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Omushkego teaching/learning practices in Northern Ontario, Canada, in the 20th Century.

Short description / Abstract:

Doe O'Brien Teengs is Omushkego Ininew on her mother's side and second generation Irish Canadian on her father's side. Her dissertation project included reclaiming storytelling practices among her mother and aunts who were born between 1933 and 1954. The use of storytelling and sharing circles were used as methodologies that served two purposes: first, to reclaim the practice of storytelling and all its pedagogical possibilities; and second, to gain insight from the content of the stories themselves. This presentation will focus on how the participants learned the skills to live on the land with their family and the subsequent interruption of these learning styles with the forced attendance at Indian Residential Schools. The participants age differences clearly demonstrate varying impacts of colonization on their lives as children, which increased with each decade. Their stories were culturally informative, humorous, and included poignant descriptions of the living on the Hudson Bay Lowlands.