



Wapna'kikewi'skwaq Women of First Light



M'SIT NO'KMAQ (WE ARE ALL RELATED)  
COMMEMORATING WOMEN OF THE PEAKED CAP





## Honouring Our Sisters Honouring Our Daughters



Women and Gender  
Equality Canada


Femmes et Égalité  
des genres Canada



**CATHERINE  
DONNELLY  
FOUNDATION**



**RIGHTINGRELATIONS**  
Adult Education for Social Change



From the place of teachings, from where the sun rises, from the people of the dawn  
Wapna'kikewi'skwaq – Women of the First Light grew out of Righting Relations//Apaji-  
wla'matulinej, a national network of adult educators and grassroots organizers working  
for social change. Our purpose is healing and empowering Indigenous communities.

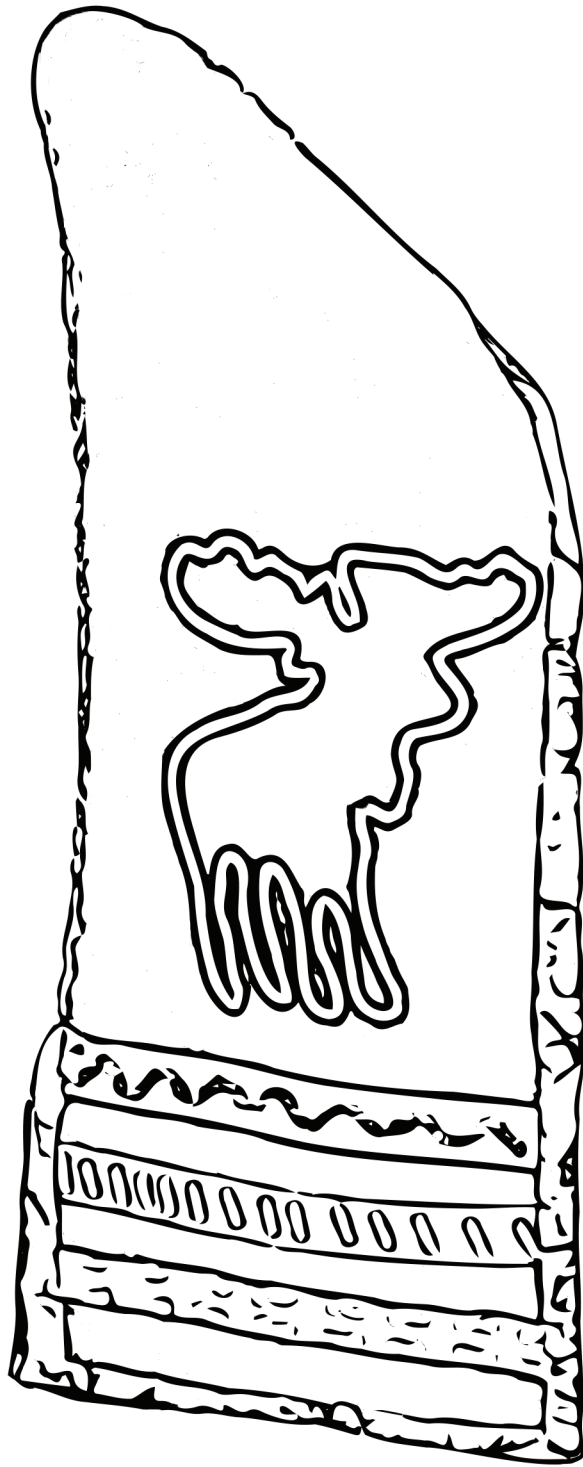
As women are the strength of our communities, we start there by working to change the  
story of Indigenous women from one of being a victim to one of resilience, power, hope  
and love.

From our hearts we say Wela'liek to the family members who have shared this journey  
with us.

Wela'liek to our supporters

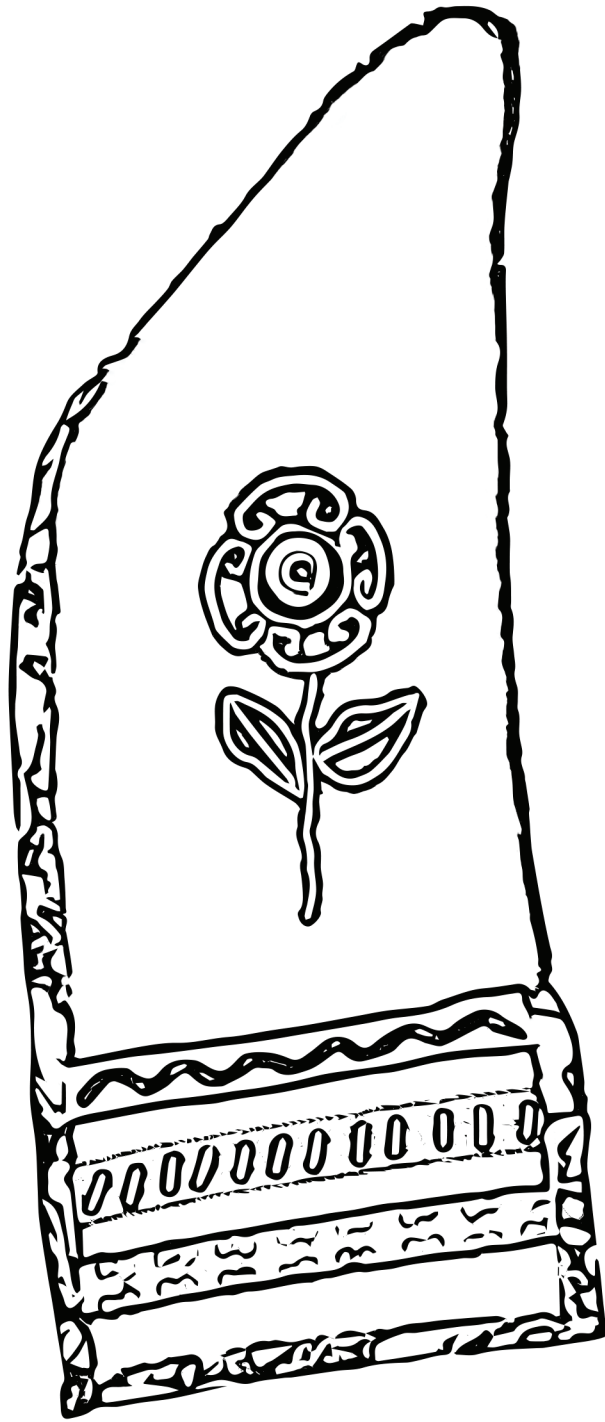
Wela'liek to the NS Archives for permission to use their old photos

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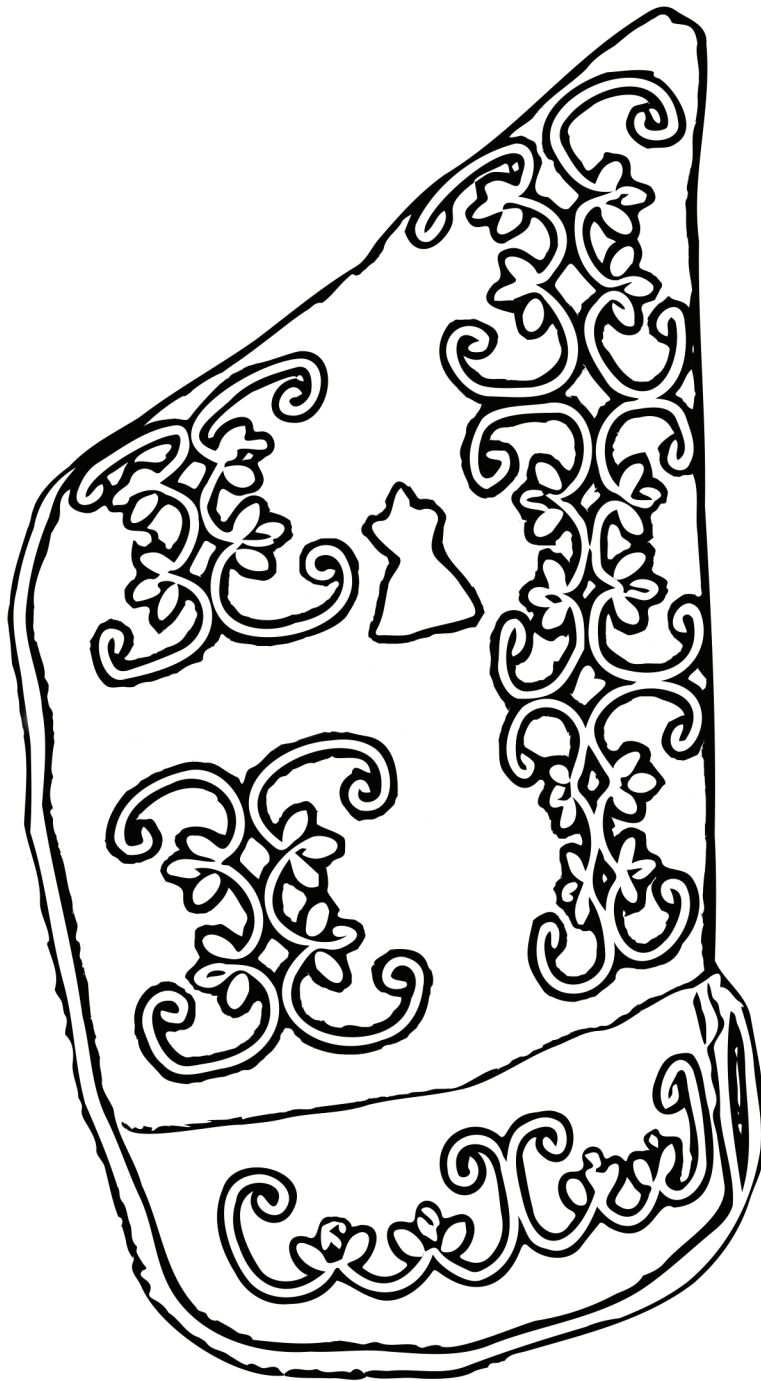
The Tia'm (moose) is my clan. The waving line is for water as without it, there is no life.  
By: Marian Nicolas





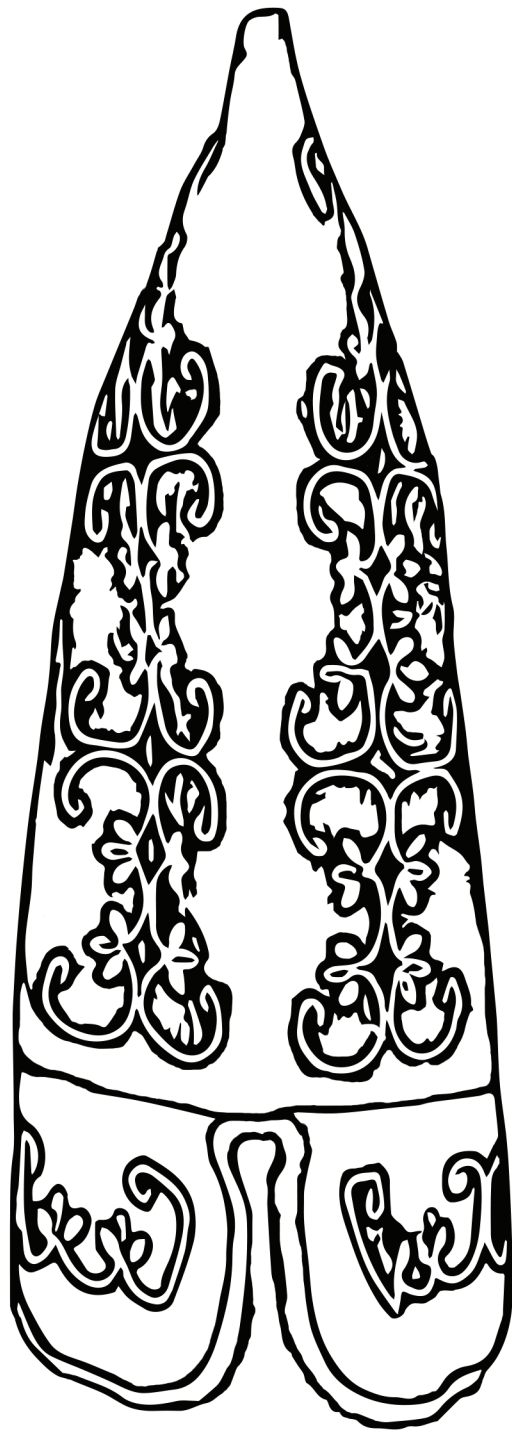
The Flower is for my Spirit name Mimajuaqan na wasuek – Centre Life of the flower  
By: Marian Nicolas





"In loving memory of Cassidy Jean Bernard, taken too soon!"  
By: Gina Poulette, Mi'kmawi'skw, We'koqma'q





By: Gina Poulette, Mi'kmawi'skw, We'koqma'q

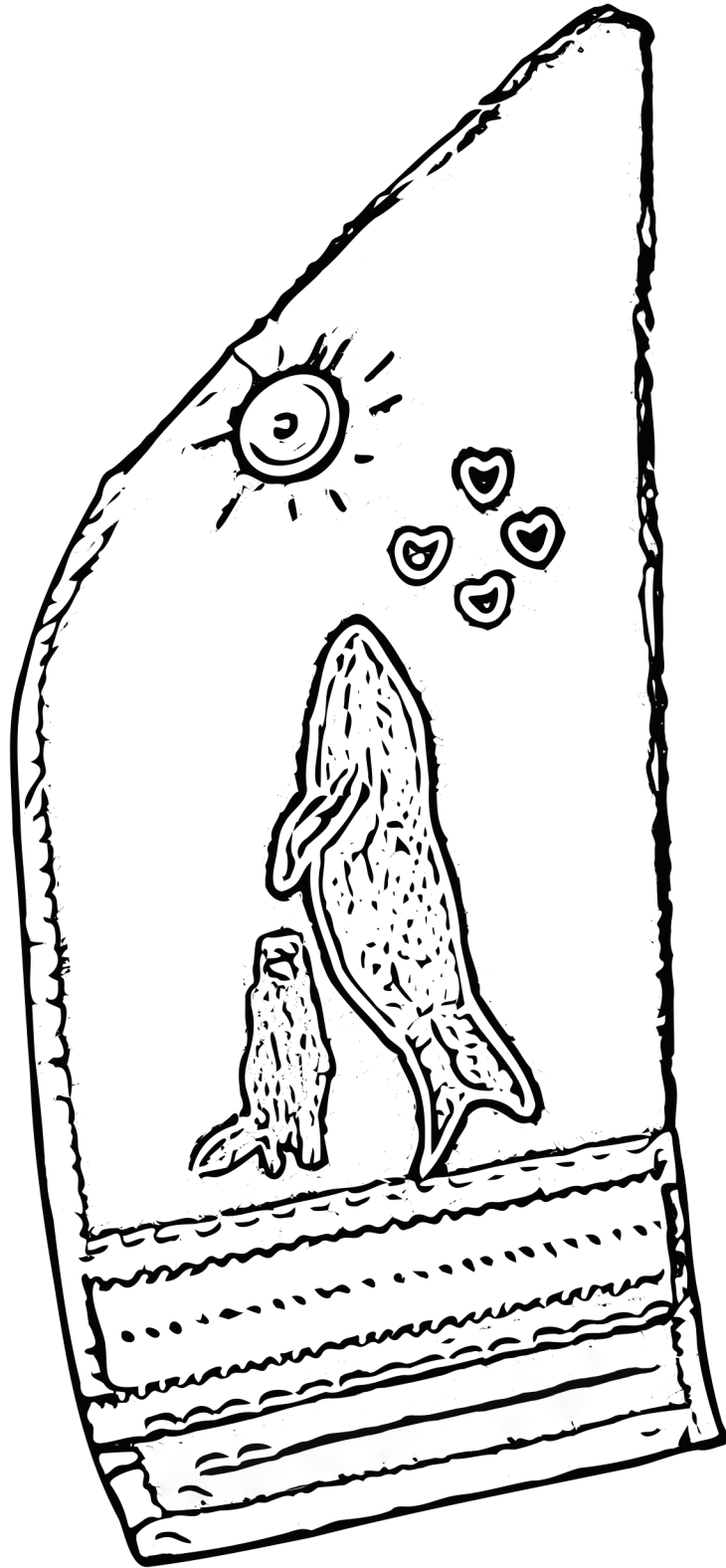




“Honouring all our sisters and brothers who were murdered or missing.”  
By: Marilyn Francis, Mi’kmawi’skw, Acadia

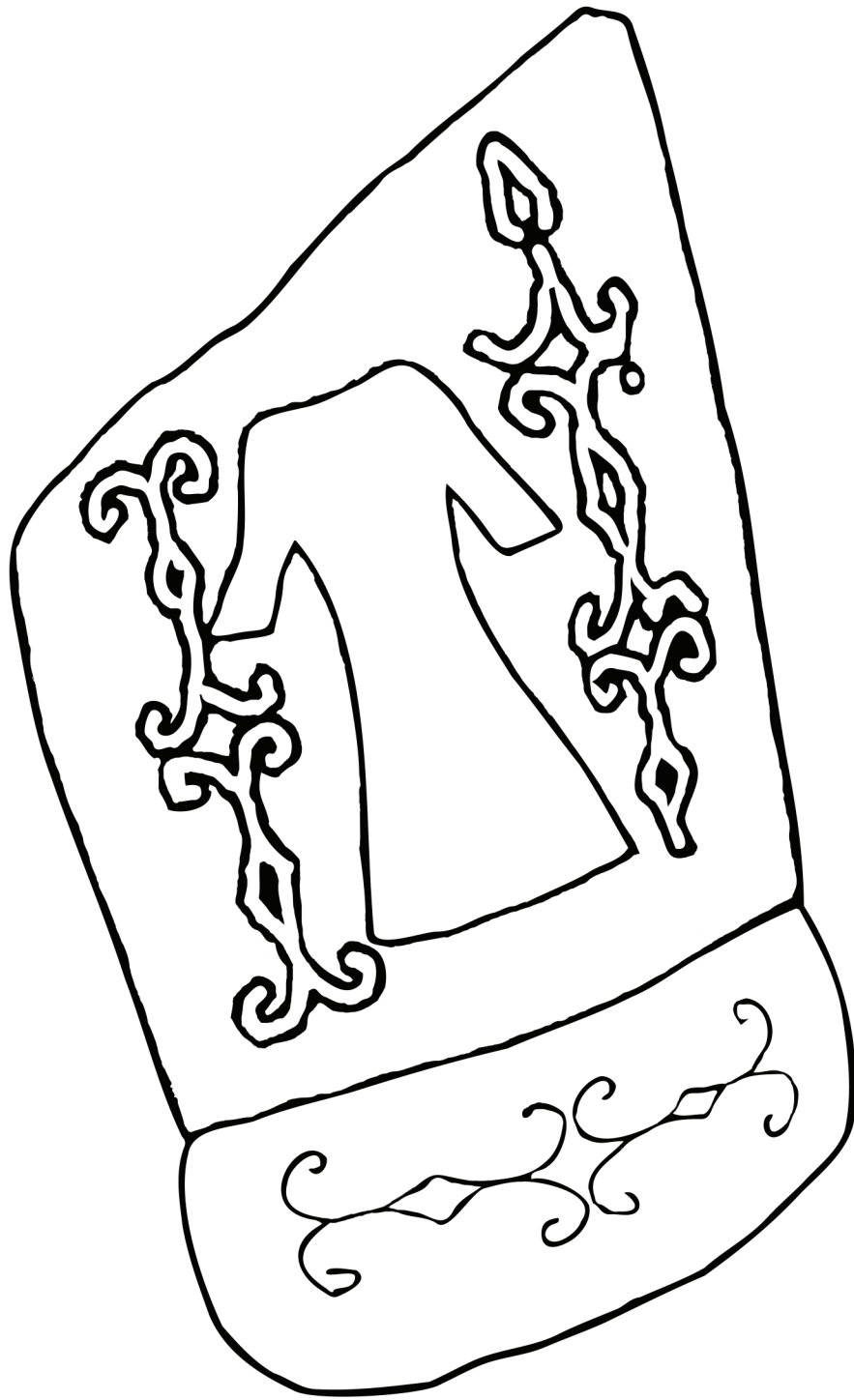






By: Marilyn Francis, Mi'kmawi'skw





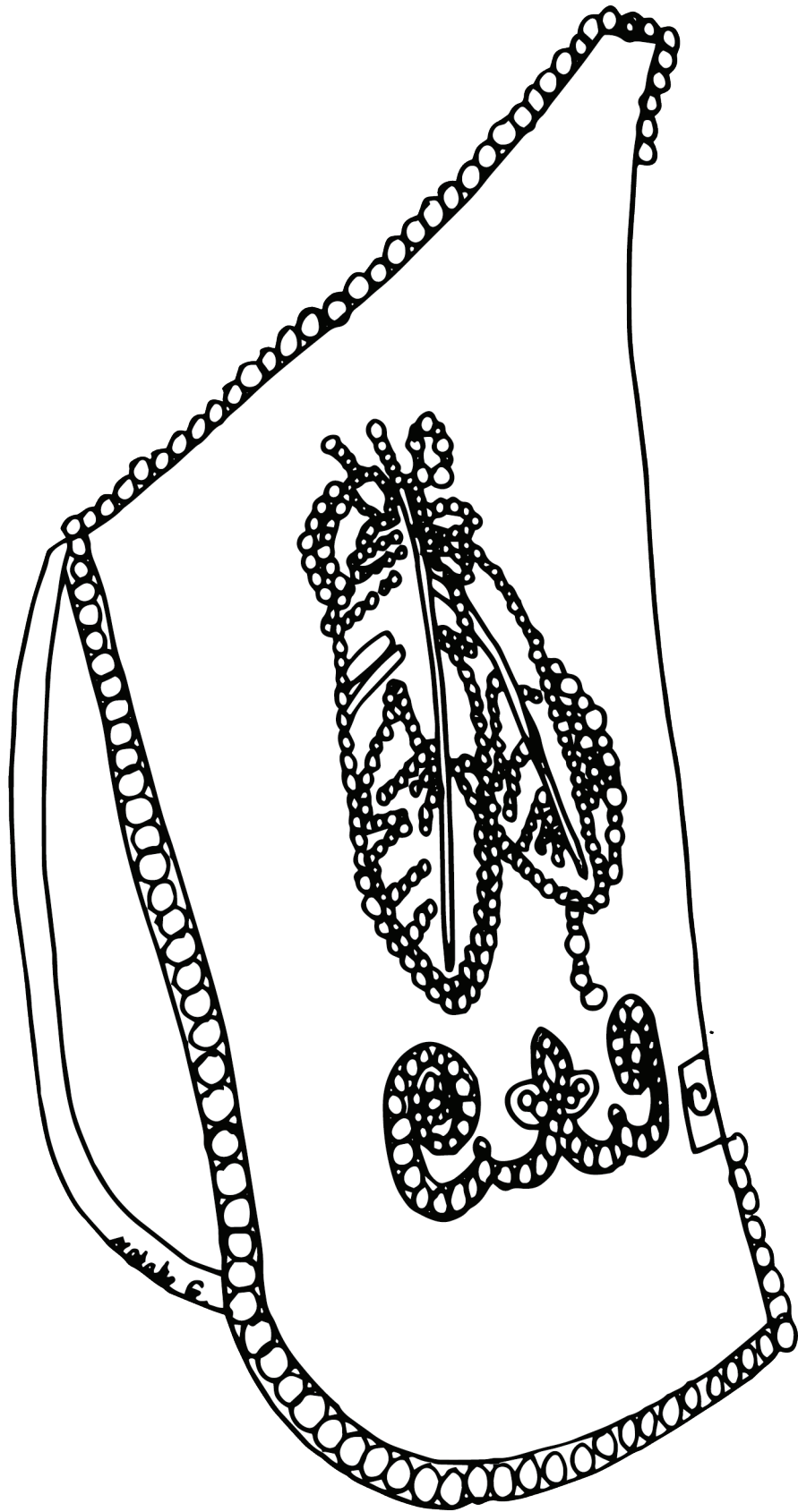
“You will be in our hearts forever, Cassidy”,  
By: Mona Bernard, We'koqma'q





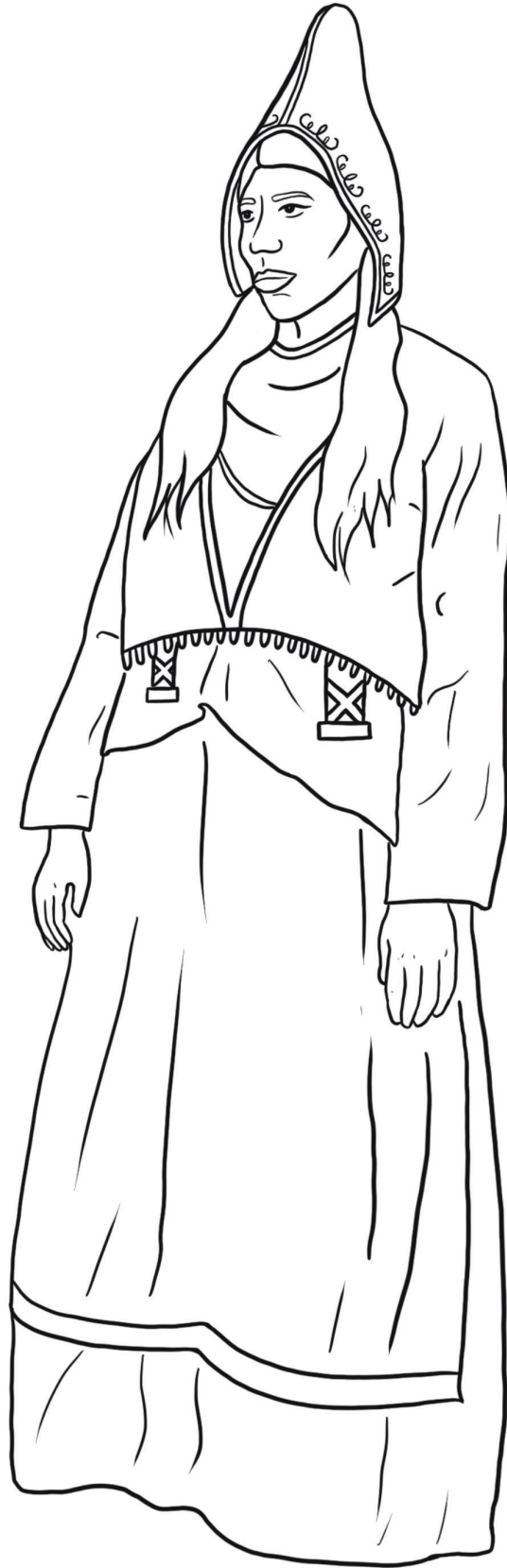
“If we lift up the hearts of women, we lift up the hearts of our community.”  
By: Jane Meader, Mi'kmawi'skw, Unama'ki





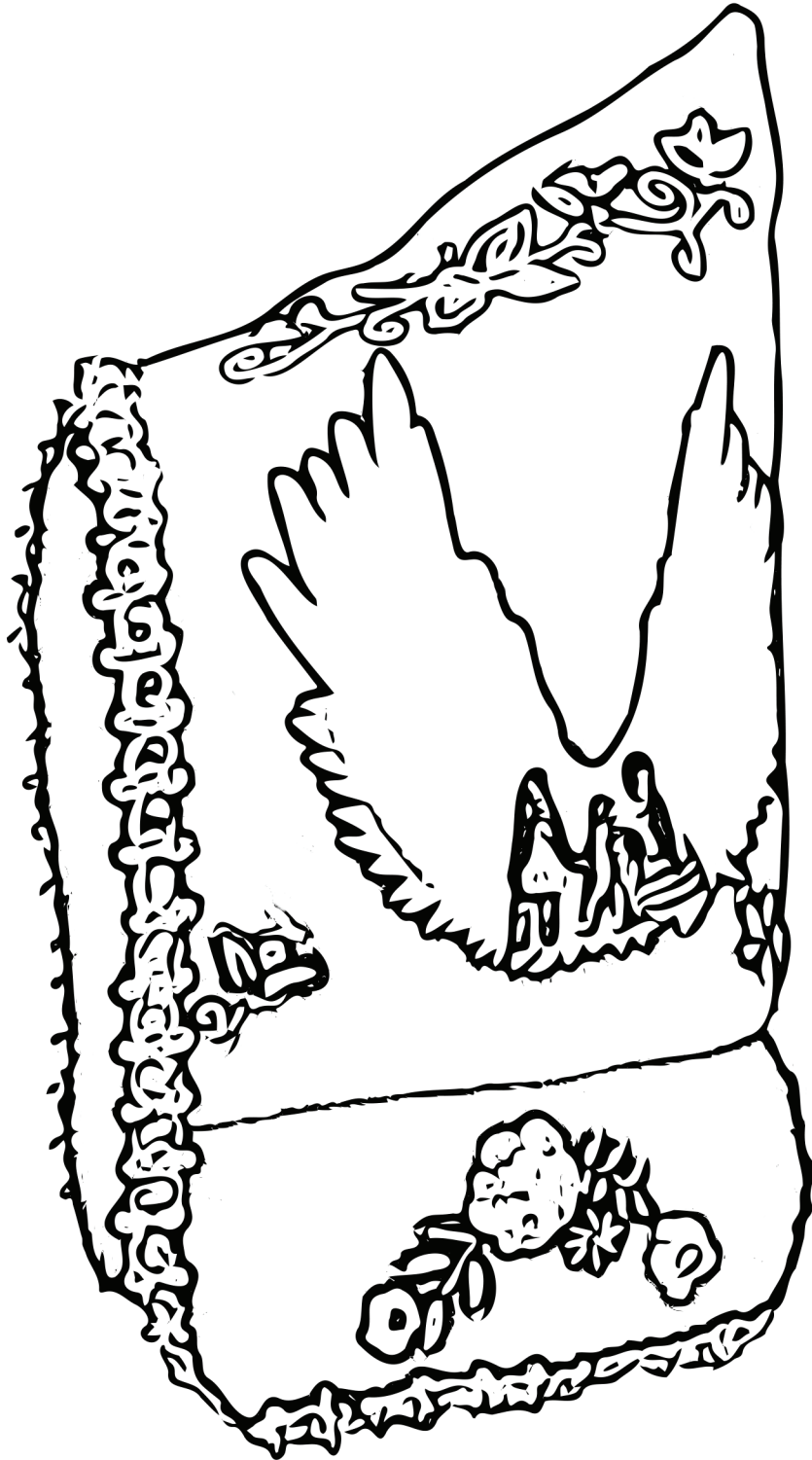
This Peaked Cap is dedicated to the late Madeline (Nora) Bernard, who won the largest class action suit in Canadian history for her Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Survivors.  
By: Natalie MacLeod-Gloade (daughter)





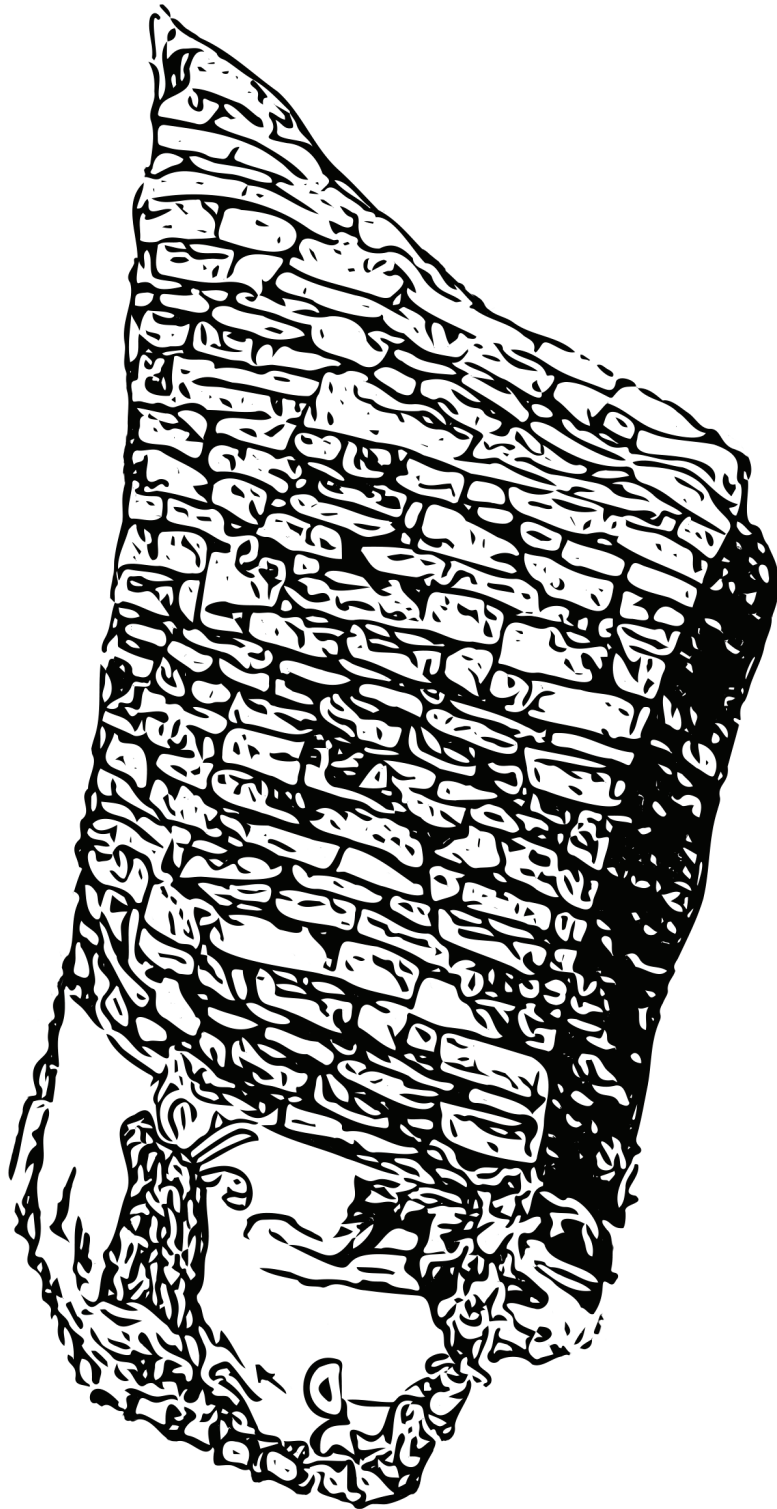
” We are changing the story of Indigenous women from victim to one of hope, love, power and resilience “





Msit Mijua'ji'j Kesite'tasit – EVERY CHILD IS CHERISHED  
By: Margaret Pelletier for Annie Gould, We'koqma'q

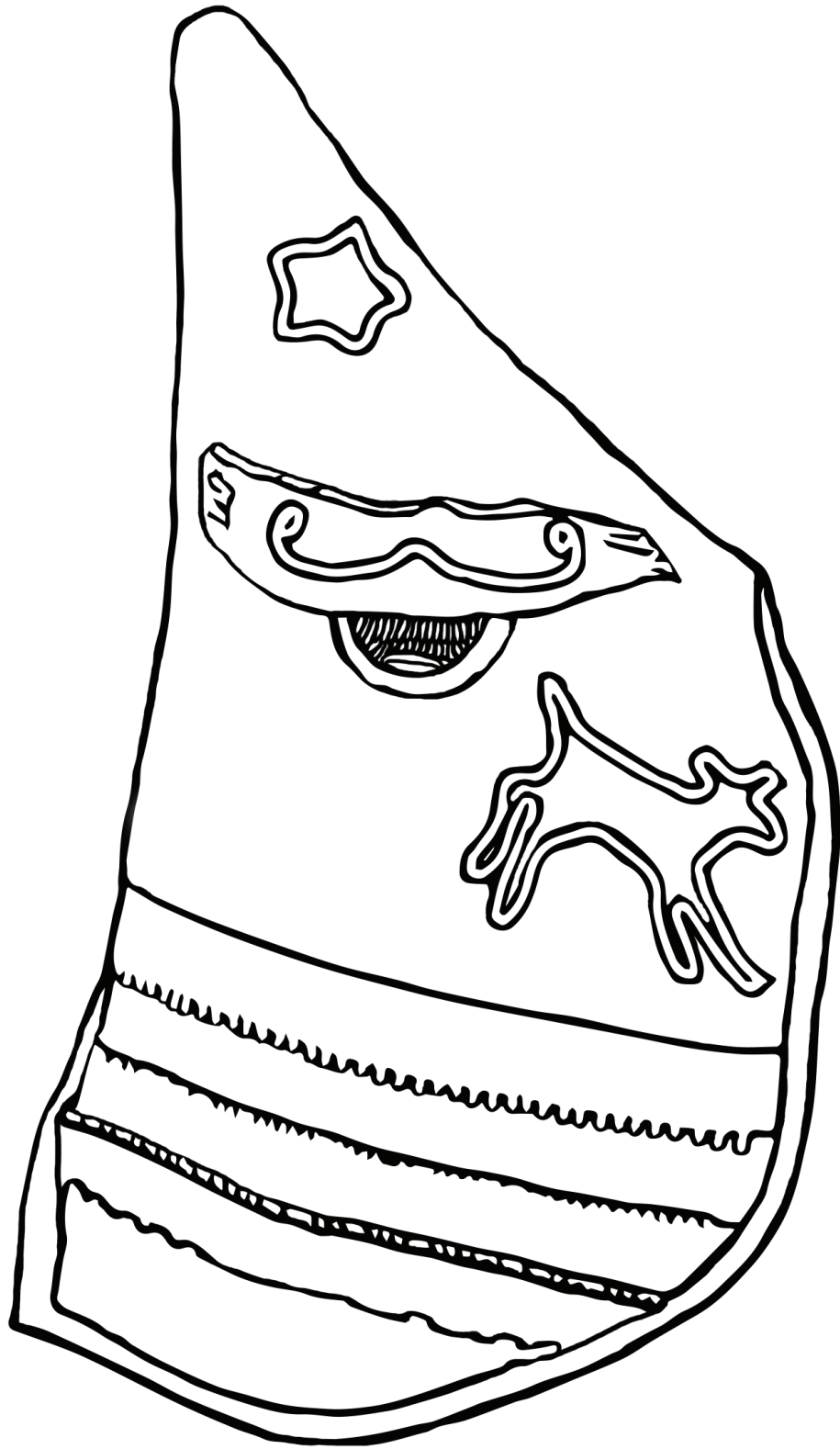




Honouring my grandmother, Mary Kate (Herney) Michael, and her unborn child, who were murdered in 1936.

By: Janey Michael, We'koqma'q

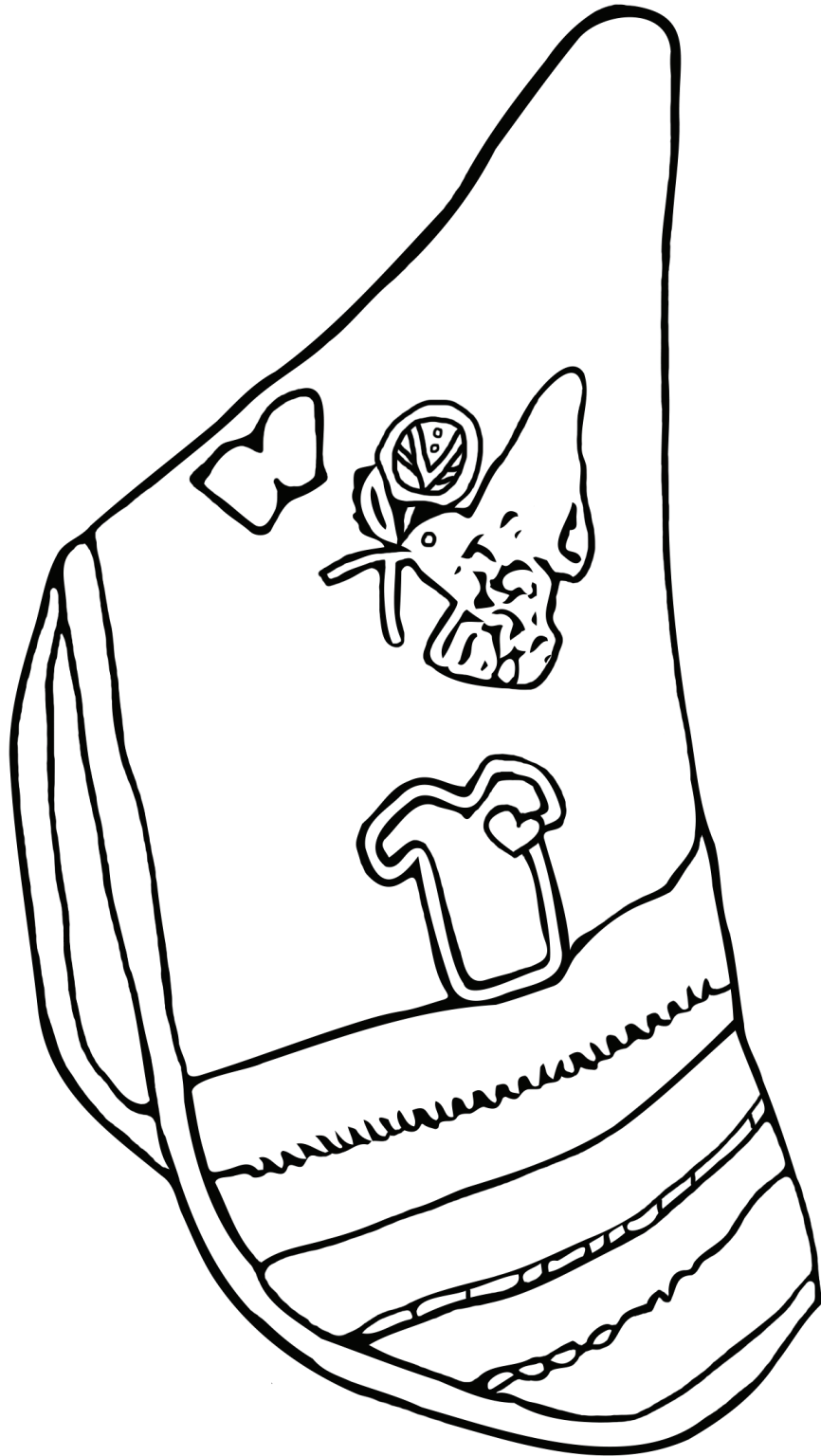




In memory of my granddaughter Michelle Ginnish, Lentuk ji'j Kesalul T'us. Little Deer.  
By: Rose Marie Francis







By: Rose Marie Francis, (Auntie Rose) Acadia First Nations





When the Europeans came to our shores we had our own government systems, laws, and spirituality. In 1610, Grand Chief Membertou converted to Catholicism. Today many Mi'kmaq have returned to our Spiritual ways. For our ancestors, a Peaked Cap was given when a girl went through the puberty Rites to become a woman. Her cap was red and when she became older it was black or dark blue. We have always adapted according to the times, now many use peaked caps at baptisms and traditional naming Ceremonies. We are still in the process of learning from our ancestors.





**Honouring Our Aunties  
Honouring Our Children**





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