



MUIN AQ NITAP



Crystal Fitzgerald Bernard

Mi'gmaq Writer's Award

Back in 2008, the Chiefs and Councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj decided that there was an urgent need to uncover and reward talented Mi'gmaq writers within Gespe'gewa'gi. They noted that it is imperative for the survival of the Mi'gmaq as a people that we identify members who possess a special aptitude and a keen interest in pursuing writing as a hobby or as a career. We have been an oral story telling people for thousands of years, and a number of our ancestors were some of the greatest storytellers, keeping our culture and traditions alive. This tradition of story telling must continue; however, we must be mindful of the use of today's digital technology inherent in the written word and the benefits this can accrue to future generations of Mi'gmaq.

Prix d'auteur Mi'gmaq

Les chefs et les conseils de la nation Mi'gmaq de Listuguj, de la nation Micmac de Géspeg et des Micmacs de la bande de Gesgapegiag ont établi qu'il y a un besoin urgent de dénicher et de récompenser les auteurs Mi'gmaq talentueux. Il est impératif pour la survie des Mi'gmaq, en tant que peuple, qu'on puisse identifier les membres ayant une aptitude et un intérêt pour l'écriture, que ce soit pour le plaisir ou pour en faire carrière. La transmission orale a fait partie de notre culture depuis des millénaires. Plusieurs de nos ancêtres étaient d'excellents conteurs. Cette tradition doit continuer. Par contre, nous devons être conscients de l'usage de la technologie inhérente aux paroles écrites, et des avantages que cela procure aux générations à venir.



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We present to following selection for your reading enjoyment and hope that you become inspired to write with creative style and continue the Mi'gmaq tradition of storytelling.

Nous présentons les textes suivants en espérant que cela vous donne le goût de la création littéraire et le goût de continuer la tradition Mi'gmaq des contes.

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This Mi'gmaq legend took place long ago and is about a young girl named Wasueg (Flower in Mi'gmaq) and Muin (Bear). Wasueg loved to play in the woods and one day she happened upon meeting Muin. Muin was very nice and gentle and he let Wasueg pet him and feed him, but Muin had told her not to ever bring anyone with her.

The first few days were great between the two, but one day forgetting what she promised to Muin, she brought her brother Edward and Muin got so mad that he just left and let the food sit there. Wasueg went back every day for many weeks but Muin was nowhere to be seen.

Wasueg soon stopped going and Muin noticed and started to feel sad and soon missed Wasueg. He went to go see if she left any food for him, there were five (5) pork chops and ten (10) steaks. Muin started to go back every day but he didn't touch the food until Wasueg came back.

After awhile, Wasueg decided to see if Muin came back to their spot, this time she brought her Nmuju (Dog) with her. Muin didn't get mad, he simply told Wasueg that he was sorry about getting upset and that he wanted to be friends with her again. Wasueg said "I brought my Nmuju with me, I thought you would like to be his friend too." Muin smiled and said, "Sure I'll be his friend".

As days went by, Muin would decide to meet with Sigowigu (Spring Moon). Along the way, he met up with another animal that he never saw, so Muin asked, "Who are you?" The animal answered, "I am Taim (Moose) and I like to eat leaves and wild berries. Muin soon learns that he is not the only one in the woods, he also learns there are not only male animals there are also female. Once Muin knows there are females he calls the female Douce (Daughter).

Muin noticed that he had wandered off into another part of the forest, a part that he had never been to before. Muin sees an animal in the sky and asks what is the name of the animal flying, Tiam replies "that is Jipji'j (Bird)". Immediately, Muin ask, "And what is that animal running over there?" Tiam answers, "That is my friend Lentug (Deer)" - then Muin ask, "Tiam, why is Lentug running from that Ji'nmji'j (Boy)?" Tiam trembled with his answer, "Because that Ji'nmji'j is hunting us for food and Lentug is scared! Enough questions for now please Muin. We have to leave this area". Muin, not realizing the danger replied, "Okay, well I have to get going because I'm on my way to visit Sigowigu". Tiam scurries and says, "Okay, hope to see you another day my Nitap (Friend)."

Muin finally arrived to meet Sigowigu. Sigowigu was very happy to see them both, he was smiling and when he smiles over us, it means 'Thank You'. Muin then noticed a girl that was in the water sitting on her Gwetn (canoe). As he approached her to greet her, she got so scared and screamed loudly. She started to paddle as fast as she could to get away from Muin. Muin didn't understand why she was frightened, but after that day, Muin never went near another person again because never wanted scare people ever again, and he didn't want people to scare him and his friends either.

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