

# Eleanor Brass Collection

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The collection was donated to the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in 1997. Its current home is in the Regina Campus Library of the First Nations University of Canada.

The collection consists of (but is not limited to):

- Conference agendas
- Personal letters
- Magazine articles
- Newspaper articles
- Cultural stories
- Photos and pamphlets

Each drawer has an index of items. **Indexes are located in the first file folder from the left in each drawer.** Please keep them there.

**Please keep the documents in the order they are found and put the folders back in their original location.** The order of this collection contributes to its historical significance.

The original documents are housed in our Special Collection room. If you wish to refer to those documents please ask a library staff member.



Eleanor Brass, August 1987.  
Roy Antal (Regina Leader-Post)

**Eleanor Brass** was born on the Peepeekisis Reserve on May 1, 1905. Her ancestors included two treaty signers, Chief Gabriel Cote and Chief Okanese. She attended high school in Canora, but went to work before graduation, and in 1925 married Hector Brass, also from Peepeekisis.

Concerned about the difficulties facing First Nations people, Brass sought to redress them and to educate the White public. In 1944 she became the first woman executive to serve as the secretary-treasurer of the Association of Indians of Saskatchewan; she also helped to establish and run groups like the Indian Friendship Centre in Regina. For several years she was employed by the provincial government to advance Native employment.

After retirement, she worked in Alberta, becoming Director of the Peace River Friendship Centre and serving as correspondent for Alberta Native Communication. Her writing career had begun in 1949 when “Breaking the Barriers” appeared in the *Regina Leader-Post*. She wrote extensively in magazines and Newspapers, including columns in the *Leader-Post* and the *Melville Advance*. She authored two books: *Medicine Boy and Other Cree Tales* (1979) and the autobiographical *I Walk in Two Worlds* (1987).

In 1991 the University of Toronto gave Brass an honorary degree in Literature.

She died on May 20, 1992, in Regina.