

Is this information confidential?

Yes. It will be treated like all personal information collected by Island Health. Any access to, use of, and disclosure of your personal information must comply with the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION...



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



Salmonberry plant



A Métis sash. Photo by
Métis Nation BC

A detail from the "Cedar Woman and Man" totem by Hwunul'metse (Simon Charlie) 1919-2005, from Kwa'mutsun, part of the Quw'utsun' Tribes. Duncan, BC.



Inventory #: 9-90989-1

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.



A Tzinquaw dancer

Albie Charlie, a member of Cowichan Tribes

This information helps Island Health better understand how to improve delivery, access and responsiveness of programs and services to support the overall health status of Indigenous peoples on Vancouver Island.

We will work with Indigenous communities to create an Indigenous data governance framework that will, over time, inform programs and services that better meet the needs of Indigenous patients.

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 self-identify as Indigenous in Canada.
- If you say “yes”, the clerk will then ask you if you identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.
- 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.



Indigenous Peoples' Day in Kwakw̱a'wakw traditional territory

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. A goal of the self-identification program is to ensure First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people have the opportunity to connect with Indigenous Health Services available on-site (services may vary by site).

If 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.

Can I withdraw or update my self-identification?

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

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH