

Artist's Statement
The "Rise of the Guardian" Story

Maynard Johnny Jr.

The Coast Salish of southern Vancouver Island believe that the Hul'qumi'num people were created from Beings that fell from the sky; and as each Being came to this territory, they began the traditions and beliefs of the Coast Salish. As each Being began their life here on earth, they encountered spiritual and supernatural beings that became a guide in life on earth. The "Rise of the Guardian" reflects a man with a Thunderbird headdress because the Thunderbird was his first spiritual encounter and became his spiritual guide.

Photograph of artwork for the cover by Jay Ruzesky.

In the previous issue of JAED, Cando published a Special Edition with Dr. David Natcher and Marena Brinkhurst. In that issue, the focus was set on understanding on-reserve property rights and the development and management of on-reserve lands, with an eye to the diverse challenges associated with on-reserve economic development. In part, the papers point to the importance of expanding the gathering and utilization of reliable statistical data for informing future socio-economic policies. Most important, the eclectic collection of papers in Issue 8.2 demonstrate that while Aboriginal land tenure reform and institutional change has a long history, the reforms now being proposed will undoubtedly have profound and wide-reaching impacts on First Nation individuals and communities in the future.

This Issue (9.1) is dedicated to one of Cando's greatest supporters — Corinne Mount-Pleasant Jetté, OC (1950–2014). We echo the comments and thoughts of those who were fortunate to have been a friend and colleague of Corinne. The obituary published in the *Montreal Gazette* on February 18, 2014, provided an overview and highlight of Corinne's life:

Her loss and her legacy will be felt by the thousands of family, close friends, colleagues, and individual's whose lives she touched over a lifetime of Social Activism and Teaching. First as an English teacher at Father MacDonald High School, Corinne went on to a rewarding career with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at Concordia University, as a Professor of Technical Writing. As Associate Dean, she was part of a selfless and dedicated team that did what needed to be done to set the Faculty back on its feet after a senseless act of violence. A recipient of many distinguished honours, including the Order of Canada, Corinne was a past-president of both Montreal's Native Friendship Centre and the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations and a contributor to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Fiercely proud of her First Nations heritage, Corinne tirelessly endeavoured to reach out to young Native people throughout Canada and the U.S., as the founder of the Native Access to Engineering Programme. Her life has had a positive impact on so many.

Issue 9.1, begins with profiles of the 2013 Cando award winners, followed by Lessons from Experience, and Lessons from Research, ending with a current analysis of Aboriginal employment in the State of the Aboriginal Economy section. Combined, the articles and papers take us from the West Coast of British Columbia to the East Coast of Nova Scotia, including stops in the Northwest Territories, Winnipeg, and Saskatchewan along the way. The issue also profiles the art and on-going work of another one of Canada's prolific and creative Aboriginal artists: Maynard Johnny Jr.

Welcome to the 17th issue of Cando's *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development*! We invite you to join our growing cadre of writers, researchers, and community practitioners who add to and support the publication of JAED specifically and Cando generally. Share a story, provide an update of your research, or partner with a researcher to profile your community profile, economic development plans, or small business and entrepreneurial activities. And, as always, we look forward to hearing your comments on the interviews, case studies, and papers presented in this and/or other issues of JAED. Last, we will see you at Cando's 22nd Annual AGM and Conference, taking place in Toronto next fall, 2015.

Warren Weir