

Contributors to this Issue

Eileen Antone is a graduate of OISE/UT and a faculty member in the department of Adult Education, Community Development, and Counselling Psychology. Eileen is also a faculty member in the Transitional Year Program of the University of Toronto with a cross appointment to University College, where the primary focus of her work is with Aboriginal students achieving university studies. She has many years of experience with Aboriginal communities and organizations both as a committee member and a concerned individual advocating for Aboriginal perspectives. Eileen is a member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation located in Southwestern Ontario.

Sally Gaikhezheyongai is Wolf Clan, Ojibway. She has worked for the past 12 years in the literacy field in Toronto, both within and outside the urban Aboriginal community, storytelling for social change, as an anti-oppression activist, an advisor/consultant to non-Aboriginal groups, a workshop and healing/teaching circle facilitator, a board member/volunteer in a variety of agencies, an adult literacy instructor, and an Aboriginal literacy program coordinator. She has written several short stories and has participated in two literacy projects.

Peter Gamlin is a professor emeritus in the Department of Adult Education, Community Development and Counselling Psychology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. His work spans 30 years of specialization in educational psychology, child development, and adult education. Peter works actively with Aboriginal colleagues in the Department of Adult Education to establish an Aboriginal education research center. Projects underway inquire into Aboriginal literacy programs to determine to what extent they are culturally appropriate. Currently he is working closely with Aboriginal communities to help deliver culturally appropriate services to families and children. Peter is a registered psychologist with the Ontario College of Psychologists.

Ningwakwe Priscilla George is a Deer Clan Anishnawbe from the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation. Her spirit name is Ningwakwe, Rainbow Woman. Ningwakwe began teaching in 1965 with the Toronto Board of Education. She has been the Native Literacy Coordinator with the Ontario Ministry of Education and a Trainer/Consultant with the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition. She was Coordinator of the first National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering and is currently working on the follow-up strategy, which includes establishing the newly incorporated National Indigenous Literacy Association, a national Aboriginal literacy organization. "The Rainbow Approach to Aboriginal Literacy," her thesis-in-progress, was originally developed at the request of the Parkland Regional College. This wholistic approach was adapted by the National Aboriginal Design Committee. She is the mother of two grown children.

Christianna Jones has been working with literacy learners at M'Chigeeng First Nation for nine years. Her experience in the Native literacy field includes the Learning Outcomes Pilot Project (1998/1999), which focused on identifying the importance of self-direction and management skills in literacy and which was added to the MTCU's Learning Outcomes matrix. She was the Content Developer for the Native AlphaRoute Project (1999/2001), which focuses on helping learners improve their self-direction and management skills. Christianna brings her back-

ground as a life-skills coach and counselor to her present responsibility as the Vice-President of the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition.

Lenore Keeshig-Tobias is an award-winning author and traditional storyteller. She was the founding chair of the Racial Minority Writers' Committee for the Writers' Union of Canada. Lenore shares the 1993 Living the Dream Book Award with her daughter Polly for their book *Bird Talk*, which Polly illustrated. This award was established to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. and is given "in recognition of a children's book that best provides positive and authentic cultural images and dispels prejudice." She shares a 1987 Author's Award with her husband David McLaren. Lenore works with Parks Canada as a naturalist, cultural interpreter, and oral history researcher; and in the off-season she teaches at George Brown College in Toronto.

Elva Lickers, a lifelong resident of the Six Nations Reserve, is of Mohawk ancestry and a member of the Wolf Clan. A 1989 graduate from McMaster University with a BA in sociology, Elva has certification in small business management, life-skills coach training, reality therapy/choice theory, and advanced critical incident stress debriefing. Elva's background includes 12 years as a literacy coordinator and life-skills facilitator. Through her own agency, *Life Is Simple*, she provides personal enhancement seminars and full- and part-time life skills courses.

Yvonne McLeod has worked as an assistant professor with the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), University of Regina for eight years providing leadership in educational administration, education psychology, and early childhood education with a primary focus on a First Nations perspective. She has held the position of Department Head for SIFC Indian Education. Since 1994 she has dedicated her service to fulfilling the mandate of SIFC, also working with First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. Her master's research investigated the need for a First Nations secondary teacher education program at SIFC. At present provides educational leadership as the Director of the Native Indian Education (NITEP) at the University of British Columbia.

Charles Miller is a Bear Clan Ojibway of the Wasauksing First Nation. He is also a visible minority (hearing impaired) FAS learner. He gained his primary education in special needs classes and graduated from a graphic arts printing program in a residential school. Charles went on to earn his grade 12 equivalency at George Brown College. After working in the printing industry for 25 years, he entered the health care field. His background and experience include facilitating workshops in crisis intervention, American Sign Language (ASL), and residential school survivorship. He is currently an ASL interpreter and a member of the Language Translator Committee with Anishnawbe Health of Toronto. Charles is a traditional male dancer and a family man who has been married for 30 years.

Patrick Moore is an assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of British Columbia. He has worked extensively with Slavey language programs in Alberta and with Kaska language programs in the Yukon and British Columbia. His books include *Wolverine Myths and Visions* (1990, with Angela Wheelock), *Guzagi K'uge': Our Language Book: Nouns Kaska, Mountain Slavey and Sekani* (1997), and *Dene Gudeji: Kaska Narratives* (1999).

Rhonda L. Paulsen is an educational consultant working with Aboriginal colleagues and members of the community to define and implement best practices in education. She has over 20 years of experience as teacher, researcher, and administrator in both business and educational institutes and environments of diversity. Recently Rhonda has taught and developed courses in Native studies at Trent University, has participated in the efforts of the Hopi in Arizona to reclaim their lands, and is currently involved in the efforts of the Kanaka Maoli (Hawaiian People) toward the revitalization of language in education. Rhonda received her doctorate from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto in June 2002.

Sharon Swanson is a member of Michipicoten First Nation. In July 2000 she came to Moose Factory to deliver continuing education courses for Northern College and was invited to set up and deliver a literacy and basic skills program for the Moose Cree Education Authority. The program, which has been running with some success, is unique in that it is not funded by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and is delivered on the reserve. Sharon is retired from Northern College where she was a special support technician responsible for training for all levels of staff and administering the computer systems for five campuses including all software and hardware purchases and maintenance. After retirement she was hired by the Continuing Education Department of Northern College as a part-time teacher of computer software and accounting systems.

Isadore Bebamikawe Toulouse is a member of the Turtle Clan from the Wikwemikong unceded First Nation, Manitoulin Island. He received his BA from Trent University in 1979 and graduated from Lakehead University's Native language Instructors Program. Over 20 years of teaching, Isadore became familiar with the need for Ojibwe language material prepared for and by Ojibwe people. He currently teaches Ojibwe language and culture at Sutton District High School (York Region), Georgian College, McMaster University, and Scugog First Nation; during the summer he returns to Lakehead University's Native Language Instructors' program.

Shirley Pheasant-Williams is a member of the Bird Clan of the Ojibway and Odawa First Nations of Canada. Her Aboriginal name is *Migizi ow Kwe*, which means "That Eagle Woman." She was born and raised at Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island and attended St. Joseph's Residential School in Spanish, Ontario. She holds a BA in Native studies from Trent University, a diploma in the Native Language Instructors' Program from Lakehead University, and a master's degree in environmental studies from York University. Shirley is currently an associate professor at Trent University, where she teaches language and culture and other related courses in the Department of Native Studies.

Mary Young is Anishinabe Kwe from Bloodvein First Nation in Manitoba. Mary has worked at the University of Winnipeg since 1984 as a Native student advisor, an Aboriginal student counselor, and Director of Aboriginal Student Services. Mary is committed to working toward the preservation of the Anishinabe language. She sees her dissertation on language as identity as only a beginning of the real work. Her other passion is working with Aboriginal students in a university setting.