

unforgotten – my journey home



dawna mueller

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The photographic images for this project were taken on Treaty 4 Territory in Manitoba, the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine, Anishinaabe and Métis Nations. Negatives were developed and printed, and the book was prepared and printed on the unceded traditional territories of the x̄w̄m̄ə̄θ̄k̄ə̄ȳəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə̄lilwə̄tə̄t (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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preface

As a visual storyteller it is always easier to tell the story of others, or as I have done in the past, the story of eroding landscapes. It is much more difficult to turn the lens inward, especially when the topic is a sensitive one.

When I decided to focus on my personal story, I hadn't realized how moving it would be for me as well as for my birth mother, siblings, and others. It was an emotional, beautiful and exhausting experience traveling thousands of kilometers with my mother, siblings and uncle to their birthplace and childhood homes, meeting unknown cousins and distant relatives and visiting the graves of my ancestors.

It also felt poetic to be using a large format camera to document the physical space where my family lived for generations. Using an historic photographic technique allowed me to slow down and really be present in the places I visited. I felt connected to my ancestors daily as I traveled in their footsteps exploring the land where generations lived, worked and died. Later in the darkroom I continued to feel their presence in the development of every slide of film knowing that I was being supported and encouraged to tell this story.

acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to the multitude of people who provided support and encouragement over this past year. This book and corresponding exhibitions have been made possible with the significant contributions and support from the following people and organizations:

The City of Burnaby and the Shadbolt Center for the Arts, Burnaby, BC. burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/arts-and-culture-facilities/shadbolt-centre-for-the-arts

Marianne Otterstrom, Visual Arts Programmer and Curator of 'unforgotten – my journey home', Shadbolt Center for the Arts. burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/arts-and-culture-facilities/shadbolt-centre-for-the-arts

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Cousins Doug and Barbara Zawada for providing love and refuge in between trips.

Uncle Ernie Guiboche for safe guidance through our ancestral homeland

Anna Kasko, Kasko Framing. kaskoframeworks.com

John Goldsmith, Print Maker Studio. printmaker-studio.com/contact

Ken Villeneuve and Alex Zara, West End Darkroom. westenddarkroom.ca

foreward

It is an honour to write the forward for this book and exhibition 'unforgotten – my journey home' by Métis artist, Dawna Mueller. The history of the 'Sixties Scoop' is a harrowing one and Dawna has managed to create evocative and haunting images from her ancestral homeland which tell a deeply personal story. Her innovative analogue development process of overlaying multiple images and printing as negatives creates a painterly effect of textures and tones reminiscent of Gordon Smith landscapes. Selective processing choices have given the images a moody atmosphere that emotionally connects the viewer to this complicated history. Individually each photo can stand alone as fine art, and as a series with her ancestral references, their impact is profound and takes us on an internal journey of reflection.

Marianne Otterstrom, Visual and Fine Arts Programmer & Curator 'unforgotten – my journey home' exhibition, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

foreward

Dawna has combined family history, historical documents and place-based images to share a powerful visual process of repatriating her Metis identity and coming to understand her unique Metis voice as a Metis person and an artist.

Artists like Dawna and viewers of art can use this critical form to begin to 'see' themselves in the historical narrative and begin to imagine a new relational vision for Metis in Canada.

Joe Desjarlais, Director of Research – BC Metis Federation

Dawna's reconnection journey is sadly so relatable for many of our Metis brothers and sisters that were taken from their families during the 60's scoop. Her path back to her roots takes a great deal of courage and commitment and the images that she has produced along the way are so powerful. Storytelling is a huge part of our culture and Dawna tells her story beautifully. Maarsii, Dawna!

Jeanie Cardinal, Director of Culture and Language – BC Metis Federation

dedication

this book is dedicated to the survivors of the Sixties Scoop and all the mothers whose babies were taken, including my mother Imelda (nee Guiboche) Sawchuk

the sixties scoop

The Sixties Scoop is a dark stain on Canadian history with both Provincial and Federal Governments adding further indignities to their abhorrent treatment of Indigenous people since the beginning of the country's colonization. The name refers to a series of policies enacted by Provincial welfare authorities, supported by the Federal Government, from the 1950's to the 1970's resulting in thousands of Indigenous babies and children being taken from their birth mothers and adopted out to white families across Canada and the United States. The momentum of this initiative increased exponentially in the 1960's, hence the name 'Sixties Scoop'.

Non-Indigenous child welfare authorities began apprehending Indigenous children long before the 1950's by sending them to residential schools, but this organized effort to remove children and babies from their families was an additional part of a larger plan of complete assimilation of Indigenous culture. While many children were taken directly from their homes, other practices existed including mothers being falsely told that their newborn babies had died during childbirth, or mothers being pressured by doctors, nurses and social workers to give up their babies for adoption immediately after birth.

For almost 40 years this practice continued with tens of thousands of Indigenous children losing their culture, families and communities. In 1985, Justice Edwin Kimelman released a report called *'No Safe Place: Review Committee on Indian and Métis Adoptions and Placements'* concluding that 'cultural genocide has been taking place in a systematic, routine manner with an abysmal lack of sensitivity to children and families. (Dart: 2017)

fragmented lives

a partial component, never whole or belonging
tormented by haunting sounds of relentless wind
alone with silent and empty echoes
and memories of lost and invisible kin

a childhood spent in ill-fitting skin
straddling the precipice of cultural divide
unaware of the truth and the travesty
never knowing the life-blood side

colonized corruption with assimilation its goal
replete with manufactured lies and intentional theft
stolen cultures and practices of genocide
leaving the wombs and the wounded empty, alone and bereft

dawna mueller

bio

Dawna Mueller is a Canadian/Swiss photographer with a place-based practice creating digital and large format analogue images of natural landscapes that represent her desire to connect to her Indigenous ancestry.

As a child of Canada's 'Sixties Scoop', Dawna was taken from her Métis mother at birth and adopted into a Canadian-Ukrainian family. Her current photographic practice reconstructs her reclamation journey as she combines family and historic archival material with her photographs to create her personal visual narrative.

Dawna was born in Winnipeg and is Métis and Anishinaabe. She has a BA in Political Science from the University of British Columbia and a JD in Law from Allard Hall School of Law at UBC. In 2016, Dawna received a Photography Diploma from CAP Photography School in Zurich, Switzerland and is scheduled to complete an MA (Photography) from Falmouth University, UK in spring 2023.



'unforgotten – my journey home', is Dawna's tenth exhibition and her seventh book. Her work has been exhibited internationally and her photographs are part of permanent and private collections worldwide. Dawna's work was included in the 2022 Truth and Reconciliation Exhibition at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, BC.

artist statement

'unforgotten – my journey home' explores the power of images in relation to memory, history and ancestry. This visual story traces history back to my Indigenous ancestral roots in rural Manitoba. A child of the 'Sixties Scoop', I was taken from my Métis/Anishinaabe mother at birth and adopted by a Canadian-Ukrainian family. It was only as an adult that I discovered my Indigenous roots and have spent the last nineteen years on a personal reclamation journey into my Indigeneity.

The images in *'unforgotten – my journey home'* are composed of large format analogue black and white multiple exposure photographs presented in a post-conceptual narrative combining memory, history and place. I have combined multiple exposures creating silver gelatin negative prints to contrast with the norm of positive photographic images. Each image is comprised of two to three negatives from the landscape of my grandparents' homestead combined with other areas of ancestral significance. I rely on the Indigenous tradition of storytelling to connect with my ancestry creating a visual narrative that expresses the liminal space of bridging two cultures and of finding my way back home.



DUPLICATE.

No. 1180 Form A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA.



NORTH WEST HALF-BREED COMMISSION.

Duck Bay Feb 21 1887.

I hereby Certify, under the powers vested in me by an Order in Council dated 1st March, 1886, that *Louis Guiboche*, a Half-Breed, has proved to my satisfaction that he was residing in the North West Territories previous to the 15th day of July, 1870, now ceded by the Indians, and under Sub-clause (E) of Clause 81 of the Dominion Lands Act, 1883, and the Orders in Council of the 30th March, 1885, and the 1st March, 1886, is entitled at this date to Scrip to the amount of *240* dollars.

The Scrip called for by this Certificate, amounting to *240* dollars, will be payable to bearer, and will be delivered to the person producing this Certificate. Said Scrip will be accepted at par in payment of Dominion Lands.

R. Fowler

Commissioner.





675375

Department of the Interior.



* SCRIP *

FILE No. 668.312.

240 Acres.

8214

Received from the Honourable the Minister of the Interior, Scrip Notes Nos. A 7367 and A 6380 for 160 and 80 acres respectively, issued in accordance with the terms of an Order in Council of the 16th Mar. 1901, and as called for by Certificate number 2897 E. In favour of William Gird

Signed at _____ the _____ day of _____



Witness:

S. B. Gallagher

Signature:

Edmund Tisdell
actg. D. L. A.

Dawna Mueller
(nee Karen May Guiboche)
Born 1960-10-12 #1
Winnipeg (Manitoba)

Melton George Sasek
Born 1942-04-03 #2
Inglis (Manitoba)

Imelda Guiboche (/).
Born 1942-09-26 #3
Camperville (Manitoba)

Joseph Philippe Guiboche
Born 1914-02-15 #6
Camperville (Manitoba)

Clara Parenteau
Born 1913-09-11 #7
Waterhen (Manitoba)

William Guiboche
Born 1877-08-02 #12
Duck Bay (Manitoba)
Died 1956-11-22
Camperville (Manitoba)

Marie Flora Fagnant
Born 1887-11-01 #13
Died 1950-12-27
Camperville (Manitoba)

Joseph Parenteau
Born 1880-01-10 #14
Grand Rapids (Manitoba)
Marr 1903-02-23
Camperville (Manitoba)

Magdeleine V. Beauchamp
Born 1881-03-07 #15
Duck Bay (Manitoba)

Louis Guiboche
Born 1858/1852-06-0 #24
Marr 1870-07-12

Marguerite Pangman
Born 1854-05-14 #25

William Fagnant
Born 1853-03-00 #26
Marr 1876-01-12

Marguerite Desnommé
Born 1860-03-00 #27

Joseph/Alphonse Parenteau
Born 1840-11-04 #28

Helen/Nellie Cook
Born 1849-10-00 #29

Joseph Beauchamp
Born v1849 #30
Marr 1870-01-02
Died 1928-12-16

Nancy Chartrand
Born v1850 #31
Died 1942-10-15

Marcel Guiboche (/). #48
1811-00-00 - bef1875-00-00

Sophie Blayon #49
b. 1828/1821-01-00

Pierre Pangman #50
b. 1821-07-28

Mary Short #51

Antoine Fagnant #52
b. 1825-06-01

Brigitte Desjarlais #53
b. 1830/1831

François-Xavier Desnommé
b. 1838

Marguerite Gouin #55
b. 1835

Joseph Parenteau #56
b. 1815 (?)

S. Richard/Daigneault #57
b. 1817-01-06

William Cook #58
b. v1815

Mary Anne Beardy #59
b. v1815

Joseph Beauchamp #60
b. 1826

Catherine Delorme #61
b. 1830

Baptiste ". Chartrand #62
b. v1810

Louise Stevens #63







OUR LADY OF SEVEN SORROWS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
P.O. BOX 100
CAMPERVILLE, MB R0L 0J0
(204) 524-2268

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

This certifies that

Philippe Joseph Hilaire Guiboche

and

Clara Parenteau

Were united in

HOLY MATRIMONY

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church and in conformity with the
Laws of the Province of Manitoba

In Camperville, Manitoba

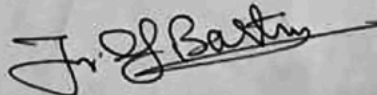
On June 21st, 1933.

Rev. J. Brachet. O.M.I.

As appears from the Marriage Register of above Church.

Witnesses: Donald Guiboche

and Stella McLeod



Fr. G. Bastin
Pastor
September. 15th, 2012



THE WEDDING OF
MRS. J. H. [unreadable]
AND
MR. J. H. [unreadable]
AT THE [unreadable]
CHURCH OF THE [unreadable]
[unreadable] [unreadable]

THE WEDDING OF
MRS. J. H. [unreadable]
AND
MR. J. H. [unreadable]
AT THE [unreadable]
CHURCH OF THE [unreadable]
[unreadable] [unreadable]

THE WEDDING OF
MRS. J. H. [unreadable]
AND
MR. J. H. [unreadable]
AT THE [unreadable]
CHURCH OF THE [unreadable]
[unreadable] [unreadable]





H.Q. 405-G-15677
D.R. 2(B)

6TH DECEMBER, 1945.

MRS. CECILE GUIBOCHE,
CAMPERVILLE, MAN.

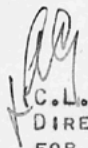
DEAR MRS. GUIBOCHE:

ON DECEMBER 10TH, 1945, TRIALS COMMENCE OF GERMAN WAR CRIMINALS FOR THE MURDER OF A NUMBER OF CANADIAN ARMY PERSONNEL. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT PUBLICITY WILL BE GIVEN THE TRIALS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF RADIO AND PRESS.

FROM RECENT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE OVERSEAS WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE, IT SEEMS QUITE PROBABLE THAT THE NAME OF YOUR LATE HUSBAND, H42018 RIFLEMAN LAWRENCE RODERICK GUIBOCHE, WILL BE MENTIONED. THEREFORE IT IS CONSIDERED ADVISABLE TO PREPARE YOU IN ADVANCE FOR THE BAD NEWS THAT YOUR HUSBAND MAY HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY THE GERMANS AND TO ALLAY SOMEWHAT THE SHOCK OF HEARING THE NEWS OVER THE AIR OR READING IT IN THE PRESS.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE SYMPATHY FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ANXIETY THIS MAY CAUSE DURING YOUR TRYING MOMENTS OF BEREAVEMENT.

YOURS TRULY,


(C.L. LAURIN) COLONEL,
DIRECTOR OF RECORDS,
FOR ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

AG/MEB

35







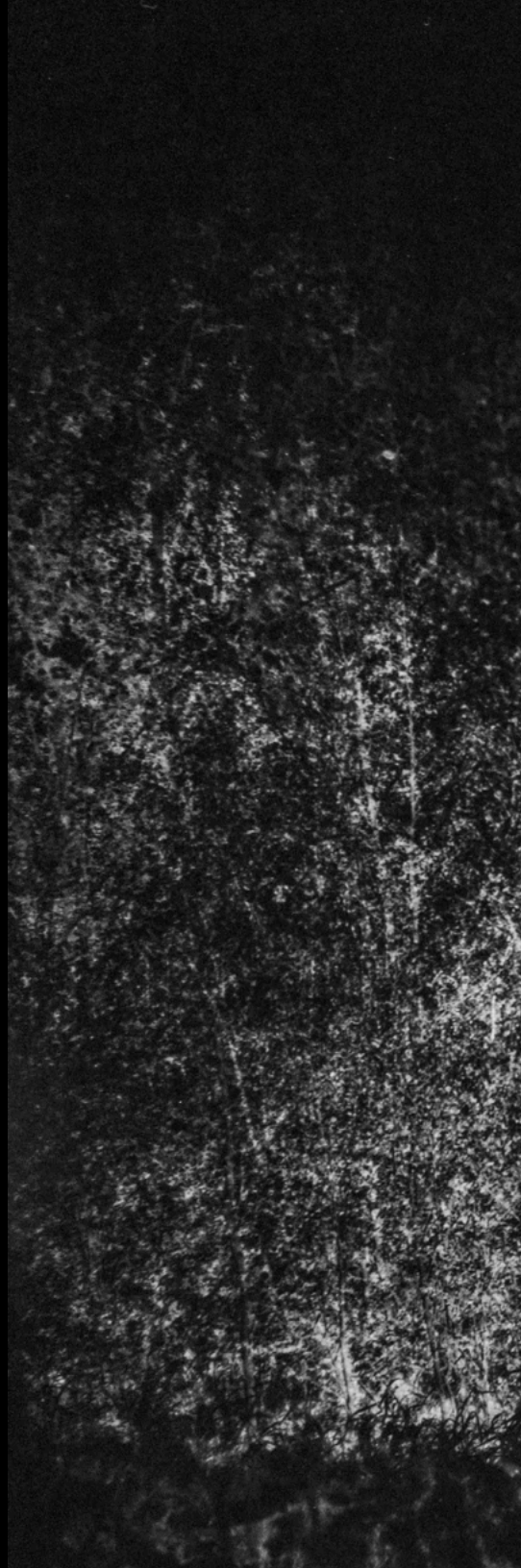


























AIM—Adopt Indian-Metis—giving children white parents

By JIM POLING
SASKATOON — (CP) — Louise is a dark-eyed, bright 3½-year-old who, although her mind can't comprehend it yet,

is engaged in a desperate battle which will shape her future.

The fight is for security, something she hasn't found in three different homes and

something which her fourth — and probably permanent — parents hope to give her.

Louise's fight is different from that of most adopted children because her new

family is white and she is Metis — part Indian and part white.

She represents a challenge not only to her new parents, but to a branch of the Saskatchewan department of welfare called AIM — Adopt Indian-Metis centre.

AIM was established three years ago as a pilot project in the Regina area when a serious backlog of Indian and Metis children under provincial care developed.

During 1966-67, the fiscal year before the project started, only 50 Indian and Metis children were adopted in Saskatchewan.

From April 1, 1969, to Dec.

31, 1969, a total of 140 were placed in permanent homes. Sixty of these were placed by AIM's Regina office and its Saskatoon branch and the rest by the welfare department which handles Indian and Metis adoptions outside the two districts.

One of the questions Louise's prospective parents had to answer before going to AIM was: Aren't there enough problems in adoption without taking a child of another race?

"To most people who come here, race makes no difference," said Alison Vickers, AIM supervisor for the Saskatoon office. "But they are

aware that it does to some people."

Louise's new parents, who have two boys, aged 9 and 10, and a girl 6, were drawn to AIM by its publicity campaign and a long-standing interest in the Indian people.

'PROUD AS PUNCH'

"I'm adopted myself and have wanted children both ways," says Louise's new mother, who wished to remain anonymous to protect her new child. "We felt that if we wanted another child, why produce one when there are so many already available?"

She and her husband wanted another girl and after months

of thought went to AIM because they felt they could help the problem of Indian and Metis children by adopting one.

"At first I thought that when I took her shopping with me I would be apprehensive. But I'm as proud as punch taking her and I expect everyone to like her.

"We haven't met any discrimination yet . . . but perhaps it's discrimination of a form when people say 'Aren't you the good Samaritan'."

Louise was abandoned at two years of age and lived in two foster homes. When taken into the care of the province she spoke only Cree.

Mrs. Vickers said most people who go to AIM already have families, either natural or adopted or a mixture.

Few childless couples adopted Indian or Metis children. Mrs. Vickers said the reason probably is that those who already have had the satisfaction of having a family are willing to give all they can to some child who otherwise may never have a permanent home.

TOLD OF PROBLEMS

"The history of wards is one of moves . . . there is little permanence in their lives."

A couple applying at AIM attend five interviews during which a social worker tries to determine attitudes on racism and illegitimacy and gives them an insight into some of the problems they must face in raising a child with dark skin.

There is a six-month probationary period during which

the family and the child can adjust. At the end of that time the child may be returned — though not many are — or the legal rights to the child are transferred to the new parents.

Before AIM was established the number of Indian and Metis children awaiting adoption had been increasing at about 100 a year.

In October, 1969, there were 205 Indian and Metis children under provincial care and by last month 186.

Mrs. Vickers says that AIM is at least keeping ahead of the increase and that the program has boosted the number of adoptions of all types in Saskatchewan.

The toughest task now is to find parents for older children and children in family groups.

NOT LIKE BIRTH

"With older children it is not like a birth. It's like a marriage, an Oriental marriage made under contract. It's not instant love."

In Louise's case, she has been accepted by her brothers and sisters who were prepared for her arrival. She also has been accepted by the neighborhood kids.

The children can see her skin is darker than theirs, but don't seem to realize, or care, that she is of another race.

Her new parents are confident that given the love and security that their natural children have received, Louise will become a stable adult, proud of her race and proud of the white family which gave her the happiness and security she couldn't have obtained in a series of foster homes.

A Feature of Ogilvy's Goods and Chattels Sale



Informal See-Through Dining Set

A Feature of Ogilvy's Goods and Chattels Sale











PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Department of Health and Public Welfare

Decree of Absolute Adoption

Whereas Henry Andrew Chubey and Margaret Chubey, the Adopting Parents, named in a certain application to adopt a child, dated the 15th. day of November A.D. 1960, made application to me a County Court Judge of Manitoba for a Decree of Absolute Adoption in respect of Karen May Guiboche now to be known as Donna Lynn Chubey born on the 12th. day of October A.D. 1960.

And Whereas the said application for a Decree of Absolute Adoption has been approved, in writing, by the Director of Public Welfare, in accord with The Child Welfare Act.

And Whereas on due consideration the said Application for a Decree of Absolute Adoption has been approved by me.

Under authority vested in me by The Child Welfare Act, I do hereby grant a Decree of Absolute Adoption to the said Adopting Parents in respect of the said Child.

The 12th day of May A.D. 1962

A. Macdonald

A COUNTY COURT JUDGE



SAFE! IN YOUR HANDS

Your hands could hold the future of a Metis child. Without parents, without a home free from prejudice and full of love, these children of Indian Heritage face an uncertain future. If you have such a home and would like to adopt as your own a Metis boy or girl, then you can become part of AIM.

Consider a part Indian child if you are thinking of enlarging your family. The problems are very small and the rewards are very great.

Children should be treated with the respect which is due to their innocence of the world.

—L. P. BROWN

*Mrs. T. J. ...
Hawaii*

ADOPT INDIAN METIS Centre

2340 ALBERT ST., EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6B 6B6 TELEPHONE 223-6668



DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE





HERE'S SOMETHING . . . YOU CAN'T BUY

Who can put a price on happiness? There are wards, of Indian heritage, who have no hope of knowing the joy and happiness that comes with being part of a family. Give a child a little love and you'll receive a great deal in return. You can do it by adopting one of these forgotten children, and becoming part of AIM.

COMMENTS OF PARENTS:

It is now more than 11 1/2 years since Mark, our son, joined our family. He has always been as much a part of it as our natural children.

All who would win joy, must share it; happiness was born a twin.

-Loret Zorn

PT INDIAN METIS Centre

METIS BLDG. NAHINA, MANITOQUAN • TELEPHONE 522-6081

AIM



A CHILD IS WAITING

Happy, Playful Girl



Sherri, 3 . . . loves to be hugged and cuddled.





OUT OF NOWHERE, INTO HERE...

Once this child's life and future was uncertain, lonely. He faced the problems of a Metis child growing up without parents to guide him. Now he lives in a home full of love, free from prejudice. If yours is a childless home, or if you want to complete your family, there is a little Metis boy or girl longing for you. You can become part of AIM and give your lives new meaning.

Prospective adopting parents can rest assured that children offered for adoption are carefully evaluated, to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that they are in every way normal.

— Dr. R. C. Gonsky
Director of Child Health

I have often thought what a melancholy world this would be without children.

— Ernest Callaghan-Taylor

M. J. Tims Herald
ADOPT INDIAN METIS Centre AIM

2340 ALBERT ST., REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN TELEPHONE 523-2601

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

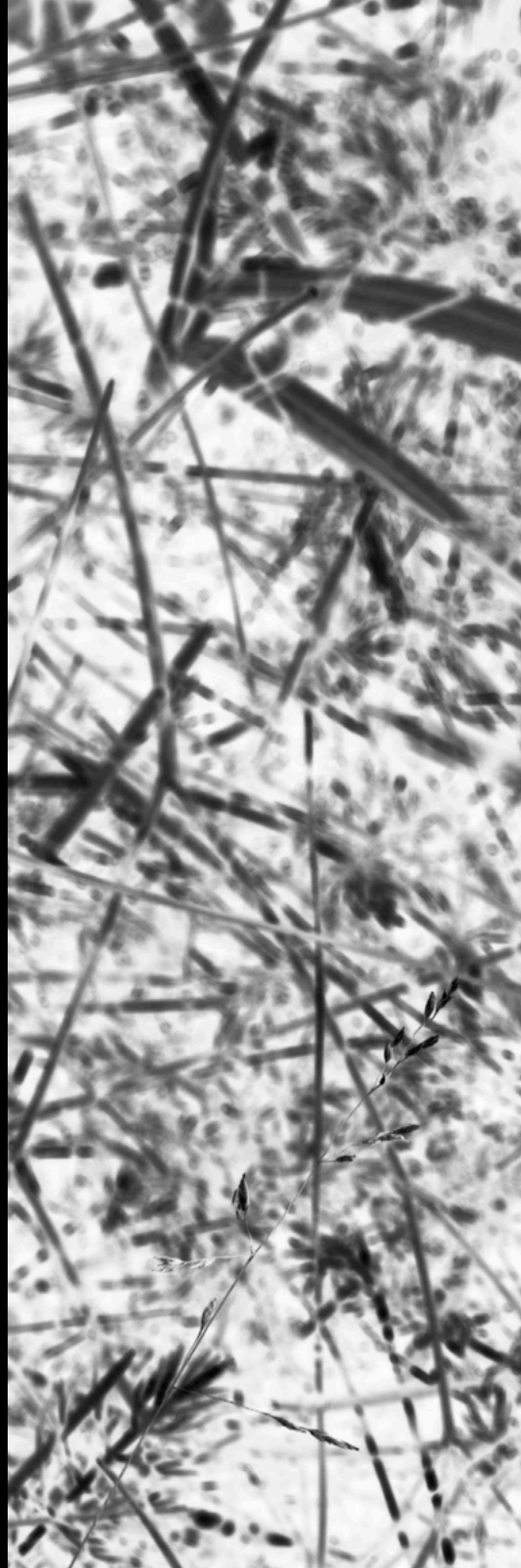
A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL PROJECT DIRECTOR: FRANK DORNSTAUDEK



















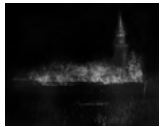
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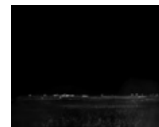
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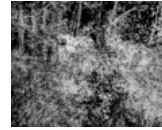
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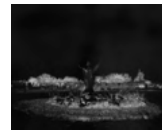
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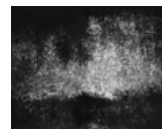
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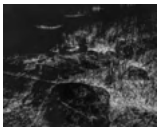
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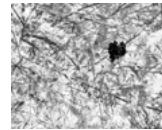
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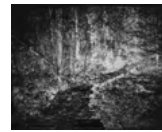
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book printing



Sustainability has always been at the forefront of my professional photography career. Looking for ways to sustainably create, produce and disseminate is important to me both personally and professionally, therefore, partnering with companies who have this as their goal is essential.

For the printing of this book, I have partnered with Hemlock Printers to participate in their ZERO Carbon Neutral Printing Program as my commitment to responsible printing practices and reducing my environmental footprint. From their FSC Certification to Zero Carbon Neutral program, Hemlock Printers provides the most sustainable printing program in Canada.

Additionally, the paper used in this book is 100% carbon neutral post-consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper. Contributions from participation in the Zero Carbon Neutral program go towards integral forest conservation projects such as the Great Bear Rainforest Carbon Project in coastal British Columbia. Using PCW paper saves resources from trees, water, energy and diverts solid waste from the landfill and reduces greenhouse emissions from entering the atmosphere.

The Environmental Benefits Statements below is based on the savings incurred by using a 100% PCW fibre paper in the printing of this book versus what would have been used with a traditional fiber paper.

Environmental Benefits Statement				
By using paper made with 100% post-consumer recycled content, the following resources have been saved.				
▲ trees	💧 water	⚡ energy	♻️ solid waste	☘️ greenhouse gases
3	946	1.3	160	21,504
fully grown	litres	million BTU	kilograms	kilograms

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 4.0
For more information visit www.papercalculator.org
FSC® is not responsible for any calculations on saving resources by choosing this paper.

