

This book is dedicated to our

Kichi Anishinabe (Elders) of Fishing Lake First

Nation. Without their shared wisdom, we would

not know who we are or where we come from.



Our Kichi-Anishinabe told us that it is very important to start writing things down. We need to write to remember.

Much of our history has been lost due to Residential Schools, the Indian Act, Pass Permit System and other Government Laws.



came, the Saulteaux people began to move westward. We are Anishinabe people. Most of our people are from the Bear Clan.

Our ancestors originally came from the area that

is now known as Toronto. Before the newcomers



The foods eaten kept our people healthy.

Our people lived off the land eating buffalo,

elk, deer, muskrat, moose, fish, ducks, geese,

gophers, skunks, beaver, rabbits and berries

and herbs. Everything was cleaned before

being eaten.

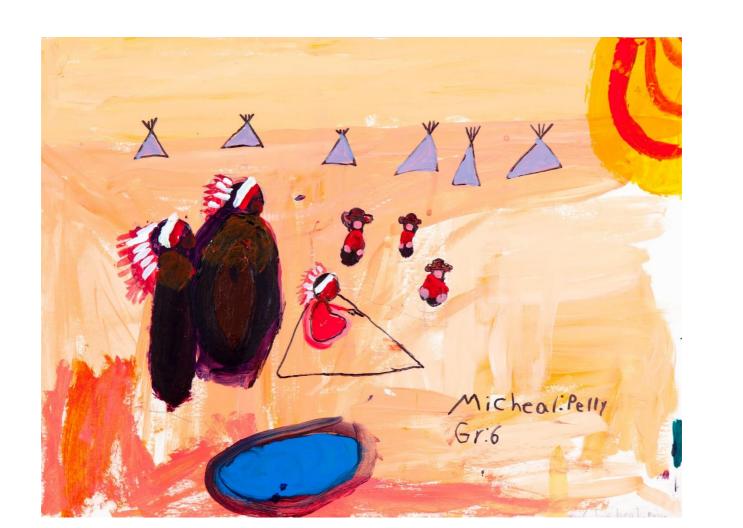


Fishing Lake was once part of a larger band.

The band separated into three because the

newcomers wanted to farm and live lakeside.

The bands are now known as Fishing Lake, Yellowquill, and Kinistin.



The people of Fishing Lake chose to live by the lake because of the water for survival. All around the lake there was wildlife, fish, wood, medicines, and berries.

Everything necessary for the people to live could be found by the lake.



Treaty 4 was signed in 1874 by Oozawaskooquinape (Yellowquill), Kenistin and Nepinawa.

The treaties were signed to protect our way of life. Treaties were signed by our forefathers with the Spirit and intent that they were signing with the Creator. The treaties are to last as long as the sun shines, the grass grows green and the rivers flow. Instead, we lost it due to Residential Schools, the Pass Permit System and other Government Laws.



Through the many years that have passed, we have had many leaders. The Chiefs of Fishing Lake have been:

Chamkun (Late)

Sabitawasis (Late)

Joe Young (Late)

Arthur Anderson (Late)

Percy Severight (Late)

Matthew Smoke (Late)

George Kayseas

Allan Paquachan (Late)

Michael Desjarlais

Shirley Wolfe-Keller

Derek Sunshine



Although most of our ways have been lost, through education we are building our nation to be strong again.

We have carpenters, truck drivers, labourers, artists, dancers, mechanics, doctors, lawyers, electricians, plumbers, professors, nurses, teachers and more.



We have our Kichi Anishinabe who teach the younger people the ways of our people and the ceremonies and traditions.

Through treaty we have a school on reserve; a school that teaches the students the Nakawe language, a school that embraces the culture and traditions of the Nakawe people.

Through our education we are learning who we are and where we come from.



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