

## Is this information confidential?

Yes. It will be treated like all personal information collected by Island Health.

Read more about how we protect your Privacy and Confidentiality here:

[islandhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/information-stewardship-access-privacy/privacy-confidentiality](https://islandhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/information-stewardship-access-privacy/privacy-confidentiality)

If you have questions about privacy, please contact Indigenous Health at [IndigenousHealth@islandhealth.ca](mailto:IndigenousHealth@islandhealth.ca)

## Can I withdraw my self-identification?

Yes, you can ask our registration staff to remove your self-identification at any time.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

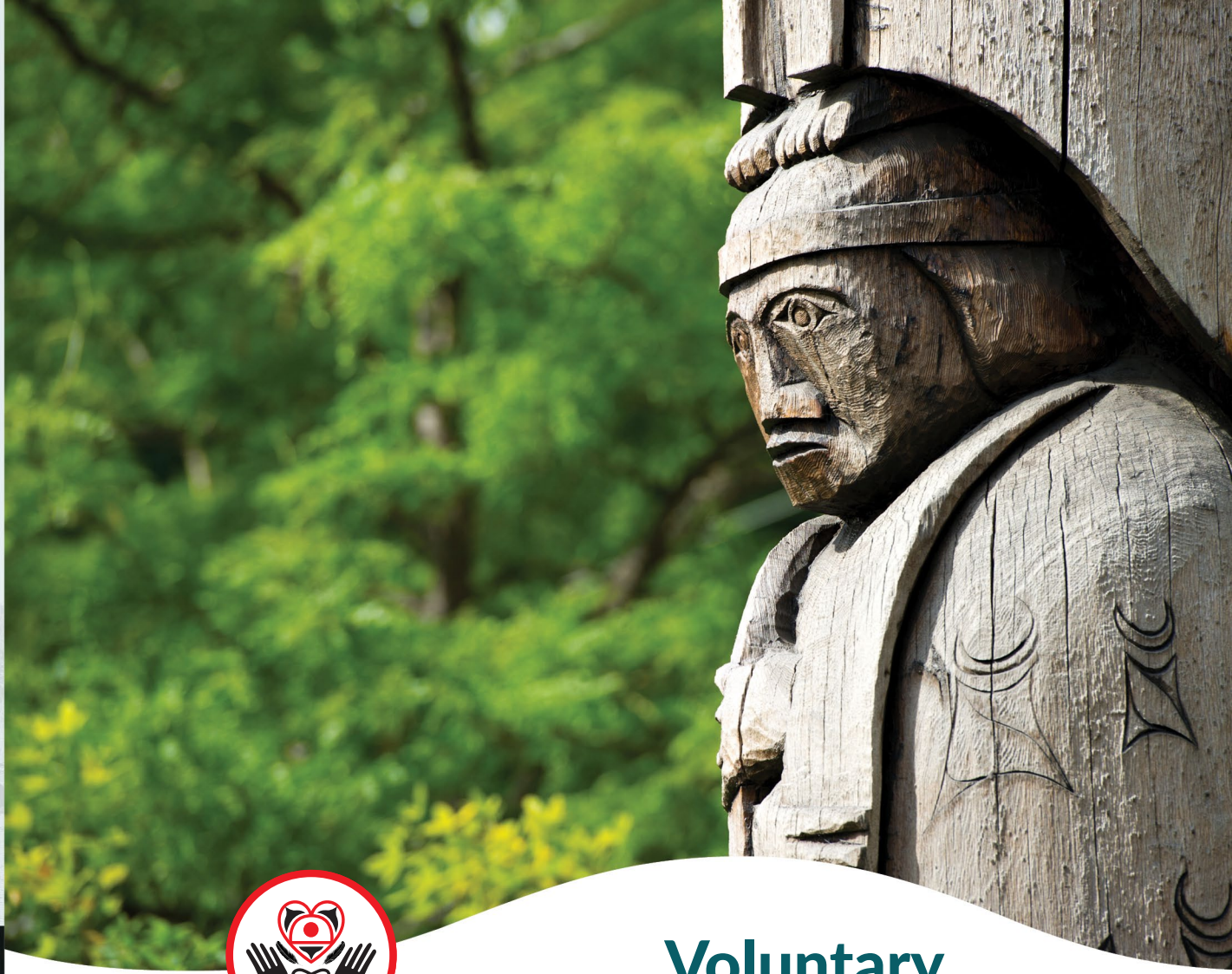


about Indigenous Self-Identification and Indigenous Health Services, scan the QR code, or visit: [islandhealth.ca/isi](https://islandhealth.ca/isi)



Salmonberry plant

A Métis sash. Photo by Métis Nation BC



Front cover photograph depicts a detail from the "Cedar Woman and Man" totem by Hwunu'metse (Simon Charlie) 1919–2005, from Kwa'mutsun, part of the Quw'utsun' Tribes. The totem is located in Duncan, BC.

Inventory #: 9-90989

# Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification

*A confidential self-identification process for patients and residents who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.*





# Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification

Island Health is committed to improving access to care, and providing culturally safe services to all Indigenous Peoples living on Vancouver Island and other regions we serve.

One way we are working to improve services is by asking every person who registers at Island Health if they wish to self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

This is based on how you define your identity and is not based on providing identifying documentation (such as an Indian Status card etc.).

## What are the benefits of self-identifying?

Voluntarily self identifying as Indigenous helps us proactively offer you access to Indigenous specific services, such as an Indigenous Liaison Nurse (ILN) or Indigenous Patient Navigator (IPN) if available at your

care site. If you are Indigenous, you can request these services at anytime whether or not you choose to voluntarily self-identify at registration.

This information will also help Island Health view the overall health status of Indigenous peoples on Vancouver Island, and see where we can improve access and responsiveness of programs and services. We will not be using self-identification information to look at overall health status, etc. until we work with Indigenous communities to create an Indigenous data governance framework.

## Who can self-identify?

If you have Indigenous ancestry, you may self-identify. No documentation is necessary.

## What is the process to Self-Identify?

- The Registration Clerk will first ask if you identify as an Indigenous person.
- If you say “yes”, the clerk will then ask you if you identify as First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or Indigenous from outside of Canada.

- If you say “no”, the clerk will record your answer and move on with your registration.
- If you do not know or are unsure, you can ask to be reminded the next time you register, otherwise you will not be asked again.
- You can always ask our registration staff to update your self-identification at any time.

## I don't feel comfortable answering this question. Can I choose to not answer?

Yes. Choosing to self-identify is completely voluntary. You can simply state you do not wish to answer the question.

## Will I be treated differently if I self-identify as Indigenous?

Self-Identifying as Indigenous will not affect the level of care you receive. The purpose of self-identifying is to ensure all Indigenous people have the opportunity to connect with the Indigenous Health Services available at their care site (services may vary by site).

## I am not Indigenous, why am I being asked this question?

We ask all people registering at Island Health if they wish to self-identify as Indigenous – no assumptions are made about a person's identity. If you do not identify as an Indigenous person, the Registration Clerk will record this and you will not be asked this question again.



A Tzinquaw dancer



Albie Charlie, a member of Cowichan Tribes



Indigenous Peoples' Day in Kwakwaka'wakw traditional territory

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

