

DEDICATION To John S. Long

John grew up in Brampton, Ontario, with his parents Harold & Hettie and his siblings Bob, David & Wendy. He was raised with strong family values of honesty, love, decency and respect for others as well as a sense of humour and fun.

After receiving his honours degree in Anthropology from the University of Toronto in 1971 John enrolled in North Bay Teacher's College. There he taught an Aboriginal education course with Allan Johnson. The seed was sown! His first teaching job, in 1972, was in Moose Factory. There, he developed a love and respect for his Cree students and friends and realized the importance of their stories.

That early immersion in Cree culture, as well as a developing friendship with his mentor Dick Preston propelled John on his life journey in search of truth and justice. Along the way he became known throughout the country as an educator, researcher, professor, author, and activist while spending much of his life living with the people of the James Bay area. There he worked in collaboration with the local Education Directors and Chiefs to establish Omushkego Education, and helped educators provide the best possible opportunities for children in the far north.

John dedicated much of his research to understanding the northern communities he had grown to love. After decades of interviews with hundreds of elders and citizens, and extensive notes on all the treaties made in Canada, the fruit of his labour was the 2010 publication of *Treaty No. 9: Making the Agreement to Share the Land in Far Northern Ontario in 1905*. A pioneering work, this book reveals the story of how the James Bay Treaty was made, and will, no doubt, serve as a beacon for a generation to come.

It was with great sadness when the various communities throughout the country learned of his death this past March. Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon pays high tribute to a man who loved and was loved greatly:

“... he encouraged us to keep doing what we are doing with the Real Treaty Agreement. He is a close special friend to many of us, he has done so much for us, his extensive work on our Treaty and Education continues to be very important, empowering and useful today and into the future. We will miss him dearly but we will never forget him...we owe his family so much for allowing John to live with us, he is a member of our family and Nation and we know that he is happy for the things he has done for us....we will miss him, our Nation is mourning the departure of our special friend, may our Creator forever be with you John.”

His sister, Wendy, concludes with words that all who knew him would understand: “Although we called him our Little Brother, he towered over us in height and accomplishment.”