

# NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE OF TORONTO INC.

245 Gerrard St., East, Lower Level, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2G1

## WOMEN Spirit

VOL. 2 NO. 4

— THE VOICE OF NATIVE WOMEN —

OCTOBER 1988

### “Working Co-operatively for Native Women”

This conference to enhance opportunities for Native women was organized by the Native Women's Resource Centre and sponsored by the Secretary of State. The goal of the conference was to co-ordinate Native and non-native resources in the community. Some topics of discussion were training/education self-development, employment, and family support.

The conference participants broke into small working groups to discuss ideas and opinions. At the end of each session the groups came together to share their discoveries, to identify problem areas, and possible solutions, and to take steps to improve services in Toronto for Native women. We had excellent workshop leaders, among them were Ivy Chasky, Elder Gladys Kidd, Lee Maracle, Pauline Shirt Harper just to name a few. Following is part of the content and suggestions in some of the areas.

#### The Family

There is an inadequate inter-organizational referral system and lack of sharing of cultural information. The lack of communication between clients makes things intimidating for them and one of the difficult barrier clients face is the dependence on the bureaucratic system of social services. Another problem is government un-

derfunding of housing for families and especially for single-parent families. We could increase the understanding between organizations and field workers through joint orientations, workshops, newsletters, handbooks and training sessions. We should teach clients to use the system as a means to an end rather than an end in itself.

#### Health and Welfare

Some of the problems that we discussed were the poor communication between patient and doctor and the patronizing attitude the medical profession has towards Native people. The medical system can be unsatisfactory and inaccessible. The medical profession would rather see us depend on prescription drugs than use our traditional herbal medicines, for which they have little or no respect.

Mental health is an important issue because when we don't accept ourselves as Native we have problems with alcoholism and family breakdown.

To solve these medical problems we must educate ourselves, exercise our rights and learn to care for ourselves through nutrition and the medicine through Elders. We should also expand our knowledge of healers and find out who they are, as well as increase spiritual practice and share it with others.

#### Culture and Education

In the North the educational standards are quite low, not to say that they are any better in the city. Conflicts arise between non-Native and Native ways. The non-Native way does not provide our children with a sound foundation of their heritage.

We need to invite youths to the Women's Circle to teach them about their Native ways and the care of our elders. We should also recognize the values of formal and informal education. We could send our children to the non-Native schools while

NATIVE WOMEN RESOURCE  
CENTER  
is having their  
OPEN HOUSE  
October 27, 1988  
Time: 12:00-5:00  
*Refreshments and Information  
Please drop in, show your support.*

teaching them traditional ways ourselves.

The good points about this workshop were the participation by everyone, the solutions that were discussed, and closeness among our people, especially the women in the circle. It was truly an inspiration for all.

Overall it was very well organized. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that came to participate and support us. You have aided us in the overall developing of the Native Women Resource Centre by helping us to clarify important tasks we should be focusing on. Meegwetch to all for everything!

#### Letter of Introduction

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Debora Sandy, and I am replacing Marguerite Letrouneau as Family Counsellor for the Native Womens Resource Centre, my hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

I will be working with Native Women and their families. Some of the areas I hope to be involved in are: crisis intervention, one to one counselling, information and referral, housing, and employment search.

I would very much appreciate if I could meet you and see how we could work better together. Please call me to set up a time at your convenience.

Debora Sandy  
Family Worker

### Native's Women's Resource Centre New 1988 Board of Directors

President: Dawn Smoke  
Vice President: Lidia Somers  
Treasurer/Secretary: Brenda Simon  
Directors: Jacqueline Rosen  
Susan Gibbs  
Betty Belanger

# Land, a Native Perspective

Land, an English word describing part of the earth. To Native people of this land North America, the earth is our Mother. Land and all natural elements contained therein are our meaningful spiritual connection with the Creator. Before colonization the earth (the natural world) gave us all we needed. Since technology impaired our mother earth, our fundamental needs are clean water, unpolluted air, natural foods. This is no more.

When we the Native people found the Europeans on our shores we happily shared the land with them. We were managing our own lives, with our own leaders, political systems, and economic and social developments girded by a spirituality that bound us to creation. Creation in the land, air and water.

Europeans brought with them materialistic values, new to us aboriginal people. Our spiritual values were oppressed. Our responsibility to care for this land was bought for profit. Prior to this time our ancestors lived in harmony with creation. This is no more.

Our sovereign rights are in the spirit of the land. We still have the belief which was bestowed on us as aboriginal people; that we must hold the earth in sacred trust

## Are You Interested in Your Child's Development?

Parents Helping Parents is a program developed by the Department of Public Health. This project helps develop optimal parent-infant attachments. Mothers are from a variety of backgrounds. Some of the participating mothers are Native Canadians. We aid in the growth of the toddlers/infants' intellectual, emotional and social development. It is taught to these mothers by a Trained Parent Educator, ideally of our own background. This service delivery comes in the form of home visits. They will give instruction in health care, nutrition and medical needs for your baby. They will spend about an hour during the day with you and your little one. This of course would be at your convenience. Who are these Parent Educators? They are women from various language and cultural backgrounds. Some of these women are of low income and have children of their own. If you are interested in this program or require more information contact:

Theresa Desormeaux, a Native Women  
Tuesday-Thursday  
392-0936  
Central Resources  
Community Preventive Health Section  
Parents Helping Parents Project  
(416) 392-7451

for the benefit of our future, our children. We are still fighting for the rights our ancestors died for. We are still waging war to regain our lands, to heal the old wounds imposed on our Motherland.

We understand we cannot go back, but we pray for those who do not understand when we say, "Our Land is Sacred."

Meegwetch

Maddy Harper

## Profile of a Native Women

Brenn Sandy grew up on a northwestern Ontario Indian reserve and is a full-blooded Ojibwa. At the age of 18 she became one of Toronto's top Fashion Models.

Sandy left her northwest Angle reserve in Lake of the Woods, Ontario, to get a better support from her parents. Her mother is a band counsellor and her father is a family support worker and former Chief. They felt it would be better for her to go to school in Winnipeg.

Having the height, a slim-hipped figure and beautiful face, Sandy enrolled in a local modelling agency and did fashion shows at the age of 14. Sandy then signed with Looks Modelling School which

## Announcements

It was a BOY! born to Carol and Brian on Aug. 10, 1988 at 8:29 a.m. The name of their son is Eli James, weighing in at 7 lb. 13 oz. Congratulations, Carol and Brian.

It was a Boy! born to Beki Big Canoe on July 21, 1988. She named her son Jared Sean, weighing in at 9 lbs. 14 oz. Congratulation to Beki.

### Would you believe!!!

Maddy Howe and Tommy Harper got married on July 27, 1988 on Center Island.

started her career off. Toronto agent Elmer Olson, of Elmer Olson Models, booked her into an Oscar de la Renta fashion show in Toronto. In April, Sandy was picked to participate in the Festival of Canadian Fashion. Sandy's biggest accomplishment will be doing a lay-out for *Flare* magazine in September. Sandy's next stop will be Europe, where she will model in London, Paris and parts of Spain.

Even though Sandy has found success she has not forgotten her roots. She feels she can be a role model for young Native women. And if things don't work out? "I've always wanted to get into journalism. Mom says, if you want to do it, go for it."

## Dear Mr. President

I am a woman with 3 children a husband who has ben out of work for 18 months & no place to go  
I am one of 400 families  
Emergency Housing has turned away this month  
The 399 others are no consolation to me  
This is an emergency  
Mr. P. I am a mother of two who lives with my mother who can no longer work  
Someone reported to welfare that I was working  
My checks have been temporarily stopped pending investigation  
I think my ex-boyfriend's mother called them for spite because I don't have a job  
although I have submitted over 200 resumes in the last year & a half  
We got evicted Emergency Housing can't find us anything  
This is an Emergency  
Hey Mr. Prez My boyfriend was beating me & the kids so bad  
I just had to get out before one of us was killed  
The battered women's is full & so is emergency housing  
The worker said she'd already turned away 378 this month  
We're living in my car & cooking at my mother's studio apartment in the old people's housing This is an emergency  
400 times a month in one city that bothers to try & fix it times 2 years  
is a class of people  
It is worse in other towns  
When we have no place to live  
Dear Mr. Pay Attention now  
we are not in economic recovery  
We are an emergency  
for Damita Jo Brown

## Native Women's Resource Centre Women's Circle Second Meeting

is on October 11, 1988  
Schedules are to be given  
at that time on seasonal  
activities.

## Election Held for Native Women's Association

Up for a second 2-year term as president of the Ontario Native Women's Association is Shirley O'Connor, who beat out Susan Hare, O'Connor's only challenger. The 130 voting delegates questioned the two women for more than an hour prior to the casting of ballots.

The new executive board is as follows:  
1st Vice President Patricia Monture  
2nd Vice President Michelle Solomon  
Secretary Linda Jordon  
Treasurer Dorothy Wynne

In the Northern region, board members include: O'Connor, Barbara Cochrane, Millie Flamand and Donna Lecker (youth). Eastern board members are: Hare, Wynne, Nancy Recollect and Pam Roy (youth). The Southern region elected Donna Phillips and Rhonda Wistlow (youth) in addition to Jordon and Monture. The Western region elected Solomon (youth), Christie Pervals, Alma Adams and Marlene Pierre.

In an annual awards presentation during the assembly, three of its members were honored. On behalf of her Native Youth efforts was Jennifer Dockstader, a former board member for Fort Erie, Alma Adams of MacDiarmid, a commercial fisherwoman and school board chairperson, received the Special Achievement Award. A standing ovation went to the Woman of the Year, Eleanor "Lue" Martin, an elder from Fort Erie who has been a long-time active member in Native organizations.

## George Brown College

George Brown College has a new program, The Assaulted Women's and Children's Advocate/Counsellor, the first of its kind in Ontario.

This full time course is 2 years long. Four semesters, each semester is 17 weeks

## Wilson Avenue Bingo Hall 525 Wilson Avenue West DIRECTIONS: From St. George subway you go northbound to Wilson subway and catch the 96 bus. Get off at the first bus stop.

The Native Women's Resource Centre are holding their weekly bingo every Saturday evening. For the next seven weeks that is August 6, 13, 20, 27, September 3, 10, 17, we need volunteers to help sell extra game cards.

Wilson Avenue Bingo Hall sits approximately 600 people. There is a non-smoking area and air conditioning. As a volunteer you will be assigned to selling extra game cards to the players and when you have a winner you will call out the winning numbers loud and clear to the bingo caller. The prize payout person will then give you the money to pay the winner.

The following instructions will help everyone understand the procedures of running a bingo. This is dabber bingo. It's also fun!!!

In addition to runners, we need two volunteers to be there at 9:00 p.m. One person to count the regular games book-

# BINGO

lets and the extra game cards. The second person to prepare the floor sellers' cards so they will be ready when they arrive at 9:00 p.m. The same two people will be selling the booklets when the doors open. The booklets are \$8.00 for two strips, \$12.00 for three strips, \$18.00 for six strips.

Be at the Bingo Hall by 9:00 p.m. You will be given six different types of game cards to sell. You will be able to recognize the different game cards by the colours.

*Bonanza Cards 50 cents*  
*\*Sponsor's Special (pink) 50 cents*  
*\*Jackpot (purple) \$1.00*  
*Warm-up Cards (aqua) \$1.00*  
*Wilson Avenue Special (brown) \$1.00*  
*Nite Owls (lime) \$1.00*  
*\*Also in the booklets*

## Special Night for Volunteers

All the terrific volunteers who help out Saturday nights will have their names entered in a draw and **four** of you will have a night of **Bingo** on us!!! **Jackpot** \$1000.00. As well, volunteers please remember that we will provide rides home, so call **Ann Jacko** to arrange the night you want to volunteer.

## A Situation of a Native Women-chief Conne River Chief Confident as Bandleader

During an "internal political battle," New Micmac Chief Marilyn John of Conne River now feels more secure in her new role as leader of the band council. "I'm satisfied with the things at the reserve right now," says Ms. John.

Indian Affairs confirmed Ms. John's election in June, when she replaced Chief Michael Joe. The decision was challenged by Mr. Joe's supporters.

On July 11 in Halifax the Federal Court of Canada began hearing testimony concerning the election of Chief John. Both parties are now waiting on another court date for a final ruling.

"I'm there because the people want me there," Chief John defends the democratic and legitimate election. "You cannot force leadership on these people."

Chief John is determined not to make the same mistake as her predecessor who failed to listen and communicate with our people. Mr. Joe and his supporters are making a public nuisance of themselves as a result of their egos getting hurt.

If Chief John's election is invalidated by the Federal Court and Mr. Michael Joe is reinstated, Chief John says she will not give up her leadership without a FIGHT.

## Wandering S.S. School 935 Dundas St. E. 393-0555

Enroll your children now.  
Ojibwa as a 2nd language.  
Just call anytime for further information.

Nishnawbe Homes Inc.  
245 Gerrard Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 2G1  
(416) 923-5069

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

***Maintenance Person***

Salary: \$350.00 Weekly



**Are You?**

Afraid of your partner?  
Frightened for your children?  
In need of friendship and support?  
Feeling alone? Confused? Helpless?

You are not the only one.

There are many women just like yourself.

You are not to blame. Your partner has to take full responsibility for any action or violent reaction. No one person has the right to abuse you, degrade you, beat you, make you feel like you're small, a nobody . . .

For support, help, information,  
Just someone to talk to,  
Call us at 963-9963

or  
HELPLINE — 863-0511

**DUTIES:**

1. To do minor/major repairs for 10 scattered properties across Metropolitan Toronto.
2. To clean vacant rooms for each property before occupancy.
3. To contact plumbers, electricians, and other contractors when Nishnawbe Homes requires their services.
4. To do monthly inspections for each of the 10 properties for any deficiencies, and cleanliness.

And other related duties.

**qualifications:**

1. Individual must have his/her own work tools.
2. Must have experience in the field of maintenance.
3. Must have good organizational skills, and has the initiative to work on his own without the direct supervision from the Housing Manager.
4. Vehicle not required, (but would be beneficial as the properties are scattered) mileage expenses will not be covered.

**Closing Date: October 25, 1988**

Please submit your resume to the above address either by mail or in person to the attention of Pamela Simon.

**Indigo Treasures**

**from AFRICA to  
the AMERICAS  
CLOTHING — ART  
— JEWELLERY — ETC.**

29 McCaul St.  
(opening mid October)  
Toronto, Ontario

## Our Most Deadly Enemy

I am more powerful than the combined  
armies of the world;  
I have destroyed more men than all  
the wars of the nations;  
I am more deadly than bullets, and I  
have wrecked more homes than  
the mightiest guns;  
I am the world's slyest thief, I steal  
millions of dollars each year;  
I spare no one, and I find my victims  
among the rich and poor alike, the  
young and the old, the strong and  
the weak; widows and orphans  
know me;  
I look up to such proportions that I  
cast my shadow over every field of labour;  
I lurk in unseen places, and do most of my work silently;  
You are warned against me, but you  
heed not;  
I am relentless;  
I am everywhere — in the home, on  
the streets, in the factory, in the  
office, and on the sea;  
I bring sickness, degradation and death, and yet few seek to destroy  
me;  
I destroy and crush, I give nothing  
and take all;  
I am your worst enemy. My name is  
MR. ALCOHOL.

Taken from the *Ute Bulletin*

## Volunteers

The Native Women's Resource Centre would like to welcome our newest volunteer, Cheryl Lawson, a wonderful, dynamic person to have helping us here. She is also out on Saturday night helping out at the Bingo.

Volunteers are needed, welcomed and appreciated as they can make a large contribution to the quality of an organization like ours. Only a few hours a week of your precious time can get you involved in the varied and valuable work that is done by the NWRC. Just call 963-9963 and let us know that you're interested in being a volunteer.

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**Not Vanishing**, by Chrystos, is a remarkable first book of poetry/prose.

Chrystos is a Native American woman whose writing shows the many facets of who she is: the humour, the pain, the fury, the loving of women and pride in her heritage are all told with breathtaking clarity and honesty. She speaks eloquently of the lives of women of colour, and rages against the injustices of racism, sexism and classism.

Chrystos' purpose is to make it clear and as inescapable as possible, what the actual, material conditions of Native people's lives are. With the publication of **Not Vanishing**, she hopes that "the appalling ignorance of the majority of people about Native people will at least be chipped at a little."

**Not Vanishing** is strong, true, unapologetic and challenging. **Poems on page 6.**

These next few poems came from the book *Growing Up and Feeling Powerful as an American Indian*.

Co-Authors: Velma Garcia Mason  
George Baker

### TREE

I am a tree. I am tall and strong  
I have deep roots that make me strong.

Tall and strong people have deep roots, too.  
These roots are good feelings people have  
about themselves and of others.

You too can have strong and deep roots  
You can have good feelings to make you  
strong and tall.

Love is a strong feeling. When you love someone,  
You do not do anything to harm them. Loving your  
parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and  
friends, is a good and strong feeling.

### FLOWER

I am a flower.  
My strength is my beauty

You can  
smell . . .  
see . . .  
and touch me.

I can be sweet and pleasing  
I can be different colors,  
and I can be nice and soft.

You too, can be strong and beautiful.  
You can learn to have beautiful feelings  
These feelings will help you grow strong.



Nishnawbe Homes Inc.  
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(416) 923-5068

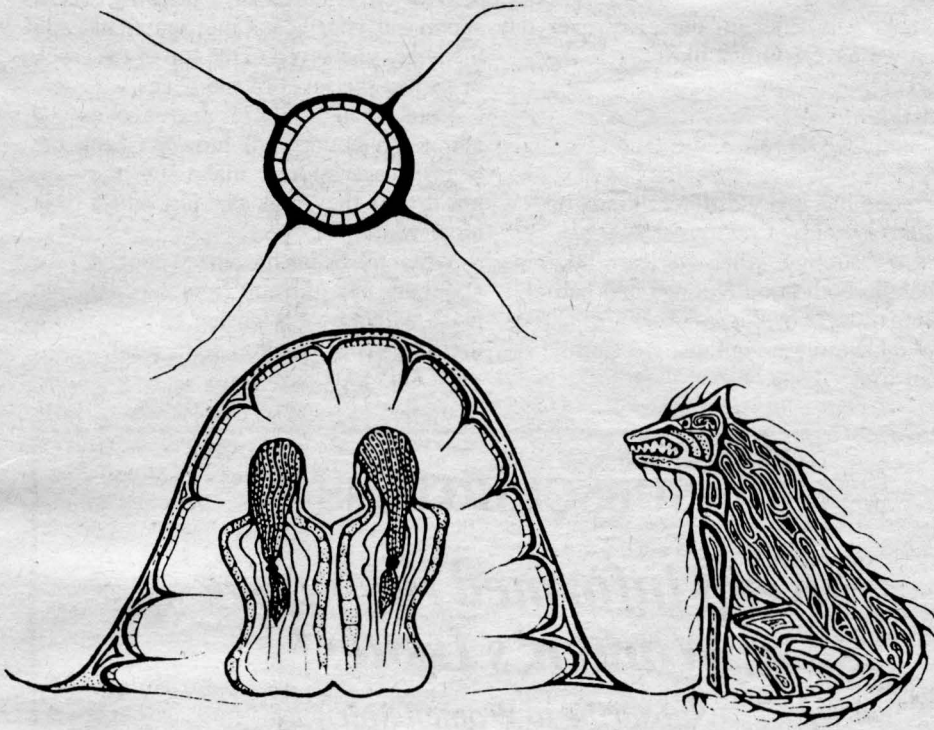
## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### *Housing Manager*

(Six Months Contract Maternity Leave)

Salary: \$480.00 Weekly

#### The Two Sisters



#### RESPONSIBILITIES

To take in applications for housing, set up Tenant Selection Committee interviews, ensuring that all vacancies are filled, submit rental calculations for both new tenants and adjusted rents, prepare and distribute notices for rent and evictions, attending court for rent arrears/evictions.

Input and code financial data in the Accpac computer, write out cheques for mortgage payments, utility charges, realty taxes, payroll, and other related expenses. To monitor financial expenses and revenue, to report quarterly to CMHC financial statements, to accept rent payments, deposits, bank reconciliation, to update petty cash system.

To supervise Maintenance staff, attend Board Meetings as required and to submit a monthly report to the Board, to correspond with CMHC directors/officers and other government agencies in regards to housing.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

Must have the following:

- Managerial experience
- Supervisory skills
- Bookkeeping knowledge, typing, and computer experience
- Good oral and written communication skills

Must have **strong** organizational skills

NOTE: This is a one person office.

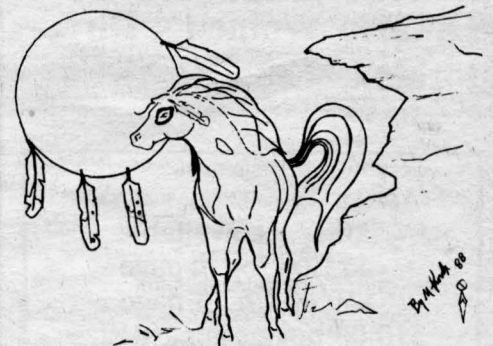
**Closing Date: October 25, 1988**

Please submit your resume to the above address either by mail or in person to the attention of Pamela Simon.

## Fundraising

The Native Womens Resource Centre is launching a major fundraising campaign to raise funds for a new building. We will be applying to the Native Community Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture under their new grants program for community centres, as well as to foundations, corporations and churches.

Our goal will be around 500 thousand dollars so you know we will be working very hard. The Fundraising Committee would be glad to hear from you if you would like to be a member or devote some valuable time and energy to this worthwhile project. Call the NWRC at 963-9963 if you'd like more information. We have buttons, T-shirts, sweatshirts for sale. Special order for sweatshirts with hoods if requested.



## Dear White Dove Column

Dear White Dove,

I live with a man whom I love but he beats me every now and then. I know this is wrong but I am afraid of what he will do if I leave him. I'm so confused by my feelings. One day I want to leave him, the next day I love him again. What do you think, White Dove?

Frightened.

Dear Frightened,

Get rid of the bum. No one should inflict any kind of abuse on another person. Seek counselling for yourself and get away from this man. He is dangerous.

White Dove

Dear White Dove,

I got married at the age of 19. I've been separated for over 5 years now; from the bad experience I went through with my separation, my relationships only last from 1 to 3 months. I'm desperate for a long-term relationship.

Can you give me some advice?

Lonely and Depressed

Dear Lonely,

Stop looking and you will be surprised by the number of interested men you will encounter. No one should be "desperate" for any kind of relationship. Time heals. Be patient.

White Dove

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to stop drinking that is your business. If you want to stay stopped that is our business. Call ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS at (416) 487-5591. Please note that there are three Native groups in Toronto that meet. They are located at:

All Nations

1330 King St. W.

531-0774

Wednesday 8:00 p.m.

Birds of a Feather

16 Spadina Rd.

964-9087

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Anishanabee Qwe

245 Gerrard St. E.

963-9963

Tuesday 8:00 p.m.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Native Women's Resource Centre.

Funding for this newsletter was donated by the Ontario Women's Directorate.

Ad space available  
\$25.00 for 1/4 page  
\$50.00 for 1/2 page  
\$10.00 business card size

## Native Canadian Baked Beans

Things needed:

White pea beans  
light brown sugar  
molasses  
Keenes dry mustard  
salt  
bacon

one large white or Spanish onion  
a bean crock or any porcelain pot with a cover which is oven proof.

Soak about 3 cups of white pea beans for 24 hours before cooking process when your beans have been soaked. **Keep the water from the soaking.**

Place in bottom of crock:

1 large onion sliced  
3 teaspoons of Keenes mustard  
1/2 pound of bacon cut up into 1-inch pieces

2 teaspoons of salt

1 cup of light brown sugar

a little more than 1/2 cup of molasses

With clean hands or a draining spoon, spoon out your beans into the crock, add the water you saved to the top of the crock or to just the level of the beans.

Cook in a low 275 degree oven for about 5-6 hours until brown. Check the beans every hour to make sure they are not dry; if they look dry just add a little more water.

When the beans have been cooked, take about one cup of beans from the crock and mash with a potato masher or fork, return these beans to crock and stir a bit.

GOOD LUCK.

## LIVING

We make life better for ourselves everyday when we have feelings like

LOVE

HOPE

and GOOD

Everyone has many different kinds of feelings

we grow stronger when we learn how to handle both good feelings and bad feelings.

As we have these feelings, we learn about life.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

### Keep informed on Native Women's Issues!

Subscribe to Women Spirit.  
And why not give a subscription

to a relative or friend?  One year \$10  1/2 year \$5  
 one year for a friend \$10

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Postal Code .....

Readers! Our funding has run out. We need your help. Without it, Women Spirit will be put to rest. So please subscribe, write us or come down and visit. With your support we can continue. Remember, we are the only Native women's magazine in Canada.