

Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams

Lil'wat Nation, British Columbia



Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams is Professor Emerita of Indigenous Education, Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Victoria and Canada Research Chair in Education and Linguistics. She has been living and breathing the Calls to Action on education and language since before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was ever imagined. She built her career on the principle that quality education for Indigenous children must be characterized by strong cultural teachings alongside a Euro-Western education and decolonialism.

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Valerie Jerome is a Canadian Olympian, educator and political candidate who has built a legacy of contribution to Canadian athletics, Black Canadian studies, and environmental politics. In 1959, at the age of 15, she set Canadian track records, winning a bronze medal at the Pan American Games. The following year, she joined her brother, legendary Canadian track and field runner Harry Jerome, on Canada's Olympic team in Rome, Italy. Valerie attended UBC to become an educator, graduating with a Bachelor of Education in 1976 and during her 35-year teaching career she worked for the advancement of Black Canadian Studies. Jerome continued her leadership in athletics, spending 35 years as a track and field official taking on roles of chief judge in Olympic, Commonwealth and World Championship competitions. In addition to being politically active she has been an active supporter of many causes and the recipient of several awards and freely gives her time to speak to various audiences with regard to racism.