



FROM APOLOGY TO
RECONCILIATION

Appendix 3:
Biographies of Survivors Interviewed on the
DVD

APPENDIX 3: BIOGRAPHIES OF SURVIVORS INTERVIEWED ON THE DVD

Kathy Bird is originally from Norway House, Manitoba but lives in Peguis, Manitoba. She works as a Community Health Nurse in the Peguis Traditional Healing Program. She has a strong background in traditional medicine. Kathy has Cree and Nakota ancestry.

Percy Bird's home community was Peguis First Nation. He spoke Saulteaux and his cultural affiliation was Saulteaux.

Ann Thomas Callahan is from Peepeekisis First Nation, Saskatchewan. Ann started attending residential school when she was four years old. Ann attended File Hills Indian Residential School for 10 years and Birtle Indian Residential School for four years. Ann communicates in English but her parents spoke Plains Cree. Ann's cultural affiliation is Plains Cree.

Mary Courchene was born and raised on the Sagkeeng First Nation. Mary was taken from her home at an early age to become a residential school student. She lived most of her formative years at residential schools. Mary stayed for 11 years at Fort Alexander Residential School. She could see her home from the residential school window. At the age of 14, she was forced to leave her home community to attend the only Indian Catholic Residential High School in Canada at Lebret, Saskatchewan. She stayed there for two years.

Edwin McCorrister's home community is Peguis First Nation. He speaks Saulteaux and his cultural affiliation is Saulteaux.

Charlie Nelson's traditional name is Mizhakwanigiizhik (Clearsky) and he also goes by his traditional name Nnibidekwaneb (Feather in row). He belongs to the clan Bizhiw (Lynx) doodaim. Charlie is also the Chief of the Western Doorway of Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge and is Fifth Degree Midewiwin. Charlie was raised in the Anishinaabe community of Bagwaa'onishkoziibing (Roseau River First Nation). He is the second oldest of nine children, a father of five, and grandfather of eight. He has relatives in Shoal Lake, Ontario, and Long Plain. Charlie's parents attended residential school. Charlie attended Roseau Day school for six years, Letellier School for two years, Assiniboia Residential School for four years, and Emerson High School where he completed Grade 12.

Garry Robson is Ojibway from Peguis First Nation. Garry worked as an Aboriginal Awareness Consultant with the Province of Manitoba's Aboriginal Education Directorate for 28 years. He is a member of the Turtle Clan, and provides traditional cultural teachings for students, teachers, administrators, parents, community agencies, First Nations agencies,

police, and government departments within Manitoba. Garry is also a poet and storyteller. Garry can speak about stories of the traditional life of his people such as the clan system, prophecies, the seven stages of life, men's roles, family, education (then and now), the tipi, treaties, and the cradle board.

Dorothy Stranger's home community is Peguis First Nation. She speaks Saulteaux and her cultural affiliation is Saulteaux. Her children attended residential schools.

Dan Thomas was born on Matheson Island, a fishing community on Lake Winnipeg. His parents' families came from Traverse Bay, Grand Marais, and Sagkeeng. Dan attended Frontier Collegiate Institute from 1967 to 1972. His father spoke Ojibwe, Cree, and English. Dan's maternal grandmother attended residential school, which introduced English as the main language in the home. Dan is a member of Sagkeeng Anishinaabe First Nation. He follows Ojibwe traditions, and practises these every day.

Flora Zaharias was born in Kainaisksahkoyi in Southern Alberta. She, her parents, and her seven siblings are all survivors of the residential school system. Flora and her brothers and sisters enjoyed being home with their parents during the Christmas and summer holidays. It was during those days at home on the farm that they continued learning and living their rich cultural traditions. Since her residential school did not teach beyond Grade 8, Flora's parents, at their own expense, placed her at Lacombe Home, a non-Native private school in Midnapore, Alberta, in order to accommodate Flora's wish to become a nurse. Flora, however, soon replaced this dream with one of becoming a teacher. Flora and her late husband, Stanley, had two boys: Chris (deceased) and Don. Don, a school teacher, and his wife, Mona (Neufeld), have made Flora the proud grandmother of three precious boys: Dorian, Zackary, and Joshua.

Grace Zoldy's home community is Camperville, Manitoba. She is the daughter of Louis Ledoux and Selange Pangman. She attended Christ the King School in Camperville until she completed Grade 8. Grace speaks Michif, Cree, and Saulteaux. Grace has been involved with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) from its earliest days in the 1960s when Fortunat Guiboche organized the first local council in Camperville. She has served the MMF in elected office as Spokesperson of Métis women of Manitoba.

Children of Survivors and Other Interviewees

Nichola Batzel was born in Churchill, Manitoba, to an Inuit mother. Her ancestors are from Garry Lake and Back River. They were relocated to Baker Lake and then moved again to Whale Cove, Nunavut. Most of Nichola's birth family live in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. Nichola's adopted family is very open and supportive of her. Culture and identity are important to Nichola, and she takes pride in her knowledge of all the cultures she is a part of. Nichola is the current president of the Manitoba Urban Inuit Association, and is a teacher in the Winnipeg School Division. Nichola is very proud of her son and feels lucky to be around the people who care for and love her. Life has given Nichola experiences and lessons that she embraces for a hopeful future.

Rebecca Chartrand was born in Winnipeg with roots in Vogar, Pine Creek, Camperville, and Duck Bay, Manitoba. She is of Anishinaabe/Neheyawin and Métis descent. She is a proud mother of one daughter, Syrena. Currently she works as an Aboriginal education consultant for Seven Oaks and Winnipeg school divisions. Rebecca is very passionate about education and has provided input on various local, provincial, and national Aboriginal education committees. Rebecca has provided leadership to the Aboriginal Circle of Educators (ACE), and is one of the founding members of the ACE awards banquet. Rebecca is also a founding member of CAEM-Council for Aboriginal Education in Manitoba.

Jesse Green started performing with Buffy Sainte-Marie in June 2009; since that time, Jesse has performed on stages around the world. In May 2011, Jesse performed with long-time friends Donovan Mojobin, Michel Bruyere, and Leroy Constant in the band Bruthers of Different Muthers. They released their first album, *Speakers of Tomorrow*, in September 2011. The album has been successful, earning awards and a Juno nomination. Jesse operates a recording studio in Winnipeg called Strong Front Records where he writes, records, and composes music scores for broadcast television and film. Music-oriented programming has become Jesse's forte and he plans to continue developing programs that will feature established and emerging Canadian talent.

Anna Parenteau is from the Roseau River First Nation and currently lives in Winnipeg. She has two sons, Zhaawashko and Carter, and is married to Jason. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in linguistics and Native languages. She is planning to go back to school and obtain her Master's degree in linguistics. She is also a second-degree Midewiwin.

Shaneen Robinson is a proud member of the Cree and Gitksan Nations. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications in June 2008 from the University of Winnipeg and a Diploma in Broadcast Production from Red

River College's Creative Communications Program in 2005. Shaneen is a multi-award-winning writer/playwright/journalist who has been the mid-day host and community events reporter at NCI FM radio, and has also worked as a television news reporter for APTN National News and CTV News Winnipeg. She has been emceeding community events and powwows for nearly a decade. Shaneen has been a board member on CancerCare Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba First Nations, Inuit and Métis Community Partnership Committee, Canadian Blood Services Regional Committee, and the Lord Selkirk Aboriginal Women's Group. Shaneen continues to advocate for women, children, youth, and the elderly. She works for the Province of Manitoba in communications, while maintaining her love of volunteering and planning dozens of beneficial community events. Shaneen is a positive role model for Aboriginal youth.

David Thomas B.Env. D., M. Arch., Intern David is a member of Peguis First Nation, and a graduate of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture. He has participated in numerous architectural expressions as designer, technician, and project administrator, carrying a regional authenticity through to all aspects of his past projects. He has focused strongly on his roots in Manitoba and First Nations design throughout his education and professional practice. David's graduate thesis work explored the history and heritage of Peguis First Nation and the establishment of community connections that were broken as a result of the relocation in 1907. This work explored an interpretative framework for Indigenous identity. David recognizes that architecture is not only built form, but relationships that, when expressed with an Indigenous sensibility, create a sense of purpose and empowerment.