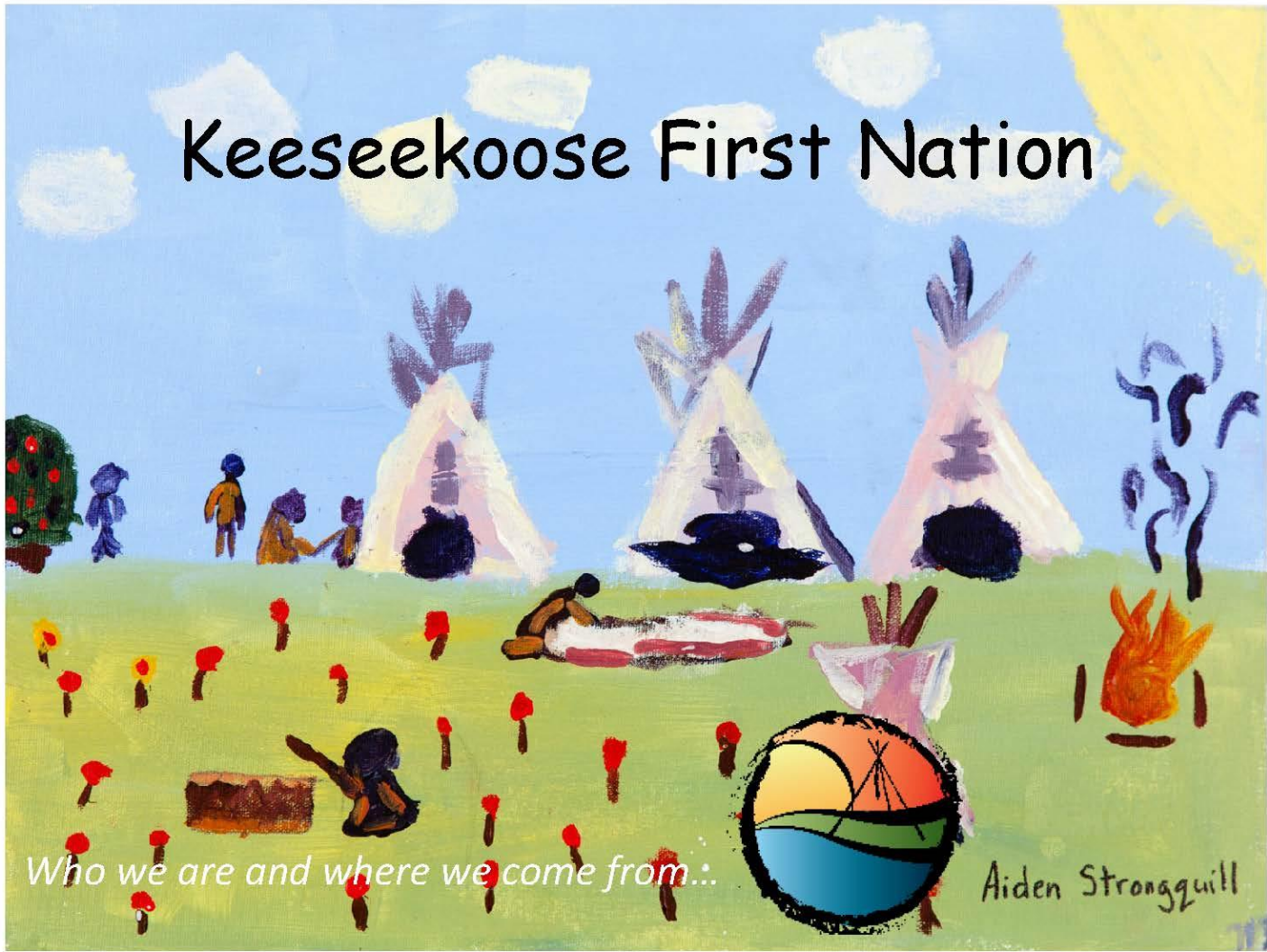


Keeseekoose First Nation



Who we are and where we come from..

Aiden Strongquill

Dedicated to the people
of Keeseekoose First Nation.

We believe it is important to honour our Elders
and Knowledge Keepers of Keeseekoose.

It is through them that we preserve our culture,
traditions and language.



Our Anishinabe people originally came from southeast, around Lake Superior. Our elders said, "Keeseekoose First Nation was a beautiful land, desired by many. It was described as a **Garden of Eden.**" Keeseekoose means "little heaven".



We lived in mud houses, day homes made from trees and branches. We also lived in canvas tents, and log houses that we brought with us from where we migrated.



Ānīn śikwā kīn?
(How are you?)

I'm good

Layina Benzoe

Declan genailt

The original language of Keeseekoose people was Nâkawêk. The majority of us no longer speak Nâkawêk, we speak English.



Willard Keshane

Olivia Mary Keshane

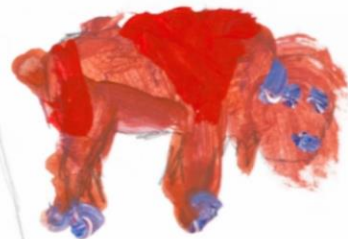
The government forced our children to go to residential school, the infamous St. Phillips Indian Residential School. They tried to take away our language and culture. Our children experienced many forms of harsh abuse. Stripped of their First Nation identity, their hair was cut off, and they were strictly forbidden to speak their Nâkawêk (Saulteaux) language.



In order to keep our language alive, our people had to start living two ways. We spoke our Nâkawêk (Saulteaux) language in secret and called each other by our Indian names. The residential school did not respect our Indian names and only used English names. Indian names still live on, and are used in ceremonies today.



Our people were survivors, we ate moose, deer, elk, rabbit, beaver, duck, fish, muskrat, gopher, porcupine, squirrel, goose eggs, and berries, choke cherries, hazelnuts, strawberries, saskatoons, goose berries, rosehips, maple sugar, muskeg tea and domesticated animals.



Avery K. Lior

Avery
Kehler 
Lior K. Lior

Our ancestors from Keeseekoose First Nation lived off the land as hunters and gatherers. Everything we needed came from the land. It was filled with many animals, plants, trees, bushes, berries, medicines and fresh water.



Kneseer Kerhano

1





Traditionally, Keeseekoose people had their own roles for men and women. Women were caregivers, they prepared food, they gathered and crushed berries. Men did all the outdoor jobs and were the main providers and protectors of the family.



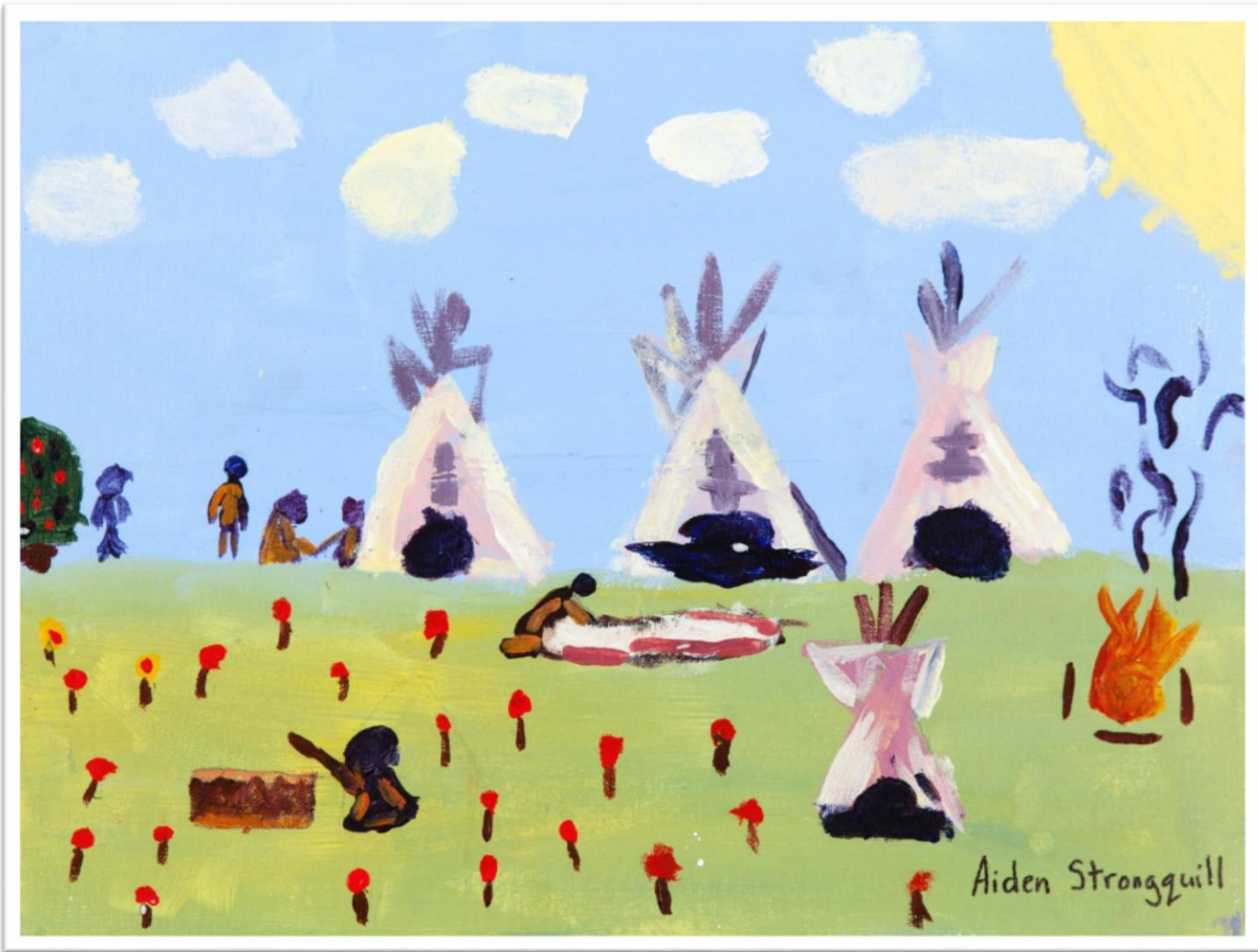
Our Saulteaux people honour their roles. Only men hold the pipe and handle the drum and go in a sweat lodge. Women are not allowed to hold the pipe, or handle a drum or go in a sweat lodge.



Travis Genaille

Lavina Patience Ann Benis

Before the settlers came, our people of Keeseekoose First Nation prayed through traditional ceremonies. These ceremonies included rain dances, sun dances, round dances, council dances, give away dance, pipe ceremony, feasts, bear feast, sweat lodge, laying tobacco, rites of passage, Indian naming and pow-wows.



Aiden Strongquill

We need to continue to learn and read about our people. We need to know who we are and where we come from. We need to know how to speak our language, it is the strength of our community.



Kaylee Reshane



Koda Cote

River Straightnose



Tuyen Hitchmonia

Chiefs of Keeseekoose First Nation (in no particular order)

Chief Keeseekoose

Chief Andrew Quwezance

Chief Kitchemonia

Chief William Quwezance

Chief Bill Joe Quwezance

Chief Louis Quwezance

Chief James Stevenson

Chief Roy Musqua

Chief Felix Musqua

Chief Daniel Keshane

Chief Albert Musqua

Chief Lambert Keshane

Chief Denzil Kitchemonia Sr.

Chief Theodore Quwezance

Chief Philip Quwezance

Chief Leonard Keshane

Chief Lyndon Musqua



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Peyton Musqua

Cole Kakakaway

Sean Kakakaway

Muriel Ketchemonia

Lee-Ann Ketchemonia

Precious Cadotte

Avery Kehler

Olivia Kehler

Alvin Musqua II

Alvin Musqua III

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