



Roberta Bondar

<http://www.robertabondar.ca/>

Roberta Bondar was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on December 4, 1945. Dr. Bondar was keenly interested in the idea of space travel from an early age. Her childhood dream of traveling into space came true when she became the first Canadian woman in space in January 1992. Her fascination with flying would lead her to be able to pilot a plane even before she could drive a car. She believes that her childhood fascination with space helped to steer her towards a career as an astronaut.

Following high school Dr. Bondar would embark on a long and distinguished career that would take her to places that very few human beings had gone. In 1968 she graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in zoology and biology. Over the next six years she would attend the University of Western Ontario, where she received her Master's Degree, and the University of Toronto for her Ph.D. Dr. Bondar would now set her sights on a medical degree from McMaster University where she became a doctor specialized in neurology (the study of the brain) in 1977. Following her internship at Toronto General Hospital she attended Tuft's New England Medical Centre (Boston) and the Playfair Neuroscience Unit of Toronto Western Hospital for training and specialization in neuro-ophthalmology.

Dr. Bondar's training soon provided her with an avenue to fulfill her dream of traveling in space. She became one of the six original Canadian astronauts selected in December 1983 by NASA. Seven years later Dr. Bondar was selected to be the Payload Specialist for the space shuttle Discovery. As a Payload Specialist, she performed life science and material science experiments that studied the effects of weightlessness on the human body. In January 1992 Dr. Bondar became the first Canadian woman, and the first neurologist, to travel in space.

Dr. Bondar has received many honours since her adventure in space. These include, but certainly not limited too, the Officer of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario as well as honorary degrees from Universities in Canada and the United States. Dr. Bondar has gone on to conduct research into blood flow in the brain during microgravity and various pathological states while still finding time to pursue her other interests, such as, scuba diving, parachuting and flying. The Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society's (CASTS) honoured to have Dr. Bondar give the Keynote lecture at the CASTS Conference 2003.

For additional information about Dr. Bondar consult the following websites:

http://www.me.uvic.ca/~open95/Roberta_Bondar/

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/science/english/bio/bondar.html>



Buffy Sainte-Marie

Buffy Sainte-Marie is an artist of remarkable accomplishment. Her career has spanned three decades since her emergence in the 1960s. During this time, she has been a clear and certain voice for the native peoples of the world. She has captured the hearts of millions with compelling songs of love, despair and longing for a better life for all. Royalty, presidents and the rest of us have fallen under her magnificent and mysterious spell of poetry and song. Hundreds of recordings testify to her power of song. "Until it's time for you to Go", "Universal Soldier", "Country Girl", and "Piney Wood Hills" are some of the songs that artists all over the world have recorded. Buffy won an Academy Award Oscar for the title song from "An Officer and a Gentleman", "Up Where We Belong" in 1982. She is the first Canadian and the first native person to receive that honour. She appeared as a regular on television's Sesame Street for five years. She was inducted into the Juno Hall of Fame at the award ceremonies in 1995, a fitting tribute to her immense contribution to the music of Canada. Buffy Sainte-Marie holds a doctorate in Fine Arts as well as several honorary degrees. She is also an Officer in the Order of Canada, and in 2001 was awarded her second Jubilee Medal from Queen Elizabeth II. In 2003 she became an official Spokesperson for UNESCO Canada.

In the early 1980s, Buffy developed her own unique style of digital art which came out of her very early (1960s) ventures into electronic music and film scoring. Her art show at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary has attracted tremendous critical and public acclaim and demonstrates an ever evolving talent. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Emily Carr College of Fine Art, the McKenzie Gallery in Regina, and Toronto's Isaacs Gallery. She has also performed concerts with Symphony Orchestras across Canada and will be expanding her performances to U.S. cities this year. Buffy's help in founding the new JUNO category Music of Aboriginal Canada resulted in a new paradigm of recognition for Indigenous musicians and composers. She is actively involved in improving Aboriginal education and the way that Aboriginal people are perceived today. To this end, her Nihewan Foundation, founded in 1968, operates the Cradleboard Teaching Project. <http://www.cradleboard.org> This effort creates and distributes Native American (Aboriginal) core curriculum in science, geography and other subjects through Aboriginal cultural perspectives, raising test scores as well as self esteem in children of all backgrounds.

Her most provocative album in years, "Coincidence and Likely Stories", along with her most recent CD, "Up Where We Belong", are especially interesting today with respect to current events. Buffy Sainte-Marie, Ph.D., is much in demand as a Keynote speaker. Her multimedia presentation focusing on the Cradleboard Teaching Project's interactive multimedia CD-ROM *SCIENCE: Through Native American Eyes*, combines her talents

as writer, painter, educator, and musician who truly lives on the cutting edge of artistry. Visit <http://www.creative-native.com> to see her paintings, song lyrics, photo gallery and other Buffy Sainte-Marie works.



Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley

Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley was born in Mamterilleq (now known as Bethel, Alaska) in 1934. Oscar's grandmother raised him, following the deaths of his parents. He was raised during the tail end of the "upper stone age" from which his Yupiaq people emerged into the modern age. Dr. Kawagley received his early education at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Territorial schools. The constant struggle between the traditional ways of the Yupiaq people and the modern world brought confusion and the threat of potential disassociation between Nature and his culture. The support he received from his grandmother encouraged Dr. Kawagley to obtain his education without sacrificing his traditional values and beliefs.

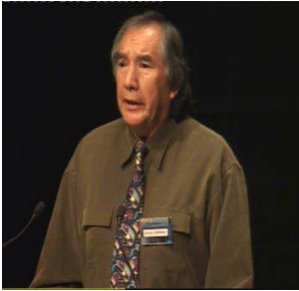
Dr. Kawagley is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in the College of Liberal Arts. He has a Bachelors of Education with a major in the Biological Sciences; a Masters of Education, and an Educational Specialist degree in Administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Kawagley obtained his Ph.D. in Social and Educational Studies from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Kawagley has served as the executive director of several nonprofit organizations and is the co-director of the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative. The main goal of this initiative is the integration of indigenous and Western knowledge through a renewed educational system. Dr. Kawagley is also the author of the book, *A Yupiaq Worldview: a pathway to ecology and spirit*.

Despite the difficulties of growing up in two very different worlds Dr. Kawagley has persevered and is exploring ways to incorporate the Yupiaq people's language and culture in the classroom. Additionally, he is working to find a common understanding between the Yupiaq and modern worldviews. The Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society's (CASTS) honoured to have Dr. Kawagley give a Plenary Lecture at the CASTS Conference 2003.

For additional information on Dr. Kawagley consult the following websites:

<http://e-dialogues.royalroads.ca/mcewen/biokawagley.htm>

<http://www.uaf.edu/educ/faculty/Kawagley.html>



Dr. Leroy Little Bear

BA (Lethbridge), AA (Wenatchee), JD (Utah)

“Have you ever had a teacher who changed your life++? Well, Dr. Leroy Little Bear is one of those teachers. While I was studying education at the University of Lethbridge, I had the privilege of taking a course from Dr. Little Bear on Native Philosophy. Not only were Leroy's classes entertaining, they were thought provoking. He presented ideas that changed the way I thought about science and knowledge. His teachings also inspired me to facilitate a number of curriculum units that explored the relationship between Indigenous and Western science. It was during this process that I became involved with CASTS. I am excited that Dr. Little Bear will be a plenary speaker at the upcoming CASTS conference. For me, it feels like the completion of one circle and the beginning of another.”

D. Mumford - CASTS Board Member

Leroy Little Bear is a member of the Small Robes Band of the Blood Indian Tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy; born and raised on the Blood Indian Reserve. From 1975 to the end of 1996, Dr. Little Bear was a professor in the Native American Studies Department at the University of Lethbridge. As a founding member of this department, Little Bear worked with hundreds of students each year and continues to teach and mentor students and faculty members following his official retirement in 1997. In January of 1998 Dr. Little Bear became the Director of the Harvard University Native American Program. Dr. Little Bear has served in a legal and consultant capacity to many Aboriginal communities, and organizations including the Blood Tribe, Indian Association of Alberta and the Assembly of First Nations of Canada. In March 2003, Dr. Little Bear was awarded the prestigious National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Education. His research interests include the study and comparison of Indigenous and Western Sciences as pathways to knowledge and the exploration of Blackfoot knowledge through songs, stories and landscape.



Leela Gilday

www.leelagilday.com

Juno Award Nominee – Best Music of Aboriginal Canada 2003
Winner – Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2002
Best Female Artist, Best Folk Album, Best Songwriter

Leela Gilday was born in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The 28-year-old Dene First Nation (Sahtugot & Mac226; ine) singer began singing at an early age. Inspired by her trombone playing and choral conducting father Leela would become the first and only Dene singer in history to receive classical training. She graduated from the Bachelor of Musical Performance (honours) program from the University of Alberta in 1997.

Leela's website states: "Her songwriting reflects her northern roots, explores her identity as a modern Urban Indian, and gives voice to her perspective on love and life. Leela&Mac226's music draws on influences from Canadian folk to blues and jazz, and incorporates traditional native elements."

Leela has performed across the country, on CBC television and radio specials, and has been featured on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. Her new CD is entitled "*spirit world, solid wood*" and featured guest appearances by Dennis Keldie, Burke Carol, and George Leach.

"Leela is a huge talent whose star shines brightly. Once you've heard her sing, you won't forget her name. The world is waiting." Sandy Scofield, 2003 Juno nominee and winner of Best Alternative Album and Best Single, Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2000.

For more information on Leela Gilday visit her website:

<http://www.leelagilday.com/>