

Rita E. Bouvier.

Metis poet and educator Rita Bouvier was raised by her grandparents in Ile-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. She has a B.Ed. and a Master's of Education degree.¹ Rita has participated on the Board of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. She held a senior position with the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation and is currently Coordinator, Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre Canadian Council on Learning College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

Many of her poems are based on stories handed down by her grandfather. Cree and Michif words are used in her poetry to capture the meanings and feelings. She has published a collection of poetry, *Blueberry Clouds* (Thistledown Press, 1999) and a poem from that volume, "Medicine Man," was selected to appear in the anthology *Sundog Highway—Writing from Saskatchewan*, (Larry Warwaruk, editor, Coteau Books, 2000).



Rita Bouvier has served in public education for thirty years in varying capacities: as a classroom teacher, as Director of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, as sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, and as a curriculum developer. Ms. Bouvier has also served as a volunteer with various organizations. Ms. Bouvier describes herself as a teacher with a bent on social justice issues. She has traveled nationally and worldwide to New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii and other parts of the U.S., St. Lucia, Geneva, and India.

Bouvier, Rita E. *Blueberry Clouds*. Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, 1999.

Bouvier, Rita E. *Papîyâhtak*. Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, 2004.

Bouvier, Rita E., translated by Margaret Hodgson; illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette. *Better That Way*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2007.



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¹ See Rita E. Bouvier. "Specialized Training in the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program: A Case Study. Saskatoon: Indian and Northern Education Thesis (M.Ed.), University of Saskatchewan, 1984.