

# **Speaking to the Future**

**Additional Memoirs of the Elders  
of Pukatawagan**



**Speaking to the Future**  
**Additional Memoirs**  
**of the Elders of Pukatawagan**

**Translated by Robert J. Castel**

**Compiled, Edited and with a Cree-English Glossary  
by David Westfall**

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David Westfall and Robert J. Castel

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To the memory  
of Pukatawagan Elders

Gabriel Bighetty  
Athanase Castel  
Peter Castel  
Sidney Castel  
Emile Sinclair



# Preface

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The present volume is a supplement to the 2001 publication *Castel's English-Cree Dictionary and Memoirs of the Elders*. The Cree and English bilingual texts are verbatim transcripts from recordings of elders speaking about things past and present, with an eye to the future. The elders speak to yet unborn generations who will possibly hear their voices and read their words. These bearers of the language are the inspiration for the title of the book. Audio recordings in digital formats are available upon request. The two 1991 video recordings were made for the Pukatawagan school's Cree language program, again made available by transferring them from the original Sony U-Matic tapes to DVD and other video formats.

Most of the lexical references of the volume are selected from our 2001 publication. The Selected References include what we have found to be the most useful resources for word analysis and orthographic representation. We present our cultural material as accurately and as faithfully as we can, with no analysis or explication of the contributors' intents. Let the elders speak for themselves! That was their wish and we respect it.

By teacher request, two school projects inspired by local custom and lore have been included in the volume.

David Westfall  
Brandon Manitoba  
July 2006





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## **Recordings**

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**Audio recordings are currently available in digital format for all of the Cree memoirs and oral literature at cost of materials and postage. These are field recordings used mainly for educational purposes. The two video recordings were made by the Pukatawagan Cree Language Program in 1991, now converted to formats playable on personal computers or in DVD players. Contact the editor concerning copies for personal use. The pdf text file and a complete set of mp3 files will be included on the CD-ROM that accompanies this book, but space on a single 700 MB data disc is insufficient for the video and uncompressed wave files (audio CD quality).**

1. Gabe Bighetty at Bloodstone (1991): DVD, MPEG files; audio data disc or audio CD.
2. Peter Castel: audio CD or CD ROM (data disc of the .wav files).
3. Jerome Colomb: 2 audio CDs or a CD-ROM of the .wav files.
4. Hyacinth Colomb: Video CD (VCD), DVD or MPEG file and .wav audio files on CD-ROM.
5. Robert J. Castel memoir and Classroom Projects, read by Robert J. Castel: audio CD or separate CD-ROM data disc of the .wav files

### **CD-ROM Contents:**

1. pdf file of the book
2. mp3 files of the field recordings
3. avi video clip of the 1991 interview with Hyacinth Colomb, viewable on computers with appropriate video software. (Hint: Copy the file to your hard drive first and view it from there.)