

Notes on Contributors

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"For The Love of Words": Aboriginal Writers of Canada

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm is an Anishnaabe spoken-word artist, writer, publisher, and Indigenous arts advocate from the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation on the Saugeen Peninsula in Ontario. *standing ground*, a CD of her spoken word poetry, with music by international Indigenous collaborators, was released in 2004. "Beneath the Buffalo Robe," cowritten and performed with Gregory Scofield, aired on CBC Radio in 2003 and 2005. Her writing has been published in *my heart is a stray bullet*, a chapbook *bloodriver woman*, and in anthologies and journals in Canada and internationally. *Without Reservation*, an anthology of erotica by Indigenous writers was released in Canada and in Aotearoa in 2003. She initiated "Honouring Words: International Indigenous Authors Celebration Tour" and coordinated the international tour in Canada in 2002. She was a featured poet on "Heart of a Poet," a TV series on BookTV, The Canadian Learning Channel, and Bravo! TV in 2005-06. She is completing a collection of short stories, a collection of poetry, and various publishing projects, and working on a multi-disciplinary multimedia project with Mohawk choreographer Santee Smith and Maori hip hop artist Te Kupu.

Jeannette Armstrong, an Okanagan Indian, grew up on the Penticton Indian Reserve in British Columbia. She is the first Native woman novelist from Canada. A writer, teacher, artist, sculptor, and activist for indigenous rights, she has published numerous novels, collections of poetry, and non-fiction.

Marie Annharte Baker, from Little Saskatchewan First Nations, currently writes reviews for *Rain*. She has published three books: *Exercises in Lip Pointing* (New Star), *Coyote Columbus Cafe* (Moonprint) and *Being on the Moon* (Polestar).

Warren Cariou is from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, a community that is featured in his 2002 memoir, *Lake of the Prairies*. He has also published a book of fiction, *The Exalted Company of Roadside Martyrs*, and is at work on a novel about the oil industry. He teaches Aboriginal literature and creative writing at the University of Manitoba.

Jennifer Delisle is a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia, where she is currently studying the literature of Newfoundland out-migration. She has published several articles on popular culture and nostalgia theory.

Marilyn Dumont's first collection, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, won the 1997 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award presented by the League of Canadian Poets. It is now in its tenth printing, and selections from it are widely anthologized in secondary and post-secondary literature texts. Her second collection, *green girl dreams Mountains*, won the 2001 Stephan G. Stephansson Award from the Writer's Guild of Alberta. She was Writer-in-Residence at the universities of Alberta

and Windsor, at Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton, and Massey College, University of Toronto. Her third manuscript is with Kegedonce Press while she continues to work on a fourth collection in which she explores Métis history, politics, and identity through the figure of Gabriel Dumont. She also teaches Aboriginal Literature at the University of Alberta and Creative Writing through Athabasca University.

Renate Eigenbrod has taught Aboriginal literatures since 1986 at Lakehead, Acadia, and, for the last four years, at the University of Manitoba, and she has lectured and published in this field. Her book *Travelling Knowledges: Positioning the Im/Migrant Reader of Aboriginal Literatures in Canada* came out in May 2005. Together with Jo-Ann Episkenew she co-edited a book of essays titled *Creating Community: A Roundtable on Canadian Aboriginal Literatures* (2001).

Marvin Francis (1955-2005), poet, writer, radio playwright, and artist, was born on the Heart Lake First Nation in Alberta. He was best known as a poet and winner of the 2003 John Hirsch Award for Manitoba's most promising writer.

Lally Grauer is an Associate Professor with the Department of Creative and Critical Studies at the University of British Columbia in Okanagan. Her publications include *Native Poetry in Canada: A Contemporary Anthology*, with Jeannette Armstrong (Broadview, 2001), and, with Jeannette Armstrong and Janet MacArthur, *Okanagan Women's Voices* (Theytus, forthcoming).

Jane Haladay holds a PhD in Native American Studies with an emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research from the University of California, Davis. Her scholarship and teaching focus on literary practices of decolonization, indigenous self-determination, and the subversion of ethnic and gender stereotypes in the writings of twentieth and twenty-first century Native North American authors. A native of California, she is currently Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke.

Emma LaRocque, a Plains-Cree Metis, is a professor in the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba. She lectures, both nationally and internationally, on Native/White relations, focusing on the colonial experience in academia and society. She is the author of *Defeathering the Indian*, a study of stereotypes about "Indians" in public schools, and she has written scholarly as well as popular articles on misrepresentation of "Indians" in media and marketplace, Canadian historiography, racism, Métis identity, gender roles, contemporary Aboriginal literatures, and postcolonial criticism. Her poetry has appeared in many journals and anthologies. She is the originator and key organizer of the "For the Love of Words": Aboriginal Writers of Canada Conference in Winnipeg in 2004.

Duncan Mercredi, originally from Grand Rapids, Manitoba, is of Cree/Metis (Innnew) background, a storyteller/poet, and a member of the Aboriginal Writers Collective of Manitoba. He has published four books of poetry (Pemmican): *Spirit of the Wolf: raise your voice*, *Dreams of the Wolf: in the city*, *Wolf and*

Shadows, and *duke of windsor: wolf sings the blues*. His work has come out in a variety of periodicals, anthologies, and in two chapbooks from the Collective.

Deanna Reder (Cree-Métis) is completing her PhD in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia on Indigenous autobiography in Canada.

Jack Robinson's interests lie in Canadian fiction and drama. He recently presented papers and published articles on Eden Robinson's *Monkey Beach*, David Adams Richards's *Mercy Among the Children*, and Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. Earlier articles include ones on Howard O'Hagan's *Tay John* and Maria Campbell and Linda Griffiths's *The Book of Jessica*. He has taught university transfer courses in Canadian literature at MacEwan College in Edmonton since 1989, and he will now offer courses covering earlier periods in Canadian literature plus courses in Canadian drama as part of the newly established BA program at MacEwan.

Pamela Sing teaches French, Québécois, Franco-Canadian, and Franco-Métis literatures at the Saint-Jean campus of the University of Alberta. She has authored or co-authored three books on Canadian and Québécois writers of French ancestry, and published a number of book chapters and journal articles on Western Canadian literature in French. Her research targeting the recovery of Canada's Franco-Métis communities through written and oral texts has recently received SSHRC funding.

Louise Bernice Halfe Skydancer is Cree from Saddle Lake Indian Reserve in north-eastern Alberta and lives outside Saskatoon in a circular straw-bale house with a panoramic view of the east, south and west, looking towards a small lake, rolling hills, and plenty of wildlife. She is the author of *Bear Bones & Feathers* and *Blue Marrow*. *The Crooked Good* will be published in the fall of 2007 by Coteau. She presently is Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan. As mother of two adult children and granny of two handsome grandsons, her life is full, and she loves it all.

June Scudeler is a Vancouver based Métis PhD candidate in English at the University of Calgary. Her dissertation is on Gregory Scofield. She is on the Board of the Vancouver Metis Community Association and has worked on the Talking Stick Aboriginal Arts Festival and as the Assistant Coordinator for the Urban Aboriginal Strategy.