

***Tsekonámus Losí* Rosemary Stager-Wallace** is the Executive Director at Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS). Appointed in November 2021, Rosemary brings extensive experience in administration and Indigenous health care to this important organization. A passionate proponent of living a decolonized life, she was attracted to the position by the opportunity its new Healing Centre presented in terms of bringing land-based healing and traditional Indigenous knowledge to the urban Indigenous community of Vancouver.

Prior to joining VAHS, Rosemary served as Health Director for the Southern Stl’atl’imx Health Society (SSHS) from 2015 to 2021. Under her leadership, SSHS adopted a vision of providing Stl’atl’imx-enhanced holistic health services and a mission to weave traditional wellness into the services it delivers to the communities of N’Quatqua, Samahquam, Skatin and Xa’xtsa. She was recognized for this work with the 2016 First Nations Health Directors Association (FNHDA) Inspiration Award for Grounding Work Within Culture and Tradition.

While at SSHS, she guided the expansion of its health and wellness services, developing a team of nearly 40 staff and contractors to deliver innovative, culturally grounded programming. Designed to strengthen SSHS’s members’ cultural and community connections, these programs and projects included the Native American Music Award-winning *Kindness Project* CD and *The Nt̓ákmen Calendar* field guide to food and medicine plants, and opportunities to engage in—and learn—traditional ceremonies.

Rosemary’s vision for VAHS’s is to grow its reputation as a leader in Indigenous health care by developing innovative opportunities for land-based healing that enrich the organization’s culturally grounded services. Her ultimate goal is an empowered and connected urban Indigenous community in Vancouver that embraces traditional ways as the foundation for emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.

The daughter of late Stl’atl’imx Hereditary Chief Allen Stager, Rosemary has always been drawn to politics as a path to improving indigenous lives. A citizen of Líl̓wat Nation, she is a committed advocate and leader, having served as a council member in her home community since 2011. Among her accomplishments was the successful negotiation of the Whistler Blackcomb Master Development Agreement. She has sat on numerous committees and boards, and has worked with renowned Indigenous leaders, such as *talalsámkin siyám* Chief Bill Williams, whom she continues to work with today at VAHS.

Rosemary has been an active member of the FNHDA Board representing the Vancouver Coastal Region since 2019. The mother of four adult children, and former foster mom to four children, she shares her life Vancouver with her husband, *Án̓wasúlmec* Brett Wallace. An enthusiastic home chef, Rosemary enjoys preparing traditional Stl’atl’imx foods for family and friends.

For More Information

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Rosemary Stager-Wallace, please contact:

**Sonya Hwang**

Ki Communications

T: 604-902-1977

E: sonya@kicommunications.ca