



FNLKC Conference Workshop Presenter

Workshop Title: What Do Our Traditional Stories Tell Us?

Name of Presenters: Solomon Ratt

Biography: Solomon Ratt is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and attended the Prince Albert Indian Residential School for 10 months of the year. The two summer months were spent with his parents in Stanley Mission. His parents didn't speak English which is why he was able to keep his language. Solomon has been teaching Cree at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) for over 31 years. His publications include *Woods Cree Stories* (U of R Press, 2014) and *mâci-nêhiyawêwin – Beginning Cree* (U of R Press, 2016).

Abstract: This year's conference theme acknowledges that Indigenous peoples once had knowledge systems which we no longer pursue. This fall by the way side was to no fault of our ancestors. Some, like the Sweat Lodge and Pow Wow, were outlawed by the colonial government. Others like the passing down of medicine knowledge, hunting and fishing practices, practical preparation of foods and clothing, were replaced by modern conveniences. While others like the transmission of our traditional stories from one generation to another, were swept aside by Indian Residential Schools when children were away from their homes during storytelling seasons. This presentation will talk about these stories and their importance to Cree culture and Cree philosophy.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, delegates will:

- Learn that our traditional stories are more than amusing stories for our children
- Understand that stories include all aspects of Cree culture
- Begin to use these stories in the classrooms