her post-secondary education with a B.A. in Child and Youth Care in 1978, gained her Teacher's Certification in 1980 and a Sexual Abuse Counsellor's Certification in 1984. She then completed her master's degree in Indigenous Governance in May, 2018 and is now working towards a PH. D in Anthropology.

Her career has been rich and varied but with most employment focused on contributing to First Nations social change and betterment. She was the first Tutor Advocate for First Nation's learners in S.D. 63 and across the province. She became a certified teacher and taught First Nations Studies and related subjects at Stelly's Secondary School. She followed this working for the Province of BC as the first Aboriginal Deputy Director of First Nations Child and Family Services. Later she became Executive Director of NIL/TUO Child and Family Services.

She helped mobilize strong community volunteerism, local business engagement and government support for Tsawout WSA NEC hosting the 39th Annual BC Elders meeting in 2015.

Her achievements have been recognized with numerous awards including the Derek Thomson Award for contributions to Social Policy change, A Woman of Distinction Award for Community Leadership, and a Canada 125 Medal. Although her biography notes personal recognition, Mavis





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is rooted in the influences of her First Nations grandparents, parents and many Indigenous women and men who provided encouragement and role modelling for traditional values of compassion, hard work, and helpfulness.

Realizing potential. For all women.