

Victoria Johnson

Tlingit Language and Cultural Specialist

My name is Victoria Johnson. I was born and raised in Juneau. My clan is the T'akdeintaan (Sea Pigeon), X'aakw Hít (Freshwater Marked Sockeye House), Hoonah, Alaska. I have been practicing Tlingit Culture most of my life, through song, dance, weaving, regalia making, harvesting and preserving of our traditional foods. Most of my knowledge comes from relatives of Hoonah (Sarah Jewell, Anita Lafferty, Jenny Lindoff, Lilly White, Amy Marvin, Katherine Mills, and Jessie Johnnie). I don't consider myself a master of anything. I consider myself a "Jack of all trades". My Past Experiences:

I have been a part of Tlingit song and dance groups for twenty five years. As a storyteller, I toured with Sealaska Heritage Institute's Naa Kahidi Theater for two years. I represented the Tlingit Nation at the Grand Opening of the Smithsonian American Indian Museum in Washington D.C. I have given many presentations on Tlingit culture to Holland American tour ships cruising through Glacier Bay National Park Huna Totem. For ten years I volunteered as host for the *Raven Tales* evening event at Juneau Douglas High School to support fund raising for the Early Scholar's Program so that students could travel to different states to explore colleges. In addition, I have participated in three plays with Perseverance Theatre: *Battles of Fire and Water* by David Hunsaker, *Gunakadeit*, and *The Defenders of Alaska Native Country* by Ishmael Hope.

For over nine years I have worked within the Juneau School District as a Cultural Specialist. I am currently learning the Tlingit language. My teachers, past to present, are Anita Lafferty, Paul Jackson Sr., John and Carolyn Martin Sr., Florence Marks-Sheakley, Fred White and Marsha Hotch.

