

# BIO

## Jodi Simkin Executive Director

Jodi Simkin began her work in First Nations communities during her studies at the Secwepemc Cultural Education/Simon Fraser University program located on the Kamloops Indian Reserve. As a trained archaeologist, she worked on a variety of projects that took her throughout the Shuswap territory. In 2003, she began at the University of British Columbia, initially with the University Neighborhoods Association and eventually as an administrator for the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. Her dedication to community outreach and enthusiasm for community engagement helped enhance established events like the Apple Festival reach record numbers, attracting an estimated 25,000 visitors over the two-day festival! From 2006 through 2008, Jodi chaired the UBC Attractions Committee which represented a variety of community stakeholders from leading on-campus attractions including the Museum of Anthology, the Belkin Art Gallery, the Nitobe Garden, the UBC Botanical Garden, and the Chan Centre. Jodi took on the role of Director of Emergency Social Services for the University between 2005 and 2007.

In 2008, Jodi assumed the helm of the Canucks Autism Network as Executive Director, and undertook the challenge of building the strategic vision and implementation plan for the new signature charity of the NHL Vancouver Canucks. Her work on this project earned her a 2010 Leadership Grant from Pricewaterhouse Cooper and, in 2011, international recognition as she was honoured with the Autism Superstar Award from Autism Today. In the same year, Jodi was also profiled in the national Globe and Mail's, "The Canadian Way of Giving".

Currently, Jodi is the Executive Director of the Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre in the Village of Cape Mudge on Quadra Island, as well as the Director of Standing Together – Tribal Journeys 2017. She remains determined to steer a strategic and sustainable path forward while developing and implementing cultural heritage programs and services to help support local revitalization efforts.

Jodi has taken an active role in her new community sitting as an Appointed Member of the Rivercorp Tourism Advisory Committee, Chair of the Campbell River Creative Industries Council, and volunteer with the Quadra Island Emergency Social Services. She is a past presenter at the Learned Society and a life-time member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Most recently she was appointed to the Council of the British Columbia Museums Association.