

SASKATCHEWAN ABORIGINAL STORYTELLING 2015



Solomon Ratt was born on the Churchill River just a few kilometers north of Stanley Mission. He spoke only Cree until the age of six when he was taken away from his parents to attend a residential school in Prince Albert. He returned home from residential school every summer where he spoke Cree at all times because his parents spoke only Cree. They told him traditional stories, many of which he remembers to this day. He grew up in Stanley Mission (in the summer) and in Prince Albert where he went to elementary school (Queen Mary) and high school (Riverside Collegiate). He attended the University of Regina and First Nations University from which he got his BA-Ordinary (English), BA-Advanced (Linguistics) and MA (English). Since 1986 he has been a professor of Cree language studies with the First Nations University of Canada.

Solomon is also the author of *Woods Cree Stories* (University of Regina Press, 2014). So often, it is through humour that the big lessons in life are learned--about responsibility, honour, hard work, and respect. Cree people are known for their wit, so the tales in *Woods Cree Stories* are filled with humour. The book includes nine stories--including Boys Get Lost, Foolishness, and Animals Become Friends--and a Woods Cree-to-English glossary. All the stories are presented in Cree syllabics, Standard Roman Orthography, and English translation and can be enjoyed by those new to the language and more advanced learners.



Leah Marie Dorion is an interdisciplinary Métis artist raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A teacher, painter, filmmaker and published writer, Leah views her Métis heritage as providing her with a unique bridge for knowledge between all people. Leah holds a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Arts degree. She has numerous creative projects to her credit, including academic papers for the Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples, books for children, gallery showings of her art works, and numerous video documentaries that showcase

Métis culture and history. Leah's paintings honour the spiritual strength of Aboriginal women and the sacred feminine. Leah believes that women play a key role in passing on vital knowledge for all of humanity which is deeply reflected in her artistic practice. She believes women are the first teachers to the next generation.



John A. McDonald is an award-winning writer, artist, historian, musician, playwright, actor and activist originally from Prince Albert. A sixth-generation direct descendant of Chief Mistawasis of the Plains Cree, John's writings and artwork have been displayed in various publications, private and permanent collections and galleries around the world, including the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. John is one of the founding members of the P.A. Lowbrow art movement, and is the Vice-President of the Indigenous Peoples Artists Collective. He has served as guest editorial writer for several international publications. John is also the author of "The

Glass Lodge", published by Kegedonce Press, which was selected as one of the books for the 2009 First Nations Libraries Community Reads program. He has also contributed work to anthologies and secondary school textbooks.

John has studied, on scholarship, at England's prestigious University of Cambridge, where in July 2000 he made international headlines by symbolically 'discovering' and 'claiming' England for the First peoples of the Americas. John is also an acclaimed public speaker, who has presented in venues across the globe, such as the Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival, the Black Hills Seminars on Reclaiming Youth, The Appalachian Mountain Seminars, the Edmonton and Fort McMurray Literary Festival, the Eden Mills Writers Festival and at the Ottawa International Writers Festival. John was honoured with the opportunity to speak before the Governor General of Australia in Sydney, NSW in April of 2001. John was also included in the Aboriginal Artists and Performers Inventory for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, BC. John's artwork and writing have been nominated for several awards, including the 2001 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award, and in 2010 and 2013 he was honoured with grants from the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

February 24 7:00-9:00 pm at the Bison Café

1210 Central Avenue, Prince Albert

Free admission and everyone welcome

What is Aboriginal Storytelling?

For Aboriginal people, storytelling is both a gift, and a very old custom, sanctioned by the people to teach, entertain, and remember. Throughout February First Nations & Métis storytelling events are held in schools, libraries, and community organizations throughout Saskatchewan.



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