

Jackie Finnie

My name is Jackie, but kids call me Auntie Jackie.

I was born in The Pas, Manitoba.

I was raised by my grandma, my aunt, the whole town.

My grandma always told me to be a good girl.

I had two brothers, one sister.

My dad was from Scotland, my mom was Cree.

We ate our own grown food.

The meat was wild.

I would fish and give some to the dogs.

My mom died when I was 7.

I lived in a warm, big house with my grandma.

Sometimes we had 21 children from all over who stayed with us.

We slept 5 to a bed.

I went to school in Thompson, Manitoba and Montreal, Quebec.

I had good teachers.

Leaving home was hard.

My jobs were babysitting, teaching people to take care of their dogs, dog sledding, drum making.

Always be kind, I was told as a child.

Big house, big family, big life I live.

Everything I learned is a story I can tell.

My name is Jackie Finnie and I love my life.

BROOKE CHAMPAGNE & JORDAN LUCAS

Bryce Mercredi

I am 70 years old.

My dad was a Hudson Bay fur trader.

We lived in a small native community.

Cree, Chipewyan, Michif and English were the languages I spoke.

We grew potatoes, turnips and cabbage.

We ate a lot of fresh foods, fish, caribou, grouse, moose, berries.

Before moving to Yellowknife, I started Residential School as a day student for 3 months.

I completed my education in Yellowknife.

I grew up to respect and love everyone.

Family is very important,

So is passing on knowledge.

Yvon Savoie

I was born in Neguac, New Brunswick, raised by my mom and dad.

It was a small village. There was no hospital.

I was born at home, the oldest of 10.

We had a little farm with some animals.

When I was 12, I had to milk the cows.

We grew our own food: potatoes, turnips, carrots, corn.

We had a little house, about 30 x 30, and we still have it today.

I was on the top floor.



We made our own toys.

We had a fire going 8 months of the year.

I went to Catholic school.

We had little desks, we had a slate to write on.

We had 6 grades in one room.

I was the second person to make it through high school in my village.

I learned to respect my Elders and set an example for others.

KOA TAPP & ALEX ROBERTSON