

The Eagle Feather Story

A Dakelh (Carrier) Peoples story about respecting those that live life with integrity

A mouse, caribou, beaver, frog & coyote learn how to earn their eagle feather



Bonus

Includes

Dakelh & English
Audio Narration
(Details Inside)

As Told By :
Francois Prince

Teach Us With Culture & We Can Learn

Learning From Indigenous Cultures One Story At A Time



The Eagle Feather Story ...

A Dakelh (Carrier) Peoples Story

Dedication:

The Dakelh culture is ancient and beautiful. The Dakelh have lived in the North Central Rockies of Turtle Island since time immemorial. Indigenous Peoples are and have always been the best caretakers of the land. The Dakelh are a caring People and are eager to share their stories and knowledge. The Dakelh culture is vibrant and rich in knowledge and history.


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Eagle Feather Song:	Written by Francois Prince & Performed by Mark Barfoot
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Publisher:	Reality Media/4Canoes
Editing:	Guy & Ruby Prince, Glen Woolner, Kelly Brownbill
Production, Illustration, Design:	Reality Media, Kevin Milne
First Edition, 2019	

This E-story includes Dakelh and English audio narration.

These stories are also available in print & digital versions at www.4canoes.com

The mp3 audio files play on any computer, tablet, phone or music player. Including audio allows the reader an additional way to experience the culture. The story is wonderful to read aloud too.

Bonus

Click on the audio icons throughout to hear the story the narration. 

Commence audio on following page. Read along with the audio. When the audio ends go to the next audio icon page and so on. Email us at info@canoekids.com. We would love to hear from you.

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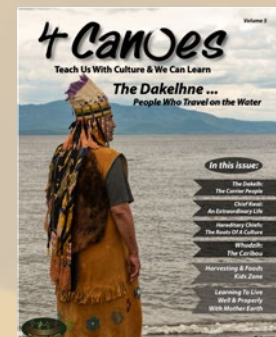
Hadih, and welcome to our story. The Eagle Feather Story is about learning to live your life with honesty and integrity. Indigenous stories are part of an ancient oral tradition and are used by elders and teachers to instruct their own young ones. The values in these wonderful stories and teachings are perhaps more relevant now than ever.

The Eagle Feather Story is told by Francois (Guy) Prince. Francois is of The Dakelh People and a life long resident of Nak'azdli Whut'en, a non-treaty First Nation located adjacent to Fort St. James, BC.

Francois is an educator, storyteller, and fluent speaker of The Dakelh Language. Francois is very involved in teaching the culture within his community and is also committed to helping us all learn to live well and properly with each other and Mother Earth. Mussi (thank you) for hearing our story.

We encourage everyone to travel to Dakelh territory to visit and learn from The Dakelh Peoples.... ***You will be welcomed***

This story is ideally accompanied by Volume 5 of The 4Canoes Series, The Dakelh, The People Who Travel On The Water.





Click on the audio symbols to hear the song and the narration throughout the book





Mussi (thank you) for your interest in The Dakelh Peoples. Our beautiful culture is thousands of years old and our stories have been handed down through the generations. Dakelh People have stories that are used to teach our children the important things in life. These stories are told in the spoken word. This is our oral storytelling tradition and is as old as our culture. The values of our stories are as important as when our ancestors first told them to their young ones those many millennia ago.

The Dakelh People and many other Indigenous Peoples hold the eagle sacred in their culture. You may see eagle feathers in our ceremonies and dances. The person who has that feather has shown themselves to be worthy. They have earned their feather. The Eagle Feather Story is a Dakelh Peoples story about how an eagle feather is earned and the traits that are valued and respected in those people who have earned an eagle feather. This is a story of learning to respect people who live their lives well and properly, and with integrity and caring for the land and each other.

The graphics in this book combine illustrations (the painting of the Pit House is of a real Pit House in our community) and actual pictures from our territory. The trees by the caribou are in our territory. The tree in front of the beaver was chewed by beavers. The frog and lily-pads, hummingbird, butterfly, mushrooms, swimming beaver, and the eagle in the tree all live among us. Their songs and lives enrich us all.



Dakelh Territory

The Dakelh Peoples have lived in their territory since time immemorial.



The Eagle Feather Song



The Dakelh People ...

A brief biography

Dakelh territory is in the north-central interior of what is now known as British Columbia, Canada and bordered to the east by the Rocky Mountains. The many passes through the Rockies lead to Dakelh territory, so the Dakelh were the gatekeepers for all who came from the east, westerly through their territory to the Pacific. The mighty Fraser river dominates the landscape. The Dakelh Peoples have been in this region since time immemorial.

Dakelh lands are covered in dense, sub-boreal forests with many lakes and rivers. The Dakelh Peoples are known as “The People Who Travel on Water” and for good reason. These rivers drain toward the Pacific. The Dakelh canoe is a dugout canoe and is sturdy enough for the fast-moving rivers; yet stable enough for the lakes that dot the region.

The Dakelh are hunters and gatherers. Harvest time is focused around the summer and fall. The Dakelh diet is a very healthy mix of fish, berries, meat from moose, caribou, and wildfowl. The Dakelh Peoples have great knowledge of the plants in their territory. This traditional knowledge served The Dakelh well and provided seasonings as well as all the medicines needed for the entire community.

Experts in conservation, The Dakelh manage their territory to ensure that all flora and fauna are secure in number. Harvesting considers the environment as a whole and connected circle.

The Dakelh Peoples lived in well-defined sections within their territory called Keyohs. Each Keyoh supported multiple families. The Dakelh culture is matrilineal. This means that lineage followed the female descents. When a man married, he moved to his wife’s mother’s Keyoh. These territories were respected by all.

The Dakelh Peoples are Athabaskan speakers. The language is very pleasant sounding. The Navajo and Apache Peoples in the South-West United States speak a very similar dialect. Many consider that these southerly Peoples left the Athabaskan region long ago, traveled south and became separate Nations. The Dakelh songs are beautiful in beat and melody and are often about the culture and the land.

When settlers arrived in the late 1700s and early 1800s the Dakelh language was discouraged, as was the practice of the very vibrant and civil Dakelh culture. Potlatches (the sharing of food and goods) was made illegal. Fortunately, the culture is again vibrant and strong and the language is experiencing a renaissance.

The Dakelh Peoples traded fish oil with other Indigenous Nations. This valuable commodity was traded by The Dakelh People from what is now known as The Yukon to the Pacific, southerly to California, and easterly to Alberta. The fish oil was carried over a well-defined series of trails. These trails followed the mountain passes and plateaus. These trails are known even today as the grease trails because they were created to allow for the trade of fish oil.

The Eagle Feather Story



Click audio symbols
at the top of the pages
for story narration

Ihoh dzin tsibalyan duchun zih suhyin
'et di ha njan sinyin? ulhguk oodulhkut tsibalyan
Nasusdli ink'ez nanizsul nadutisgi un haitus'en, ni tsibalyan
Ulhguk ni, ts'e hadit'ai'on'at
Njoo duchun ondo'et la nanoolghas
Tsibalyan ni, nts'e la hoont'oh?

One day there was an eagle standing on a log and he was wet and cold. A mouse came out from under the log and said, "Eagle, why are you standing on the log, why are you not way up in the tree, or in your nest?" The eagle said, "It is very cold and I am very cold and I am all wet. I am trying to find a place to stay warm and dry my feathers."

The little mouse said, "I know a place just over that hill, there is a Pit House." A Pit House is built by the Dakelh People and they have a fire in their house to keep warm. There is a hole in the roof where the log comes out and the heat from the fire makes its way up through the hole. It is always nice and warm there.

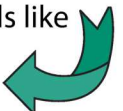
Dakelh Language Vowel sounds:

Use this vowel guide to learn to pronounce the names of the characters in the story.
A – as in pass; E – as in pay; I – as in tree; O – as in show; Oo – as in chew; U – as in gun

Feather, t'a



Click here to hear what
a mouse sounds like





Mouse, ulhguk



Ulhguk whinulhtun
Tsibalyan nanilghaz k'e duts'un t'a nahuyulhna
Ilho nts'un t'a ulhguk ilhchoot
Ulhguk hoont'i'ink'ez whunaja

The eagle asked the mouse to show him. The mouse said yes and brought the eagle over the hill and showed him the Pit House. The eagle flew up to the top of the log and started to get warm, started getting dry. The eagle told the mouse that he felt better and thanked the mouse. The eagle ruffled his feathers and a feather came out and floated to the mouse. The mouse was very happy and he went running into the bush.



House, yoh





'et whudzih nilh'en. Whudzih yoodulhkut, 'et diha hoont'i'?
Tsibalyan oot'a ilho ilhchoot
Whudzih ni, ilho sghaoon'alh ninzun?
Tilah, nyunch'oh oodilhkut
Whudzih tsibalyan ts'uwheinya 'ink'ez ts'un t'a ha yoodulhkut
Nindaih te tube hoonust'i', ni tsibalyan
Sba nindaih eh?
A, nusdaih hoonust'i', ni whudzih
Whudzih nudaih 'ink'ez tsibalyan ts'un t'a nahuyulhna
Ilho t'a whudzih ilhchoot 'ink'ez hoonust'i'

The mouse passed by a caribou and the caribou said, "Little mouse, why are you so happy?" The mouse explained how he saw an eagle and how the eagle gave him a beautiful feather. The caribou asked the mouse if he thought the eagle would give him a feather. The mouse said, "You can go and ask the eagle."

The caribou went up to the eagle and he called to the eagle and said, "Eagle, can you give me a feather? I saw how happy that mouse was." The eagle replied, "Caribou, when I am flying in the sky I see your kind, I see that the caribou are majestic and the most beautiful dancers in all the land. Now you are standing right in front of me. Do you think you could dance for me?" The caribou said, "Sure, I love dancing." So the caribou started dancing. The eagle ruffled his feathers and a feather came out, and the feather floated to the caribou. The caribou was very happy and he went into the bush.



Click here to hear what
a caribou sounds like





Caribou, whudzih

Forest, chuntoh



Chuntulhi ni, de' ts'un t'a ha'nuszun
Tsibalyan oodilhkut, ni whudzih
Chuntulhi ni, de' ts'un t'a ha'nuszun
Tsibalyan ni, tila ts'un t'a nahuyulhna
Gak
Chuntulhi hunilch'e 'ink'ez whunaja
Chuntulhi tsa nilh'en
Tsa ni, ts'un t'a ha'nuszun?
Chuntulhi ni, tsibalyan oodilhkut



Hummingbird, tl'alhchooz



The caribou passed near a coyote. The coyote said, "Why are you so happy?"
The caribou explained that he was given a beautiful feather by the eagle, and the mouse received one as well. The coyote said, "I want that feather, give me that feather."
The caribou told the coyote that he had to go and ask the eagle himself.

The coyote went to the eagle and said, "Hey eagle, I saw how happy the caribou and the mouse are because you gave them a feather. Give me a feather right now, I want to be happy too." The eagle said, "I don't know if I can." He ruffled his feathers, and no feather came out. The coyote got very disturbed and said, "Never mind. I don't need a feather anyway." The coyote walked away.



Click here to hear what
a coyote sounds like





Coyote, chuntulhi



Tsa tsibalyan wheinya 'ink'ez yoodulhkut.

Tsibalyan ni, tehyun sba ilhchoot?

A, ni tsa 'ink'ez benizjut

Tal lho 'ink'ez tube whudulhgus, aoo hoonli oo'en 'ait'oh

'oh nudilni 'ink'ez tehyun ilhchoot

Nenintsai 'ink'ez hanadlat



As the coyote was walking through the bush he saw a beaver. The beaver asked the coyote why he was so upset? The coyote explained that he saw the caribou and the mouse and they had an eagle feather, and that eagle would not give me one. The beaver said, "I wonder if the eagle would give me one." The coyote told the beaver he was not sure, "I doubt it, but you can go and ask the eagle yourself."

The beaver went to the eagle and said, "Hey eagle, I know how happy the caribou and the mouse were when they received a feather. Do you think I could have a feather too?" The eagle said, "I am glad you are here. My parents told me about a moss that grows on the bottom of the lake, and they line their nest with that moss to keep them warm. If you can get me some of that moss, I will see what I can do to get you a feather." The beaver promised the eagle that he would try.

The beaver went to the lake and started swimming out to the middle. He started thinking to himself that he had never gone to the middle of the lake before. He had never gone to the bottom of the lake either. The beaver thought to himself that it is kind of scary and dark, "I don't know if I can" he said to himself. The beaver thought about the feather and he really wanted the feather so he challenged himself and dove beneath the surface. He began swimming deeper and deeper. It was getting darker and darker and soon he could only see a little bit of light above him. The deeper he dove, the darker it became, and soon it was completely dark. He had not yet reached the bottom. The beaver was getting tired. He finally reached the bottom and started feeling around. He found the nice soft moss and the beaver grabbed some and started heading up to the surface.

Tree, duchun

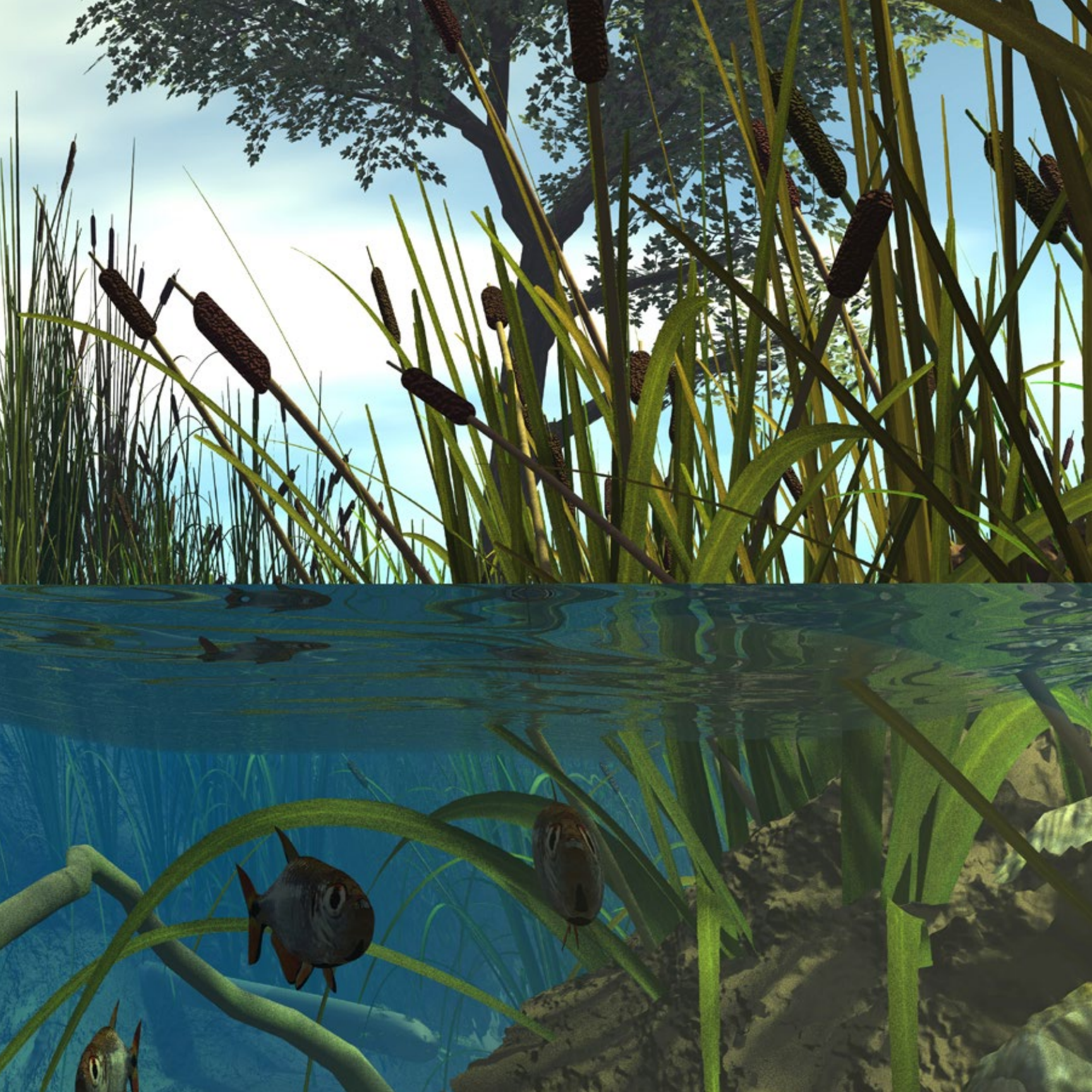


Click here to hear what
a beaver sounds like when
they chew a tree and when
they talk to each other



Beaver, tsa







Chuntulhi oodulhkut sla in'eh?

Tsa tehyun nghanin'aih 'ink'ez chuntulhi whunalgaih

When the beaver reached the surface he was very tired because he had never dived that deep before. The coyote was standing on the shore and he yelled, "Beaver, I see you are very tired, do you want some help?" The beaver said, "Yes thank you, I would really appreciate your help." "Pass me the moss", the coyote said. And as soon as he had the moss, the coyote ran away with it.





Mushroom, inbin dzo



Dulk'wah tsibalyan ts'uwheinya

Dulk'wah ni tsibalyan, chuntulhi whunalgaih 'ink'ez yuna lhe'ilnil



The eagle had landed by the lake to watch the beaver. The frog swam up beside the eagle. The frog told the eagle that he saw the coyote offer to help the beaver, but he did not help him. The frog explained that the coyote took the moss from the beaver and ran away with it. The frog said, "I think he is going to try to trade it with you." The eagle ruffled his feathers and a feather came out and floated to the frog.



Click here to hear what
a frog sounds like



Frog, dulk'wah





Tsa sainya 'ink'ez, a, alha utni
Tsibalyan nts'un t'a nahuyulhna 'ink'ez dulk'wah ilho ilhchoot
'en cha tsa ilho ilhchoot

Just then the beaver swam to the eagle and he saw he was very tired. The beaver told the eagle that he got very tired because he had never dived that deep before. "The coyote offered to help me, but he just took the moss and ran away."



Click here to hear a
beaver splash his tail
on the water to warn
his family of danger







Chuntulhi whenintso 'ink'ez oodzi nduda

Tsibalyan ts'un t'a nahuyulhna 'ink'ez chuntulhi ilho t'a ilhchoot

Chuntulhi, t'a nanus'ai 'et hukwa ndzi nduda, ni tsibalyan

As the coyote arrived the eagle ruffled his feathers again and a feather came out and floated right by the coyote and went to the beaver.

The coyote started crying and he said, "I am sorry for everything I have done wrong. I should not have been mean. I should not have been selfish. I am sorry for not helping, and I am sorry for everything I did wrong." The coyote was so disappointed with his behavior that he cried. The eagle listened to the coyote and as the coyote was crying he ruffled his feathers and a feather came out and floated to the coyote.



Butterfly, tsangoolht'ah



Tsa, t'a nanus'ai 'et hukwa uyoo inli
Dulk'wah, t'a nanus'ai 'et hukwa alha utni
Whudzih, t'a nanus'ai 'et hukwa nindaih ha
Ulhguk, t'a nanus'ai nyun cha, 'et hukwa sla inja



The eagle spoke to the animals and said, "Beaver, you got a feather because you faced your fears and you were courageous. Frog, you got a feather because you spoke the truth. Caribou, you got a feather because you danced for me and shared your culture. Mouse, you got a feather because you helped me."

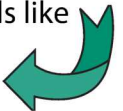


When you see someone with an eagle feather, think about the learning and teachings and dedication that was needed to earn that feather. They helped somebody, they were sorry for those things they did wrong, they told the truth, shared their culture and they faced their fears.

And that is the story of how the eagle feather is earned and why you should respect those that have earned a feather. That is the significance behind why The Dakelh respect those persons that have earned an eagle feather.

We encourage all people to respect those persons who live a life of integrity and live well and properly with Mother Earth.

Click here to hear what
an eagle sounds like



Eagle, tsibalyan



Thoughts For Inquisitive Minds

The Dakelh culture, like many Indigenous cultures revere the eagle. When a person has proven to be worthy, The Dakelh Peoples may give an eagle feather to that person in recognition of their achievement in life.

How does your family, school, your friends and your own culture recognize when you have accomplished something special and worthwhile? Hint... Think about the things (even a sticker from your mom or dad on the fridge) you have been given when you accomplish something great!

The beaver overcame his greatest fear to earn an eagle feather. Fears are not a bad thing and we all have some. Have you had to overcome a fear or concern to do better in your own life?

The caribou have joy in their lives. They danced for joy and sharing their dance made the eagle happy and earned the caribou a feather. Can you think of something you do that brings joy to someone's life?

The animals were very grateful to the eagle for giving them a feather. Do you think they were more proud of the feather itself or the accomplishment that earned them a feather?

The coyote did not act properly with the other animals. With guidance and friendship from the other animals and the eagle, the coyote learned a good life lesson earned a feather. Do you believe that being forgiving and giving people another chance to learn is a good way to live your life?

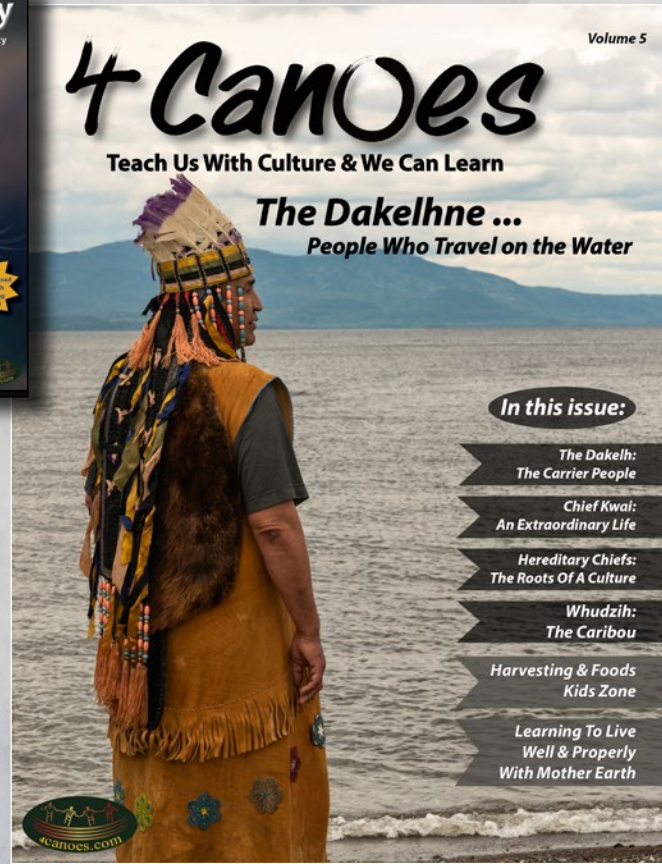
Do you think that living with kindness and forgiveness is enough to earn an eagle feather for you?

The Dakelh Peoples, (The culture that holds The Eagle Feather Story) is an ancient and beautiful culture. Can you name some Indigenous cultures that live close to you?

The stories told by Indigenous Peoples are often used to teach their young ones a special lesson on life. Do you know of any stories from other cultures that help people learn and improve?

Would you like to visit The Dakelh Peoples one day? You would be welcomed if you did.

The local Indigenous cultures to where you live all have celebrations that everyone is welcome to join. Do you know of any of these celebrations? Hint... they are sometimes called Pow Wows. Different cultures may have different names or spellings for their celebrations. There is always good food, a welcoming attitude and wonderful dancing and crafts too. Would you like to visit a Pow Wow?



In this issue:

**The Dakelh:
The Carrier People**

**Chief Kwai:
An Extraordinary Life**

**Hereditary Chiefs:
The Roots Of A Culture**

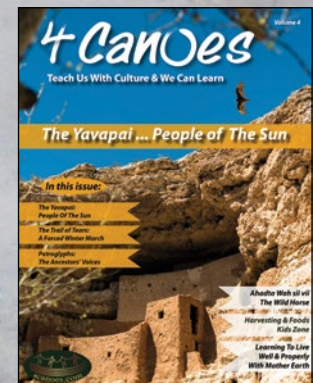
**Whudzih:
The Caribou**

**Harvesting & Foods
Kids Zone**

**Learning To Live
Well & Properly
With Mother Earth**

Continue to learn about and from the People and beautiful cultures of Turtle Island

Our Canoe Kids children's stories often have an accompanying 4Canoes edition featuring the Peoples featured in children's stories. Our larger and more extensive 4Canoes editions range from 138 to 180 pages, with more than 200 full colour pictures and graphics from the People and community.

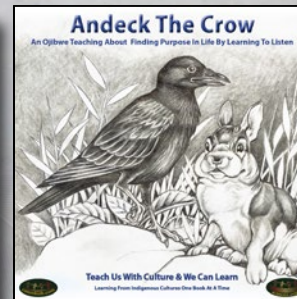
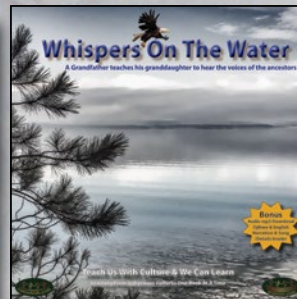
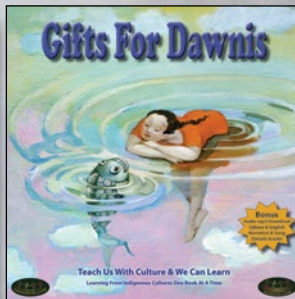


The Canoe Kids & 4Canoes Journey

Canoe Kids and 4Canoes are publications featuring original cultures from around the world. These stories are empowering and inspiring, and tell about living well and properly with each other and Mother Earth.

We strive to bring an honest and authentic perspective to the pages of our children's stories (Canoe Kids) and our more comprehensive editions featuring communities from specific cultures (4Canoes).

Canoe Kids features stories and teachings that have been told through the ages. These beautifully illustrated children's stories teach about life and our earth. Our stories and 4Canoes editions are for all ages. While we do focus on ancient cultures, perhaps these materials are more relevant and important now than ever.



Come Explore With Us!

Cultural Rights, Human Rights, Environmental Rights & Equity





Francois (Guy) Prince (above left) is a teacher of the Dakelh culture and an accomplished storyteller, artist and singer. Guy helps carry The Eagle Feather Story to communities and people of the interior. Dakelh stories are respectful and teach the culture and ways to live life well and properly.

Mark Barfoot (above right) teaches the Dakelh culture both in schools and the Dakelh community. Mark practices the culture, harvests and shares his harvest with elders and people who do not have the opportunity to be on the land. Mark is a member of a singing group and is well known in the drum making community.

The Eagle Feather Story utilizes concepts from the Dakelh culture to teach about respecting each other and our Mother Earth. The story is beautifully illustrated and features creatures from the Dakelh territory as characters who struggle, but eventually, learn to embody the characteristics and principles that we all strive to live by. The Eagle Feather Story is a tale that encourages all people, young and older too, to try to be the best they can be. The Eagle Feather Story is for all ages and includes audio narration and song.

Come Explore With Us



Wonderful
For All Ages



Authentic
Indigenous Voices



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