

The artwork on this page was submitted to our first-ever Prisoners' Justice Day logo contest, and used in posters, flyers and placards for our event. Thanks to M. Harris (above left), 2-Key (above right) and Cyril (below) for their beautiful artwork. M. Harris's work is also featured on the cover of this newsletter.

AUGUST 10, 2013



Prisoners' Justice Day is a day of mourning, remembrance, and protest. It is a day to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving their sentences. It is a day when prisoners and prisoner advocates can give a voice to some of the stories of injustice and human rights abuses that occur within the prison system.

PJD began as a reaction to the death of Edward Nalon on August 10, 1974, and the death of Robert Landers in May of 1976. Both deaths occurred in the segregation unit of Millhaven Prison. Many prisoners felt their deaths were due to apathy, indifference, negligence and inhumanity on the part of the prison system.

Eddie Nalon was being punished for refusing to work, had served 30 days

in solitary confinement and was being kept in segregation. On August 10, he slashed his wrists and bled to death. Eddie had called for help by pressing the panic button in his cell, and other prisoners pressed theirs, but they later learned these had been deactivated by the guards.

Robert Landers was in segregation for trying to organize a prisoners' strike, and like Eddie his cries for help were not heard because the call buttons in the cells hadn't been repaired. Robert died of a heart attack, apparently with a nurse standing not far away. He wasn't found until the next morning.

The year after Eddie's death, prisoners at Millhaven refused to eat or work, even though they knew it would mean being sentenced to solitary

confinement. They also held a memorial service.

This tradition has continued in many institutions all over Canada. Outside the walls, prisoners' friends, families and allies organize vigils and public education events.

On August 10 of 2013 a group of these families, friends and allies gathered outside the Remand Centre to grieve and to send their love and good wishes to those behind its walls. This newsletter is a collection of words and pictures from that event, and others around the country.

It is our hope that these pictures will give comfort to those one the inside who are away from their families and missing their freedom. Please know we support you and are thinking of you.



THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY
OF MANITOBA, INC.

Prisoners' Justice Day: Winnipeg



At left, Blackwolf Hart-Bellecourt and the men's drum group of AIM lead a memorial march (above) organized by the friends and family of Donald Ray Moose, who died in Headingley Correctional Centre in 2009



Above, supporters gather outside the Winnipeg Remand Centre carrying signs listing those who have died and questioning the effectiveness of the justice system. At right, Kate Kehler of the John Howard Society addresses the crowd. Kehler noted that the most important reason to mark Prisoners Justice Day is "to recognize our common humanity with those on the inside. Only by recognizing each other's humanity will we ever move beyond the disparity and violence that is created when we treat others as 'other'."



From the Other Side of the Walls

Words of hope from local poet and "Bannock Lady"

Raised Metis in Duck Bay, MB, Althea Guiboche is a single mother of 7 awesome children. A proud resident of the north end and an activist/philanthropist for her people, Althea feeds the homeless and hungry every week with her Got Bannock? Mission. They call her "The Bannock Lady." In 2013, she was awarded the Oscar Lathlin Memorial Award by Ka Ni Kanichick Foundation for her initiative and hard work.

As an activist she attends and supports as many Idle No More rallies, marches and walks as she can. She is an active member of the Indigenous Writer's Collective (IWC). She writes poetry that directly opposes negative and detrimental stereotypes. She posted this piece, *Through My Eyes*, on the Facebook event for Prisoners Justice Day 2013.

To date Althea has been published in the anthologies: *Measured Words*, *Northern Writers*, and *Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water*. Her writing will appear in the IWC Chapbook and *Grassroots Anthology*, both due to be released this fall.



Althea is probably best known for her work as "the Bannock Lady," cooking and baking for people in need.

THROUGH MY EYES

in your eyes
you see an abandoned mother
through my eyes
i see a proud woman who is strong
enough to raise a family on her own

in your eyes
you see a welfare bum
through my eyes
i see a resilient person striving to provide
for the well-being of their family

in your eyes
you see a homeless person
through my eyes
i see the result of a nation of people torn
from their ancestral roots

in your eyes
you see a sniffer
through my eyes
i see a person lost because of past abuse,
neglect and torture

in your eyes
you see a prostitute
through my eyes
i see a sister who has fallen to modern
society's addictive and demeaning ways

in your eyes
you see an inmate
through my eyes
i see one of our traditional warriors who
was meant to protect his people

in your eyes
you see a rundown community
through my eyes
i see a great nation of people, weary, but
still persevering

in your eyes
you see what society has taught you to see
through my eyes
i see my people.

Althea Guiboche

Solidarity Around the Country

Other Prisoners' Justice Day Events Across Canada



In Hamilton, parolee William Rogers (left), who spent almost 35 years behind bars, spoke to a group of people who gathered at St. Giles United Church wearing custom-printed Prisoners' Justice Day T-shirts.

Williams was in Millhaven for the very first Prisoners' Justice Day back in 1975, as well as in 1976, when Robert Landers died there.

The Elizabeth Fry Society also gave a presentation.

In Toronto, community groups and prisoners' families gathered at Church of the Holy Trinity for presentations, music, and ceremony. In the pictures below, a participant greets an elder before the program begins (left), and a harmonica player/guitarist performs for the crowd (right).



This Day in History: August 10, 1993



This photo is taken from Prisoners' Justice Day events in Edmonton 20 years ago, in 1993.

That year, Albertan folk singer Kathleen Yearwood and a group of fellow activists gathered outside the Edmonton Institution to mourn for those lives lost behind bars and to pay tribute to those still behind bars.

"We want to challenge the prison mentality," Yearwood said. "There has to be alternative ways to make our society safe."

Yearwood approached the prison to place a bouquet of flowers at the foot of the fence surrounding it. In doing so, she was breaking a law against coming within three metres of the prison fence. However, neither Yearwood nor any other activists were arrested.

Remembering Kinew James 1978-2013

Kinew James's sister Cheryl was at Prisoners' Justice Day 2013 to tell Kinew's story.

"I brought some pictures of my sister, from happier times," she told the crowd. "That's how I want to remember her."

Kinew died in January in Saskatoon Regional Psychiatric Centre. She was in medical distress and pushed her call button for help, but none came. Women in nearby cells pushed their call buttons too, but for over an hour there was no response, and when staff finally came, it was too late.

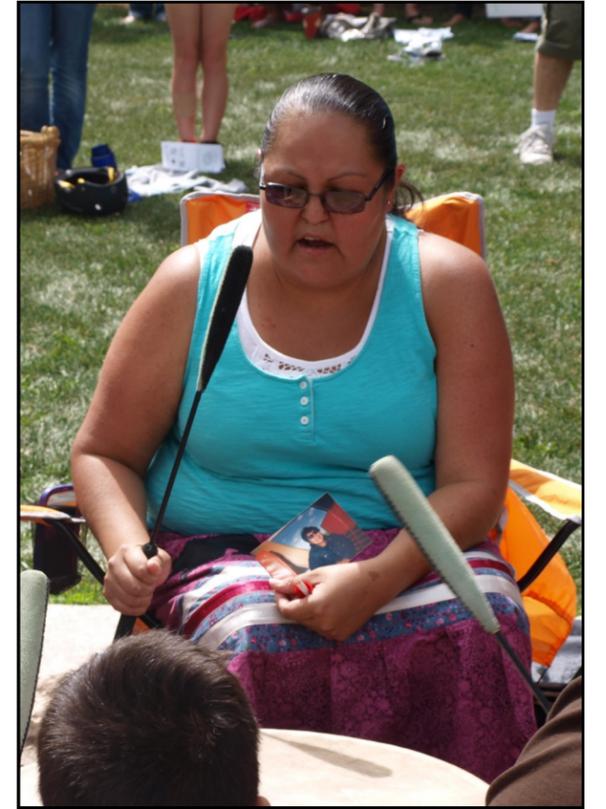
"This has to stop happening to our people.," Cheryl said. "There are too many of our people that are going in, the results of colonialism and residential schools. These things have to be acknowledged. And we have to remember what's taken a lot of our people into institutions. There are so many that are dying in there, and most of them are Aboriginal people. We have to remember all those people that are inside."

Cheryl described her sister as someone who had been through a lot and who was working hard toward a better life.

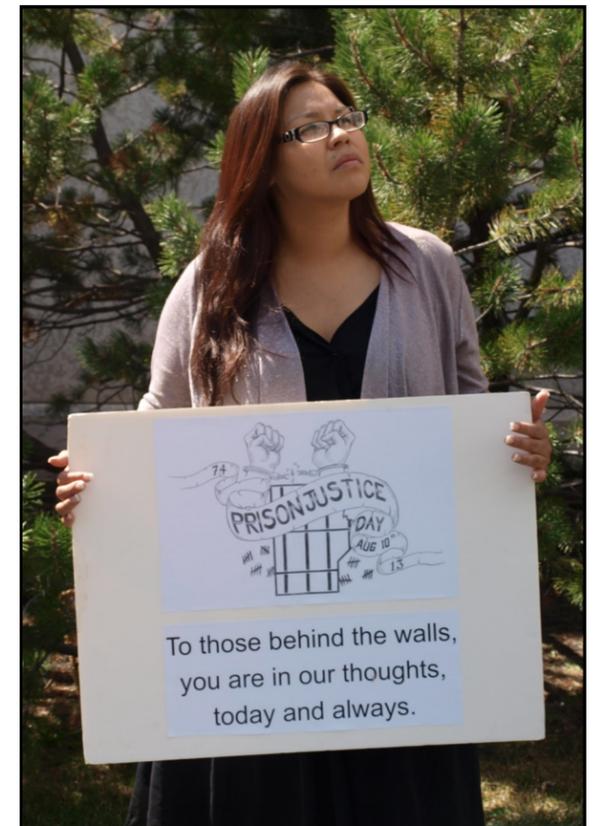
"She and I talked often about our lives," she recalled. "She talked about the different classes she was doing, and I told her about what I was learning in my classes. We talked about taking classes together one day — she talked about maybe getting into the program that I was in. She talked about reuniting with her son. She talked about all the things that we were going to be doing, as family, when she came home."

Kinew was supposed to be home this month, something that made August 10th especially hard for Cheryl. Like many families who lose loved ones in jail, Cheryl has few answers about what happened to her sister.

"Why didn't they listen to her calls?" she said she keeps asking herself. "I'm not going to rest until I know what happened, and why it happened. It shouldn't have happened."



Cheryl James holds a picture of her sister as she drums with the Keewatin Otchitchak Traditional Women's Drum Group outside the Remand Centre .





Above, an elder leads the service with a prayer. Below, loved ones of Terry Quill, who died in Stony Mountain in March, carry placards bearing his name .



Remembering Donald Ray Moose 1977-2009

“My brother Donald passed away four years ago while incarcerated in Headingly,” began Louise Moose in her address to the crowd. “First we were told he had a heart attack. Our family came to terms with that and started accepting that our loved one was gone.

“It wasn’t until two years after, with the final autopsy, we learned that my brother had been overmedicated, and that was the cause of his death. An inquest was called into his death, and that is still pending. It’s been hard. You want to accept that you’ve lost a loved one, but how do you accept that he didn’t have to die?”

Louise remembers her brother as someone who cared deeply about others, especially disadvantaged people like the poor and homeless. Donald, she says, was one of the youngest Aboriginal men to graduate from university in Manitoba, completing a Masters degree at the University of Winnipeg.

Matthew Thunder, Donald’s cousin and good friend, talked about Donald’s strong beliefs about the justice system . “Don used to say to me, ‘Justice for all nations in this land of ours.’ Those were his favourite words. He said them every time we had a meeting, or a sharing circle, where brothers get to share the issues that they have with the justice system. Coming out in society, trying to adapt when society is not too supportive to overcome the negatives that ex-inmates face out here. For brothers and sisters that come of jail, they’re like outcasts in society. These men and women have done their time, and now there should be time for second chances.”

Donald’s mother, Maurita Moose, spoke last, remembering her son as “the best thing I ever had in my life.”

“I’ll never stop loving my son, he will always be in my heart,” she said. “But I miss him so much. He was my best friend. Please, this has to stop. Please stop it. Help one another. That’s what Donald used to say: ‘Mom, I love everybody in this world.’ And I love him for that so much.”



Donald’s sister, mother and cousin wear T-shirts honouring his memory.

