

PRIVATE FAMILY SERVICE

Friday, December 18, 2020

1:00 pm

Chapel of Hemauer Funeral Home,
The Pas, Manitoba

Presider: Rev. Flora Young

INTERMENT

St. Michael and All Angels
Cemetery

Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB

PALLBEARERS

Mahegs Sinclair-Martin

Sean Ballantyne

Hunter Carriere

Bow John Carriere

Bruce Whitehead

Jarrold Whitehead



Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

www.hemauerfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
Kathleen Mary Whitehead

September 30, 1955—December 4, 2020



Kathleen Mary Whitehead was born on Friday, September 30, 1955 in The Pas, MB to John and Jessie Whitehead. She grew up on Riverside on the Opaskwayak Cree Nation with her siblings. Kathy was always proud of her humble beginnings. She thought it was the coolest thing ever when her dad bought a TV. Kathy was proud that her Dad was a WWII war veteran and that her mother was a Cree woman from Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. She attended numerous schools in The Pas, graduated from Kelsey Adult Centre and Red River College. Kathy worked various jobs throughout her life, one of her favourite jobs was working with Elijah Harper at the Legislative Building and working with OCN Employment and Training team. She was proud to be able to support membership in ensuring they could find employment. Kathy was an advocate for First Nation treaty inherent rights and for violence against woman. She marched in Ottawa in the 70's, she was apart of the movement in being heard as aboriginal people. She read many acts, advocating for her reinstatement of her treaty rights, woman's rights and for the Indian Day School throughout her life. Education was important to her and she loved to speak Cree. Later in her life she fulfilled her dream of obtaining her grade 12. She then enrolled in the Aboriginal Self Government program graduating on the Dean's Honour List. She was a trained facilitator, a medicine wheel facilitator and a teacher of the Tikanogan.

Kathy enjoyed attending her kids, grand kids and Chapans and extended family events. Mom was always dressed up in a shiny, razzle dazzle outfit topped off with one of her signature hats. She would be seen later on enjoying the events dancing up a storm, like no one was watching. Kathy loved to tell stories and make people laugh. Many times being seen throughout in public riding her bike and spreading Christmas Cheer. One of her favourite things to do was slip you some cash, make sure you had a birthday card and to pay her respects for her community members. Kathy could relate to many people and wanted them to feel heard, guiding them to whatever issue they had at the time. Granny was always

embarrassing the kids no matter how old they got and always wanted money for Bingo. She hugged and kissed us no matter where we were.

In her younger years she played Fastball with her sisters and friends for the Chargers. Her position was backcatcher and cherished those memories at this time in her life. She was an active beader, making her porcupine quill earrings, medicine bags, necklaces, medallions and trying new designs for many years. Kathy enjoyed sharing these teachings with many people throughout her life. Her greatest teaching was that of the Tikanogan. It took a lot of time and care to make it from certain wood and would spend lots of time with her brother Alvin, uncle Don and other wood workers in the community. She enjoyed doing things with her sisters, sharing in her life lessons and many discussions about life. Her friends were important to her and would catch up with them all whenever they met up. She enjoyed politics and election time was an exciting time for her. Kathy loved her cousins she grew up with from Cumberland House, Cranberry Portage and made a point to stop in and visit when she could. She could captivate the room and always took the mic to speak her mind. Kathy lived her life on her own terms and had an energy unlike no other. She was quite a character, laughing and was always the center of attention.

Kathy passed away on Friday, December 4, 2020 in Winnipeg, MB, at the age of 65 years.

Kathleen was survived by her **children** John-Paul (Ginger), Paywahpun, Quinton (Tina) and Jessica (Brad); **grandchildren** Brandi, Mahegs, Brailyn, Hunter, Bow, Cleveland, Jesse, Sean and Madison; **chapans** Hannah, Savannah and Kaysen; **brothers** Frank (Eleanor), Melvin, Alvin; **sisters** Helen (James), Joslin, Millie (Ken), Olive (Moses), Margaret, Maureen (Don), Elaine, Brenda; **nieces and nephews** Shelley, Kirby, Tricia, Natasha, Jeremy, Bruce, Charles, Charlotte, Harley, Sharon, Darren, Kyle, Bobbi-Faye, Dayna, Diana, Dani, Laurie, Rocky, Chance, Maria, Giselle, Josh, Cody, Jenna, Jarrod, Duane, Tiar, Alyssa, Kaitlyn, Jaime; **granny** Louisa Buck; **cousins** from her Whitehead and Budd family; and her friends from near and far across Turtle Island.

Kathleen was predeceased by her **parents** John and Jessie Whitehead; **sister** Harriet, Margaret; **grandparents** Abraham and Mary Budd, Isiah and Charlotte Whitehead; **uncles** Frank, Robert (Marie), Albert, Ralph, Peter, Bruce, Malcolm, Percy; **aunties** Jessie (Joe), Olive (Roger), Lillian (Wilfred), Lavina, Victoria, Matilda; **nephews** Ayrton, Ryder; and **nieces** Francesca and Mileena.