

# First Peoples Child & Family Review

An Interdisciplinary Journal Honouring the Voices, Perspectives, and Knowledges of First Peoples through Research, Critical Analyses, Stories, Standpoints and Media Reviews

First Peoples  
Child & Family Review  
An interdisciplinary journal honouring the voices, perspectives, and knowledges of First Peoples



## A New Beginning

Raven Sinclair

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Volume 6, numéro 1, 2011

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1068893ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1068893ar>

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Éditeur(s)

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

ISSN

1708-489X (imprimé)  
2293-6610 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Sinclair, R. (2011). A New Beginning. *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, 6(1), 9–9. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1068893ar>

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Volume 6, Number 1, 2011, p. 9

## A New Beginning

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My heart hangs on a willow in the East  
exposed to the scrutiny of the four winds  
revealing my grief to the four directions  
While I sit, heartless,  
in the arms of my lover  
and weep.

My heart dangles up high  
Red in the wind, twisting, turning  
to the morning, noon, and night.  
Grandmothers gather 'round to inspect and nod,  
clucking knowingly.  
Their love is a prayer  
not a release.

My heart is a stone that swings in a willow  
turning in the four winds  
crying out in the cold and dark  
weeping the pain and grief of a lifetime  
saving me from a cruel and untimely death  
that resembles a life of loss.

My heart is a stone,  
A pebble in a red cloth bag  
Bobbing high in a willow  
Slowly turning to the 4 directions  
in the light and the dark  
A cold, frightened warrior  
that pebble, that is my heart.

My heart was a stone  
which I placed high in a willow  
on the 2nd last day of a long and short journey.  
That cold, frightened warrior,  
she died peacefully in the night.

Today I shall reclaim her body  
for a tender return to Mother Earth.

Sealing a prayer and an offering  
for a new beginning and another life.

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