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Donna May Modeste's Hul'qumi'num' name is Qwuthqwithulwut. She is the first to graduate from Simon Fraser University with a

knowledge she wants to help save the Hul'qumi'num' language from

Donna grew up at Porlier Pass (xi'xnupsum'), British Columbia where she became a commercial fisher at the age of nine. She would sell her rock cod and salmon to the local fish buyer for 10 cents a pound.

Donna is the creator of the Meli series, and author of tth'atth'uhwum' slhap which was based on her life events as a teenager aboard a seine boat fishing for herring and sockeye salmon. Her stories are specifically written to help learners of the language and history. While at SFU Donna was fortunate to study with some amazing and esteemed elders of her language and culture. Donna May Modeste believes that story-telling is an important way of teaching in her culture.