

## Celebrating International Women's Day

Marion Cumming

*July 26, 1936–August 1, 2022*



Marion Cumming had a rich community of loving family, friends and colleagues across Canada and around the world. One of her greatest gifts was her kind and gentle way of making people feel loved and respected. A Christian Scientist since her teenage years, she lived a life of deep faith, spirituality and gratitude. She truly saw the world as one, and

her words shall echo long in the hearts of those who knew her: “We Are All Family”.

Marion was a lifelong artist, drawing and painting until her final days. Her art was an integral part of her wide-ranging activism in support of Indigenous rights, the environment, community, and heritage preservation over many decades.

She was born in Toronto, and lived in southern Ontario, near Fredericton, New Brunswick, and finally settling in Victoria in the 1990s. In her early 20s, Marion studied and taught art to children in Mexico; this was an important experience in the formation of her views on art, healing and human rights.

Marion and her husband Bruce (d. 2008) were among the first Canadians in the land return movement in the early 1990s, gifting their 280-acre farm near Fredericton to the Wolastoqiyik people.

“Chikawich Sacred Land”, Marion’s Oak Bay home and garden on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, and her “Qhahtumtun” property on Quw’utsun territories, were both donated to the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. She hoped that these examples would inspire others to consider doing the same.