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## Where I Am From

*Angela Mashford-Pringle*

I am from the dirt, from Tembec and water.

I am from the hearth where it is warm and cozy.

I am from the birch, the Quebec forests.

I am from berry picking and Bear Clan, from the Hunters and the Robinsons and Youngs.

I am from the “dem there people’ and “take yer time and figure it out.”

From the Algonquins close to the land and those crazy French guys.

I am from Toronto and my family’s from Quebec, with rabbit stew and moose roast.

From the canoe builders of my grandfather, who built a canoe for a Prime Minister, and the trapper, and the bush educated.

I am from Creator, the grasses and trees, the two-legged and the four-legged,

We have introduced ourselves over our lifetimes,  
But now I say hi to concrete and asphalt in their place.  
Balancing precariously between concrete and nature,  
I am forced to make decisions about who I will be.

# Being Aboriginal

*Angela Mashford-Pringle*

There is a stillness sometimes,  
When I sit and listen to everything that surrounds me.  
You see, not only do the living speak, but everything can.  
I have trouble sometimes hearing,  
As there is so much change and interference in my life.  
I must balance between colonial and traditional,  
Which doesn't seem right that I have to choose.

I am from a lot of places,  
Temiskaming, Hunter's Point, Niagara Falls, Toronto,  
Etobicoke, Kitchener  
These are all places, but I know there are spaces.  
Spaces in time, environment, and heart.  
I am from my parent's love, which grew from a chance  
encounter  
That Creator put in their path to allow me a chance to come  
to Earth.

I am from the land,  
Which raised generations of my ancestors without a cellphone  
present.  
I think of my space as a start and an end with so many loops.

Trees, birds, plants, animals are a part of me too.  
I relish the days that I can be among everything that is a part  
of me.  
For you see, I am Aboriginal.

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