

Elder: Okimaskwiw Ekti Margaret Cardinal, an indigenous Knowledge Keeper, was raised in a Northern Plains Cree family which maintained, practised and taught the values of traditional Cree culture. Originally from Saddle Lake First Nations in north eastern Alberta.

- a well known Tipi and Tent Maker, who also teaches her craft when requested.
- the “Resident Kokoom” at Young Indigenous Women’s Circle of Leadership gatherings each year.
- the longest serving member of the Regional Environmental Action Committee since 1990. In 1992, REAC was incorporated as a non-profit, society with two hundred members all around the Lesser Slave Lake region. A group of concerned citizens who continue to be involved in projects to help our environment.

Ekti and her partner David live on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, in a solar- and wind-powered house, off grid, which they started building in 1992 and continue to finish.

