

Bonita Lawrence

Bonita Lawrence (Mi'kmaw) teaches Indigenous Studies at York University in Toronto. She is the author of "*Real*" *Indians and Others: Mixed-Blood Urban Native People and Indigenous Nationhood*. UBC Press, 2004 as well as co-editor (with Kim Anderson) of *Strong Women Stories: Native Vision and Community Survival* (Sumach Press 2003), and an edition of *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*, entitled *Indigenous Women: The State of Our Nations*. She is a traditional singer, who has sung at rallies, social events, benefits and prisons in Kingston and Toronto.

Abstract

"To Be Indivisibly Indigenous: the Choices of Mixed-Blood Native People"

Elders have often taught that mixed-blood Native people can choose to be Indigenous, or white, but to mix the two ways of life results in destruction of the individual. Being Indigenous is indivisible, and therefore the primary question for mixed-blood Native people is "Am I Indigenous". From this question flow others, related to walking an Indigenous path as a mixed-blood Native person.