

dependence, and interrelatedness between individuals into our research methodologies.

Like all living creatures, we as Indigenous people are sustained by our connection to the land. Many of us include all other living organisms and entities as part of our identity. I know Aboriginal people who refer to themselves as a squirrel, a hawk, a bear, and thunder being. These labels are not simply names they use to identify their individual characteristics or personalities; rather, at different times they have identified themselves as those beings. This self-recognition enables us to understand where and how we belong to this world, and it has the profound effect of ensuring that wherever we may happen to be at any given time, alone or in the company of other people, we do not feel alone. This knowledge nourishes us.

Those who suggest that Aboriginal people experience an identity crisis may be right in some sense. Many Aboriginal people may be trying to negotiate and reconcile the differences between their notion of self-as-relationship and the Western individuated notion of self. Those who recognize this difference and accept it without trying to make it an either-or conflict are freed from that struggle.

References

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Eulogy for Cathy Sewell (1962-2001)

Cathy was a contemporary warrior. With a drum in one hand and a computer in another, she sang, she wrote, and she spoke to effect change and empowerment for her people. As the President of the Aboriginal Student Council at the University of Alberta, or as the Education Director of the Confederacy of Treaty Six, Community Relations Coordinator and recruiter at the Office of Native Student services, or as a regional leader and mentor for the American Indian Sciences and Engineering Society, Cathy sought and made changes to improve conditions for Aboriginal students.

She left home at 18 to make her way in the world, and in her short time here she managed to pack several lifetimes into those two decades. With the superior music training she received from Grant MacEwan Community College, coupled with her incredible talent, she and Cheryl Seeweepagaham formed Canada's first Aboriginal women's cappella ensemble *Asani*. They took people and places by storm. They were and still are sought after. They performed for heads of state and at national and international conferences and conventions. They performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, South Africa, and at the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Hilo, Hawaii.

Meanwhile, as if the challenge of making music with *Asani* was not enough, she sought higher education with equal gusto. She attended the University of Alberta from 1991 to 1996 and earned her bachelor's degree in Native studies with a minor in linguistics. She then went on to study for her master's in international intercultural education. And as if that was not enough, Cathy was a compassionate teacher and educator. She taught Introduction to Native Studies for three years in the School of Native Studies in the University of Alberta. She co-developed the first and only course in Canada on contemporary Indigenous women's music.

Cathy believed that answers to Aboriginal social issues lay in the combination of education and the foundation of culture. She believed that education had to be a two-way street. In one way Aboriginal people needed to utilize the tools found in education to build their communities and reempower themselves by implementing their own cultures into a traditional, yet contemporary framework. The other way was to educate non-Aboriginal people about the traditions and contributions of Aboriginal people to Canada and the world.

Using education as a process of enlightenment, Cathy saw that there was a way to make real changes and to bring Aboriginal people into real changes and to bring Aboriginal people into real partnership and relevance with all Canadians. Cathy pursued this goal in all she did. When you were with her, she came at you from everywhere. Her drum brought thunder. Her voice was a melody of joy. Her intellect challenged you to think and to become aware of who you are. Cathy was a singer, writer, scholar, educator, leader, organizer, and a warrior. We miss her, but are better for knowing who she was and have benefited from what she did.

Lewis Cardinal