

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF

Kwey, kwey,

These days there are many First Nations people who are striving to find something to believe in. We are all starting to pay more attention to the spirituality of our ancestors than to our particular direction in life. We are drawn to First Nations beliefs because it is natural for us to do so and because our ancestors way of life was clean and pure and was based on simplicity.

As we journey through life, with luck we will be led to a person who has been given wisdom and knowledge enough to be classed as an elder. From elders we will begin to learn the ways and traditions that form the heart of First Nations beliefs. Elders do not think of themselves as special. We must always regard them highly and treat them with respect. When we see this respect being given to elders we desire to someday earn that same level of respect. We must remember that knowledge of facts is not the same as wisdom. One must be careful when learning of our traditional ways, not to let our egos and the craving for respect, overtake wisdom. A long life full of experience leads to wisdom. An elder that has no knowledge about spirituality cannot become a spiritual teacher but may be wise in other areas of life.

Healers are those who are given the ability to heal. One does not “just become a healer.” One must learn the proper use and purpose of medicines. If one does not fully understand the medicines, they have no idea of the danger it poses on others or on themselves.

Each of us has a best possible path to walk, and each of us is here for a specific purpose. That walk is all about learning and the Creator does not make mistakes when he chooses your walk. Each life interacts with many others, so each one is as important as any other. You can waste a lifetime trying to walk the path of others and it will do you no good. We walk where we were intended to walk. To do anything less, we would only break faith with ourselves and with the spirits who we rely on to help and guide us.

As your chief and leader (and even when I am not) I will continue to strive to help rebuild our Algonquin Nation for the benefit of our people. Our Nation needs to become more united and whole. That is how we will boast of our strength. We can only do this if ALL Algonquin people become members of the Nation. We must join hands. Our best resource is our people. The Nation needs each and every one of us in order to become whole and proud. We need to revive our language and traditional culture. It is our duty and responsibility to carry on the legacies of our ancestors. It is the only way that our children’s children will inherit our traditions and culture.

Learn, love and be humble!

Chief Katherine Cannon