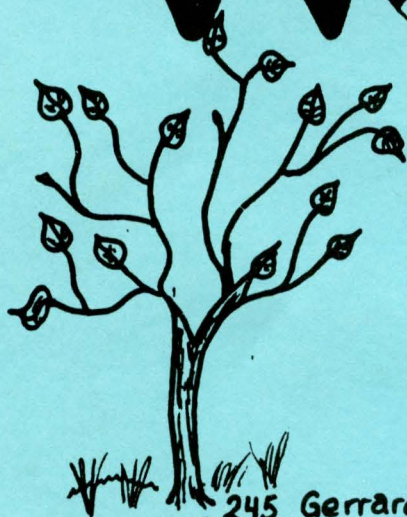
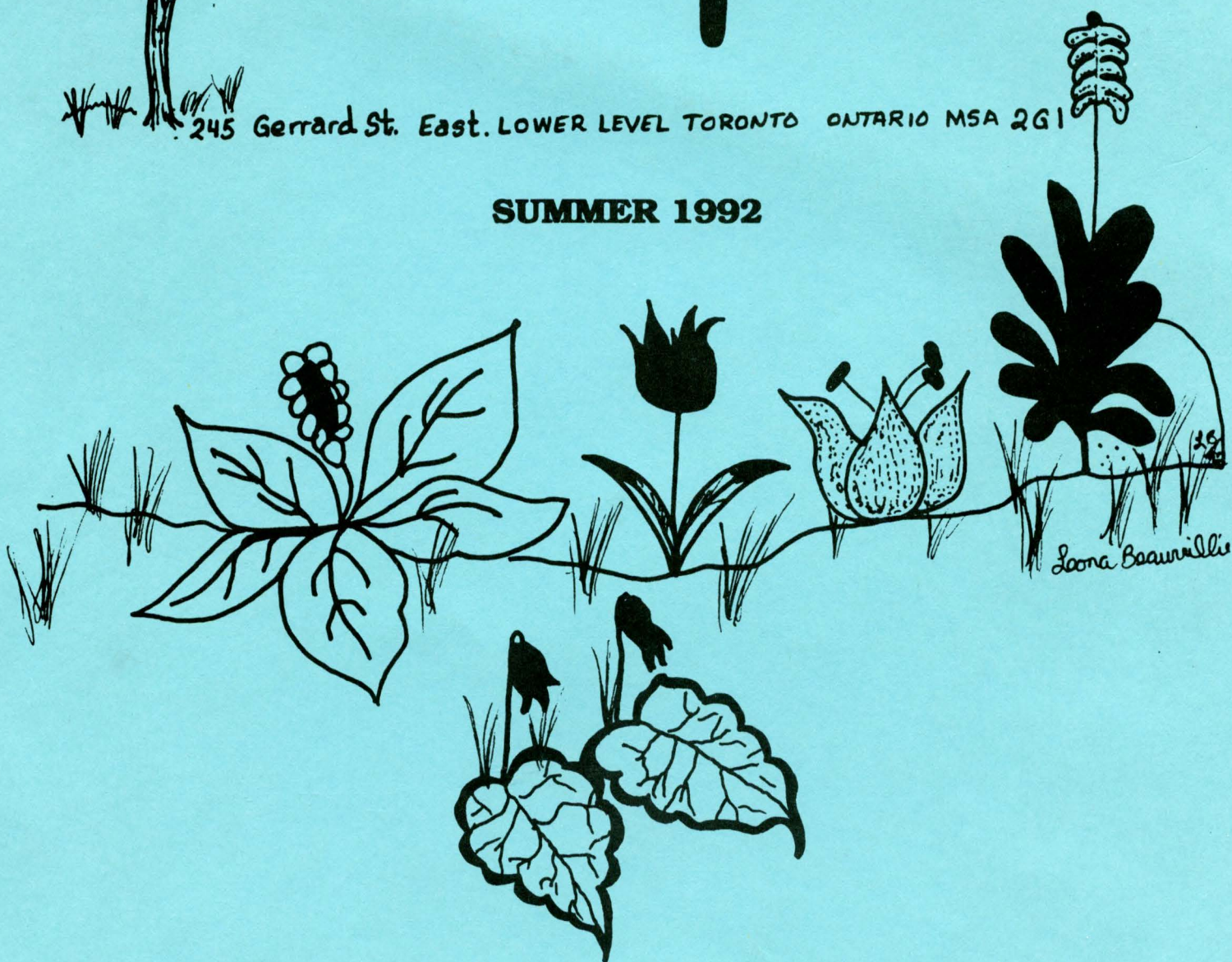


WOMEN Spirit



245 Gerrard St. East. LOWER LEVEL TORONTO ONTARIO M5A 2G1

SUMMER 1992



NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE OF TORONTO INC.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

At the Native Women's Resource Centre

Weekly and/or Monthly

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bingo | Every Saturday
10:30 p.m.
Wilson Avenue |
| Clothing Give-Away & Exchange | Every Friday
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. |
| Food Bank Volunteers | Every second
Monday/Tuesday
9:00 - 5:00 p.m. |
| Morning Star Group | Every Saturday
11:00 a.m.
Mary - 359-0992
Jackie - 963-9963 |
| Mothers & Tots | Every Monday
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. |
| Native Beadwork | Every Wednesday
at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Every Thursday
at 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. |
| Sewing Ribbon Shirts & Dresses | Every Tuesday
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. |
| Visiting Elder Program | Every last Wednesday
of the month, afternoon |
| Women's Circles | June 2, July 7, August 4,
September 1, October 6 |

Special Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 26, 27, 27 | Indigenous Women's
Conference
"Recovering our Past,
Strengthening our Future"
The Guild Inn
201 Guildwood Parkway
Scarborough, Ontario |
| June 21 | Native Day |

At Other Native Organizations

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| May 27 | Job Fair
Native Skills Centre
(Toronto) Inc.
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(416) 581-1392 Gerri Ense |
| May 27 | Awareness, Prevention & Action: Diane McInnis of
Metro Toronto Police re
street safety and sexual
assault issues
Native Canadian Centre
(416) 964-9087 Donna Prii |
| May 28 | Violence Against Women
(Taking control of one's
life) Healing Circle
Native Canadian Centre
(416) 964-9087 Donna Prii |
| May 28/29 | Workshop on Aboriginal
Employment Equity
Greater Toronto Aboriginal
Management Board
at Native Canadian Centre
9:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Tel: (416) 964-9087
Fax: (416) 964-2111
Jodie Pullen |
| June 6, June 20 | Personal Safety & Security
for Women, Seneca College
Tel: (416) 491-5050
ext. 2499
Teresa Riveroso |
| October 8 - 11 | 2nd Annual
National/International
Native American Indian
A.A. Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada
Tel: (702) 878-2788 Wes |

See inserts in this Newsletter for more info.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summer, 1992

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Calendar of Events	Cover
Staff News	1
An Update from the Executive Director	2
The Native Advancement Program	3/4
Women's Circle	5
Literacy Program	6

SHARING

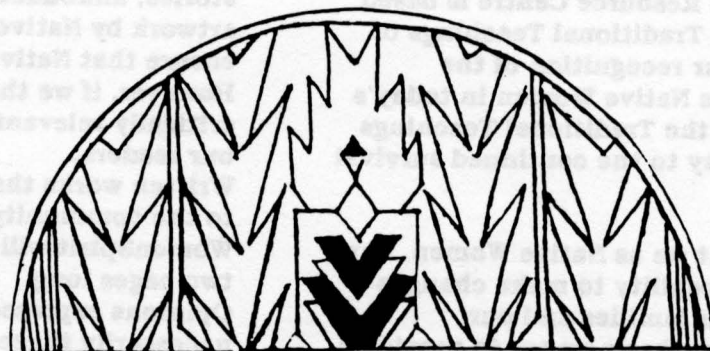
Mother Earth Day	9
A Letter of Love to My Children	9/10
Racism	10
Lord's Prayer - Indian Version	12
Walking Buffalo	13
Declaration of First Nations	14

ISSUES and POLITICS

Violence and Aboriginal Women	15
-------------------------------------	----

CHILDREN'S CORNER	17/18
-------------------------	-------

POW WOW SCHEDULE	Cover
------------------------	-------



NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
245 Gerrard Street East,
Toronto, Ontario M5A 2G1
Phone: (416) 963-9963
Fax: (416) 963-9573

Board of Directors

President: Donna Loft
Vice President: Sylvia Maracle
Treasurer: Gertie Beaucage
Secretary: Barrie Maxwell
Director: Ivy Chaske
Director: Peggy Jamieson

Staff

Executive Director: Maddy Harper
Family Worker: Joan Chalifoux
Literacy Co-ordinator and
Life Skills Coach: Jackie Alton
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Arlene Bush
Volunteer Co-ordinator: .. Jennifer Wemigwans
Staff Training Co-ordinator: Kato Brady
Special Projects Co-ordinator: .. Nancy Phipps

STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto is incorporated as a non-profit, charitable organization and as such created by-laws relating to the general affairs of the Native Women's Resource Centre. The N.W.R.C. has a Board of Directors that is made of an Executive Committee and Directors. These Directors oversee the business of the organization. All serve a term of either one or two years and without enumeration. Our annual general meeting is called in the New Year where we report to our membership and hold elections.

BASED ON TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS

The Native Women's Resource Centre is based on our beliefs in the Traditional Teachings of the Elders and on our recognition of the important role of the Native Women in today's society. We believe the Traditional Teachings to be a vital necessity to the continued survival of Native peoples.

We acknowledge that we as Native Women, have the strength and capability to make changes within ourselves, our families and our communities. On this basis we try to provide a supportive environment that will aid the empowerment of all Native women and work to establish mutually supportive relationships

with other organizations, services and groups that may be of service to Native Women. It doesn't matter what your age is or what your interests are...The NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE is here for YOU!

STAFF NEWS

Nancy Cooper, our Fundraising Co-ordinator, has just said farewell to Native Women's Resource Centre, only in body. Her spirit will always remain within our Circle. We wish her all the success and joy in any venture she may pursue.

Sally Gaikezheyongai, our Assistant Administrator. What can we say about a person who has given so much of herself to the Native Women's Resource Centre. For the past 3 years, Sally's work, such as the "Almanac", her talk on racism and our values, are outstanding achievements. Her spirit will long be remembered and her smiling face missed amongst us on an everyday basis.

Welcome to Jennifer Wemigwans, our new Volunteer Co-ordinator. During the past few months, Jennifer has been juggling her job and schoolwork. School is now out, and the job is on the run. She has given our volunteers a needed boost of thanks that they well deserve. Welcome to our Circle!

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

Our next edition of WomenSpirit is going to press by October 1st. Submissions to our publication should be mailed or delivered to us no later than September 1st!

We welcome submissions of articles, letters, stories, announcements, poems, recipes, and artwork by Native women. Our policy is to ensure that Native women voices are heard. However, if we think others' messages are critically relevant, then it is passed onto you, our readers.

Written works that are offensive or slanderous to the community will not be published. WomenSpirit will not publish articles more than two pages long.

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

Newsletter Volunteers:
Valerie Walker

Front cover artwork:
Leona Beauvillier

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

AN UPDATE
from the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maddy Harper

Greetings! from all of us at the Native Women's Resource Centre. We have been pushing ahead in the usual activities and focusing on issues and cultural appropriate programming for women in Toronto. Beside this though, with the current year of 500 years of colonization for aboriginal people of this land, much of the work we are doing reflects our response to the "500 years of Resistance and Survival" and we are attempting to make this theme a part of every celebration we do this year. The Native Women's Resource Centre played a leading role in the International Women's Day celebrating the "500 Years of Resistance." We are currently organizing an Indigenous Women's Conference for May 26, 27 and 28. During this time we will have many important women come and address some of current issues for Indigenous women. One of the areas we want to address is 'Women's roles in the constitution. You can get more information on this by picking up a pamphlet or in this newsletter. Please come out and support us.

This coming fiscal year is going to be hard, with all the cutbacks. The economic situation has affected us also at the Centre and we are beginning to feel the crunch of it now. So this year we will be focusing more on fundraising special events as well as still lobbying the governments. If there's anyone out there who would like to come out and help in this area, we would certainly welcome you.

Our current programs consist of the following: Women's Circle monthly, we will be celebrating this through our strawberry festival of four years in June.

Literacy Program, tutoring and learning circles ongoing.

Computer Program, bringing academics up to a post secondary level and preparing women to fulfill their potential career skills.

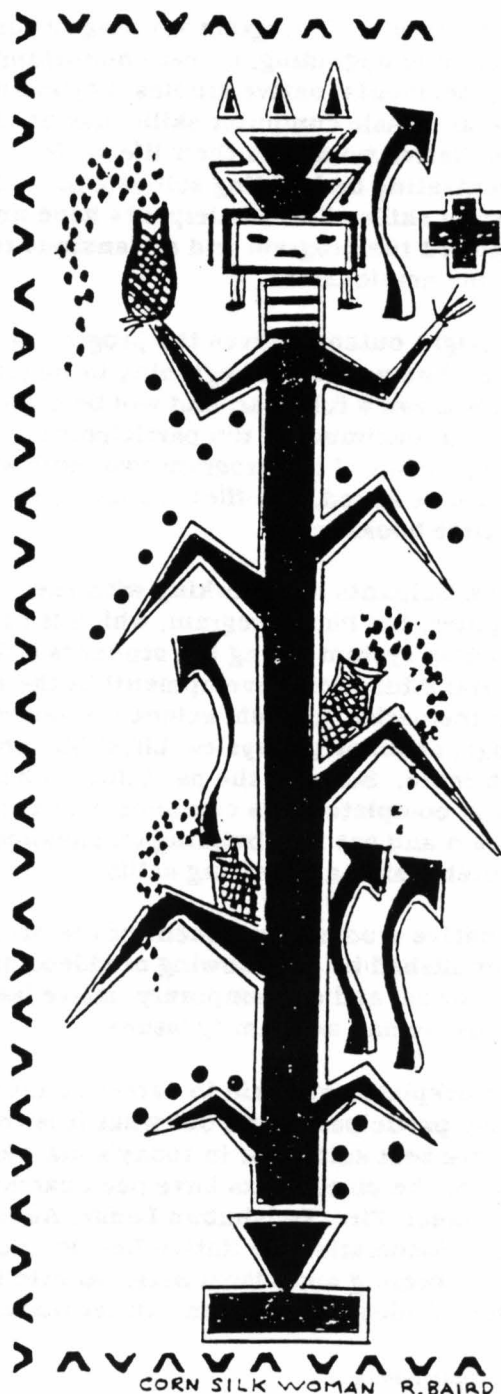
Drop in and family/crisis counselling, this also is ongoing and incorporate auxiliary groups.

And, of course, our Bingo Building fundraiser, this is every Saturday night and our anniversary for this activity is four years in

May. We have been operating our Bingo for 4 years saving for the day when we can buy our own building. At this particular point in time we are looking for capital funding to compliment this important objective.

I hope this gives you a general picture of what keeps us busy at the Native Women's Resource Centre. Before I close off this note I would like to say Meegwetch for the staff who work above and beyond the call of duty. PLEASE SEE OUR CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

Meegwetch.



NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

THE NATIVE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Native Advancement Program, the first of its kind, kicked off to a good start with five participants December 9, 1991. With two staff, Karen Stuppard as the Computer-Learning Instructor and Nicole Tanguay as a LifeSkills Coach, and, the participants: Pamela Smith, Jean Henderson, Leona Beauvillier, Geri Martin and Eliza Partridge.

The eighth month program working in the areas of academic upgrading, career counselling, workplacements, native studies, keyboarding skills, and basic computer skills, has enhanced these Native women in their life goals, concentrating on building self-esteem and praction skills. The participants have nearly completed the program and are anxious to find full-time employment.

This bright outcome gives the program a sunny future. The next term beginning in August 1992 will run a full year, and will be expanding to hold a maximum of ten participants. With the expansion of the program two more staff will also be added, an office manager, and a part-time bookkeeper.

The participants love working with the computer, the Plato program, which is an upgrading system giving the students a G.E.D. (General Education Development) in the areas of mathematics, english, science, economics, biology, chemistry, physics, Lifeskills, and much more. Some of the participants have already completed this component of the program and are now building on advanced comprehension and writing skills.

The native studies component of the program is accomplished by the showing of videos, in areas of historical and contemporary native issues, politics, social, and family issues.

The workplacements aid in career counselling to help participants find out what it is that they are best suited for in today's market place. Some of the placements have been carried out at: Council Fire, Pedahubun Lodge, Anduyaun House, Association for Native Development in the Performing and Visual Arts, Ontario First Nations Police Commission. Other placements

have included: Elizabeth Fry Society, The Toronto Sun, City Hall, Indian & Northern Affairs, and The Central Neighbourhood House. We are very thankful to these organizations for giving the participants a work-learning opportunity and experience.

Keyboarding and basic computer skills have consisted of learning to type using software packages such as Deskmate and Wordperfect. Other skills on computer have been basic to intermediate skills in Wordperfect, who we thank Native Skills Centre for supplying an instructor. Other areas of skill training have been in office skills and decorum, from creating letters to memos, and reception duties. WHIMS training was also accomplished at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

The Lifeskills component of the course has helped the participants in bringing them together as a group, and has also enhanced in the areas of career counselling, resume writing, job search tactics, communication, self-esteem and motivation. We are very thankful to Nicole Tanguay for her patience and perseverance.

The Native Womens Resource Centre is very pleased with the success that the participants and the instructors have brought to the Native Advancement Program for 1991/92. We expect that the following years to come will continue to empower Native women so that they may become adaptable to the environment politically, socially, economically, and last but not least, culturally.

We would also like to give special thanks to Maddy Harper, the Executive Director and to Jackie Alton, the Basic Life Skills & Literacy Co-ordinator. The Native Advancement Program would not have been possible without the love and support that was received on an ongoing basis from these compassionate individuals.

We are looking forward to a progressive year in 1992/93.

Meegwetch!

Karen Stuppard
Computer-Learning Instructor/
Manager



BUNDLE
R. BAIR

**NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE
NATIVE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM**

START DATE: AUGUST 1992

The Native Advancement Program is now taking applications for the 1992/93 session. The program will consist of the following:

- *career counselling*
- *lifeskills*
- *academic upgrading*
- *workplacements*
- *native studies*
- *field trips*
- *resume writing*
- *job search*
- *keyboarding skills*
- *basic computer skills*

The program will run for one-year at which time participants will receive certification and referrals.

QUALIFICATIONS: Native women who are on social assistance or unemployment insurance or other: women who are interested in though have not completed grade 10 or better, and those who do not have a career direction but possibly some ideas what that direction might be. Motivation to find employment is an important factor.

**CONTACT: KAREN STUPPARD AT 963-9963 OR COME DOWN AND FILL OUT
AN APPLICATION DIRECTLY AT THE CENTRE:**

**245 GERRARD STREET EAST
LOWER LEVEL (EAST OF ONTARIO, WEST OF PARLIMENT, ON
THE SOUTH SIDE)**

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

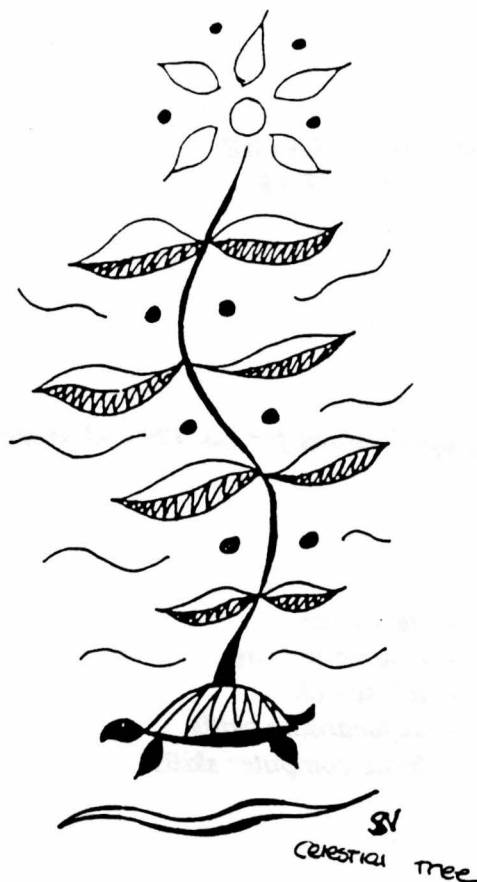
Our Women's Circle is once a month and follows the lunar cycles of the grandmother moon. It is a time of sharing - regarding the mind, body and spirit of self. They have become a gathering for all women and our informal Pot Luck Supper beforehand, helps everyone to greet each other. Just check the calendar or call to confirm the dates given below if you wish to join us at 963-9963.

Tuesday, June 2
Tuesday, July 7
Tuesday, August 4
Tuesday, September 1
Tuesday, October 6

Pot Luck Supper starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Circle at 6:45 p.m.

MORNING STAR AA GROUP

The Morning Star AA Group is held each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at NWRC. For more information, contact: Mary R. at 359-0992 or Jackie at 963-9963.



NATIVE BEADWORK

Every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
and
Thursday Evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Good fun, conversation, meet new friends, meet old friends, lots of sharing going on! So bring your friends and see you there!!!

NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE LITERACY PROGRAM

The Native Adult Literacy Program is learner-centered. Our teaching is based on the needs and interests of the learner rather than on any pre set teaching curriculum. The learner is encouraged to set his or her own goals and work toward them with the assistance of a volunteer tutor.

TOPICS

reading books, newspapers, maps, recipes, mathematics, english, spelling, nutrition, banking

- * study for your driver's license
- * understand and answer business mail
- * prepare for community college or university
- * complete assignments from high school or community college
- * learn to read to your children
- * complete correspondence courses
- * upgrading



Literacy includes anything that permits us to participate more fully in society in which we live. Therefore, our tutors are prepared to help you.

TUTORS

Tutors in the program are volunteers. They donate their time to share their knowledge with learners. We are always in need of Native tutors to come and share their experience with learners. If you can volunteer 1 - 2 hours per week to help someone else understand, please call the Centre, it would be greatly appreciated. It is a valuable learning and teaching experience.

LEARNERS

If you need help with any of the above topics or something not mentioned, give us a call anytime. We are always here to help and if you can just make the first step by calling or dropping in, it's the first step to understanding. All information is kept confidential.

DROP-IN SERVICE

We have a drop-in service available to people who need assistance in resume preparation, job search techniques, homework, letter preparation or just to talk. It is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



VISITING ELDER PROGRAM

The last Wednesday of every month in the afternoon.

For appointment and information, contact Kato at 963-9963.



WANTED

**Volunteers
to help in office,
typing/computer, filing,
letter writing,
newsletter coordination,
answering phones,
cleaning, and working at
our Bingo.**

Tel.# 963-9963 CONTACT or DROP IN at:

NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTER

245 Gerrard Street E.

LOWER LEVEL

Toronto, Ontario

Fax # 963-9573

COME AND GET INVOLVED

**NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE
OF TORONTO**

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

Phone: (416) 963-9963
963-9348

VOLUNTEER'S APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

DATE:

ADDRESS:

POSTAL CODE:

TELEPHONE: home
business

HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

HOURS AVAILABLE:

DAYS OR EVENINGS:

EDUCATION:

CIRCLE AREAS OF INTEREST YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN:

Housing Telephone Work Recreational Ctee.

Arts & Crafts Fundraising Newsletter

Organizing Events Coordinating Volunteers

Welcoming Ctee. Drug & Alcohol Abuse Community Outreach

Other (please explain):

PLEASE INDICATE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT
THE NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE:

PERSONAL INTEREST OR HOBBIES:

GENERAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

SHARING

MOTHER EARTH DAY

Mother Earth has been kind to us giving us food and shelter, providing us with essentials to survive on earth. In order for Mother Earth to continue to provide for us, we need to replenish what we have taken from her.

Mankind is ruining the Earth by polluting and tearing down the trees, and not replacing them. The more trees that are taken down and not replaced, leaves the soil to dry up and blow away, taking away good top soil and leaving the land to become barren. The trees protect us from the wind and the rain, plus proving shade from the sun.

Mother Earth has her own way of recycling old trees that are rotten, by turning the dead plans and trees into fertilizer, to help other plants and trees, but as long as mankind keeps cutting down our trees, our trees cannot give seedlings to replace them.

Pollution is another bad think that mankind is doing to Mother Earth. By throwing tin cans, glass bottles, and plastic onto Mother Earth which she cannot recycle. If every person would stop and think before throwing any garbage out how Mother Earth would look if there was no pollution. Think next time before you thrown any garbage out.

We should be thankful that Mother Earth provides us with what she does. Where would we be if we did not have these essentials, certainly not on Earth. So let's take care of Mother Earth, after all she takes care of us. So stop polluting!

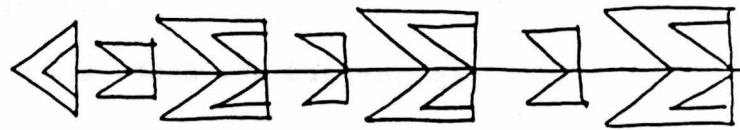
Leona Beauvillier



As Mother's Day fast approaches, I have found myself thinking about how lucky I am to be a mother, and how lucky I am to be able to celebrate this wonderful day.

If it were not for children there would be no Mother's Day, so I decided to write this open letter to my children with the assumption that every mother alive today will share with me the love that our children have given to us.

So to all women who have children and want children on this special Mother's Day, let us celebrate the children. Children are the gift of our future.



A FEW WORDS OF LOVE FOR MY CHILDREN

To my darling children,

I think that there is not a word phrase or saying that can describe the tremendous amount of love I carry for each of you. Every time I look at you, I just have to touch you or kiss you or hold you. Every time I hear your voice, I feel like dying because I don't think anyone in this whole vast world and universe can feel the love that I know you feel for me.

If there was a way I could give you the world, I would in a second. But realistically that is not possible, so I will do the next best thing. I will love you more than anyone can, I will die if ever there was the need to protect you from danger, I will be with you always in spirit if not in person. I will nurse you and be right by your side in sickness until you are well. I may not be able to give you the world but I will give you everything I possibly can, whether it be the new toy that you want, or those fancy new sneakers, of just my company.

If you want me to read you a story just ask me and I will, if you want something special for supper tonight, I will cook it for you without delay. If you want me to just give you a hug, reach out to me and you know I will scoop you up in my arms faster than you can bat an eyelash, and that is because I love you.

I don't think I can begin to explain the most incredible surge of joy that I felt the second that you three were born. I must have been the happiest Mom on the face of the earth when I held each of you for the very first time. I was so proud I could have died, cried and gone to heaven, but you know I would have come back because my life finally became complete on each one of your births.

I have to tell you though, as hard as I try to be a good mom, I am unfortunately human, and I am prone to make mistakes. One of them is a drinking problem I have, I am after all an alcoholic.

There have been times when I was drinking and maybe it made you feel bad, maybe there were too many people around, maybe the music was too loud, maybe I was ignoring you, but I can assure you that all those times I never stopped loving you, in fact all those times it made me realize that I loved you more.

I would feel so guilty and so badly I couldn't even look myself in the eye, let alone you. All those times I felt that I did not deserve to have such wonderful loving children who love me even when I fail, but at the same time was saying a prayer of thanks to the Creator that I never lost you, because sometimes that happens to people who have a drinking or drug problem. I know that if I lost any of you that I would have nothing in this world to live for. In short you kids are my entire life, and I would die without you.

I will still make mistakes from time to time, but I will try harder to keep you informed of troubles I may be having. If my temper gets short, please try and understand, please try and be patient for me. If you see my crying, come and hold my hand or hug me and tell me that you love me. Sometimes, I just need to be reassured of you love, understanding, and forgiveness. Just the same way you need to be reassured once in a while.

If I was ever to ask a few favours of you, I would ask that you are always honest with me, trust is something that can only be earned, and if your own mother can't trust you, who can?

I would also ask that you not be judgemental of other people, because you were not born with wings and a halo, you were born my children. You must never ever judge your fellow man until you have walked a mile in his moccasins. I would ask that you never underestimate me. (Mothers have eyes in the back of their heads you know!) There is not a trick in the world that you could try that I have not already tried myself. I've already been where you are at now, I guess that is why mothers know everything. I would also ask that you put others' needs before your own, it is called selflessness.

A movie star once said, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one."

This is a rule I try my hardest to live by.

And lastly, that you try your absolute best at whatever you undertake. Whether it be your school work, a hobby, a chore or a game. You can only be truly happy with what you achieve when you achieve it honestly and wholeheartedly.

One day when you get older and have children of your own, maybe what I have said and taught

you will be a part of your lives and you will pass this on to your children, and they will pass this on to their children, and so on. I think this is the great circle of life. The scenes may change a little each time but the love will always be the same.

Remember that I will love you forever and ever and ever.

Love always,

Your Mother



RACISM

Our Native people have been oppressed and pushed aside for many years. The European culture and their churches brought many hardships to our country and our people. When Columbus first came to America, he praised the Native people for their intelligence, industry and good looks. It was later when the Europeans started to immigrate into North and South America that the hardships started for the Natives. The churches and the Europeans started to colonize the Native people onto reserves, telling them they could not live the life they had before. Opening boarding schools and taking away the children from their homes and families far away, teaching the children to become Americans, and to become ashamed of their own culture.

The Europeans offered agreements to the Native People - Treaties, but these treaties were broken time after time. The government sent agents to the reserves to put a stop to sacred ceremonies, the dance, and the songs of the Natives. It was the power and the riches of the government that made the Natives suffer. The Native people realized that they would have to share a common life with the Europeans, and their history.

Our people share with other popular sectors of the population, grave problems such as poverty, discrimination, oppression, and exploitation.

We all have our own identity and culture, it is up to us to keep our culture alive. To fight for what is rightfully ours - our Land.

The Natives are struggling to get self-government, to pull their people back together so that their culture may carry on. Our Creator put us here on Earth to be a proud people and not to be ashamed of our culture. We must take care of each other and we must share our

concern with each other. We must fight against the forces which will take our humanity from us.

We were created out of the forces of earth and sky, the stars and the water. We must make sure that the balance of the earth are kept, by keeping the circle strong. We are all of one body of people. So let's learn to get along with each other.

Leona Beauvillier



NATIVE BEADWORK

*Every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
and
Thursday Evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

Good fun, conversation, meet new friends, meet old friends, lots of sharing going on! So bring your friends and see you there!!!

CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY & EXCHANGE

hosted by:

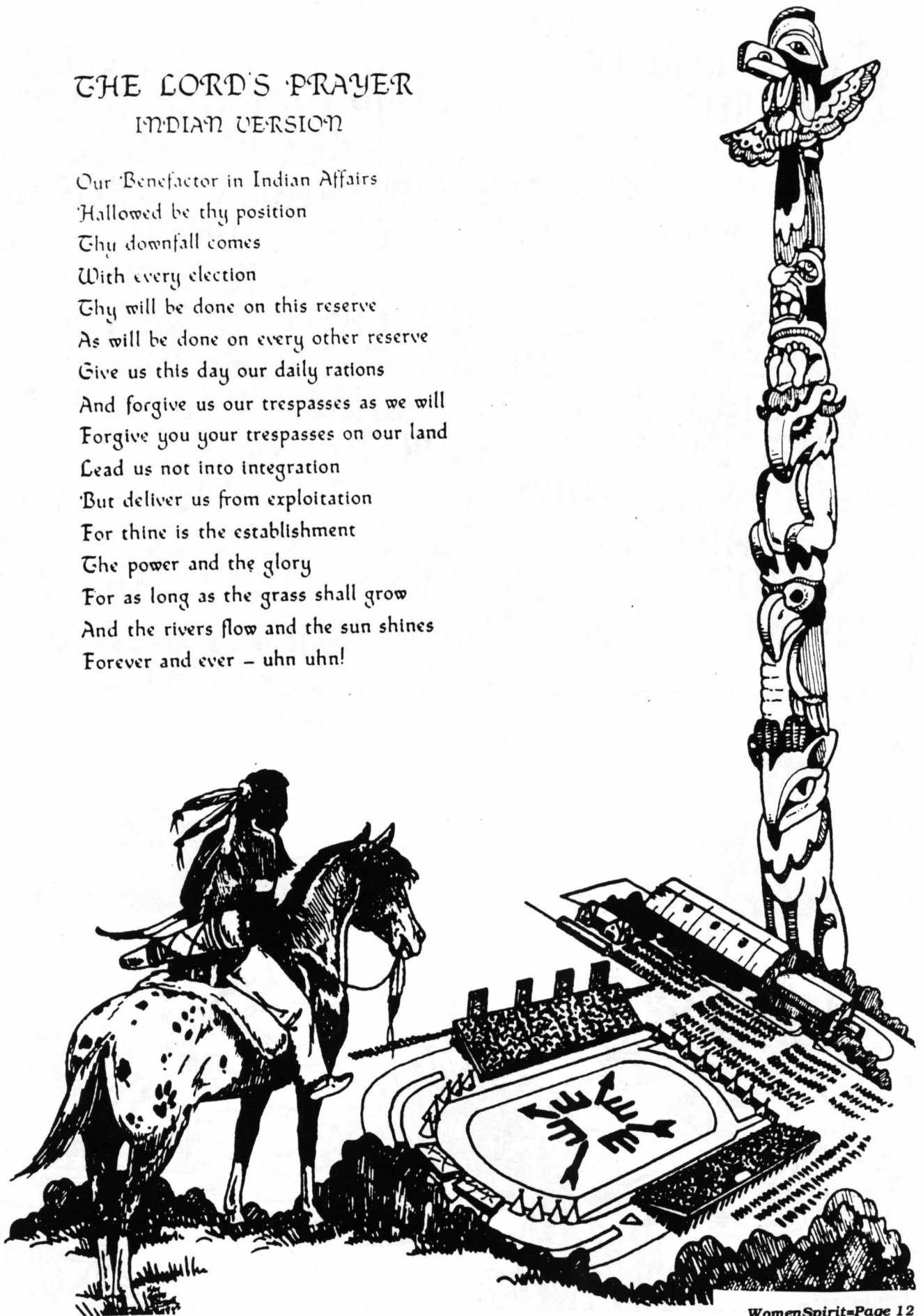
The Native Women's Resource Centre, 245 Gerrard Street East, Lower Level

*Every Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Come and join the 'Fashion Fun'.
Limit of 2 shopping bags per family.*

For more information, call Joan at 963-9963.

THE LORD'S PRAYER INDIAN VERSION

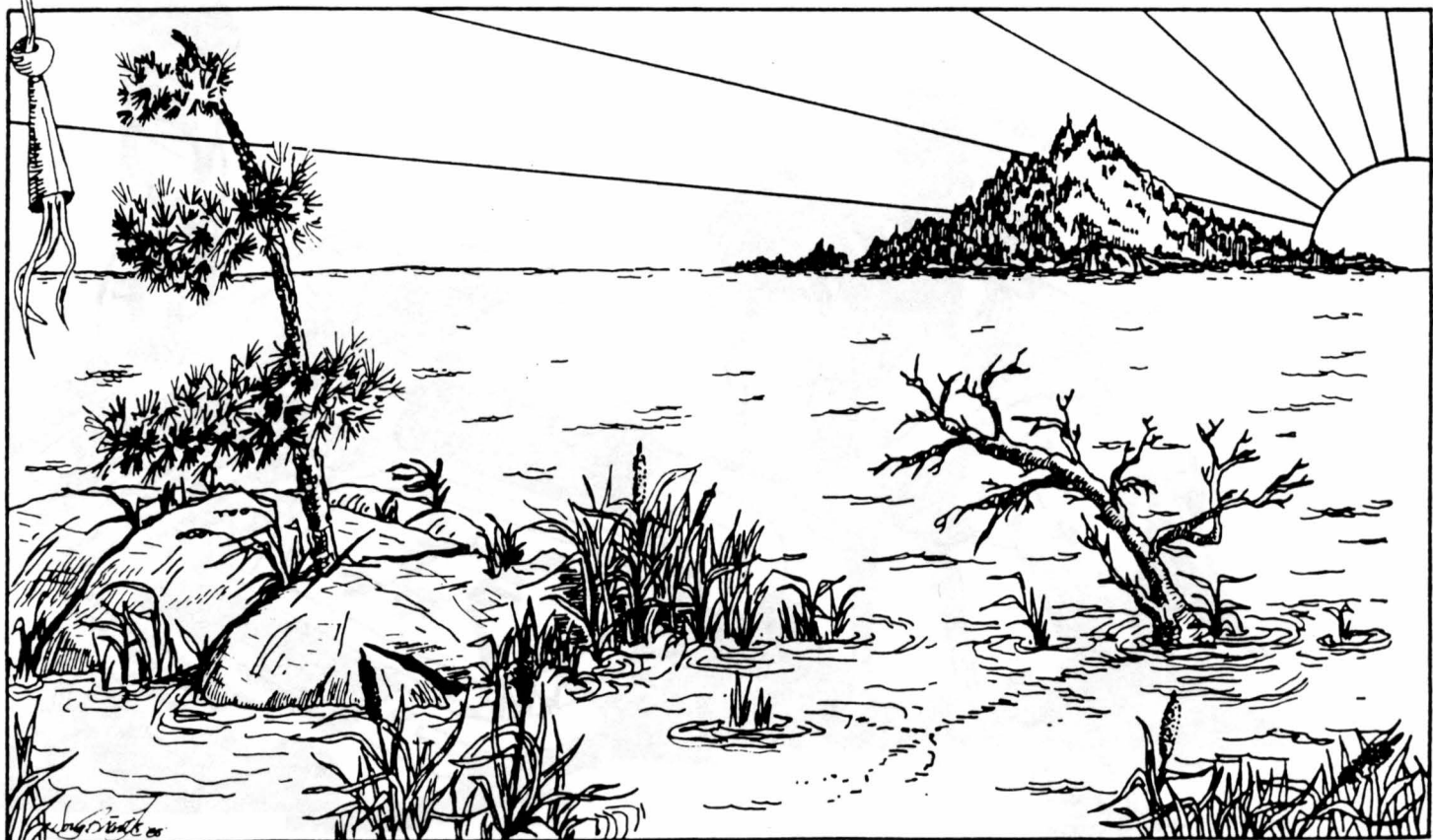
Our Benefactor in Indian Affairs
Hallowed be thy position
Thy downfall comes
With every election
Thy will be done on this reserve
As will be done on every other reserve
Give us this day our daily rations
And forgive us our trespasses as we will
Forgive you your trespasses on our land
Lead us not into integration
But deliver us from exploitation
For thine is the establishment
The power and the glory
For as long as the grass shall grow
And the rivers flow and the sun shines
Forever and ever – uhn uhn!

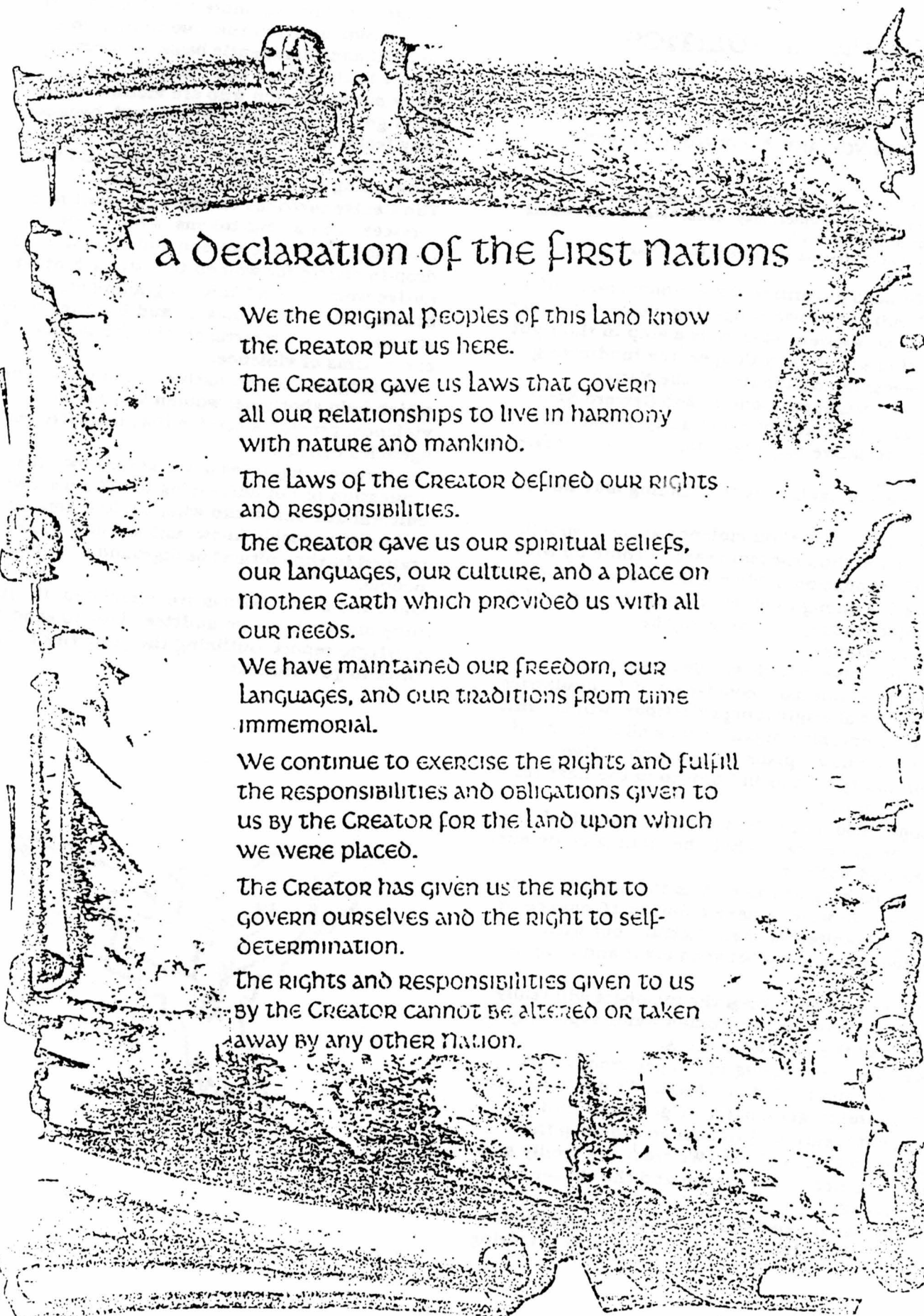


WE WERE LAWLESS PEOPLE... BUT WE WERE ON
PRETTY GOOD TERMS WITH THE GREAT SPIRIT...
YOU ASSUMED WE WERE SAVAGES. YOU DID
NOT UNDERSTAND OUR PRAYERS. WHEN WE
SANG OUR PRAISES TO THE SUN... MOON OR
WIND... YOU SAID WE WERE WORSHIPPING
IDOLS. WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THAT WE
SOMETIMES APPROACHED THE GREAT SPIRIT
THROUGH THESE THINGS. WE HAVE A TRUE
BELIEF IN THE SUPREME BEING... A
STRONGER FAITH THAN THOSE WHO CALLED
US PAGANS... INDIANS LIVING CLOSE TO
NATURE AND NATURE'S RULER ARE NOT
LIVING IN DARKNESS.

Walking Buffalo
1871-1967

DBK





a Declaration of the first Nations

We the Original Peoples of this land know
the Creator put us here.

The Creator gave us laws that govern
all our relationships to live in harmony
with nature and mankind.

The laws of the Creator defined our rights
and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs,
our languages, our culture, and a place on
Mother Earth which provided us with all
our needs.

We have maintained our freedom, our
languages, and our traditions from time
immemorial.

We continue to exercise the rights and fulfill
the responsibilities and obligations given to
us by the Creator for the land upon which
we were placed.

The Creator has given us the right to
govern ourselves and the right to self-
determination.

The rights and responsibilities given to us
by the Creator cannot be altered or taken
away by any other nation.

ISSUES & POLITICS

VIOLENCE AND ABORIGINAL WOMEN

The following excerpts and pictures were taken from Toronto's Midtown Voice, May, 1992, "Traditional healing best for native women".

Writer: Laura Martins; Pictures: Laura Martins

The Ontario government's announcement of a \$670,000 fund toward fighting violence against aboriginal women, April 8, is a step in the right direction says Nancy Cooper, the fundraising and research coordinator at the Native Women's Resource Centre, 245 Gerrard Street. "It seems to be really community-based with different native organizations, so it's very far-reaching.

But she also feels that the funding may not be enough.

"The federal panel on violence against women has \$10 million for two years to come up with recommendations. We got \$670,000. I don't think it's enough money. I would be happy if we got more money to deal with the consultations".

The initiative, which was developed by a steering committee consisting of 11 ministries and eight aboriginal organizations, will consult with community organizations all over Ontario. The committee plans to talk with native community groups in Toronto in the next three or four months.

Cooper also holds the view that aboriginal women are more likely to be victims of violence than non-natives.

"I was looking at some stats the other day, and non-native women have a four in 10 chance of being assaulted in their lifetime, but with native women, it's between eight and nine in 10."

Cooper said she hopes the members will really listen to what native women want, especially in terms of the healing process.

"We want the healing to happen from a very cultural and traditional level. We don't go into a hospital to get better, we go to our own people to learn and to heal and to keep the family unit as a circle. We treat the family as a unit and not as the victim and the abuser,"

Cooper said.

Cooper would also like to see more advocacy workers to help with court procedures involving

charges of violence, more training for native professionals within the community on a medical and therapeutic basis, and better access to the police and court system. Many native women who are victims of violence don't go to the police, Cooper said, because they feel they won't be understood. "A lot of them stay quiet or they come here and we do counselling from within the Centre."

The Centre provides emergency, short-term services such as bus tokens, a bi-weekly foodbank for native women and their families, a drop-in centre for women to visit with other native women, academic up-grading classes, beading and sewing classes and healing circles. It also acts as a referral service for women who are victims of violence.

According to Cooper, native community centres which help aboriginal women victims of violence, provide a service that mainstream agencies cannot.

"Mainstream agencies don't know how. It's not a question of not addressing it. There's a whole cultural difference and what could a non-native therapist probably know, unless she's been trained in the cultural background of native people."

Once the consultations are completed, (in six to nine months), the committee plans to send a strategic report, outlining the priorities to the Ontario government.





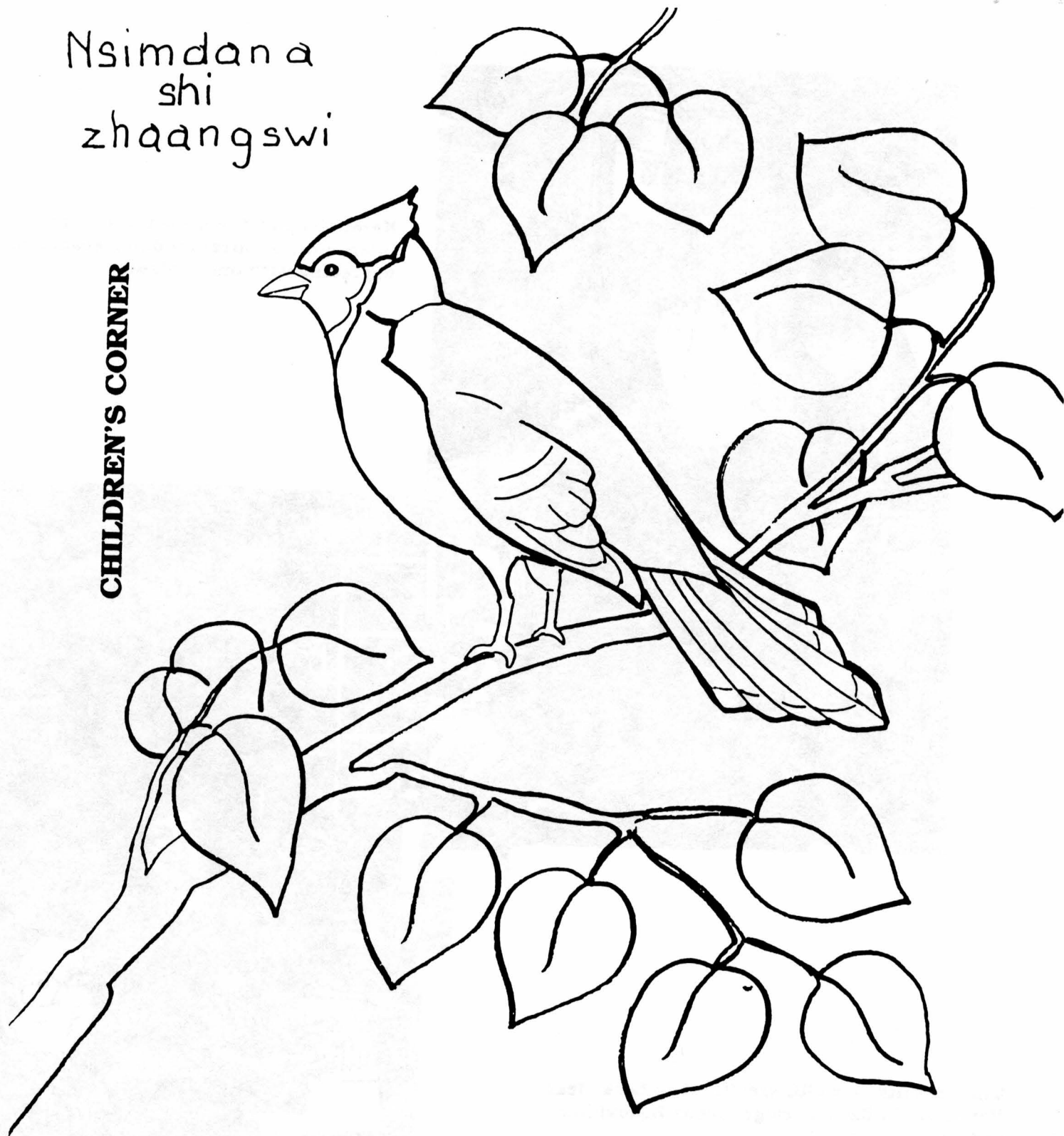
Karen Sheppard, our computer-learning instructor, is currently doing academic upgrading with our students.



Our students at NWRC are: (front to back) Jean Henderson, Eliza Partridge, Leona Beauvillier, and Geri Martin.

Nsimdanda
shi
zhaangswi

CHILDREN'S CORNER



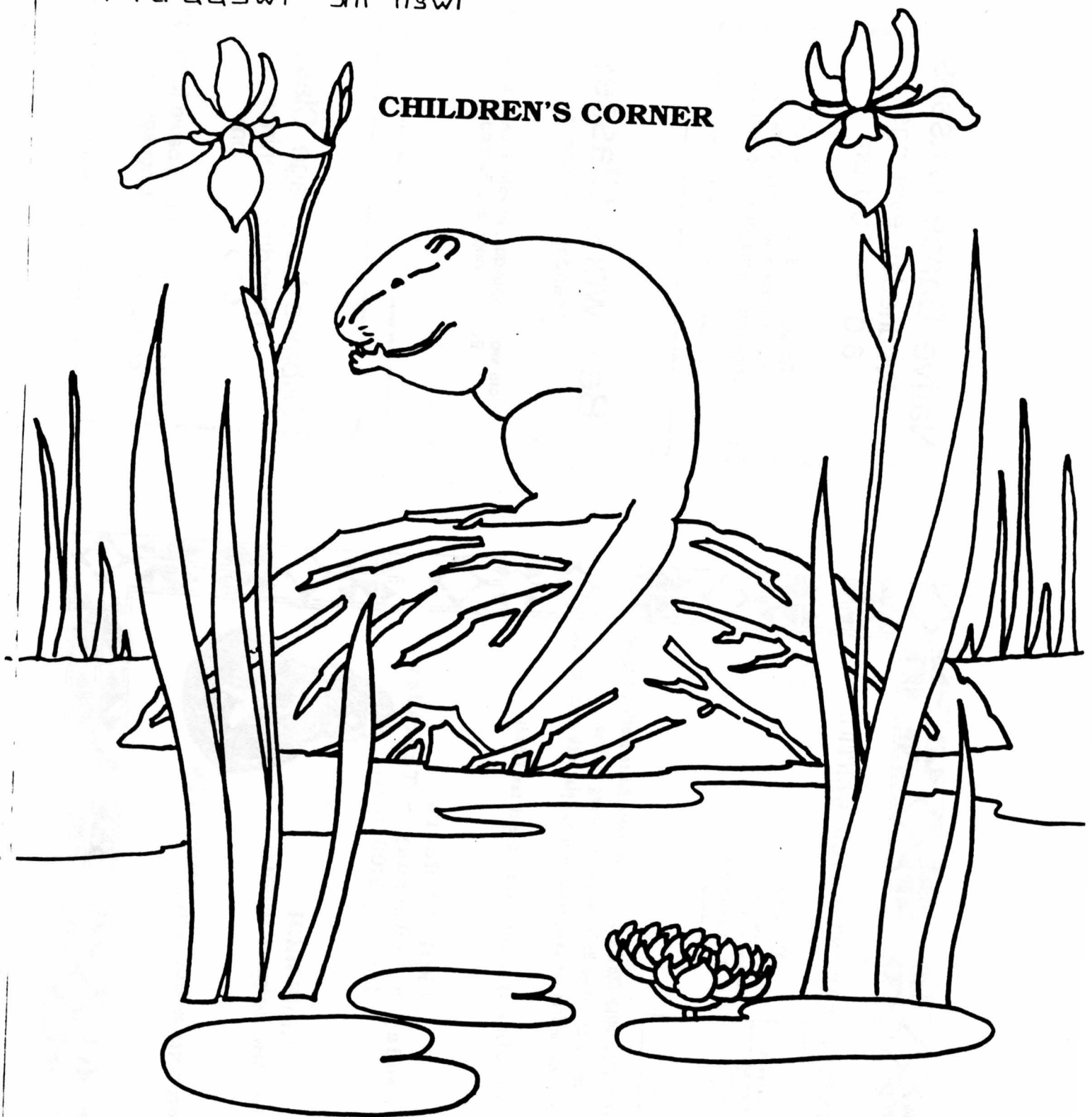
Diindiisiinh

Blue jay

(LOCAL DIALECT)

Mdaaswi shi nswi

CHILDREN'S CORNER

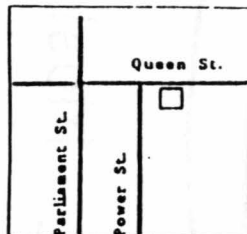


Wzhashk

(LOCAL DIALECT)

Muskrat

NATIVE PARENT CHILD CENTRE



83 Power St.
(One block east of
Parliament at Queen St.)
St. Paul's Church
(basement)

The NATIVE PARENT CHILD CENTRE is a drop-in where Native people caring for young children can meet other Native people with young children.
It's a place where children can enjoy crafts, toys and play with other children.

Come and join us for a cup of coffee, relax and meet new friends.

DROP IN Hours
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME
Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Babysitters

For more information contact LINDA MIGWANS 361-6184



Native Dance Classes

Wednesday evenings
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Traditional & Contemporary
dance styles and social dances.
Information on styles of dress and design.

Beadwork Classes

Wednesday afternoons

Loom work, Applique, Peyote & Lazy stitch
Edging, Fringe and Earrings

Ojibawe Language Classes

Thursday, evenings
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Come and learn the Ojibawe language
or improve your language skills.

NEEM-DAH:

Let's Dance

A new creative resource
for adult literacy which
illustrates Native dance

**DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION
NEED A NATIVE RESOURCE
TO HELP YOU IN YOUR WORK
WITH LITERACY OR EDUCATION?**

NEEM-DAH is a richly illustrated 16-page book with numerous activities based on reading material that presents the traditions behind Native dance.

The Native Womens Resource Center of Toronto found that there were very few resources with Native content suitable for a Native Literacy program. The Literacy Program then initiated a project with the dance class and compiled a dance booklet consisting of beautiful prose and poetry, thought-provoking quizzes, problem-solving games and puzzles, and innovative suggestions for artistic experiences. This interactive approach makes the resource suitable for use by adults of all ages, from young teens to seniors.

To order your copy, please complete the order form and send it along with your payment to

**Native Womens Resource Center of Toronto, Inc.
245 Gerrard St. E.,
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 2G1.**

ORDER FORM
(detach, fill out & mail with payment)

TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK **NEEM-DAH: Let's Dance**, COMPLETE THIS ORDER FORM AND FORWARD IT, ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Native Womens Resource Center of Toronto, Inc.
245 Gerrard St., East, Toronto Ontario M5A 2G1 (416) 963-9963

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

I would like to receive **NEEM-DAH: Let's Dance**:

Number of copies: _____

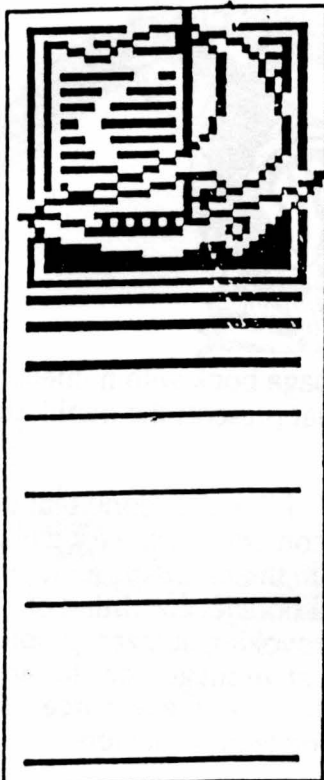
At \$4.99 a copy: _____

Plus \$2.00 a copy for shipping & handling:

Enclosed is a cheque or money order for: \$ _____ to cover costs of all copies ordered plus shipping and handling.

Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery. Thank you.





TOWARDS 1992

There are people all over the world who see Christopher Columbus as a heroic figure for his discovery of the Americas. In 1992 they will be celebrating his deeds. Indigenous peoples, however, will be celebrating their survival in spite of colonization and its devastating effects on the native peoples of the Americas.

Towards 1992 is a half-hour slide presentation on videotape which challenges the myths and realities of Columbus and colonization. The video also gives an overview of the First Intercontinental Meeting of Indigenous People held in the summer of 1990 in Quito, Ecuador. Some of the momentous statements made by women attending the meeting are presented as well as the declaration of rights.

The video is a thought-provoking documentary about what really happened and how Indigenous People must unite to correct the myths of history. It is an ideal discussion and activity resource for concerned groups.

ORDER FORM

To order your copy of the video, **Towards 1992**, complete this order form and forward it along with your payment to:

Native Women's Resource Centre

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

(416)963-9963 or FAX (416)963-9573

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone () _____ Fax () _____

No. of copies _____ (VHS) _____ (Beta)

COST: (includes \$5 for shipping and handling)

- \$25 for Native groups
- \$35 for non-Native groups

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ _____

Or, please bill me for the amount of \$ _____

PLEASE ALLOW FOUR WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. THANK YOU.

SAVE \$5 and pick up your copy at the Native Womens Resources Centre.



NIIBNA BGIDNIGEWENAN: The Many Gifts



A new creative resource of positive Native content material that will be a bonus to any library.

DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION
NEED A NATIVE RESOURCE TO
ENRICH YOUR WORK IN LITERACY
OR EDUCATION?



NIIBNA BGIDNIGEWENAN is a 25-page book on positive Native contributions to today's society.

NIIBNA BGIDNIGEWENAN: The Many Gifts focuses on the foods that were shared by the Indigenous People with the newcomers.

Stories describe the origin and benefit of the foods. Numerous activities, from puzzles to recipes, enrich the information and make the book a valuable resource for your literacy or learning needs.

To order your copy, please complete the order form and send it along with your payment to:

Native Womens Resource Centre of Toronto, Inc.
245 Gerrard St. East,
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 2G1

ORDER FORM

(detach, fill out, and mail with payment)

TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK NIIBNA BGIDNIGEWENAN: The Many Gifts, COMPLETE THIS ORDER FORM AND FORWARD IT, ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Native Womens Resource Centre
245 Gerrard St. East, Toronto Ontario M5A 2G1 (416) 963-9963, FAX: (416) 963-9573

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

I would like to receive the book NIIBNA BGIDNIGEWENAN: The Many Gifts:

No. of copies: _____

At \$5.00 a copy: _____

Plus \$2.00 a copy for shipping & handling: _____

Enclosed is a cheque or money order for: \$ _____ to cover costs of all copies ordered plus shipping and handling.

PLEASE ALLOW FOUR WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. THANK YOU.



WOMEN Spirit



THE VOICE OF NATIVE WOMEN NEEDS YOUR SUBMISSIONS:

ARTICLES PERTAINING TO NATIVE WOMEN'S ISSUES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTS (VISUAL/PERFORMING)

POEMS

STORIES OF INTEREST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE DROP BY OR PHONE/FAX YOUR SUBMISSION(S) TO:

NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

245 GERRARD STREET EAST

TORONTO, ONTARIO

M5A 2G1

TELEPHONE: (416) 963-9963

FAX: (416) 963-9573

MEEGWETCH!

WOMEN Spirit

SUBSCRIPTIONS

KEEP INFORMED ON NATIVE WOMEN'S ISSUES !!!

Please note that from now on we can only send copies of WOMENSPIRIT to those who subscribe. .
You can keep informed and help to insure that Native Women's Voices can be heard! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

ONE YEAR \$20.00

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

Fill out this form to WOMENSPIRIT and send it to;

WOMENSPIRIT
NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
245 GERRARD STR.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M5A 2G1
TELEPHONE; 963-9963 FAX; 963-9573

ADVERTISING IN WOMENSPIRIT

1/4 PAGE\$5.00

1/2 PAGE\$10.00

1 PAGE\$15.00

SWEATSHIRTS ON SALE

NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE LOGO

T SHIRTS: \$10.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1992 Pow Wow Schedule



May 22/23/24	Odawa 16th Annual Nepean Tent & Trailer Park 411 Corkstown Road Tel: (613) 238-8591 Fax: (613) 238-6106	August 1/2	Granite Rock & Grains of Sand, Fairgrounds, New Foundland, Pennsylvania
June 12/13/14	Barrie 3rd Annual Dunlop Street Arena Tel: (705) 721-7689	August 1/2/3	Wikwemikong 32nd Annual Manitoulin Island, Ontario
June 27/28	Sarnia Chippewas 31st Annual; Marlborough & Virgil Community Centre Tel: (519) 336-8410	August 8/9	Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation "Honouring the Earth"
June 27/28	"Spike" Crying Eyes Middlesex County Fair Grounds, East Brunswick, New Jersey	August 15/16	Fort Albany, Ontario
June 27/28	"Spike" Crying Eyes Middlesex County Fair Grounds, East Brunswick, New Jersey	August 21 & 23	American Indian 18th Annual, Baltimore Festival Hall, Baltimore, Maryland
July 4/5	N'Amerind Native Friendship Centre "Honour our Heritage"	August 22/23	Mississaugas of the Credit 6th Annual New Credit, Ontario
July 11/12	Kettle & Stoney Point First Nation	August 28/29/30	Toronto First International Canadian National Exhibition Tel: (519) 751-0040 Fax: (519) 751-2790
July 11/12	Mohawks of Kahnawake "Echoes of a Proud Nation" Kahnawake, Quebec	August 28/29/30	Native American Memorial Warriors Veterans Association, Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, Utah
July 18/19	Ojibways of Walpole Island	September 5/6	Delaware of the Thames First Nation, Moraviantown Pow Wow, Thamesville, Ontario
July 18/19	"Keeper of the Western Door", St. Boniface University, New York	September 26/27	North American Indian Association of Detroit and University of Michigan, Dearborn, USA
July 25/26	Grand River 13th Annual Six Nations Brantford, Ontario	October 10/11	Rama First Nation 5th Annual
July 25/26	PNACI, Carbon County Fair Grounds, Lehigh, Pennsylv sylvania		

Telephone numbers have been listed where made available.



NATIVE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE OF TORONTO INC.

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

ph (416) 963-9963
fax (416) 963-9573

