FORTHCOMING FROM UBC PRESS

A book by makwa ogimaa, Bear Clan (Jerry Fontaine) on the history and future of Indigenous leadership

Forthcoming

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makwa ogimaa, Bear Clan (Jerry Fontaine) believes that in order to achieve sovereignty and self-determination it is vital for anishinabeg (Indigenous people) to reconnect with and use non-colonized modes of thinking, social organization, and decision-making processes.

In his book, Fontaine explores how three chiefs – Obwandiac (Pontiac), Tecumtha (Tecumseh), and Shingwauk – perceived their roles and responsibilities during some of the most challenging periods in the history of Manitou Aki (North America). To understand and recount their stories and the story of the N'swi-ishko-day-kawn Anishinabeg O'dish-ko-day-kawn (Three Fires Confederacy) from an Ojibway-Anishinabe perspective, Fontaine turns to Ojibway-, Ota'wa-, and Ishkodawatomi-Anishinabe traditions, and conversations with elders and descendants of these chiefs using the Ojibwaymowin language.

The result is a book that reframes the history of Manitou Aki while sharing a vision of how traditional leadership and governance principles can be understood and applied now and into the future.

makwa ogimaa, Bear Clan (Jerry Fontaine) is Ojibway-Anishinabe from the community of Sagkeeng, signatory to Treaty One (1871). He served as Sagkeeng's (Indian Act) chief from 1987 to 1998, during which time he helped develop the community's constitutional declaration, which enabled the community to enforce Sagkeeng jurisdiction over traditional territory. This is his first book.

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