



# SACRED CIRCLE 2012

## WALKING THE DREAM

### Daily Report: August 10

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#### MEMORY KEEPERS:

MARLENA ANDERSON,  
APCI

NELLIE JOE,  
APCI

QUINTON MINK,  
BRANDON

J. WATERCHIEF,  
CALGARY

#### WEATHER:

WARMER TODAY, WITH  
FLIES THE SIZE OF  
PINAWA DEER

#### Indigenous strengths

Today the question for the talking circles was, "What are our strengths as Indigenous Peoples?"

A long list emerged, including:

- Oneness with the earth ("It's so close it's like a phone line!")
- Young people
- Resiliency
- Laughter
- Dreams
- Ability to forgive
- Bringing traditional culture into the church

#### Time for rest

This afternoon, Sacred Circle members took a break from their work. Some people from remote communities went shopping at Wal-Mart. Others travelled out to see petroforms or walked down to the river for canoeing.

A group of young people (and the young at heart) went body

surfing at the Pinawa Dam. Wearing helmets and life jackets they braved the waterfalls, and were sometimes submerged underwater for several long seconds. It was a powerful exercise in facing fears and taking risks, said one member.

"The break was a real treat to refresh our spirits," said another memory keeper (who stayed on land). "Maybe next time we could do this mid-week."

#### Talking about suicide

Cynthia Patterson, coordinator for the Anglican Suicide Prevention Program, spoke about the crisis of suicides in many communities. She encouraged people to talk about the problem instead of avoiding it.

“They say it brings you down when you talk about suicide but I really liked what they did today,” said one memory keeper.

Another memory keeper said that this problem was not affecting all communities so some people couldn't personally identify with the tragedies. However, all people were moved to hear of other members of their Indigenous family suffering—especially in the Arctic and Nunavut, where rates of suicide are among the highest in the world.

The presentation was followed by a powerful healing service, led by the bishops.

“It felt like a shared commodity under the tent,” said a memory keeper. “It was about people who had lost people, people who were dying, and everybody sharing in the healing prayer.”

#### **Words heard**

“The Gospel said today that Jesus was in the driver's seat and not me. Jesus is leading us in a direction. He chose us we didn't choose him. That was a powerful way to begin the day.”

“I felt a calling to come here. I wasn't going to come just to listen I wanted to put my own words into the meetings. It's a really big thing for me. I know that God is working. People's need to know that and that's our goal: to tell them that God gives peace.”

“One thing I noticed about the kitchen was on the first day or so they had categories for the cutlery, all labeled, but everyone was just throwing them in. By the second or third day all the spoons and forks are organized and people are finally getting organized. This probably indicates that they're feeling something in order inside. Your outward reflects your inward.”

“I notice that the elders are enjoying the hot tub. After walking around on hard surfaces it's nice to get in and relax your joints. When you get up, you can practically run again!”