



Dominique (T8aminik) Rankin

Algonquin Hereditary Chief and

Medecine Man



Biography

His mother gave him the spiritual name "Kapiteotak" : "The one we hear crying from afar". It was in 1947, in the first days of the month of Oteimin (June, the month of the strawberries). The circumstances surrounding his birth foretold the arrival of a child destined for things out of the ordinary. His father, traditional chief and strong medicine man, saved his life in extremis following a crash of the plane intended to transport he and his mother to the "white medicine" after a difficult childbirth.

As it was necessary to give him a name in the white tradition, he was baptized Dominique or "T8aminik", as written in his mother tongue: Algonquin. Born in the forests of the Abitibi Region, on the banks of the Harricana River, within a family that succeeded in preserving their traditional lifestyle, T8aminik was soon chosen to succeed his father as hereditary chief and medicine man. As early as the age of 7, the Elders guided him on a long path of teachings and initiations that led him from one end of Canada and America to the other, to meet the wisest and most renowned Elders of the time.

After many years of personal challenges (including a dark period in a residential school set up by the government and the religious community in the first part of

the 20th century) and his exploration of occidental life through different trades and management positions (such as the political one of Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation), T8aminik is now dedicated to the role he was destined for, that is spiritual leader in the Anishnawbe tradition.

His mission of spreading the Anishnawbe message of peace takes him to speak at conferences and to lead healing sessions across Canada and elsewhere in the world, in addition to guiding visitors at his ethno-cultural centre in the Laurentian Mountains, north of Montreal. T8aminik is the keeper of seven sacred pipes and a cherished student of the highly respected Grandfather William Commanda. He was named an Aboriginal Senator in 2003 (National Association of Friendship Centres). Also part of a group of 49 Elders representing the Aboriginal spiritual leaders of Canada, he was designated keeper of the eastern door within this group. In 1995, he founded Kanatha-Aki ethno-cultural Center, where visitors of different parts of the world discover the culture of his ancestors.

Leader, teacher and seasoned communicator, he is known for his sense of humour and his tireless energy.

Professional Experience :

- 1970-74 : Social Worker for OPTAT (preventing drug addiction and alcoholism)
- 1980-85 : C.E.O. of Val d'Or Native Friendship Center
- 1981-86 : Vice Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation
- 1984-88 : Chairman of SEMMA (dedicated to Native Museology in the World)
- 1986-89 : Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation
- 1992-2000 : C.E.O. of Société Matcité8eia (dedicated to Algonquin Museology)
- 2003-04 : Chairman for Mikueniss Center (dedicated to early childhood)
- Since 1980 : Sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Native Friendship Centers
- Since 1993 : Teacher for the Canada School of Public Service (Federal Government)
- 1998-2011 : Founding Director of Kanatha-Aki Ethnocultural Center (North of Montreal)
- Since 2003 : Aboriginal Senator in 2003 (National Association of Friendship Centres)
- Since 2004 : Member of Kumik Elders Lodge (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)
- Since 2006: Sits on the Board of Directors for Montreal Circle of Peace
- Since 2011: Elder for the Native inmates of La Macaza Prison
- 2013: Elder responsible for training the psychological and spiritual support team, for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Quebec

- 2013: Co-founder, with Marie-Josée Tardif, of the Kina8at non-profit organization, for healing and transmission of the Natives knowledge.

Spoken Languages :

Algonquin, Cree, French, English, Odjibway, Atikamek & Innu.

Distinctions :

- November 2013: Elected Honorary President of *Religions for Peace*, an international organization related to the United Nations.
- 2012: Recipient of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee for his work as an Elder and Senator for the Canadian Native Friendship Centers.
- 2011: T8aminik published a book entitled **On nous appelait les Sauvages**, co-written with Marie-Josée Tardif (Editions Le Jour). Now considered as a **bestseller** in Quebec and Europe, it will be soon published in English.



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