



Mary McDermott is a proud Cree woman from Northern Alberta; she grew up on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake in Treaty No. 8 Territory. She sees herself as a servant of the land and works to empower families to regain their voice. She participates in activities that promote healing and recognizes the power in Ceremony.

Most recently, she is working to create a more human approach to social work and working with vulnerable women. She holds a B.S.W in Social Work from the University of Calgary, and a M.Ed with the focus on Indigenous Research from the University of Alberta. Her

Master's thesis is entitled "The Ones who Know, Living in a Community where we no longer apprehend Children."

She works with various people within various Nations in the area of family preservation and protection, the development and implementation of Indigenous knowledge and land based education opportunities. She is forever grateful to her "granny" for showing her the importance to live as a nehiyaw (Cree person), and the importance of being a Cree Woman. She wishes to acknowledge all the Grandmothers, and knowledge holders who have walked with her on her journey.