November 7, 2018

Traditional Cree parenting: reclaiming the past

Edmonton – Parents around the world have various methods of raising their children, so it's no surprise that Indigenous parents have their own unique parenting traditions. But, Residential Schools and oppressive government policies severely damaged that sacred interconnection between Indigenous parents and their children.

Traditional Cree parenting systems are based on the natural laws of truth, kindness, courage and sharing. There were, and remain, strict parenting protocols that allow a child to grow into who they are within a system of love, patience and security without fear of judgement or punishment.

From the moment an Indigenous woman gives birth, they are conditioned on how to relate and parent their children depending on their sex.

At a presentation on November 8, two nehiyawak (Cree) mothers, Lana Whiskeyjack and Roxanne Tootoosis, will explore this complex topic. During the presentation, they will share how returning to nehiyawewin (Cree language), Cree ways of being, and ceremony informed their experiences on grieving, deconstructing, and celebrating parenting their children who identify being in a gender dysphoria.

About the speakers

Tootoosis is an Indigenous knowledge keeper and facilitator for MacEwan University's kihéw waciston Indigenous Centre.

Whiskeyjack is a mixed-media artist, researcher and educator.

When: November 8
Time: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Where: Kule Lecture Theatre, 3rd floor, Robbins Health Learning Centre (110 street and 104 Avenue)

This is a free presentation and open to the public.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.