



SACRED CIRCLE 2012

WALKING THE DREAM

Daily Report: August 9

MEMORY KEEPERS:

IOLA METUQ,
ARCTIC

DOROTHY MONKMAN,
RUPERT'S LAND

MURRAY STILL,
RUPERT'S LAND

WEATHER:

A LITTLE CHILLY, BUT NOT
FOR BISHOP MARK IN HIS
BRAND NEW COAT!

Self-determination in Manitoba

Today Sacred Circle members celebrated another step towards a self-determining, Indigenous church. A large group from Manitoba presented a proposal for an Indigenous bishop who will serve Indigenous communities within the civil province of Manitoba, which has three Anglican dioceses: Keewatin, Brandon, and Rupert's Land.

"The presentation moved me to tears," said one memory keeper, "because we fulfilled the dreams of our elders."

Members also celebrated the election of Adam Halkett, who was elected July 28 as the first Indigenous diocesan bishop in the Diocese of

Saskatchewan. Bishop-elect Halkett will serve alongside the current diocesan bishop, the Right Rev. Michael Hawkins, with a mandate to serve Indigenous congregations within the diocese.

Memory keepers noted that while some communities are making great steps towards self-determination, others are struggling.

Tonight members of the Nisga'a Nation spoke about many challenges in their diocese and their community's need for spiritual renewal.

Joys and challenges of talking circles

Memory keepers shared how working in a talking circle can be a good, but sometimes challenging experience.

One memory keeper shared how a talking circle overcame divisions of language, education, and geography by spending more time listening to certain members of the group. This group has experienced a transformation.

Another memory keeper said it was often hard to talk about divisive topics in a circle—especially if your opinion is in the minority.

All memory keepers agreed that it was important to maintain trust within the talking circles.

Partners provide recap

Memory keepers were moved by the presentation from Malcolm Naea Chun, former secretary general of the Anglican Indigenous Network and a long-time Sacred Circle partner. Mr. Chun's call to peaceful reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples struck a chord. Mr. Chun also made a powerful observation that it is hard to see your progress when you are in a gathering, but as a partner from away (he is a Hawaiian Episcopalian) he has the privilege of recapping the amazing progress he's seen among Indigenous Anglicans in Canada.

Youth impress

Members were impressed by a video presentation by the young people. Their film integrated the seven sacred teachings and creative answers to the talking circle questions. They also performed an original song that had been written and arranged by several group members.

"I am so proud," said one memory keeper. "It's another sign of maturity for our people. They're growing and feeling confident in their identity."

Memory keepers celebrated the fact that this Sacred Circle is feeling more like a family, with more children and teenagers here than before.

Words heard

"It's still so hard in meetings for people who don't speak English—both here and at home. It's excluding people."

"We didn't properly explain to the fire keeper what he had to do and so he didn't bring any helpers. It has helped Sacred Circle to appreciate the fire more and the youth have been helping out a lot. It's an example of how God takes something and makes something good from it."

True story: Jean Wesley of Moose Factory, Ont., and Marjorie Hyman of Ahtakakoop, Sask. just happened to sit down beside each other over a meal. They started chatting and found out that Jean had been the flower girl at Marjorie's brother's wedding 50 years ago!

Bishop Mark is now selling off the rest of his shirts for \$20 each. All proceeds go to support Indigenous ministry in Manitoba. See Virginia MacDonald for details.