

Biding Our
TIME
WITH
RHYMES



COVER ART: KYLE

2013

Writers in the Community Program

Autumn 2013

This zine was produced as part of Writers in the Community, a program run jointly by the Quebec Writers' Federation and The Centre for Literacy.



The Centre for Literacy of Quebec
Le centre d'alphabétisation du Québec

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- 
- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 3 | Kyle |
| 5 | Nick |
| 6 | Deiion |
| 7 | Johnny |
| 8 | Willie |
| 9 | Dario |
| 10 | Kesoth |
| 11 | The General |
| 12 | Nick |
| 13 | Deiion |
| 14 | Johnny |
| 15 | Kyle |
| 16 | Willie |
| 17 | Dario |
| 18 | Kesoth |
| 19 | The General |
| 20 | Willie |
| 21 | Johnny |
| 22 | Nick |
| 23 | Johnny |
| 24 | Willie |
| 25 | Corey |
| 26 | Artist Bios |

INFLATED IDENTITY

- Kyle

I put the anger in dangerous
the beat in the drum
I am wise and stubborn
so time can wait while I ponder my future

I live to learn the mysteries of the universe
would die a thousand deaths for my freedom,
with passion and dignity until the light of my knowledge
and the fire of my life are extinguished
Still my will, will live on brighter than the moment
I first opened my eyes

I smile and life brings joy to all living creatures
When I weep the ground splits and the sky cries in anguish
with more fury than a million hurricanes

I put the hawk in Mohawk and the vein in native
because it's in my blood and connects my body together
to function in perfect harmony
I am brave and protective so not even an army of men
could come between me and my family

I bring people together by just speaking my mind
and the memory I leave with them
is more dazzling and unbreakable
than an ocean of diamonds

With no effort or pressure to listen
even the deaf stand and admire and envy those
who can do the one thing they believe impossible
Listen

When I put an effort into creating new things
the possibilities are more immense
than the universe and time itself
Still my creations will help build
a better, brighter, more efficient future
that my children and children's children
will still be reaping from its benefits

I put the colour in the world
and the voice in your dreams that guide you
with senses; not touch, taste, hear, smell
but with feeling emotions
Guidance and advice not only
to make the choices that are considered right
but also the bad choices that will build you as a person
and teach you to learn from your mistakes
and just... live

LOST MY TALK

- Nick

My skidoo broke down when I was fox hunting with my friends. We had one skidoo. They went along but I stayed back.

I started walking back to my sled with no gun since I took it off when we started the chase.

I was in the woods going to my sled then I heard something on the left side of me. I looked, nothing. I continued walking and I heard something once more. There was a white wolf eight feet behind me.

I arrived to my sled and five more wolfs came to me. I felt like I was waiting for three hours. In my mind, I realized I had dropped my guns clip, after the wolves came.

I said

“I’m going to die young,
I’m going to die young.
Shit, god help me.”

The wolves were making the circle of death surrounding me. They were coming and coming closer and closer. At the last second I heard a skidoo. My cousin came very fast. He showed up and the wolves started running. He started shooting and caught two. He saved me my life...

True story, when I was fifteen.

MY FREEDOM IS A MUST
- The one and only Deiiion k.m

Im just an average teenager
With a crazy life
With a full deck of cards
I could play them right
Put em all on the table she gon stay tonight
I did my time like a man
I don't play with my life cuz ima good kid
I just get into a lotta trouble
Made alotta bad choices
So I made myself struggle
But I changed my lifestyle cuz my freedom is a must
I was barely seeing bread
I was fienning for the crust
I could never take my time I was always in a rush
But I put myself together
Cuz im ready for my freedom
Got a family that loves me and I just cant wait to see them
Had alotta fake friends
I don't need em delete em
Tonight its all about me lets make a toast to my freedom

LEGGO!!

I AM QUIET AND SHY

- Johnny

I am quiet and shy

I wonder why a bullet is so loud

I hear footsteps

I see everything

I want to walk on a quiet road

I am quiet and shy

I pretend to not know

I feel hurt

I touch the ground

I worry about a maximum sentence

I cry at night

I am quiet and shy

I understand Inuktituk

I say I don't know

I go to sleep, wake up, no dream

I try to do well in school

I hope I see my Grandma again

I am quiet and shy

FEEL THE BEAT

- Willie

Feel the beat
Let it be your guiding force
Hold your tongue just long enough

You speak form when you speak
I'm not a rapper but I can rap
so that's what my life is now

but I'm the best hockey player in this place
We dance through memories unseen
We practice first and we play a game as a team

Understand the rhythm that you seek
pass around the puck and score a goal, fan freak

Shapes that are symbols of truths to come
we won the cup
party's at my house!

I LOST MY TALK

- Dario

I Lost My Talk

One play-off game

last game of the season

The whole team worked so hard

to make it to this level!

With a large crowd in the stands

yelling and cheering

My coach and teammates on the ice

trying to communicate

I was trying to say something

It was incredibly loud and frustrating

I lost my talk!

We play this for the game

not for the fame

It is a challenge to the brain

If someone messes up

we always remember

We are a team so we all take the blame!

I offered my talk but lost it

I lost it once but never again

one time only

THE DAY 'I LOST MY TALK'
- kesoth aka CV LANKAN STAR

I was catching my bus on a Sunday morning to get home from Cote Vertu metro station. I got stopped by two police officers who told me I was getting arrested for robbery. They brought me to the police station and read me all my rights, which weren't many.

Since then I knew I lost all my rights and I was in a small little room. I wasn't thinking straight. I was taken away from my family. I couldn't talk to the police officer because everything I said would be used against me in court. I was alone, scared and feeling in danger. Beyond all that, I was speechless. I didn't care what happened to me. Moving one unit to another. Meeting new people all the time. In my head I had lost everything.

What else do I have to lose?

When I came to Northview it was different because I knew a person from outside that was also here. I met another brown kid, who helped me level up and showed me how the system worked. From that day on I felt normal, comfortable and a sense of belonging. That's my story about how I Lost My Talk.

HAIKUS
- Nick W

Cant go to the gym
I hate my back when its hurt
I need to sleep more

I like to make noise
Even though im not allowed
To annoy the staff

I miss seal hunting
Miss being at my home town
Where I always hunt

HAIKUS
- Deiiion k.m

I'm losing my keys
Its getting worse everyday
Can't wait to get paid

Days get fun at work
I get home and my legs hurt
Music is healing

Driving in traffic
Everybody is angry
I'm losing my mind

HAIKUS

- Johnny

waking up early
dogs are barking
I cant sleep again

Driving my skidoo
I hate sitting for hours, can't
wait to take a shower

Can't find caribou
Wait, I saw something down there!
Get ready to hunt

REALITY CHECK

- Kyle

Having a good dream
Never wanting it to end
Welcome to lock-up

BUZZ KILL

- Kyle

skating down steep hills
adrenaline on the rise
falling down, pain, ouch!

HAIKUS
- Willie

Every night it's cold
I wanna put my clothes on
Turn the heat up more

I am in the lounge
Everytime they talk louder
I am so annoyed

When I'm in the plane
I always hate to take a seat
And it's so long

HAIKUS
- Dario

Waiting in traffic
Early morning, stop and go!
Not being social

Sweaty from work out
Huge line up for the shower
Forget it, go home

WE JUST MADE FINALS!
We just won the finals ...
I AM SOO HAPPY!

HAIKUS

- kesoth v

Now days I wake up
Before sunrise, until then
I will be sleeping

Chocolate cookies
Before clock hits 8 o'clock
Then fall into dreams

Oh my god, Sunday
When I get to see my mom
Then wait until Wednesday

I LOST MY TALK

- Willie

I lost my talk
when I was hunting for seals
with my grandfather

We were stuck on ice for 2 days
it was so cold but we had a stove for heat
it was windy
it was spring time
but we were on a boat with a cover

We were supposed to go for two weeks
but we got stuck on the second day
My grandfather was stuck before
so he told me the story
it was really long
I was so tired I fell asleep

Ice was rushing and cracking around us
I started playing with it
while my grandfather slept
that was when I lost my talk

Thank you!

I'M FROM

- Johnny

I'm from hunting seal, caribou, beluga and goose
I'm from playing puzzles, chewing dentyne gum

I'm from liking hip hop and rap
to being born and eating beluga in Inukjuak

I'm from watching Spongebob and Springer in the morning
to playing hockey outside in the winter
and wearing sealskin mittens made by my sister

I'm a big fan of Iginla, Sourpatch kids and Mt. Huck

When I'm older and wiser
I wanna be a fire fighter

I AM
- Nick

I am Inuk and a hunter
I wonder about my Grandfathers Caribou hunting
I hear the wind roaring
I see life going up and down
I want freedom

I am a mechanic and a soapstone carver

I pretend that nothing is happening around me
I feel bored every day
I touch the desk, as I am bored
I worry about losing someone in my family
I cry for joy

I am a mechanic and a soapstone carver

I understand Inuk and love mechanics
I say I am just a person
I dream of skidoo racing and dog sledding
I try to be nice and do new things
I hope I have a perfect life

I am Inuk and I am proud of it

I PUT THE...

- Johnny

I put the Inuit Inukjuak

The u in ulu

I am so amazing, so admirable

I tapped my big toe

and created chaos in Ottawa

I threw a football

and a mountain became an avalanche

I put the hockey in stick

the ice in skate

I PUT THE...

- Willie

I put the 'T' in Inuit
the run in running

I am kind, so tall
I hunt with a rifle

I play hockey
and skate on ice

I put the 'N' in Native
the 'bou' in caribou

I am peaceful, so joyful
I love winter
with lots of snow

When I play hockey
I score lots of goals

I put the young in Willie
the water in the sea.

MEET THE POETS:

KESOTH AKA CV GOON

Was born in Canada, Montreal. Goon of Cote-Vertu and was raised in Mountain Sights uptown. A fan of money and girls. Three languages spoken from day one.

AK THE GENERAL FROM U.P.T

The general: I'm from U.P.T.160. I like to play basketball. I record my music. I'm a trap star. Blood in, blood out. Soowoo.

DARIO

I grew up with a hockey stick and soccer ball. The athlete in me comes to life when I'm surround by people who share the same passion as me! My desire for soccer played itself out on the pitch. I grew up and my life played itself out in the #514! My name is Dario. Although certain days I may struggle, I get by knowing one day freedom itself will rain.

JOHNNY

I really enjoy winter because of the snow and I spend a lot of time, when I can, playing hockey. Born and raised in Inukjuak, I'm currently 17 and my name is Johnny K. One of my biggest achievements was when I caught my beluga at 12 years old and ever since then a desire to hunt grew in me. I hope to continue my love to hunt and go back to enjoying my winters!

WILLIE

My name is Willie, I'm from Kangirsuk and I like to go hunting with my friends. I'm a good hockey player and I'm good at fixing stuff. I love summer, not winter. I hate winter because it's cold in my village. My biggest hunt was polar bear. I would like to go back home.

The Other Poets:

KYLE

NICK

DEIIION

COREY

2013

THANK YOU FOR READING!

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