



RECOGNITION OF AN INDIGENOUS ELDER

Gladys Wapass-Greyeyes

Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF)



After taking university classes in teaching methodology, Gladys became a language instructor, teaching Cree (Nehiyaw) in First Nations schools such as Thunderchild and Muskeg Lake. The STF recognizes the critical role that language plays in the transmission and preservation of culture and acknowledges Gladys' commitment and over 30 years' experience to this priority.

As a community elder in Thunderchild and elder invited to many non-First Nation communities in Saskatchewan, Gladys is a well-respected teacher and counsellor. In recent years, she developed and delivered historical and cultural resources to Saskatchewan schools for Saskatchewan's Office of the Treaty Commissioner. This work includes going into schools as part of the "Treaties in the Classroom" project. The STF believes that treaty education is a critical component of Saskatchewan students' learning and stories and teachings of Knowledge Keepers, like Gladys, are vital to this endeavour.

Gladys continues to be invited by teachers, school divisions, the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to speak and share her teachings, helping educators introduce, promote and maintain the history of Indigenous people in the province and use that knowledge as a foundation for strong relationships.