



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** June 12, 2019  
**CONTACT:** Danielle Lepping, Librarian  
360.417.8500 x7752; [DLepping@nols.org](mailto:DLepping@nols.org)  
**RE:** Native Voices at the Port Angeles Main Library  
**ATTACHED:** *NV\_LOGO\_STACKED.png, nlm-logo.png, ALA-logo.jpg*

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) has been selected in a competitive application process to host *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness*, a traveling exhibition to U.S. libraries, from June 20 through July 31 at the Port Angeles Main Library. This exhibit explores the interconnectedness of wellness, illness, and cultural life for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Stories drawn from both the past and present examine how health for Native People is tied to community, the land, and spirit. Through interviews, Native People describe the impact of epidemics, federal legislation, the loss of land, and the inhibition of culture on the health of Native individuals and communities today.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) developed and produced *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness*. The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in partnership with NLM, tours the exhibition to America's libraries. As part of the exhibition award, NOLS received a \$250 programming grant, virtual training, and publicity materials. Support for the application of this exhibit came from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and Peninsula College House of Learning (Longhouse).

In celebration of the exhibit, the Port Angeles Main Library will also host a three part program series. The first event, *Medicinal Plants*, will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at 6pm. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Elder Lana Kerr will give an interactive presentation on common medicinal

plants that grow practically in our own backyards. Lana will discuss the when, where, and what of Native plants and how to turn them into medicine and nutrition.

“*Hishuk’ish Tsawalk*” – *Everything Is One: Revitalizing Northwest Coast Indigenous Food Systems*, will be held on Friday, July 12 at 6:30pm. Dr. Charlotte Coté will discuss how Northwest Coast Indigenous people are actively engaging in decolonization and self-determination through the enactment of food sovereignty. Through food sovereignty strategies, Indigenous people are restoring and reaffirming healthy and sustainable relationships with their homelands and placing ancestral ecological knowledge at the center of these decolonization efforts.

The final program in the series, *Discovering the Stories Within Us*, will be held on Thursday, July 18 at 6:30pm. Everyone has a story, or many stories! In this dynamic and inspiring session, Monique Gray Smith will share her personal story of recovery, including her journey of sobriety and how it led her to become a writer and storyteller. Monique will explain how she captures ideas, moments, and feelings and turns them into stories for both young and not-so-young readers. She will also read from her books and share how the stories were discovered and unfolded over time.

### **For More Information**

Additional funding for this program is provided by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library. For additional information about the *Native Voices* exhibit or program series, visit [www.nols.org/native-voices](http://www.nols.org/native-voices), call 360.417.8500, or email [Discover@nols.org](mailto:Discover@nols.org). The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street.

The title 'NATIVE VOICES' is rendered in a stylized, geometric font. Each letter is filled with various patterns of lines, dots, and solid colors. The colors used include teal, yellow, red, black, and white. The letters are arranged in two rows: 'NATIVE' on top and 'VOICES' on the bottom. The 'O' in 'VOICES' is a prominent circular element with concentric rings and a central white circle. The 'S' in 'VOICES' is a solid red shape with a white outline and a white dot pattern.

NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS  
OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

*The Native Voices exhibit will be on display at the Port Angeles Main Library from June 20 – July 31.  
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